

Semester at Sea
Fall 2009 Final Course Listing
Updated on November 19, 2009

Please note that course numbers were changed during the voyage by UREG (Office of the University of Virginia Registrar). A letter was provided to all students notifying them of these changes. All students are encouraged to work proactively with their home institutions to ensure smooth transfer of credits. A copy of this letter is available on the Fall 2009 voyage page.

This listing represents the course offerings for the Fall 2009 voyage. Course numbers and final syllabi will be posted as we receive them from the respective departments at the University of Virginia.

Please note the following important points:

- Each course is three credits except where noted.
- All students must register for a section of Global Studies for the Fall 2009 voyage.
- Lower division courses are designated with 1000- and 2000-level course numbers. Upper division courses are designated with 3000- and 4000-level course numbers.
- Students are required to register for a total of 12 credit hours (including Global Studies).
- The SEMS mnemonic is assigned to courses that are approved by the University of Virginia (U.Va.) faculty to be offered for credit but for which there is not a simple fit with an existing department at U.Va. The courses offered are often interdisciplinary courses or are courses for which there is no home department at U.Va. The SEMS courses are listed under the heading that most closely describes their disciplinary focus. Interdisciplinary courses may appear under more than one heading.

SEMS 2010-500: Global Studies (A Day) ([Syllabus](#))

SEMS 2010-500: Global Studies (B Day)

Professor Brian Winchester

This interdisciplinary course focuses on the countries visited and is tailored especially to meet the global and comparative approach of Semester at Sea. Knowledge about the world can no longer be considered a luxury; it is a necessity. Powerful forces such as the global impact of new information technologies, the approach to the limits of global environmental sustainability, the movement towards an integrated global economic market, and the challenge to state sovereignty are converging to produce revolutionary change on a global scale. This convergence is sometimes referred to as globalization. As a process that expands and intensifies interactions between disparate peoples and their commerce, and their ideas, it is not new. But the process that we are witnessing today is fundamentally different--- the scale and reach are greatly expanded and the speed is accelerated. Global Studies will introduce students to these complex, global phenomena in a unique way, as we circumnavigate the globe. They will be provided with an extraordinary opportunity to observe first-hand, from a comparative perspective, how countries large and small, developed and developing, struggling and successful, deal with global, revolutionary change.

ANTH 2559: Food and Culture ([Syllabus](#))

Anthropology

Professor Wenda Trevathan

In this course we will explore the numerous factors that influence what and how we eat. Topics to be discussed include human food needs in evolutionary perspective, hypothesized ancestral diets, population differences in food needs and utilization, and food in cultural and social contexts. We will examine changing nutritional needs in the life cycle and how cultures vary in their attitudes toward such things as infant feeding, foods to be consumed or avoided during pregnancy, and foods as they relate to gender. An evolutionary perspective will enhance understanding of how our nutritional requirements evolved and how they vary from population to population. One goal is to recognize that an individual's socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnic affiliations are often more important in determining food choices than are biological needs. Readings and projects will focus on cultures we will encounter on the voyage. Students will be required to visit a traditional market in every port and write a description following a suggested outline based on ethnographic inquiry. There may be no better way to investigate everyday life in another culture than to visit the markets. Students learn about the basic economic systems, family organization, the roles of women, and aspects of health, in addition to developing an understanding of traditional diets and cuisines.

ANTH 3559-500: Medical Anthropology ([Syllabus](#))

Anthropology

Professor Wenda Trevathan

This course provides an overview of evolutionary, epidemiological, and cross-cultural perspectives on disease, curing, and health care systems. We will discuss such concepts as who gets sick, what causes illness, how cultures vary in what they consider to be illnesses, who are the healers, and how health varies throughout the lifespan. We will also look at alternative medical systems practiced in the United States, noting that several of these are primary medical systems in other parts of the world. Readings and projects will focus on cultures that we will encounter on the voyage. It is likely that field trips to health care facilities will be part of the in-port assignments. Students will also be required to investigate the major causes of illness and death for each country visited and to watch for public health messages or other indicators of concern about health and wellness.

ANTH 3559-501: Anthropology of Reproduction ([Syllabus](#))

Anthropology

Professor Wenda Trevathan

In this course we will examine biological, ecological, evolutionary, and cross-cultural perspectives on human reproduction, including conception, fetal development, birth, the neonatal period, infancy, puberty, pregnancy, and menopause. The biological processes underlying each of these phases in the life cycle will be presented with discussion of cross species and evolutionary paradigms where applicable. We will also sample the wide array of beliefs, attitudes, and treatments associated with reproduction from selected cultures of the world. Readings and projects will focus on the cultures that we will encounter on the voyage.

ARTH 2720: Chinese Decorative Arts ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Art History

Professor James Godfrey

This is an examination of the history of Chinese decorative arts that will focus on developing an understanding of Chinese aesthetics and artistic traditions. Extensive use of slide will be employed. Emphasis will be on connoisseurship, that is, learning how to look at and understand works of art and how to develop a critical eye for historic importance, distinctiveness and quality. The students will trace the evolution of ceramic art and technology from the Neolithic period through the Imperial patronization of porcelain manufacture during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. The funerary culture of ancient China will be discussed along with related artistic developments in Bronze Age metallurgy and later tomb pottery. Additional focus will center on the decorative objects of art of China and include porcelain development, jade and hardstone carving, lacquer, glass, metalwork, textiles and furniture. The class will observe the thread of aesthetic continuity and tradition that permeates all Chinese artistic creativity.

ASTR 1210: Introduction to the Sky and Solar System ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Astronomy

Professor Charles Tolbert

The course reviews the current understanding of the sun, planets, moons and other objects in the solar system including their origin, current status, and how they interact. The possibility of life elsewhere than the earth will be discussed along the new view of what constitutes a planet and why Pluto isn't.

ASTR 1240: Introduction to Stellar Evolution ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Astronomy

Professor Charles Tolbert

The course provides an introduction to stars, star formation, and evolution primarily for non-science majors. Topics include light, atoms, origin of the chemical elements, supernovae, pulsars, neutron stars and black holes.

ASTR 3460: Development of Modern Astronomy ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Astronomy

Professor Charles Tolbert

The ancient Greek philosophers developed an extensive explanation of the objects and motions they saw in the sky, but they began with wrong set of assumptions. Nonetheless, their theories dominated western thinking about the Earth and the Heavens more than 1500 years. Beginning with Copernicus and extending about two centuries, their view was overwhelmed by better data and a new reliance on theories matching these data. During this period, science changed from largely philosophical to largely phenomenological. The course will develop the Greek model, giving its strengths and weakness, and show how and why the work of Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, and Newton changed it all. This transformation brought science into conflict with the theology of their day. Some of that conflict remains even now.

BIOL 1559-533: Marine Environment and Organisms ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Biology

Professor Cynthia Church

This course is designed to introduce students to the physical and biological aspects of the marine environment. Topics include the physiology, ecology, and behavior of a wide variety of organisms in a series of habitats, from sandy shores to deep ocean. The habitats include rocky intertidal, estuaries, open sea, mangrove swamps, and, in particular, coral reefs. Organisms range from bacteria to marine mammals, with an emphasis on tropical species. Special attention is paid to the effects of human activities on these fragile habitats and the ways to protect them.

BIOL 1559-500: Zoology ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Biology

Professor Cynthia Church

This is a comprehensive survey of animal life with an emphasis on diversity. The course examines the natural history, morphology, systematics, ontogeny, and phylogeny of the major invertebrate phyla and vertebrate classes. Topics also include an introduction to animal reproduction and behavior. You will learn how animals are classified using both cladistics and the “traditional” approach to the study of evolutionary relationships. The course emphasizes wildlife conservation and the importance of international cooperation in that effort.

BIOL 3559: Parasitology and World Health ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Biology

Professor Cynthia Church

This course covers all aspects of parasitology and host-parasite relationships, including life cycles, physiological adaptations, parasite genomics, epidemiology, and emerging parasitic infections. Discussions will focus on how the ecology of parasites has played an important role in human history and how alterations to the environment have affected the success of parasites. Transmission, pathology and control of parasitic diseases are considered in the context of global public health. The basic principles of laboratory diagnosis and treatment are also covered.

COMM 1800: Making Business Work ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Business/Commerce

Professor Steven Dickstein

The business of America is business.” This familiar quote from the 1920s by President Calvin Coolidge reflects the overconfidence that contributed to the ensuing Great Depression. Still, there is an important measure of truth to this declaration even today. The prosperity of this nation depends largely on **business**. Therefore, no matter what degree tract a student pursues, a fundamental understanding of how businesses work and why they succeed or fail is essential to success in most careers. Today, we cannot limit our understanding of business to the narrow vision of our own national economy. Global trade is an important contributor to national wealth with the United States looming as its largest player with 2007 imports and exports totaling in excess of \$3 **trillion**. Only Japan has a larger **total economy** (GDP) than this figure, which gives you some sense of the enormous U.S. impact in global trade. International activity represents about 30% of the U.S. economy. Therefore, in order to have a more complete and realistic view of an organization, the course includes an introduction to international business that will be incorporated with the ports of call during the term. While, normally, international business is taught as a follow-up and dedicated course after each functional topic, this approach will be reversed so that an understanding of geographical differences in business practices becomes evident earlier in the learning process in order to better understand and to appreciate business themes during the port stops.

COMM 3800: Business, Government and Society ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Business/Commerce

Professor Robert McGowan

The relationship between business and society continues to change in new and significant ways. Today, the global economy is an intricate web of social, political, and economic entities: advanced industrial nations, such as the United States, Japan, and Germany; emerging economies that are rapidly developing in Asia and Latin America; economies that are free after decades of political repression; and countries that are still struggling to devise economic strategies that will help produce prosperity and an improved quality of life for their citizens. Against this backdrop, this course introduces students to the mixed and complex environments within which business organizations must operate. Topics will include, but won't be limited to, issues management and stakeholder management, evolution of business and government relations, corporate social responsibility, corporations and shareholders, business operations and environmental sustainability, and the global corporation. The overall purpose of the course is to allow students to analyze and understand the critical business and non-business actors involved in pressing business-society issues and controversies as well as the commonalities and differences across various regions and countries.

COMM 3845: Foundations of International Business ([Syllabus](#))

Business/Commerce

Professor Aimee Wheaton Schlander

This course explores the scope and challenges of doing business in foreign markets. Both the external and internal environments of business will be discussed. The external environment includes the cultural, legal, political, geographic and economic influences on business activities. The internal environment focuses on organizational strategy, marketing, management, human resources and outsourcing. This course is designed for entry-level business and non-business majors.

COMM 4562-500: Selected Topics in Management (Topic: Emerging Markets) ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Business/Commerce

Professor Steven Dickstein

A recent GE annual report explains, “*We believe that 50% of our growth will come from developing countries in the next decade versus about 20% for the past 10 years.*” About 50% of the globe’s population live in emerging (and some cases, simply poor) countries. This course addresses the unique challenges of doing business in emerging markets, especially “BRIC” (Brazil, Russia, India, China). Despite success in their home markets, many American (and developed world) companies falter as they enter new, emerging markets. A case-based approach plus numerous readings on dealing with the shortfalls in emerging markets will combine with field trips and assignments to help explain these differences, including culture and ethics, with a goal of learning how to do business successfully.

COMM 4562-501: Selected Topics in Management (Topic: International Operations) ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Business/Commerce

Professor Steven Dickstein

Today, we cannot limit our understanding of business to the geographical limits of our own national economy. Global trade is an important contributor to national wealth with the United States looming as its largest player with 2006 imports and exports totaling in excess of \$3 **trillion**. (Only Japan and China have a larger **total economy** (GDP) than this figure.) International activity represents about 30% of the U.S. economy. Therefore, in order to have a more complete and realistic view of an organization, a business student must have an understanding of how companies succeed in foreign markets. Many iconic U.S. companies, leaders in their respective fields, have gone “international”. What some discover is that the strategies and success factors that are effective in a home market may not work internationally. This course takes a case-based approach to how companies deal with challenges of international business operations. Several of the cases selected for this course will take place in countries to be visited. The course content and cases emphasize operations, or how companies execute their strategy effectively.

COMM 4562-503: Topics in Organizational Behavior ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Business/Commerce

Professor Aimee Wheaton Schlander

This course focuses on the management of individuals and work groups. The material for this class will be presented in three sections. The first section will address the management of individuals and two-person groups. The second section will focus on work group issues such as cohesiveness, norms and effectiveness. The third section will address topics such as leadership and change. This course is designed for business majors.

COMM 4630: Human Resource Management ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Business/Commerce

Professor Robert McGowan

In recent years, international human resource management has evolved from an administrative task to a strategic necessity. It has become, in the eyes of many, a key factor of economic success for individual companies and entire nations. Several forces have driven this transformation: increased global competition, the rise of new technologies and production concepts, novel problems with productivity and quality, demographic change, and shifts in values and lifestyles. Nowhere is this evolution of International HRM more evident than in countries poor in raw materials, such as Japan, where people represent the prime resource. This course introduces students to the evolutionary nature of human resource management in various regions of the world. Special topics for consideration include recruitment and selection; training, development, and compensation; managing employee relations; diversity; and employee involvement programs, effective benefit packages, and privacy rights. Case studies of HRM practices in China, Japan, Vietnam, India, Egypt, and Turkey will connect the course to our itinerary.

COMM 4690-500: International Management ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Business/Commerce

Professor Robert McGowan

During the last half of the twentieth century, many barriers to international trade fell and a wave of firms began pursuing global strategies to gain competitive advantage. However, some industries benefit more from globalization than do others, and some nations have a comparative advantage over other nations in certain industries. To create a successful global strategy, managers must first understand the nature of global industries and the dynamics of global competition. Utilizing case studies as well as introducing several analytic tools and techniques, the course will address such topics as: sources of competitive advantage from a global strategy, the nature of competitive advantage in global industries, country comparative advantages, types of international strategy, modes of foreign market entry, and country management. Students will also conduct a detailed industry analysis as well as a firm's strategic positioning in a global environment.

COMM 4690-501: International Management ([Syllabus](#))

Business/Commerce

Professor Aimee Wheaton Schlander

International management covers topics applicable to the management of multinational organizations as well as management practices in different parts of our world. Specific topics to be covered include: the management process, cultural aspects of business, strategic planning, decision making, diversity and leadership. This course is designed for business majors.

SEMS 2500-512: Sustainable Environmental and Economic Development for Emerging Nations

Discipline: Business/Commerce

Professor Daniel Duran ([Syllabus](#))

This course will focus on the identification, development, and implementation of new technologies and applications specific to renewable portfolio management, energy conservation, water policy, and waste treatment that support socially responsible economic development business and government initiatives in developing nations. The course will identify and assess the development and impact of Best Practices and Lessons Learned by utilities, local and regional government agencies and businesses in the United States and other "developed" nations that could be leveraged and applied to international business growth in developing nations, especially those experiencing economic and market transitions in the "flat world" and which we will visit on this semester at sea. Students will meet with senior business executives and government officials at several of our ports of call and also visit sustainable projects.

SEMS 3500-505: International Marketing ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Business/Commerce

Professor Daniel Duran

This course considers the planning and execution of international marketing strategies and operations with an emphasis on how they potentially affect a country's economic and social structure. This course will go beyond the application of the 4 Ps (Product, Price, Promotion, Platform) in the international marketing arena as it will consider the impact of cultural identification, demographic trends, environmental preservation, technological development, global production strategies, corruption, organizational structures and economic policies. In an interdependent global economy where countries rely on one another for sustained growth, this course exposes students to the global marketing environment with a particular emphasis on developing nations in Asia and Latin America. Students will have an opportunity to meet with multinational marketing executives and participate in field trips.

SEMS 3500-506: Operations Management ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Business/Commerce

Professor Daniel Duran

This course considers the critical role that operations management has in today's flat world. This course examines the increasing role that operations managers perform as the "change agent" champions of firms and organizations as they lead initiatives to revamp and improve goods and services, stay competitive, make a return, and satisfy clients. We will consider the historical roots and impact of operations management, the role of OM in value execution, issues and approaches associated with new product and process designs, supply chain management, total quality management, and project management. This class will utilize a customized case and students will be assigned to teams and participate in a competition to develop and present an operational initiative that maximizes value creation.

SEMS 2500-504: Public Speaking ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Communication

Professor Andrea Mitnick

Building on ancient rhetorical canons while recognizing the unique challenges of contemporary public speaking, this course will help you discover what constitutes good public speaking. We will consider the challenges of selecting and refining topics, organizing arguments, supporting positions and delivering speeches of impact. You will present a commemorative, demonstration or descriptive speech, a formal persuasive argument, as well as other brief assignments. There will be opportunities to discuss speech making and communication in our ports, as well as opportunities to visit various businesses and discover how presentations are delivered and received cross-culturally.

SEMS 2500-509: Interpersonal Communication ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Communication

Professor Andrea Mitnick

Love. Hate. Friendship. Marriage. Space! Weird clothing. Falling in love. Breaking up! This course looks at how people communicate with one another on a day-to-day basis. Blending theory and practice, the course is designed to help you understand and take more control of everyday interactions. Emphasis is on two-person, face-to-face communication. Some of the contexts we will discuss include: family communication, communication with friends and intimates, and managing conflict situations. Topics include: conflict management; jealousy; dating; coming together/coming apart; sibling rank order; body images; sexuality and sexiness and how its displayed; anger and how its managed; feelings and how they are dealt with in a family; the changing of sex roles socially; homosexuality; marriage; friendship; body art (piercing/tattooing/hair), dress and fashion. the use of color, architecture and how it affects personal relationships; divorce; food and the preparation/ritualistic elements thereof; the approach to privacy; dealing with grief and the like.

SEMS 2500-510: Introduction to Intercultural Communication ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Communication****Professor Terry Bangs**

We'll begin with an examination of culture—what constitutes national culture and how is it reflected in the way people in the culture communicate? We'll continue by applying the definition to our own cultures as well as measuring our abilities to adapt to other cultures. We'll then look in depth at one approach to examining culture—Geert Hofstede's five dimensions—and, using those dimensions, look for identifying behavioral markers among the cultures we visit during the semester, drawing conclusions about the cultures and how to communicate effectively with each. We'll also examine alternative approaches to the study of intercultural communication as well as the issues of microcultures within the larger cultural contexts and the impact of stereotyping on our communication behavior. Along the way, we'll visit global organizations and have opportunities to discuss with employees the opportunities and challenges of working in a multi-cultural environment. As a final assignment, you'll present a brief training session on communication to prepare a family from your own culture who will be living and working in one of the locations we visit.

SEMS 2500-511: Public Speaking ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Communication****Professor Terry Bangs**

Building on ancient rhetorical canons while recognizing the unique challenges of contemporary public speaking, this course will help students discover what constitutes good public speaking. We will consider the issues that arise when selecting and refining topics, organizing arguments, supporting positions and delivering speeches of conviction and impact. Students will prepare and present commemorative, demonstration and/or descriptive speeches, a formal persuasive argument about a significant global topic, as well as numerous other brief assignments. The concepts of the course are theoretically driven and there will be a written component to the course as well as several written assignments. There will be opportunities to visit various businesses and discover how presentations (and other oral communication) are delivered and received cross-culturally. We will also examine the power of storytelling as communicative and persuasive art cross-culturally.

SEMS 3500-500: Strategic Communication for Influential Leadership ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Communication****Professor Andrea Mitnick**

Influential leaders do four things well: create clarity, forge partnerships, inspire commitment, and advocate ideas. This course will examine these critical skills. In corporate America as well as globally, strategic business communication means team interaction, interpersonal and listening skills, excellent written and oral communication skills. And of course strategic global leaders must understand how to communicate with their associates around the world. We will examine the power of networking, storytelling, and understanding how people use information and simplify judgments. We will also design effective persuasive messages to inspire commitment rather than merely gain compliance. Finally, we will look at resonant leadership. This course will help you discover your competitive advantage: strategic communication skills consistently rank higher than any other skill in the corporate environment. (Prerequisite: Public Speaking or Interpersonal Communication).

SEMS 3500-504: Business Communication in a Global Environment ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Communication

Professor Terry Bangs

We'll start with an examination of the role of communication, particularly written communication, in the day-to-day work of global enterprises. We'll then look at the principal communication media used today in global business: letters and memos (most formatted and sent via the internet), e-mail, conference calling (including video conferencing), live presentations, and small-group meetings. We'll also study principles of effective communication in the media and demonstrate those principles through written and oral assignments. In each case, the context will be global organizations, where intercultural issues are at play. You'll be part of a team simulating the internal communication function for a major global company. You'll design communication strategy, develop and create good-news, bad-news, and informative messages. And, with your team, you'll develop a persuasive report and formal presentation for the executive leaders of the company. At one or more ports, we'll visit the headquarters or major regional office of a global company to examine real-world, real-time communication that crosses several national boundaries.

DRAM 2440: Theatre at Sea: Rehearsal and Performance ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Drama

Professor Edmond Williams

This course will concentrate on the preparation necessary for public performance of the dramatic text, with all students both acting and directing in scene work. The class will be divided into groups of three, with each individual directing a scene using the other two members of the group as actors. Thus each group will produce three scenes. Lectures will be on the process and methodologies that are then expected to be put into practice in the actual rehearsals. Scenes are to be selected from the dramatic literature of the countries visited when possible, although original work devised by the students is encouraged, and works from the standard repertoire may be chosen. The instructor will be both lecturer and coach, and will be part of the rehearsals for each scene, critiquing and advising. The final exam will be the presentation of the scenes to the other members of the class, along with the handing-in of rehearsal journals, and other written work concerning analysis, scheduling, research, and evaluation of the final products. The experiences of the students both on board the ship, and on shore will be fuel for experimental exploration as these scenes are developed. Students in the course will see as much theatre in the ports of call as will be possible.

DRAM 2920: World Cinema ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Drama****Professor Edmond Williams**

“What’s playing at the movies?” will be a question that must be answered in every port of call. The focus of this course will be the cinema of the countries visited during the semester. We will watch films (mostly dubbed or subtitled), and seek to understand how the cinema is considered within the various cultures: as art, as entertainment, as business, and as product for export or import. We will also look at how the differing cultures have been treated by Hollywood, and compare that version/vision of the country with our own onsite experiences. We will look at movies from countries within our itinerary which have been used as filming locations but not set there, and examine films set in a given country but shot elsewhere. Students will be required to see a film in at least one of our stops even if completely foreign, so as to see how the native audience reacts to the work at hand. The content of the course and the films we watch will be both historical and contemporary. Students will write papers on their choices of the films viewed, and will write about field experiences as well, but the bulk of the course will be based on the viewing and discussing of the films at hand. Each student will keep a journal of reaction dealing with all films experienced during the course, and their exploration of the culture of film in the countries we visit.

DRAM 4559: Indian, Chinese, and Japanese Drama ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Drama****Professor Edmond Williams**

The perspective of the course will be that of the outsider seeking to appreciate the foreign work, to understand its origins, its impetus, and to feel its power. We will deal with both the historical and the contemporary, and try to see as much theatre in the ports of call as will be possible. However, as those experiences of theatre will not be, most likely, in translation, we will be dependent upon the translated written text for our deepest discursive understanding, while acknowledging that much can be learned regarding acting styles, design, staging techniques, etc. from the live event. Students will write papers sharing their comprehension of the works read, seen, and discussed, and will keep journals of their reading, their encounters with, and their inquiries into, the theatre of the countries visited.

SEMS 2500-507: The Economics of Tourism ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Economics****Professor Colin White**

This course considers all the economic aspects of the tourist industry, including its nature as an ‘industry’ and attempts to measure its size and significance to different economies, using in particular the case studies of the countries visited on this voyage. It focuses on the different types of tourism and on the enterprises which provide tourist services. It brings together the factors influencing supply and demand, noting the competition among tourist destinations, and seeks to show how it is possible to forecast tourist demand. The tourist industry is considered in the context of historical change and in particular of the technical changes relevant to this economic activity, such as those in transport and communications. It shows how the impact of tourism might be assessed and what the ‘industry’ might contribute to economic development in both a developed and a developing economy. The role of strategy and of project evaluation at the enterprise level is analyzed, but both the roles of private players and the government are the focus of attention. Attention is given to the significance of social benefits and costs as well as private. The impact of tourism on the environment is considered in this context.

SEMS 2500-508: The Economic History of Globalization ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Economics

Professor Colin White

This course explores the various meanings of the concept of globalization. It considers the economic aspects of globalization – the exchange of knowledge, notably concerning technology; the expansion of commodity trade; the increasing movement of people and of capital; but in the context of broader meanings of globalization, including the political and cultural. It relates globalization to population increase and the development of information and commercial networks, to the various stages of economic development, including agriculture, commerce, industry and services, and to the changing nature of political organizations, including the rise and fall of empires. It traces the history of globalization through four phases of globalization. It introduces the first wave through the notion of world systems and the relative development of international contacts in and between Europe and Asia, focusing on trade routes, particularly those between Asia and Europe. The second phase followed the discovery of the Americas by Europeans. It considers the role of slaves and silver in the emergence of a world economy. The third phase of globalization follows the pioneer inception of modern economic development in the Industrial Revolution, with analysis of the Atlantic triangular trade, the Pax Britannica and the gold exchange standard, and of the great reversals of two world wars and the Great Depression of the 1930s. The final wave comprises recovery after 1945 and the growing integration of global markets. In the light of the recent financial meltdown it considers the degree to which the contemporary world is genuinely global.

SEMS 3500-503: The Economic Development of Asia ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Economics

Professor Colin White

This is a course which focuses on one of the most significant recent events in the world economy – the Asian Economic Miracle. It takes as its starting point the notion of economic development, defining what is meant by economic development, in particular modern economic development, with its self-sustaining element of continuing innovation. It initially analyzes the determinants of that economic development, whether proximate, that is inputs and technology as represented in the economist's production function, or ultimate, the longer-term elements dealt with by economic historians, such as resources, risk environments, culture or attitudes, the accumulation of human or social capital, or institutions. It puts the emphasis on an analytic narrative as an explanatory tool, combining economic theory and historical narrative, adopting a comparative approach. It considers the geography of the Eurasian land mass and growth episodes which occurred in the pre-modern period, particularly in Asia. There is an emphasis on the poverty traps which prevent these episodes sustaining modern economic development, notably the Malthusian trap. The course touches on the reasons for lack of economic development in such areas as Africa. It also considers the pioneer success of Europe introducing the Industrial Revolution in Britain and the economic rise of the USA. but in the context of a 'coming full circle' – the temporary success of Europe between two periods of Asian economic dominance,. The main focus is on five Asian economies, Russia – more Eurasian than either purely European or Asian, but occupying a vast area in Asia, Japan – the Asian pioneer, China and India, the two largest of the Asian economies, and Vietnam. It analyses the failure of an alternative to the capitalist market system, the Soviet economic model, which significantly influenced the pattern of economic development in both China and India, and shows how the Asian capitalist market model differs from the European. It explores the implications of the economic rise of Asia.

ENGN 3559-500: The World in Poetry (Section 1) ([Syllabus](#))

ENGN 3559-501: The World in Poetry (Section 2)

Discipline: English Literature

Professor Jahan Ramazani

In this class, we will take the opportunity provided by our journey to reread modern and contemporary poetry in English, examining poems tied to the countries and regions we will be visiting. How has Africa been imagined by African American poets such as Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and by African Caribbean poets such as Derek Walcott and Lorna Goodison? In turn, how has Africa been represented in the work of poets from West Africa such as Christopher Okigbo, Wole Soyinka, Kofi Awoonor, from South Africa such as Karen Press and Lesego Rampolokeng, of East Africa such as Okot p'Bitek? How have Western poets such as W. B. Yeats, T. S. Eliot, W. H. Auden, Ezra Pound, Elizabeth Bishop, and Yusef Komunyakaa imagined China, India, Vietnam, and Japan? In turn, how have poets such as A. K. Ramanujan, Agha Shahid Ali, Marilyn Chin, Li-Young Lee, and Cathy Song, born in places such as India, China, Japan, and Hawaii, made use of both Western and non-Western cultural traditions and landscapes? Although poetry is sometimes thought of as being very local, we will examine its transnational and even global dimensions. T. S. Eliot famously quoted sacred texts from India in *The Waste Land*, and he said Ezra Pound “invented Chinese poetry for our time.” Like Picasso’s formative encounter with African art, these examples suggest that modernism was inspired partly by transnational contact with non-Western cultures. Since World War II, poets from non-Western parts of the world have written some of the most vibrant poetry in English: they have hybridized English literary traditions with local cultural resources, creating new forms, new vocabularies, and new modes of expression. Beginning with examples from the Caribbean and Africa, this course will ask how poets represent cross-cultural encounter, mediate between Western modernity and indigenous traditions, and work from divided allegiances to the West and the Rest. How do both Western and non-Western poets make use of the resources of poetry and the English language to reimagine the world under a globalizing modernity?

ENMC 3559-500: Post Colonial Locations ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: English

Professor Agustín Reyes-Torres

Postcolonial Locations is designed to provide fresh, in-depth perspectives on key trends and recent debates in the field of post-colonial studies. The course will situate post-colonial literary and theoretical material within the complex, diverse histories and cultures that constitute the ‘postcolonial’ world. The aim of the course will be to highlight the enormous literary dynamism and debate that characterizes this field. Classes will combine literary topics with historical and theoretical discussion, aimed at inspiring students to ‘think locally’ as well as globally about post-colonial literatures and the countries we visit.

ENMC 3559-501: The Post-Colonial Sleuth ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: English****Professor Agustín Reyes-Torres**

Detective fiction is currently one of the most globalized, most popular, and biggest-selling of commercial genres, but there has been almost no attempt to study it in relation to other kinds of postcolonial literature. There is little bibliography of crime writers as ‘post-colonial’, but there are many examples of authors of detective novels who can also be categorized as ‘post-colonial’ due to either birthplace, residence or life experience. These writers have used the hardboiled detective story and the hardboiled hero to make powerful statements about the reality in which they are immersed. This course presents post-colonial detection as an exciting hybrid of western-influenced police methods and plot conventions with cultural insights and wisdom in exotic settings. It aims to study what happens to detective fiction when the detective figure is a hybrid subject that lives between cultures, suffers some kind of marginalization and observes the world that surrounds him with a critical post-colonial eye. We will analyze the peculiarities of the post-colonial detective profile and their hybrid subjectivity in order to establish the characteristics that define this unique character.

ENMC 3559-502: Fiction of Travel and Migration (Section 1) ([Syllabus](#))**ENMC 3559-503: Fiction of Travel and Migration (Section 2)****Discipline: English Literature****Professor Caroline Rody**

In this course we will consider fictional treatments of the movement of people and cultures across seas and continents and into new communities. Texts, consisting of short stories, novel extracts, and one or two complete novels, will be drawn from immigrant American literatures, as well as literatures from around the world. Our discussions will attend closely to the shocks and ironies of displacement and new encounter; the problematics of cultural alienation and assimilation; changing conceptions of ethnic and cultural identity in multiethnic societies; memory and inheritance as burdens or as creative touchstones; ethnic intergenerational dynamics; revisions of history; bilingual strategies; and the reworking of fictional forms to accommodate new kinds of stories.

ENSP 2559: Multicultural Detective Fiction ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: English****Professor Agustín Reyes-Torres**

Multicultural detective fiction is a type of popular fiction that both subverts and maintains the traditional detective formula; while it imbues the genre with the historical and cultural context of the community or country where the action takes place, it also perpetuates the detective formula. Its potential in cultural studies has not only generated continued scholarly interest but has also provided a forum for academic discourse on issues of multiculturalism. In *Adventure, Mystery, and Romance*, John Cawelti asserts that although popular culture genres such as westerns, romances, and mysteries are “formulaic,” they provide “a means of making historical and cultural inferences about the collective fantasies [and experiences] shared by large groups of people and of identifying differences in these fantasies from one culture or period to another” (7). This course looks into the implied values, cultural experiences, and collective fantasies found in crime and detective fiction. It is an examination of the depiction of society by writers of mystery and detective fiction in different countries all over the world. The readings selected are directed to promote both an understanding of detective fiction as a genre and an understanding of the social, political, and cultural issues that are specific to those countries.

ENSP 3559: The World in Literature and Film ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: English/Film Studies

Professors Jahan Ramazani and Caroline Rody

In this class, we will read literature and study film from and about some of the different countries visited by Semester at Sea, selected from Morocco, Ghana, South Africa, India, Vietnam, China, and Japan. On the way to each destination, the focus of our discussions will be contemporary literature of the upcoming site, often supplemented by a film screening and sometimes continuing after our departure. Among the questions we will address are: how do literature and film from each of these countries construct a national and/or transnational history and identity? What specific aspects of the culture and society of each nation are best revealed by literature or film? How do literary works and movies hybridize national traditions with world-circulating strategies and techniques? How do the literature and film of each nation mediate between global modernity and local tradition?

ENWR 2200: Introduction to Creative Nonfiction ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: English Writing

Professor Nancy Hurrelbrinck

Creative nonfiction encompasses a variety of genres – personal essays, travelogues, memoir, nature writing, literary journalism – that present factual information from a personal perspective. What distinguishes it from mere anecdote mixed with reportage is that both the personal and the factual are placed at the service of a larger truth; it must answer the question, “so what?,” using both the writer’s observations and a convincing presentation of self to make its points. In this course, we will read works by writers either hailing from or intimately familiar with each of the countries we’re visiting, attending to how these authors use elements of fiction, such as scene, dialogue, character, story, imagery, and metaphor, to tell their “true” stories. Assignments: Students will write two short (three- to five-page) essays and one longer (six- to eight-page) one, as well as several brief writing exercises; they will also read one another’s work with careful, critical enthusiasm, offering suggestions for revision during in-class workshops. An additional long essay will be required for the Faculty Directed Practicum.

STS 2500: Engineering in a Sustainable Society ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Engineering/Environmental Studies

Professor Catherine Skokan

The objective of this survey course, beyond providing a basic introduction to sustainable development concepts, is to recognize the challenges of sustainable development from an engineering design perspective. In this course we will define sustainability and look at examples in our world of both sustainable and unsustainable designs. We will investigate both economic and technological aspects of sustainability. In the course, we will attempt to measure sustainability and investigate possible appropriate technologies for sustainable development. We will observe projects on our voyage and study how sustainable they might be.

EVSC 1559-500: Geohazards and Natural Disasters ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Environmental Science

Professor Sian Davies-Vollum

This course focuses on understanding natural phenomena that we perceive as hazardous or disastrous. It emphasizes geological themes (earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, floods) but also covers topics in meteorology (hurricanes, the monsoon) and ecology (wildfires). Case studies from countries visited will be used to illustrate the various phenomena and the human response to them.

EVSC 1559-501: Physical Geography ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Environmental Science/Geography****Professor Sian Davies-Vollum**

This course considers the natural features and processes that are active on the earth's surface. Emphasis will be placed on landforms and the physical processes that shape the landscape but the course will also include some associated elements of oceanography and climatology. Landscapes and landforms encountered on the countries visited during the voyage will be used extensively as examples. The course will also contain an introduction to maps as representations of the earth's landscape.

EVSC 2559: Energy Resources ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Environmental Science/Geology****Professor Catherine Skokan**

Modern civilization has expanded exploitation of conventional energy resources, such as fossil fuels, and we are consuming these resources at an increasing rate. Development of the precious resources must be balanced with the problems of growing pollution caused by the extraction of and consumption of them. Use of alternative energy resources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal power, has expanded. This course examines the global distribution of energy resources along with the economic and engineering factors that govern their availability and the environmental effects of their production and use. The resources to be considered will include energy fuels and alternate energy sources. The origin of these resources, their world-wide distribution, advantages, and disadvantages, as well as economic and environmental concerns will be addressed. Special emphasis will be placed on the energy resources of the countries of our journey.

EVSC 3559: Environmental Geology ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Environmental Science/Geology****Professor Sian Davies-Vollum**

This course emphasizes the role of geology in environmental issues that have global implications. A basic knowledge of geological processes is built on to give a greater understanding of geologically related environmental issues and the human response to them. Using case studies from countries visited three inter-connected themes will be explored: geologic resources, tectonic hazards and surface processes. Geologic resources considers the geology of carbon-based fuels and water resources including their formation and the environmental implications of their increasing use. Tectonic hazards looks at the geology of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, including their prediction and the development of hazard preparedness programs. Surface processes considers coastal and river systems, including coastal development and erosion, and flood control. *Pre-requisite of a lower division Geoscience course such as physical geology, physical geography or introduction to environmental science.*

SEMS 3500-501: Our Restless Earth ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Geology****Professor Catherine Skokan**

A study of the restless earth builds upon a framework composed of multiple physical science facets that we collectively call geology. This course will explore the wandering and collisions of the continents, spreading of ocean floors, and the geologic evolution of our planet including natural phenomena such as earthquakes and volcanoes. We will explore beneath the surface of the Earth using seismic waves. We will gain further understanding of our planet through the study of the Earth's gravitation and magnetic fields, and through electromagnetic observations, and thermal measurements. Lastly, we will develop theories that describe and explain the continually evolving Earth.

SEMS 2500-513: Race and Ethnicity in the United States Since Colonial Times ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: History

Professor Stepanka Korytova-Magstadt

The United States past and present cannot be understood without an understanding of how race and ethnicity have shaped and formed the national identity. This course offers an overview of the issues of ethnicity and race in the history of the U.S. and looks at these issues from a historical perspective. It also looks at the contemporary constructions of race and ethnicity. In doing so it also examines the development of attitudes toward various groups within American society. Special attention will be given to the limits of equality based on race and ethnicity in the New Republic; to race, nation, and citizenship in the late 19th century; to changing of racial meanings during the course of the 20th century; and to current race and ethnic relations in America.

SEMS 2500-514: The Comparative History of Women ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: History/Women's Studies

Professor Stepanka Korytova-Magstadt

This course will explore women's history in the Balkans, Asia, North Africa, and the United States. We will examine, compare, and contrast the legal status of women by looking at property rights and family law, involving childhood, marriage, divorce, and widowhood. Students will also examine prostitution and abortion. We shall compare the patriarchal aspects and the struggle for universal suffrage. The course will also examine the lives of women scientists, educators, artists, revolutionaries, and feminists. Finally, by looking at social policies, in particular, child care, maternity leave, etc., the course will study social and political changes in the 21st century and their impact on women.

SEMS 2500-515: History of China (Neolithic to Ming Dynasty) ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: History

Professor James Godfrey

This is an introductory level survey of Chinese history from the Neolithic period through the Ming Dynasty (1644). The course will be presented from the perspective of intellectual, philosophical and social developments in China while following a traditional chronological and political format. Emphasis will focus on the cultural tradition and ideological evolution of thought and practice that are the framework of modern Chinese society. The influences of Confucian, Taoist and Buddhist thought on society will be discussed, as well as the great synthesis of the diverse ideologies that accompanied the emergence of Imperial China at the beginning of the past millennium. The course will follow the reconsolidation and expansion of the Chinese empire after the collapse of the Han Dynasty and the emergence of subsequent weakened and scattered regional states. Discussion will cover the emergence of cosmopolitan Tang society, the literary and artistic creativity under the politically weak Song rule, the Mongol conquest and the reestablishment of Han authority under the expansive Ming Dynasty.

SEMS 2500-516:History of Modern China (1644-2000) ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: History

Professor James Godfrey

This is an introductory level survey of the History of Modern China beginning with the Manchu conquest of China in 1644 and the establishment of the Qing Dynasty and ending with the emergence of the Peoples Republic of China as a world superpower at the close of the 20th century. The class will study the rapid assimilation of the foreign Manchu culture into Chinese society and the opulence of the first half of the last Imperial dynasty to rule China. The rapid decline of the Imperial order in the 19th century, hastened by foreign intervention and domestic corruption led to numerous attempts at social and political reform will be examined. These well meaning attempts at reconstruction met with little success. The total collapse of Imperial rule in 1911 and the ensuing civil war and the resistance to the Japanese invasion prior to and during World War II were the foundation and immediate background to the establishment of the PRC in 1949. Focus will then be directed to the economic, social and political challenges of the first 25 years of the PRC under Mao Zedong culminating with the Cultural Revolution. The role of China as a major factor in the global economy and its role as a world superpower will be observed.

SEMS 2500-505: The West and the World ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: History

Professor Alfred Hunt

This course considers the 15th century development of “the West,” its roots in the history of the Mediterranean, and its subsequent interaction with the cultures of Asia, Africa and the Americas. In particular, we will examine the rise of competing religious, economic and political systems in the regions that are on our itinerary as they relate to the “First World,” particularly the United States. Topics will include the impact of the discovery of the New World, the rise of Islam, the 19th and 20th century hegemony of Anglo-American culture, and the current ascendancy of Asia. We will end the course with a discussion of the global perception of “American Exceptionalism,” the current influence of the West on the world, and whether the Pax Americana is over, and if so, what are its legacies and/or its prospects?”

SEMS 3500-507: Crossings and Voyages ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: History

Professor Stepanka Korytova-Magstadt

This course looks at the reasons for emigration to the U.S. from Asia, North Africa, and Europe in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. We will look at individual countries, with particular attention to the motivating forces of emigration in the countries visited on this voyage, and compare them. We will examine migration from each country, family or individual, permanent or temporary, including undocumented migration and human trafficking. We will also study the reactions of the mother country to outmigration. During the transatlantic voyage, we will discuss the main ports for emigration, the technological developments in the shipbuilding industry, i.e., the introduction of steam power, and different companies and agents involved in the enterprise. Finally, we will explore the patterns of settlement and the types of employment of different ethnic groups.

SEMS 3500-512: Diasporas – The Effects of Immigration on World History ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: History

Professor Alfred Hunt

People have been moving across the globe since the beginning of history: Jews, Amerindians, Europeans, Africans, Muslims, and Chinese among others. This course will consider the extensive influence and effects of human migrations on world history, reminding us that buzz words such as “multicultural” and “global” are anything but modern concepts. After a discussion of some of the basic concepts about immigration, the push and pull factors, we will examine the root causes of both voluntary and involuntary Diasporas: war, slavery, the quest for religious freedom and improved living conditions. We will consider the causes and consequences of migrations on both rich and poor nations, focusing primarily on areas that we will visit on this voyage, and ending with a discussion of the current immigration controversy in the United States.

SEMS 3500-508: Warfare in the Modern Era ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: History

Professor Alfred Hunt

The influence of warfare is arguably the most neglected and least understood aspect of human history. Too often we only consider war as one might a sporting event: “Who played? “What is the score?” “Who won?” War has been with us since the beginning of recorded history and yet, humankind still seems baffled by its persistence. After a brief survey of some of the theories and historical antecedents of warfare, we will examine how “modern” warfare continues to confound and yet affect us. It has been argued that the United States has been thoroughly ‘militarized.’ We will assess this thesis by looking at the history of American military involvement with the rest of the world since the turn from the 20th century, and ending with the “Global War on Terror.” We will also discuss the “fallout” of warfare in the United States—topics such as the Draft, anti-war movements, the effects of war on privacy and security, and its effects on political leadership.

SEMS 2500-506: The U.S. South ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Interdisciplinary Studies

Professor Robert Vaughan

Focusing not on the history of the US South but on the complexity, of its culture, this course will study the US South as a global south or an Atlantic world South that has been shaped and continues to be influenced by Caribbean, Latin American, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian, Middle Eastern, and North African, as well as European and American Indian peoples and cultures. We will explore traditions reflected in the art and architecture, language and literature, folklore, film and theater, music, and religion, as we visit the countries that have contributed to the complex creole that is the American South and that continues to evolve as a consequence of globalization.

SEMS 3500-502: Globalization and International Law ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Law/International Relations/Political Science

Professor María Lope Solá

The evolving role of international law from diplomatic protection to the law of treaties to humanitarian law to the International Criminal Court, among others, has had a significant impact on globalization. This course will focus on the intersection of international law and globalization and the changing nature of the Nation-state system. We will examine how the principles of international law and the creation of international norms impact the international responsibility of states and various aspects of globalization.

SEMS 3500-509: Non-profit Leadership ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Leadership

Professor Robert Vaughan

The rapid growth of non-profit and non-governmental organizations and their influence and economic impact worldwide argue for education about this sector and the ways that such mission driven organizations work in the world. The course will focus on cases and case discussions to illustrate issues, raise questions, pose problems, and explore opportunities in managing and leading non-profits, or social profit, organizations. We will consider the diverse challenges, among others, of establishing organizations, defining missions, creating programs, developing boards and board responsibilities, engaging an executive and executive responsibilities, managing staff, planning strategically, budgeting and fund accounting, raising funds, and branding and marketing. The course is designed both for those who may work for non-profit organizations and for those who may serve on non-profit boards.

SEMS 3500-510: Leadership Development ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Leadership/Service Learning

Professor Bernard Strenecky

The purpose of this course is to assist you in developing international leadership competencies. The course will provide you with a broad based knowledge of the theoretical constructs underlying leadership in a global society and will provide learning opportunities that will help develop knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary in becoming an effective leader. The course will address followership, ethics, and the development of a personal leadership model. Students will be expected to assume a significant leadership role in the Semester At Sea community.

MDST 3206: Introduction to Documentary Production ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Media Studies

Professor Paul Wagner

Before he was a filmmaker, the man known as the “father of documentary filmmaking” was an explorer. In 1913, Robert Flaherty brought a camera along on a journey to the Hudson Bay region of Canada. The result was *Nanook of the North*, widely regarded as the first documentary film. Following in Flaherty’s footsteps we will learn the art and craft of the documentary film and apply those skills to the creation of films documenting life in our ports-of-call. Emphasis will be on production and post-production concepts, including directorial point-of-view, camera style, scene coverage, story construction, editing rhythm, appropriate technology and the filmmaker-subject relationship. Instruction in, and the practice of, these production techniques will be complimented by consideration of the history, traditions and ethics of documentary filmmaking especially as they relate to the documentation of other cultures.

MUSI 2120-500: History of Jazz (Section 1) ([Syllabus](#))

MUSI 2120-501: History of Jazz (Section 2)

Discipline: Music

Professor Scott DeVeaux

“The History of Jazz” is an overview of one of America’s greatest contributions to world culture—the music, its history, and its cultural implications. This course situates the development of jazz within American culture and politics, while also exploring the interaction of the music with the broader world. “The History of Jazz” begins with a brief Musical Orientation. It offers direct engagement with the music itself, providing novice listeners with a vocabulary for discussing the music and a practical sense for how jazz is created. Recordings will allow students to experience the music’s excitement and to *hear* why certain players and styles are considered great. This section provides a basic vocabulary for pitch, rhythm, and harmony, as well as explaining how the distinctive grammar of jazz (timbre, rhythmic contrast or *polyrhythm*, variable intonation or “blue notes,” and the use of cyclic structures) is grounded in African-American folk culture. This course’s emphasis on the creative process asks students to recognize the most common forms of jazz, and to become familiar with such concepts as trading fours, walking bass, and harmonic improvisation (“running the changes”). The remainder of the course is a Historical Survey, explaining where the music came from, who created it and why. It begins with the roots of jazz in 19th-century America before shifting to the music’s origins in New Orleans. We discuss the great performers—Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis—and the music’s styles, ranging from swing to bebop to hard bop to fusion. The survey is chronological, but also conceptual. The last fifty years of jazz history can be thought of as the realization of a modernist avant-garde agenda, as the fusion of jazz with pop music, or as a backward-looking historical music.

MUSI 1070: World Music ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Music

Professor Scott DeVeaux

Global Music is a broad overview of music-making across the world, with specific focus on areas that the Semester at Sea cruise will visit during Fall 2009: Africa (Morocco, Ghana, South Africa), India, Vietnam, China, and Japan. Global Music is an introduction to the field of *ethnomusicology*, the study of music as both an artistic activity and human behavior. It examines music using the methods and concerns of anthropology and cultural study. Over the course of the semester, we will consider not only different systems of music sound, but also different systems of musical *meaning*. Topics will often be directly related to ports-of-call. Thus, before arriving in Cadiz, Spain, we will discuss flamenco music; a general introduction to South Indian music will precede our stay in Chennai; and so forth. Otherwise, we will follow the thematic outline of the textbook (see below), which organizes musical cultures through chapters focusing on ritual, migration, politics, global economics, dance, memory, and cultural identity.

PLCP 1010: Introduction to Comparative Politics ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Political Science****Professor Richard Farkas**

This is a basic university level course. It is designed to nurture the skills associated with thinking about politics in a more sophisticated way. To accomplish this, we need to learn to think conceptually, express our thoughts, and process ideas by linking facts. We also need to learn how to measure our level of confidence in an idea. This course will focus on introducing you to those ideas. It is a “comparative politics” course. That means that it will try to understand politics by looking to examples outside the American political system. We will try to understand in a systematic way how political systems are similar or are different from one another. In this way, we see a much larger range of systems and we encounter unfamiliar ways of dealing with challenges that some Americans presume can only be handled the way it is done in the USA. You must approach this course with an open mind and invest yourself in learning the key concepts! The ideas you will learn here are the "tools" that you will use to analyze political systems and indeed other social systems throughout your lives. The bulk of this class is learning about the concepts. Details about foreign political systems will serve to illustrate their use. The political systems we will visit will serve as our examples. Field experiences will center on observing key differences among the types of systems we will visit.

PLIR 2559: Terrorism and Insurgency ([Syllabus](#))**Discipline: Political Science****Professor Richard Farkas**

Terrorism warrants careful examination given its centrality to American foreign policy and to popular political psychology today. After examining the nature of the phenomenon, the course will turn to how terror, terrorism and terrorists are portrayed. Who terrorists are will be examined from real empirical data. The target areas for examination in the course are: (1) what their motives are, (2) who manipulates them and (3) what can be accomplished. This will be pursued in a broad comparative context. Ultimately, the synthesizing issues are ones of politics. Can governments prevent or minimize terrorism? Is terrorism a society threatening phenomenon? What are the implications for the authoritative allocation of resources? Does terrorism have any redeeming qualities? This course examines revolutions and insurgency. It will try to construct an understanding for students by looking at the empirical data that we have on when, how and why revolutions begin and why they either succeed or fail. It will encourage students to look at the conceptual literature and link it with the real world developments that have so clearly shaped politics in the 20th and 21st Centuries. Special focus will be placed on the political systems we will visit. Students should be prepared to be surprised by what social scientists “know” about insurgency. The answers to questions like who makes revolution and in whose name it is fought will be quite unexpected. During what constellation of circumstances do revolutions flare up? What are the real chances of success? Social science has strong answers to these questions. *This course faces a unique challenge. Most political science courses deal with the rules and routines of politics. Revolution is the political phenomenon created and pursued by those that reject those rules. As a consequence, students must make a formidable conceptual adjustment. Each student, in order to understand REVOLUTION, must try to “think” like a revolutionary! This may involve some discomfort and the challenge to embrace very different criteria for success.*

PLCP 3240: Post Soviet Political Challenges ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Political Science

Professor Richard Farkas

This is an advanced level politics course emphasizing concepts, observation (field projects), and research. It presumes that you have either lower level comparative politics classes, a background course in another discipline, or a driving interest in the subject matter. One or more of these are required. The academic focus is on rigorous comparison and analysis of the recent political experiences of those political systems that are transitioning from classic Communism to new forms of authority. We will encounter two variations of this on our voyage. One is the kind of system that is still nominally "Communist" but changing dramatically; the other is the kind of system that has "off-loaded" Communism and is seeking to create an alternative. This is important to the "health" of these systems and may be especially instructive in terms of the developmental path of others systems trying to crystallize democratic and capitalist mechanisms. The issues, problems and fluid nature of politics in the region make the task of academic scrutiny especially challenging. Students that make this sort of effort will be rewarded with discovering a fascinating, intriguing and crucial insight into how our world works. You will be challenged to process both quantitative and qualitative information. You will be expected to refine your presentation skills via written and oral opportunities. You will be given a chance to intellectually stretch in new directions and test your own abilities.

PSYC 1010: Introduction to Psychology ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Psychology

Professor Charles Morris

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the scientific discipline of psychology. We will cover a wide range of topics that reflect the biosocial nature of human and animal behavior. Specific objectives include a basic understanding of the major concepts and findings in the field, an initial understanding of how psychologists do research, and how the results of psychological research can be applied to everyday human activities.

PSYC 2150: Introduction to Cognition ([Syllabus](#))

Psychology

Professor Charles Morris

The purpose of this course is to explore the cognitive processes involved in the acquisition, storage and retrieval of information. Specific objectives include a deeper understanding of how we learn and remember, how the results of cognitive research can be applied to everyday life, the biological bases of learning and memory, and the causes and treatment of memory deficits associated with aging.

PSYC 4500: Controversial Issues in Psychology ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Psychology

Professor Charles Morris

The purpose of this course is to engage students in a critical analysis of some controversial issues in the field of psychology. Course objectives include enhancing the critical thinking, writing, and oral presentation skills of participants, and helping them become more proficient in evaluating psychological research and media coverage of psychology-related content. Some of the issues that will be considered are: Does exposure to media violence promote aggressive behavior? Does divorce have lasting negative effects on children? Are blocked and recovered memories valid phenomena? Are male-female differences biological based? Is homosexuality innate or learned? Are IQ differences inherited? (Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology)

SEMS 3500-511: Religious Freedom – Its Evolution and Consequences ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Religious Studies

Professor Robert Vaughan

Religious Freedom is a hotly contested issue in the Post American / Flat World. Beginning with a study of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, the course will explore issues raised by prominent scholars of history, religion, and law who offer an extensive historical account of the development of the unique American tradition of religious liberty, beginning with European antecedents; proceeding through colonial origins, Revolutionary achievement, and the developing tradition in the nineteenth century; and concluding with contemporary perspectives on the theological, philosophical, and constitutional influence of the tradition throughout the world. Over 250 countries have adopted elements of religious freedom influenced by the Statute. As we travel, we will consider religious freedom and conflict in countries along our voyage, especially in North Africa, the Balkans, India, and China.

SEMS 2500-501: International Service Learning (Section 1) ([Syllabus](#))

SEMS 2500-502: International Service Learning (Section 2)

Discipline: Service Learning/Leadership

Professor Bernard Strenicky

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the theoretical and practical skills necessary for developing, implementing and evaluating International Service Learning programs. Special emphasis will be placed on reflective thinking and writing, team building, partnership development, the development of skill sets necessary for working abroad and conducting investigative research projects in the areas of community development and service learning.

SOC 1559: Sociological Perspectives ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Sociology

Professor John Kovach

This course will be a broad-based overview of major concepts and issues in sociology. The course will use voyage port visits as an opportunity to apply our “sociological imagination” in comparative study of concepts such as culture, race, social structure and inequality, deviance, and social institutions such as religion, the family and education. There will be a strong emphasis on the ways in which social categories of race, class, and gender shape everyday lives of people in the countries that we visit along with a focus on the dynamics and social roots of contemporary issues and problems.

SOC 2559-501: Deviance and Social Control ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Sociology

Professor John Kovach

Why are similar behaviors seen as “normal” in some countries and punished in others? This course will involve a cross-cultural perspective on constructions of deviance considering the significance of social power and cultural context as these factors shape differing types of interaction. A broad survey of perspectives, theories, and responses to deviance will be presented. Making use of port stops as our social “laboratory,” a critical perspective will be applied to definitions and understandings of those behaviors that come to be labeled as “deviant” in the U.S. as compared to countries that we visit. Videos, small group discussions, as well as student debates will be used as part of the varied pedagogy in this class.

SOC 2559-502: Sociology of Marriage and the Family ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Sociology

Professor John Kovach

A cross-cultural and historical treatment of the institution of marriage and the family. Some issues explored will include love and marriage, divorce and remarriage, gay marriage, male-female communication differences as they effect marriage relationships, dating and picking a life-partner, current economic changes affecting families, child abuse and marriage and family therapy issues. There will be an emphasis on applying various theories and concepts through mini-research projects conducted in ports during the voyage.

SWAG 2559: Women and Islam ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Women's Studies

Professor Farzaneh Milani

This course is an introduction to Islam through issues related to gender. It begins with an examination of women in the Qur'an and the active role women played in the early years of Islam. It studies women's rights and gender relations in Muslim majority countries. It also explores the ways in which Muslim women have been portrayed in western arts, films, and mass media. Through a variety of sources – religious texts and commentaries, theoretical, literary, journalistic and political writings, biographies, autobiographies and films--it asks a variety of questions. How does Islam treat women? What is "Islamic" with respect to ideas about women, their civic rights, and the space they occupy? How are Muslim women represented in the West and in what ways do they participate in cultural production themselves? Why, for centuries, have Muslim women been the object of such intense curiosity and attention in the West while serious scholarly works on them have been limited and limiting? Why has Islam become the ultimate "Other" in the United States of America?

SWAG 3559: Border Crossings – Women, Islam, & Literature in Middle East & N. Africa

Discipline: Women's Studies

Professor Farzaneh Milani ([Syllabus](#))

This course will focus on a bloodless, non-violent revolution that is shaking the foundation of the Islamic Middle East and North Africa, a revolution with women writers at its forefront. Hidden behind real or imaginary walls, veils, and silences, the Middle Eastern and North African women have suffered yet another distortion of their identity, the critical neglect surrounding their literature. For centuries, especially in the last few decades, women have made their voices heard through their writings. By giving body to their voice and voice to their body, they have seized every opportunity to break away from the silence that has veiled them at home or abroad. This course, in a small way, attempts to remedy this oversight. By examining the rhetoric and poetics of sex segregation in a spectrum of genres that includes folklore, novels, short stories, poetry, biographies, autobiographies, essays, and films, it promotes a more coherent view of social and cultural realities in that part of the world.

SWAG 4559: Freedom of Movement from a Cross-Cultural Perspective ([Syllabus](#))

Discipline: Women's Studies

Professor Farzaneh Milani

This course focuses on the complex interconnectedness between the allocation of space and power. Arguing that women's large-scale entry into the public sphere was a vital catalyst, a foundational event in modernity, it studies how women in motion desegregated predominantly masculine spaces, reconfigured the boundaries and hierarchies between the sexes, modified definitions of beauty, altered gender relations. By examining the rhetoric and poetics of sex segregation, voice, visibility, and mobility in a spectrum of genres that includes theoretical books, novels, poetry, autobiographies, essays, and films, it examines how the right to mobility stretched the fields of action and imagination for women, expanded their range of work and leisure activities, increased their direct participation in decision-making processes and posts, amplified their social relations, and impacted their position within the family, the state, and eventually the international community.