

Core/MAPS Course Suggestions for First-Year CMCI Students

The following are some **suggestions** for Core classes to add to your schedule for your first semester in CMCI. All courses are offered in Fall 2018. Most categories have more options than what is listed.

Only one course should be selected from a category, and you won't need to add more than 2 or 3 classes for Fall 2018, depending on what you are already enrolled in. We strongly discourage taking math and science together in the same semester, and writing is a recommended course for your first year. You can be enrolled in 13-16 credit hours or 4-5 classes.

Here is an outline for your first semester in CMCI:

- CMCI 1010 (Concepts and Creativity 1)
- Your major course(s)
- Core/MAPS
- Elective/Core

Minimum Academic Preparation Standards (MAPS)

Minimum Academic Preparation Standards (MAPS) are course work we wanted you to complete in high school, but if you didn't, you will take them at the college level. Below are the MAPS areas, we require in CMCI.

Foreign Language

If you didn't have three years of the same foreign language in high school, you must complete **third semester proficiency at the college level**. For many students, this may mean starting at the first-semester level and working through and passing third-semester level.

Be sure to take a language placement test (<https://altec.colorado.edu/languages.shtml>) to determine what course you should enroll in or you can start at the beginning of a new language.

Chemistry/Physics

If you didn't take a year of Chemistry or Physics in high school, you will need to take one at the college level. Our suggestion would be to take one of the following two courses: PHYS 1230 Light and Color for the Non-Scientist or PHYS 1240 Sound and Music.

Please consult a CMCI advisor if you have questions or if you feel your MAPS are incorrect on your degree audit.

CMCI Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum is designed to help CMCI students master ways of doing, thinking and investigating essential to studying and working in media, communication and information fields. These competencies may be studied and practiced in course work either within or outside the college.

Along with college wide requirements, such as CMCI 1010/1020 and a Secondary Area of Study, the Core is made up of two main categories: Breadth and Point of View, with sub-categories listed below with course options.

Breadth Requirements

Composition and Expression: (1 lower-division course and 1 upper-division)

Lower-Division Options:

WRTG 1150 First-Year Writing and Rhetoric

Rhetorically informed introduction to college writing. Focuses on critical analysis, argument, inquiry, and information literacy. Taught as a writing workshop, the course places a premium on invention, drafting, and thoughtful revision.

WRTG 1250 Advanced First-Year Writing and Rhetoric

Advanced version of WRTG 1150 intended for more experienced writers, this course meets the same goals as WRTG 1150 but at a more challenging level. Taught as a writing workshop, the course places a premium on invention, drafting, and thoughtful revision.

WRTG 1100 Extended First-Year Writing and Rhetoric

Extended version of WRTG 1150 that carries an additional hour of credit and is intended for students desiring more preparation and practice in college writing. Meets the same goals as WRTG 1150. Features one extra hour of small group work out of class. Focuses on critical analysis, argument, inquiry, and information literacy. Taught as a writing workshop, the course places a premium on invention, drafting, and thoughtful revision

Quantitative Thinking: (1 course required)

MATH 1012 Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematical Skills

Promotes mathematical literacy among liberal arts students. Teaches basic mathematics, logic, and problem-solving skills in the context of higher level mathematics, science, technology, and/or society. This is not a traditional math class, but is designed to stimulate interest in and appreciation of mathematics and quantitative reasoning as valuable tools for comprehending the world in which we live.

MATH 1012 Data and Models

Engages students in statistical and algebraic problem solving through modeling data and real world questions taken from the social and life sciences. The course will emphasize these skills and the mathematical background needed for a university level statistics course. Credit not granted for this course and [MATH 1011](#).

ECEN 1500 Sustainable Energy

Explores how energy is generated and used in today's society. Through collaborative discussion and hands-on data collection, students will analyze the engineering challenges, fundamental limits, and potential solutions to meeting our energy needs sustainably. Students will learn to analyze numerical data, estimate orders of magnitude, and apply mathematical methods in their own lives and in the ongoing energy debate. Basic algebra required.

The Natural World: (2 courses required plus 1 hour lab)

ANTH 2010 Introduction to Physical Anthropology 1

Detailed consideration of human biology, the place of humans in the animal kingdom, primate ecology, and fossil evidence for human evolution. Credit not granted for this course and ANTH 2050.

ANTH 2030 Laboratory in Physical Anthropology 1

Lab in human osteology and musculoskeletal system emphasizing comparative primate morphology, adaptation, and the fossil record documenting the natural history of primates. Recommended coreq., ANTH 2010.

ATOC 1050 Weather and Atmosphere

Introduces principles of modern meteorology for nonscience majors, with emphasis on scientific and human issues associated with severe weather events. Includes description, methods of prediction, and impacts of blizzards, hurricanes, thunderstorms, tornadoes, lightning, floods, and firestorms.

ATOC 1070 Weather and Atmosphere Laboratory

Optional laboratory for ATOC 1050. Laboratory experiments illustrate fundamentals of meteorology. Covers collection, analysis, and discussion of data related to local weather. Uses computers for retrieval and interpretation of weather data from Colorado and across the U.S. Department enforced prereq. or coreq., ATOC 1050.

GEOG 1001 Environmental Systems 1 (lab included)

Lect. and lab. Introduces the atmospheric environment of the Earth: elements and controls of climate and their implications for hydrology, vegetation, and soils. Emphasizes distribution of physical features across the Earth's surface and interactions between humans and their environment, especially those leading to global change on the decade to century time scale.

GEOL 1010 Introduction to Geology

Introductory geology for majors and non-majors. Studies Earth, its materials, its characteristics, its dynamic processes, and how it relates to people. Separate lab (GEOL 1030) is recommended.

GEOL 1030 Introduction to Geology Laboratory 1

Features field trips to local points of geologic interest. Studies rocks and topographic and geologic maps. Recommended prereq., prior or current registration in 1000-level geology course.

ASTR 1200 Stars and Galaxies

Non-science majors are introduced to the nature and workings of the Sun, stars, neutron stars, black holes, interstellar gas, galaxies, quasars, plus structure and origins of the universe. Some lectures may be held at Fiske Planetarium. Offers opportunities to attend nighttime observation sessions at Sommers-Bausch Observatory. Credit for only one of ASTR 1200, 1120, 1020, or 1040. Formerly ASTR 1120.

ASTR 2000 Ancient Astronomies of the World

Documents the numerous ways in which observational astronomy and cosmology have been features of ancient cultures. Includes naked eye astronomy, archaeoastronomy, ethnoastronomy, concepts of time, calendrics, cosmogony, and cosmology.

ASTR/GEOL 2040 The Search for Life in the Universe

Introduces the scientific basis for the possible existence of life elsewhere in the universe. Includes origin and evolution of life on Earth and the search for evidence of life in our solar system, including Mars and Jupiter's

moon Europa. Discusses the conditions necessary for life and whether they might arise on planets around other stars. Credit only for ASTR 2040 or ASTR 3300. Same as GEOL 2040.

ENVS 1000 Introduction to Environmental Studies

Surveys environmental studies, examining ecological, socioeconomic, political, aesthetic, and technological factors that influence the quality of life on Earth.

EDUC 1580 Energy and Interactions

Engages non-physics majors in hands-on, minds-on activities and labs to investigate the physical world, the nature of science, and how science knowledge is constructed. This introductory course is especially relevant for future elementary and middle school teachers although it will meet the needs of most non-physics and non-science majors. Physics content focuses on interactions and energy. Same as PHYS 1580.

IPHY 2420 Nutrition for Health and Performance

Focuses on the basic anatomy, physiology, and chemistry of nutrition. Topics include weight management, the role of diet and lifestyle in disease prevention, specific nutrient deficiencies and toxicities, nutrition standards and guidelines, sports nutrition recommendations, agricultural practices, and food policy issues. IPHY juniors or seniors are excluded from taking this course. Credit not granted for both IPHY 2420 and 3420.

PHIL 1400 Philosophy and the Sciences

Considers philosophical topics and concepts related to the natural sciences, such as the following: science and pseudo-science; scientific method; the nature of explanation, theory, confirmation, and falsification; the effect of science on basic concepts like mind, freedom, time, and causality; ethics of experimentation; and the relation of science to society.

PHYS 1230 Light and Color for the Non-Scientist

Discusses light, color, vision, and perception. Covers reflection, refraction, lenses, and applications to photography and other methods of light sensing. Other topics include lasers and holography. Course is geared toward nonscience majors. Department enforced prereq., high school algebra or equivalent. Meets MAPS requirements for natural science: chemistry or physics.

PHYS 1240 Sound and Music

Explores the physical processes that underlie the diversity of sound and musical phenomena. Topics covered include the physical nature of sound, the perception of sound, the perception of pitch and harmony, musical instruments, synthesizers and samplers, and room acoustics. Geared toward nonscience majors. Department enforced prereq., high school algebra or equivalent. Approved for GT-SC2. Meets MAPS requirement for natural science: chemistry or physics.

SLHS 2010 Science of Human Communication

Discusses how human communication (the process by which a thought is transmitted from the brain of a speaker to the brain of a listener) involves a complex interaction of acoustics, anatomy, physiology, neurobiology, and psychology.

People and Society: (2 courses)

Along with the specific courses below, you can search by department: ANTH (Cultural), ECON, ETHN, GEOG (Human Geography), IAFS, LING, PSCI, PSYC, SOCY, and WGST. Courses that are not labs, research methods or internship will count.

COMM 1600 Group Interaction

Covers basic theories, concepts, and characteristics that underlie face-to-face interactions in interpersonal, small group, and organizational settings. Activities stress the development of both task and relational skills in these settings.

ECON 2010 Principles of Microeconomics

Examines basic concepts of microeconomics, or the behavior and the interactions of individuals, firms, and government. Topics include determining economic problems, how consumers and businesses make decisions, how markets work and how they fail, and how government actions affect markets. Credit not granted for this course and ECON 1000 and 1001.

ETHN 2304 Introduction to Social Justice

Provides undergraduate students with an understanding of how social systems, primarily the educational and health care systems, are key to understanding injustices and criminalization. Topics covered will include trauma and victimization, food and housing justice, educational justice, physical and mental health justice, mass incarceration, #BlackLivesMatter and restorative justice.

IAFS 1000 Global Issues and International Affairs

Introduces the student to the international affairs program. The course examines political and economic development in several countries in many different world regions. Examines historical trends and development as well as current political and economic issues.

INFO 2131 Information Ecosystems

Introduces students to techniques for working with communities, organizations, and institutions in the transformative use of information. Develops students' ability to listen for (and mediate among) diverse, discordant voices and values. Employs qualitative research, design explorations, activities, and small group projects as students examine, navigate, and design for complex interactions across ecosystems.

JRNL 1000 Principles of Journalism and Networked Communication

Surveys the history, practices and responsibilities of journalism in a democracy. Examines ethics, best practices in institutional and network settings, reporting and writing, international news systems, personal branding, and strategies for creating and distributing content across media platforms. Promotes the highest professional values and encourages students to be leaders who recognize the possibilities of journalism in a democratic society.

LING 1000 Language in US Society

Nontechnical exploration of the ways that language is used in America. Emphasizes language as a social institution and how values and goals of both public institutions and private groups shape and are shaped by language and its use.

PACS 2500 Introduction to Peace, Conflict, and Security Studies

Introduces the related fields of peace, conflict, and security studies. Examines causes and dynamics of conflict and violence (interpersonal to global). Examines theory and research concerning peace movements, conflict resolution and security institutions. Explores careers options in related fields.

PSCI 1101 Introduction to American Politics

Emphasizes interrelations among levels and branches of government, formal and informal institutions, processes, and behavior.

PSCI 2012 Introduction to Comparative Politics

Most countries confront a variety of common political problems, including how to gain popular support, what kinds of political institutions are most appropriate, and how to distribute burdens and benefits to different segments of the population. Concentrates on learning how to compare different political systems and provides illustrative examples from several countries in both the industrialized and nonindustrialized world.

PSCI 2223 Introduction to International Relations

Introduces the field of international relations, with general survey of the theories, histories, and problems of historical and contemporary relations among state and nonstate actors.

PSYC 1001 General Psychology

Surveys major topics in psychology: perceptions, development, personality, learning and memory, and biological bases of behavior. Students may participate as subjects for several hours in ongoing research.

SOCY 1001 Introduction to Sociology

Examines basic sociological ideas including social relations, social interaction, social structure, and social change. Examples are drawn from societies around the world. Meets MAPS requirement for social science:

SOCY 1004 Deviance in US Society

Examines the social construction of deviance in the U.S., the process of acquiring a deviant identity and managing deviant stigma, and the social organization of deviant act, lifestyles, relationships and careers.

SOCY 2031 Social Problems

Examines U.S. society from a normative perspective emphasizing theories of social change. Considers such problems as distribution of power, unemployment, poverty, racism and sexism, the changing role of the family, and drugs.

SOCY 1016/WGST 1016 Sex, Gender and Society 1

Examines status and power differences between the sexes at individual and societal levels. Emphasizes historical context of gender roles and status, reviews major theories of gender stratification. Same as WGST 1016.

Humanities and the Arts: (2 courses)

Along with the specific courses below, you can search by department: ARTS, ARTH, CLAS, ENGL, FILM, HIST, HUMN, JWST, PHIL, RLST, THTR, and DNCE. Foreign Language courses focused on Culture and/or Literature.

Courses that are not labs, research methods or internship will count.

ARTH 1300 History of World Art 1

Surveys major art styles from the Paleolithic period through the Renaissance, including European, Asian, and the Pre-Columbian/Islamic world. Emphasizes comparison of Western and non-Western visual expressions as evidence of differing cultural orientations.

ARTH 2039/CLAS 2039 Greek Art and Archeology

Covers prehistoric Aegean through the fourth century B.C.E., considering architecture, pottery, painting, sculpture, and personal ornament. Societal customs such as use of space and burial patterns are considered as well as art and its uses, to help understand developments in Greek culture. Same as CLAS 2039.

DNCE 1017 Dance and Popular Culture

Explores and contextualizes contemporary popular culture and dance. Introduces methods of critical analysis that reveal the rich heritage hidden within and around the dances students commonly encounter at the club, on the street, on television, on the big screen and elsewhere in everyday life. Through watching, reading, and discussion, students discover new meaning in their lived cultural experience.

ENGL 1191 Introduction to Creative Writing

Introduces techniques of fiction and poetry. Student work is scrutinized by the instructor and may be discussed in a workshop atmosphere with other students. May not be taken concurrently with ENGL 2021 or 2051. May not be repeated.

ENGL 1500 Masterpieces of British Literature

Introduces students to a range of major works of British literature, including at least one play by Shakespeare, a pre-20th century English novel, and works by Chaucer and/or Milton.

ENGL 1600 Masterpieces of American Literature

Enhances student understanding of the American literary and artistic heritage through an intensive study of a few centrally significant texts, emphasizing works written before the 20th century.

FILM 1502 Introduction to Film Studies

Introduces basic media literacy by exploring the technical and aesthetic principles behind the production, analysis and interpretation of films. Explores comprehension and thinking about movies critically as technological, cultural and artistic products. Study of films in different social and historical contexts and discussion of the importance of movies as cultural products.

FREN 1900 Modern Paris in Literature, Photographs, Paintings and Movies

Introduces the rise of modern Paris from the French Revolution (1789) to today. Studies the physical and sociological changes of the city in terms of architecture and industrialization through French literature, movies, paintings and photographs. Addresses problems due to the magnitude of the city, the growing fear of urban vices, and the dilemma of controlling massive urban populations. Taught in English

GRMN 2301 Inside Nazi Germany: Politics, Culture and Everyday Life in the Third Reich

Examines social culture and everyday life in Nazi Germany. Topics include the role of propaganda in the media and entertainment industries, anti-Semitism and suppression of ethnic, social and religious minorities, the role of education and youth organizations, as well as the role of women, the churches, and the effects of a controlled economy before and during World War II. Taught in English.

HIST 1025 American History since 1865

Explores political, social and cultural changes in American life since Reconstruction. Focuses on shifting social and political relations as the U.S. changed from a nation of farmers and small-town dwellers to an urban, industrial society; the changing meaning of American identity in a society divided by ethnicity, race and class; and the emergence of the U.S. as a world power.

HIST 2516 America Through Baseball

Baseball could not have existed without America. Course explains how the game fit into the larger context of social, cultural, economic, and political history from the nineteenth century to the present. Studies the events and people who made baseball the national pastime.

HUMN 1110 Introduction to Humanities: Literature 1

Introduces students to works from the major Western literary periods (Classical, Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque) from the 8th c. BC to the early 17th c. AD comparatively, i.e., outside their national literary boundaries. Theorizes interdisciplinary, genre studies, periodization, comparativism, thematology, hermeneutics, criticism, etc. Credit not granted for this course and HUMN 1010.

HUMN 1210 Introduction to Humanities: Art and Music 1

Examines the major artistic and musical works in the Western tradition from ancient Greece through the 16th century in their larger historical, interdisciplinary, and theoretical ("aesthetic") contexts. Credit not granted for this course and HUMN 1010.

JPNS 2441 Japanese Culture through Film and Anime

Examines 20th century Japanese culture through cinematic and animated films. Studies films by Ozu, Kurosawa, Mizoguchi, and contemporary animators Tezuka, Miyazaki, and Kon Satoshi. Considers cultural issues raised in film and anime in light of modern Japanese history and literature. Requires no knowledge of Japanese. Taught in English.

PHIL 1000 Introduction to Philosophy

Introduces fundamental topics of philosophy (e.g., knowledge, truth, universals, self, the mind-body problem, time, God, and value).

PHIL 1100 Ethics

Introductory study of major philosophies on the nature of the good for humanity, principles of evaluation, and moral choice as they apply to contemporary moral problems.

PHIL 1200 Contemporary Social Problems

Examines competing positions in debates over a wide variety of controversial moral, social and political issues. Topics may include: abortion, world poverty, animal rights, immigration, physician-assisted suicide, freedom of religion, hate speech, cloning, income inequality, pornography, gun rights, racial profiling, capital punishment, overpopulation, prostitution, drug legalization, torture.

PHIL 1400 Philosophy and the Sciences

Considers philosophical topics and concepts related to the natural sciences, such as the following: science and pseudo-science; scientific method; the nature of explanation, theory, confirmation, and falsification; the effect of science on basic concepts like mind, freedom, time, and causality; ethics of experimentation; and the relation of science to society.

MDST 2002 Media and Communication History

Examines the historical development of communication forms, tools, technologies and institutions (orality, writing, printing, photography, film, radio, television, computers, internet); their influence on culture (forms of expression and social relationships); and their impact on social and individual experience. Applies knowledge of communication history to contemporary social issues and problems in media and society, domestically and internationally.

RLST 2202 Islam

Introduces students to foundational Islamic concepts, texts, core practices, historical narratives and intellectual, spiritual and literary traditions. Topics covered include: the figure of Muhammad; the Quran; the emergence of distinct Muslim identities; Hadith; Sharia; Islamic theology; Islamic philosophy; science in Islamic civilization; Islamic mysticism; the impact of colonialism and modernity on the Muslim world; gender and sexuality; political Islam.

RLST 2500 Religions in the United States

Explores the development of various religions within the shaping influences of American culture, including separation of church and state, the frontier experience, civil religion, and the interaction of religions of indigenous peoples, immigrants, and African Americans.

THTR 1009 Theatre and Society

Explores the importance of telling (and listening) to stories from the stages of the world; in theatre we learn what people value in their time and place. Investigates the range of genres of theatre in today's society and how theatrical artwork is devised and presented. Ideal for non-majors.

Point of View Requirements (1 course from the two categories below must be in CMCI)**

**Courses that meet the requirement above. Please note that there are more choices at the upper-division level (3000/4000 level courses), so you might save one course for your junior/senior year.

Historical Views (2 courses)**ANTH 1190 Origins of Ancient Civilizations**

Examines origins of the world's first civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, Mesoamerica, and the Andes. Covers archaeology of ancient cities, trade, economy, politics, warfare, religion, and ideology. Seeks insights into general processes of cultural evolution.

ANTH 2200 The Archaeology of Human History

Where do we come from? This course provides a brief introduction to the practice of archaeology and then emphasizes the evidence for major events/transitions in human history over the last 2.5 million years.

HIST 1011 Greeks, Romans, Kings & Crusaders: European History to 1600

Examines the history and formation of Europe from its roots in the ancient Near East to Greece to the creation of Medieval states and kingdoms. Topics may include the rise of Christianity, Barbarian migrations, religious persecution, the role of gender and minority status, the growth of trade and European encounters, the Black Death, the European Renaissance the Protestant Reformation.

HIST 1025 American History since 1865

Explores political, social and cultural changes in American life since Reconstruction. Focuses on shifting social and political relations as the U.S. changed from a nation of farmers and small-town dwellers to an urban, industrial society; the changing meaning of American identity in a society divided by ethnicity, race and class; and the emergence of the U.S. as a world power.

HIST 1308 Introduction to Middle Eastern History

Interdisciplinary course that focuses on medieval and modern history of the Middle East (A.D. 600 to the present). Introduces the Islamic civilization of the Middle East and the historical evolution of the region from the traditional into the modern eras. Covers social patterns, economic life, and intellectual trends, as well as political development.

HIST 2516 American Through Baseball

Baseball could not have existed without America. Course explains how the game fit into the larger context of social, cultural, economic, and political history from the nineteenth century to the present. Studies the events and people who made baseball the national pastime.

MDST 2002 Media and Communication History

Examines the historical development of communication forms, tools, technologies and institutions (orality, writing, printing, photography, film, radio, television, computers, internet); their influence on culture (forms of expression and social relationships); and their impact on social and individual experience. Applies knowledge of communication history to contemporary social issues and problems in media and society, domestically and internationally.

SCAN 2202 The Vikings

Examines the social, cultural, technological, and artistic backgrounds of the Viking experience, charting the history of the period both within the Nordic region and Europe as well as North America. Additionally, looks at some of the lasting influences of the Vikings on Western civilization. Taught in English.

Diversity and Global Views (2 courses)**ANTH 1170/CMDP 2820 Exploring Culture and Gender through Film**

Explores the concepts of culture and gender from an anthropological perspective, using films and other media, as well as written texts. By analyzing media about other ways of life, students will learn the basic concepts of cultural anthropology and be able to apply them to any society. In addition, students will learn to think critically about documentary and ethnographic media.

ANTH 2100 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Covers current theories in cultural anthropology and discusses the nature of field work. Explores major schools of thought and ethnographic fieldwork in a range of cultures studied by anthropologists.

COMM 2400 Discourse, Cultures and Identities

Examines how aspects of talk (e.g., turn-taking, speech acts, narratives, dialect, and stance indicators) link with identities (e.g., ethnic and racial, age, gender, work-related, and personal). Considers how communication is central to constructing who people are and examines social controversies related to talk and identities.

ASTR 2000 Ancient Astronomies of the World

Documents the numerous ways in which observational astronomy and cosmology have been features of ancient cultures. Includes naked eye astronomy, archaeoastronomy, ethnoastronomy, concepts of time, calendrics, cosmogony, and cosmology.

ENGL 1260 Introduction to Women's Literature

Introduces literature by women in England and America. Covers both poetry and fiction and varying historical periods. Acquaints students with the contribution of women writers to the English literary tradition and investigates the nature of this contribution. Same as WMST 1260.

ENGL 1800 American Ethnic Literatures

Introduces significant fiction by ethnic Americans. Explores both the literary and the cultural elements that distinguish work by these writers. Emphasizes materials from Native American, African American, and Chicano traditions.

ETHN 1023 Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies

Introduces critical terms, issues, and questions that inform the discipline of American Indian Studies. Examines "historical silences" and highlights how American Indian scholars, poets, and filmmakers use their work to address/redress historical subjects, and represent their Native communities.

ETHN 2536 Survey of Chicana/o History and Culture

Through historical and social scientific studies, novels, autobiographies, testimonies, films, music, and art, this course will provide students a survey of Chicana/o history and culture. Historical overviews of Chicana/o peoples from Mesoamerica; the Spanish Conquest; the historical presence of Chicana/o peoples in the Southwest; the rise of the Chicana/o student and community movements; immigration issues; and the gender, sexuality, and criminalization issues.

LING 2400 Language, Gender and Sexuality

Familiarizes students with the effects of gender on language use; discusses popular beliefs and scholarly theories about language and communication. Provides students with tools for exploring the role of language and gender.

WGST 2000 Introduction to Feminist Studies

Introduces students to the field of Women and Gender Studies. Examines gender issues in the United States from interdisciplinary, multicultural and feminist perspectives. Covers such topics as sexuality, beauty ideals, women's health, violence against women, work, the economy, peace and war & the environment.

First-Year Seminars (Optional Elective Courses)

Listed below are 15 out of the 55 optional elective courses that are offered exclusively to First-Year students. To register for any of these courses, search "FYSM 1000" on MyCUInfo and you will find the desired class under its own section number.

To see the other courses offered, please visit: <https://www.colorado.edu/academics/first-year-seminar>

Investigating Art, Media, Culture and Visual Literacy Through Drawing

Teaches basic drawing skills, mechanics of two-dimensional space, and deconstructs the kinds of artistic images students commonly encounter in social media, street art, graffiti, advertising, comics and tattoos as a basis for understanding how complex visual language communicates profound meaning. Experiential learning activities introduce the practices of design thinking, idea production, the creative process and critical thinking.

Why Be Moral?

One of the oldest and most important questions about life is the question of why we should care about doing the right thing. Although discussions of this topic go back to the beginnings of philosophy, there remain to this day the fiercest of disagreements about how to answer the question. This seminar will look at some of the variety of answers that have been given over the centuries, looking at philosophy, literature and film. Students will be asked to think analytically about the question, but also to reflect honestly on the question from within their own lives, so as to seek an understanding that is both intellectual and personal.

How to Think (Philosophically) About Sex

Are violent sexual fantasies immoral? What about playing video games that feature sexual violence? Peeping in on a fellow student while they're in the shower? Hiring a prostitute? Engaging in incest? Plain old sexual promiscuity? And what should we say when a person's consent to sex is compromised because they've been given false information? Or because they're moderately intoxicated? Or because they're quite young? Is it wrong to be a sperm donor? To pay someone to carry a pregnancy to term? To pay someone to terminate a pregnancy? Sex raises a lot of important and difficult ethical questions. This introductory-level, discussion-oriented seminar will provide a critical survey of what contemporary philosophers have said about many of these questions, and help students learn how to think, talk and write about such questions clearly, critically and constructively.

Technology as a (Black) Mirror of Society

This seminar examines our modern technological climate, particularly with regard to the unanticipated consequences of new technologies using, among other content, the BBC/Netflix anthology series *Black Mirror* as a pedagogical tool for discussion and analysis. From the 35,000-foot vantage, we seek to instill in students a critical-thinking mindset regarding technology's increased role in our lives. Virtual reality, artificial intelligence, extreme surveillance, evolving forms of warfare, digital afterlives, hacking, and social media addiction are a sampling of the topics to be discussed. As futuristic as some might sound, these technologies are here, and, if we're clumsy and cavalier in our understanding and use of them, the future depicted in *Black Mirror* might be the one we find ourselves soon navigating. In short, technology mirrors people's aspirations; therefore, we do ourselves a service when we know full well what we're looking at.

Media Literacy

Explore the expanding nature of literacy in a digital world, and changes in the meanings and practices of literacy over time. Media literacy encompasses the ability to strategically access, analyze, evaluate, promote and produce communication in a variety of modes. Students will expand their understanding of the role of media literacy in social engagement, and will apply their competencies to help external communities engage important issues through group projects and mediated public interactions.

Project Manage Your University Experience

College is more than completing a set of courses; it's the start of your adult life. Learning and applying project management skills can smooth your transition into college life. Projects have a life cycle with a beginning and an end. They are unique and filled with uncertainty about what to expect. Each project shares a common framework that includes five process groups: initiation, planning, execution, close, and monitoring and control. The focus of this course is to learn and apply project management knowledge skills as students identify, initiate and develop a plan for a successful CU Boulder experience.

Being Human: The Anthropology of Dystopia

What does it mean to be human? What can fictional worlds and imagined futures tell us about the actual worlds we live in today? This course addresses questions about the human condition by exploring the imagined worlds of dystopian cinema—films set in an alternative time or place that is worse than the here and now, yet recognizably familiar.

Anthropological concepts and theories are applied to films such as *Blade Runner*, *Planet of the Apes*, *Ghost in the Machine*, and *The Handmaid's Tale*. Many of these films revolve around problematic relationships between humans and animals or humans and machines, suggesting that the human condition is determined in part by nonhuman entities. By learning the anthropology of dystopia, students will learn to think critically about the taken-for-granted and to approach big questions, like what it means to be human, by focusing on the details of lived experience.

The Power of Fairy Tales

Did you know that the Italian Cinderella murdered her stepmother? Or that Sleeping Beauty had twins before marrying the prince? Or that the cats in Italian Puss-in-Boots stories were female? While Walt Disney's animated fairy tales are familiar to most American children and adults, few people realize that Disney's most beloved characters (Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Pinocchio) descend from an Italian and French fairy tale tradition that dates back to the 16th century. To make these tales acceptable for American children, Disney and the authors of children's books drastically changed these stories by removing scenes of sex and violence, censoring adult language, and removing any scenes that challenged the dominant social and political beliefs of Disney's day. In this class, you will study how fairy tales have changed through time and across cultures by studying different tale types (Cinderella, Dragon-Slayers, Puss-in-Boots) from the Italian and French traditions

from the 1500s to the 1700s and contemporary, popular culture (films, television, comics, advertising and art). You will ask yourselves how the same tale type might be retold for different purposes in different cultures, and you will work in groups to build digital fairy tale webs that show the relationships among different versions of the same tale type. We will also meet in Norlin Library's Special Collections department, to study rare fairy tale books and illustrations printed between 1500-1900. Finally, you will write your own fairy tales that address your own political, social, and moral concerns. The course goals include gaining an appreciation for the flexibility of the fairy tale and the power of storytelling; improving written and spoken communication; and sharpening your analytical skills.

Race and the University

One of the defining elements of college life is the promotion of racial diversity—but how does this play out in the everyday life of the university and its students? By examining the university as a unique setting for the social construction and lived experience of race, this course will conduct first-hand investigation in CU archives and within CU communities to ask: What is the role of the university in shaping our understanding of race and the meanings of race in U.S. higher education? What are the challenges surrounding race and racism at the university? And what are the possibilities for cross-cultural exchange and racial justice at the university? Because knowledge doesn't exist simply "out there," but is actively produced by local actions and agents—including CU students—we'll investigate how the university is not just a neutral place but a complex social institution communicating diverse missions, values and identities.

Comedy: Commedia and the Process of Creating the Classic Comedy

The worldview of the ancient artform of commedia dell'arte lives in the series of detailed characters, complex relationships and life situations—revealing a kind of theater that composes an entire view of human life and is the heart of how comedy is crafted today. In understanding the world of Commedia, its relevance to modern professional theater practices and precise physical technique, one must surrender to the needs, drives and self-image of individual beings dominated by simple desires. Psychology plays an important part in the creative process, with an emphasis on what it means to be human rather than what it means to be a character. Students will learn that each of us is a composite of all of the Commedia characters. The purpose of the theater, unlike other mediums, is the enactment of the collective psyche, and Commedia is the most direct path to this.

Toxic Chemicals in Our Environment: Health Impacts and What We Can Do About It

In this course we will learn what is an environmental toxic chemical, the adverse health effects associated with exposure, and everyday actions we can take to reduce our exposures to toxic chemicals. A toxic chemical is a substance that causes, directly or indirectly, harmful effects. We will discuss how society creates, regulates and perceives the effects of environmental toxic chemicals. We will emphasize the complexity of the issues and the difficulty in resolving them. This is a diverse topic and combines the fields of toxicology, exposure assessment, epidemiology, environmental engineering, environmental science, medicine, public health, sociology and chemistry with politics, lobbying, economics, marketing, law, media and human behaviorism. Unfortunately for you, your professor is not an expert in all of these topics! You will have to help me fill in the missing pieces. A goal of this course is to create an experience-oriented learning environment in which you have a more interactive role in the day-to-day classroom activities. We will use our computers regularly, so bring a laptop. Activities will include multimedia presentations, computer exercises, homework with real-world data analysis, readings and discussion groups. We will also use social media to communicate what we are learning with the world.

Water for the World

This course will explore the complex issues associated with water, global trends and sustainability. Topics will range from sources to meet current water needs for human consumption, industry, agriculture, recreation and ecosystem services, and the state of these sources under future scenarios of status quo, global warming, population growth, and the industrialization of developing nations. The course will also cover the fundamentals of water chemistry, the current design of water and wastewater treatment and distribution systems, an analysis of these designs through green engineering, and innovations for future designs including providing services without significant infrastructure. Elements of the course focus on water policy, environmental justice and the economic valuation of water globally.

Bones, Stones and Monkeys

The fundamental questions covered in this seminar are: Where do humans fit in the economy of nature? What is the story of human origins? How can we answer such questions? We will explore these topics through various lenses including paleontology (bones), archaeology (stones) and primatology (monkeys). The primary course materials will be popular books and the never-ending stream of discoveries/studies shared in popular and social media. Projects will include journaling, blogging and/or wiki creation.

Theatre for Children

Creativity, imagination and collaboration take center stage in this experience-based course, where you and your classmates will become theater makers for young audiences. In addition to exploring theater as a means of enhancing child development, education and expression, you will have the opportunity to try your hand as an actor, director, playwright, teaching artist and mentor. You'll learn theater games for the classroom, improvisational exercises for building collaborative skills and methodologies for developing new work for young audiences. We will meet guest artists who are professionals in the field of children's theater, and study contemporary children's plays for character, action and dramatic structure. In the culminating project of this course, you'll work with elementary students in our community to develop an original children's play that you will perform for them at the end of the semester. An ideal course for aspiring teachers and creatives alike!

The Origin of Everything

Have you ever wondered about the origins of the universe, the solar system, life on earth, human civilization and modern society? This course offers instruction from world-class experts in each area, as guest speakers from multiple departments will share the latest research in their fields. We'll think about what all these origins may have in common, what we can and can't know about the past, and how understanding these origins can help us be better thinkers about both the past and the future.