

LAS-110 Intersections Subtitles: Fall 2022

Us and Them

Notice that the title is not us *versus* them. People differ. Groups differ. They also have a lot in common. To thrive individually and collectively, we need to live with those who are similar to and different from us. This section examines human nature and the psychology of social perception to explore how we can be better citizens in a world that inherently (and thankfully) has plenty of variability.

Google That %@#&!

The Internet is pervasive in life today. We shop online, look up directions online, keep in touch with friends via social media. And when we want to know something, we google it – all the information we want at our fingertips. But what impact does this have on our learning? Does the constant search for information help us or hurt us learn? And how does this democratization of information affect how we value knowledge? Are we tapping the motherlode of information, or off-loading our brains to the web? This course explores the costs and benefits of the internet, particularly in how using it alters our brains, guides our learning, and impacts the values of education.

Cradle to Citizen

We all grow up as members of many different communities: our families, schools, hometowns, and neighborhoods. Now, you are joining the Central College community. What does it mean to be a responsible community member? This course explores challenges and opportunities for your post-college membership in local, national, and global communities. Our goal is to become more mindful of how we are socialized, so that we can be better informed, motivated, and prepared for responsible membership. How can we effectively engage with people who don't necessarily see things the way we do? We will share opportunities for meaningful direct experiences, while learning tools and strategies for making a difference.

The Grass is Always Greener

People have migrated from their home countries for centuries, for all sorts of reasons: escaping natural disasters, internal conflict and war, poverty, persecution, and lack of human rights, as well as simply seeking a better life elsewhere. This class examines the social, cultural, economic and political aspects of migration. We will explore in details migration policies that let some foreigners in while keeping others out, the effects of migration on the American economy and workers, brain drain and brain gain, cultural assimilation, cultural diversity and xenophobia.

Freedom to Read: Reading's Role in Citizenship (2 sections available)

As students you are often told what to read and when to read it. This can have the unintended effect of making reading seem like a chore and a drag. What changes if we look at reading as a *right*; one of the elements that defines and maintains a free society? In this course, we will study reading & literacy in history, censorship, "banned books" and access to information. We will examine reading as a social practice, a political act, and a cognitive process. And, of course, we will read widely, sharpen our critical reading skills, and read to challenge misinformation and disinformation.

Drumming = Responsible Citizenship

What does it mean to have responsible citizenship? What are the benefits and struggles? How are we impacted and inspired by the concept of rhythm? In this course, we will be exploring these and other questions by viewing and listening to different styles of music through the use of mixed media, and participating in a "hands-on" approach to the world of drumming.

Read Like a Poet

Many people find poetry intimidating, but how might studying poetry help you develop your critical reading, thinking, and writing skills? How can poetry help us access the experiences of others, and how do poets both write from their own experience and reflect their own learning and research in their poetry? In this section, we will think about how poetry can be broadly applicable to your life and your education, regardless of your major, and we will try our hand at writing our own poetry.

Storytelling and Change

Stories are everywhere. Stories entertain, explain, and illustrate. Most relevantly here, stories can persuade—can change minds and, by extension, shape society. In this class we will consider the complex power of stories, both for the common good and, potentially, as an instrument of harm. We will also become storytellers ourselves, and consider how to ethically and responsibly craft narratives about our own lives and those of others.

Where We Live

This course seeks to help us better understand what it means to live and learn in the world by analyzing different components of our natural and social environments. We will explore these environments locally, nationally, and globally as well as at different points in time. Through this exploration we will gain a deeper appreciation for what it means to inhabit a place.

Education's Role in Positive Citizenship (2 sections available)

Education, Solidarity, and the Commonwealth. The case for positive citizenship.

This course will discuss some of the direct and indirect correlations between education and the exercise of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship as well as the enjoyment of its privileges.

Our discussions will be informed by reading a selection of texts from the *Intersections anthology*, *The immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* and Marcus Tullius Cicero's *Pro Archia Poeta*, an essay in which the famous orator defends the right of the poet and teacher Archia to Roman citizenship. These texts will inform our discussion of the role education plays in our capacity to engage and function in society and consequently the exercise of effective, practical citizenship.

Science Fiction as Social Discourse

Science fiction has long been a forum for discussing important social questions. By setting the question in a world not our own with characters unlike us, we can explore contemporary questions from different perspectives that may not be possible otherwise. This course will explore how science fiction (short stories, novels, television and film) is used to discuss important social topics.

Ford vs. Ferrari: Exploring Rivalries in Science and Sports

We explore famous rivalries in science, sports and technological innovation that shaped the world we live in. The course sheds light on the stories behind those rivalries, major achievements or lessons learned, and the qualities demonstrated by the parties involved. In essence, we will be analyzing the characters for their qualities in entrepreneurship, innovation, competition and leadership.

Music as a Catalyst for Change, Healing & Growth

This course focuses on the integration of music throughout all capacities of life, particularly exploring music as a propulsion for change, healing, and growth. Students examine music from different perspectives as consumers, creators, participants, and observers. The course challenges one's thought processes, invites innovation, and exploration in order to become involved in the life of Central College.

The Intersection Between Science and Society

During this course we will seek to understand how scientific advances can shape culture, and how culture and human values have shaped scientific pursuit. We will examine how and who generates scientific knowledge and how science and technology affect society and social change. Some topics that will be covered are women and minority representation in science, pseudoscience and the nature of science, sustainability, and the role of science in social change. The course will develop critical thinking skills and the tools to act ethically in a world of continuous scientific innovation and change.

The Engaged Citizen

We focus on the civic engagement practices of awareness raising, volunteering, and advocacy under the guidance of our Community Based Learning colleagues and community partners. We study, plan, and do community service in this course.

Eidos

Eidos, translated as "form" from Greek, has various meanings in academic contexts. For Plato this word just meant "idea"; Aristotle used the word to mean that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts; modern use of the word is seen in anthropology to mean logical interests shared by a culture and in other contexts has been used as a placeholder to mean "science". This course will cover a broad range of topics, or ideas, that relate to science, human nature, and/or society and objectively analyze the basic parts as well as the idea as a whole. Critical and evidence-based analysis of readings and writing of assignments will be the primary mode of assessment. Some examples of these topics include artificial intelligence, emergent behavior, the concept of nature, and the meaning of life; also students choose topics in the latter portion of the semester.

"I'm Speaking"

It can often be difficult to hear marginalized voices in our society. This course will be dedicated to listening to the voices of women, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ people, and people with disabilities. We will have the goal of challenging our unconscious biases, having brave conversations, and writing outside of our comfort zones.

Connecting Art and Anatomy

We will examine the connections between anatomy and art across history, cultures, and religion. Among the topics explored will include Greco-Roman interpretation and presentation of the human form, anatomy and dissections in the early university, anatomy as seen by Renaissance masters Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, and the human body in religious expression. Students will examine Renaissance art masterpieces within the context of how human dissection conducted at that time influenced these works of art. Students will also examine medical ethics and how this has (or has not) evolved over time. Students will critically analyze written works related to this topic.