

THE CORE PROGRAM at UWT

The Core Program prepares students for success at the upper division level by focusing on campus-wide learning goals: *communication and self-expression, civic engagement, critical inquiry, global perspectives, diverse cultural views* and the *ability to solve problems*. This program is a coordinated series of courses representing the various disciplines in the university. You will take four courses that fulfill a portion of the university's general education requirements. The courses are designed to challenge you to develop critical thinking, writing, research and analytical skills. Each CORE class is capped at 25 students, and Composition courses are capped at 22. The small class size fosters a sense of community and engaged learning.

AUTUMN 2014 CORE COURSES

TCORE 101J, SLN 23116, T/TH 12:50 – 2:55 PM (Composition) 5 credits

Asao Inoue, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: The Rhetoric of Reflection: How Do We Understand our World and Words?

Description: In this course, students will study reflection (self-assessment) as a practice that can help them not only think about their world and the words they use but think about how they think in words. We'll explore a few theories about reflection as a practice (e.g. Dewey, Freire, Schon, Yancey), read and analyze instances of reflection (memes, parody, poems, etc.), examine examples of reflection in our daily lives (billboards, commercials, ads, journals etc.), and consider ways that reflection offers writers important intellectual work. Additionally, students will consider ways that dominant discourses promote particular kinds of reflective thought in writing and how other discourses exhibit other kinds of reflection.

PATH A

INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING (TCORE 101) 5 CREDITS COMPOSITION

TCORE 101A , SLN 21073, M/W/F 8:00 – 9:20 AM

Nicole Blair, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: Service Learning for Social Justice

Description: In this course, students will explore the theme of social justice through service learning. Along with writing on particular topics related to this theme, they will do research about the issue of volunteerism and civic responsibility in conjunction with the particular project they pick, such as working with Habitat for Humanity. The goal of the class is to put academics into action, so that students will understand that what they learn can be applied in the real world.

TCORE 101B, SLN 21074, M/W/F 9:30 – 10:50 AM

Alison Walker Stromdahl, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: Teaching Lessons: Tales, Proverbs, and Rhymes

Description: Over the course of our lives, we are continually taught lessons through alluring and fanciful tales, rhymes, and proverbs. These deceptively simplistic forms of writing are, in fact, an intricate layering of rhetorical, literary, and social devices that both seek to reflect and manipulate history, culture, time, gender, race, sex, and socio-economic factors. Through our investigation and interrogation of these texts, we will come to a better understanding of these consciously crafted works through various forms of academic writing, including writing our own personal tales.

TCORE 101C, SLN 21075, T/TH 10:15 AM – 12:20 PM

Alison Cardinal, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: Are Words Mightier than Swords?: Examining Power and Persuasion

Description: In this writing course, we will learn how to write academic arguments by analyzing pivotal moments where speeches changed the course of history and analyze what made those speeches so effective in that historical moment. We will also examine how certain people groups have been silenced or undervalued because their use of language runs counter to those in power. We will write about these important moments in language and also make our own attempts to change the world with words.

INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE (TCORE 102) 5 CREDITS
NATURAL WORLD

TCORE 102A, SLN 21082, T/TH 8:00 – 10:05 AM

Erik McDonald, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: Where the water meets the road: Examining the environmental impacts of urbanization on aquatic ecosystems.

Description: How do your actions impact the aquatic organisms living in Puget Sound? As the human population continues to climb, more and more people are migrating to urban areas. This in turn imposes greater stresses on adjacent water bodies and other natural resources. This class seeks to explore the growing urban centers around the world and their associated environmental impacts on neighboring aquatic ecosystems. We will also address practices that promote sustainable living in urban areas.

TCORE 102B, SLN 21083, T/TH 10:15 AM – 12:20 PM

Alan Fowler, Institute of Technology

Title: Computer Science Principles

Description: This course introduces the central ideas of computer science by engaging students in creative problem solving activities. Technology is explored while maintaining a focus on the importance of people and society in the problem solving process. Concepts from this course are broadly applicable and valuable to students in any major.

TCORE 102C, SLN 21084, T/TH 12:50 AM – 2:55 PM

Vanessa Hunt, Education

Title: Plankton to Porpoises: Organisms of the Puget Sound Waters

Description: In this course, we will focus on the life in our local coastal waters, examining both groups of organisms that have been extensively studied, and those where little is known. We will ask who, where, why, and how as we focus on observation and the generation of meaningful questions in science. As we generate questions through our own observation practice, we will hone our research skills by finding existing answers in the research literature, and evaluating these answers.

TCORE 102D, SLN 21085, M/W/F 8:00 – 9:20 am

Rus Higley, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: You Are a Force of Nature: Humans and the Environment

Description:

Humans are impacting the earth in numerous ways. The choices you make can have a positive or negative impact. For example, the cotton in a single t-shirt uses over 800 gallons to grow. This quarter we are going to look at many of these, including climate change, e-waste, death by plastic, tragedy of the commons and Affluenza. Instead of a textbook, we'll be using a variety of readings including a comic book that help us explore the choices we make. Your decisions make a difference...choose wisely.

TCORE 102E, SLN 21086, M/W/F 9:30 – 10:50 am

Rus Higley, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: You Are a Force of Nature: Humans and the Environment

Description:

Humans are impacting the earth in numerous ways. The choices you make can have a positive or negative impact. For example, the cotton in a single t-shirt uses over 800 gallons to grow. This quarter we are going to look at many of these, including climate change, e-waste, death by plastic, tragedy of the commons and Affluenza. Instead of a textbook, we'll be using a variety of readings including a comic book that help us explore the choices we make. Your decisions make a difference...choose wisely.

PATH B

INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING (TCORE 101) 5 CREDITS **COMPOSITION**

TCORE 101D, SLN 21076, M/W/F 9:30 – 10:50 AM

LeAnne Laux-Bachand, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: When You Can Use "I": Introducing College Genres

Description: What makes a lab report different from a research paper? How is a resume like a poem? Just as there are horror, comedy, and action genres in movies, in college you'll encounter a variety of genres, too. In this course we'll practice building strong arguments with solid evidence, and we'll explore how those arguments and evidence vary between genres. What makes "good writing" one place "bad" in another? We'll tackle questions like that, and we'll meet a few other instructors who will introduce you to some of the important genres in their fields. No prior experience writing lab reports or poems needed!

TCORE 101E, SLN 21077, M/W 1:30 – 3:35 PM

Caitlin Carle, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: 'I'm Batman': Intersections of Pop Culture and Identity

Description: As consumers of popular culture, most of us are guilty of defending our favorite TV shows long after they've been cancelled, arguing about the likability of a hero in a film, or even debating the merit of trash TV. In an era where you can take BuzzFeed quizzes to determine which super hero or cartoon character you most resemble, it is important to question why our relationship with such cultural texts matters. This course will interrogate the relationship between popular culture, representations of identity, and its consumers. We will examine texts ranging from commercials to award-winning television shows in order to question how and why these texts create meaning for viewers. By writing about texts that we may not easily consider "academic," we will practice skills of interpretation and reflection in order to ask "Why do these texts matter to us?"

TCORE 101F, SLN 21078, T/TH 12:50 – 2:55 PM

Janie Miller, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: 7 Texts to Save the World

Description: This academic writing course will analyze, research, argue and reflect upon 7 texts that shaped our human perceptions of nature. We will engage in hands-on experience as well as considerable reading and response in order to develop academic writing skills and discover our own relationships to place.

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL SCIENCE (TCORE 103) 5 CREDITS **INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY**

TCORE 103A, , SLN 21087, /TH 8:00 – 10:05 AM

Shalini Jain, Milgard School of Business

Title: Business and Society

Description: Business and Society is designed to facilitate a better understanding of the complex relationship between private enterprise and society at large; how business influences society and is influenced by society. The course will focus on the obligations business has to its nonmarket stakeholders.

TCORE 103B, SLN 21088, T/TH 10:15 AM – 12:20 PM

Shalini Jain, Milgard School of Business

Title: Business and Society

Description: Business and Society is designed to facilitate a better understanding of the complex relationship between private enterprise and society at large; how business influences society and is influenced by society. The course will focus on the obligations business has to its nonmarket stakeholders.

TCORE 103C, SLN 21089, M/W/F 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM

Tanya Velasquez, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Course Title: Wait *what?*: The anatomy of a question

Description: This course examines the difference between a good question and a better one. Students will be introduced to fundamental concepts in the social sciences by learning to ask questions that foster deep thinking, problem solving and an understanding about the types of knowledge that shape our world. Together we will contemplate historical and contemporary moments to critically ask ourselves, “What is being said? Who has the authority to be heard? And how did they acquire that authority?”... and most importantly “Why?” Additionally, we will engage with stories about individuals who have challenged their own socialization by questioning authority in the pursuit of positive social change and greater equality. Our inquiry will span across multiple topics and culminate in a project about the kinds of reflective questions a first-year college experience can generate. Students will participate in small group discussions, presentations and interactive assignments.

Students who complete this course will:

1. Gain an introductory understanding of social science objectives, research methods and theories.
2. Acquire skills and familiarity with modes of questioning from diverse disciplinary perspectives to access, interpret, analyze, reason and synthesize information.
3. Develop pre-writing practices that involve reflective thinking, reading for meaning and critical inquiry.
4. Engage in oral and written communication to present and critically reflect on the way in which social knowledge is constructed and our individual role in relationship to that knowledge.

TCORE 103D, SLN 21090, M/W 1:30 – 3:35 PM

Andrea Hill, Social Work

Course Title: Running Hard to Keep Up With the Kardashians: Social Class, Popular Culture, and the American Dream

Description: “Kim Kardashian is the savior of the increasingly elusive American Dream” –Ana Sims
“It’s called the American Dream because you have to be asleep to believe it” – George Carlin

Is it possible that both of these quotes are accurate representations life in America today? What is the American dream, and how possible is it to achieve this dream? Grappling with questions such as these and many others, in this course, we will examine American dreams, popular culture, and American realities: From Horatio Alger to Kim Kardashian, we will explore the ways that social class, inequality, work, and success are represented in the media that we consume daily and compare these representations with the existing realities that working Americans face on a daily basis. Bringing together cultural and social analysis, this course will enhance students’ critical understandings of history, society, and selves.

TCORE 103E, SLN 21091, M/W/F 9:30 – 10:50 AM

Tanya Velasquez, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Course Title: Wait *what?*: The anatomy of a question

Description: This course examines the difference between a good question and a better one. Students will be introduced to fundamental concepts in the social sciences by learning to ask questions that foster deep thinking, problem solving and an understanding about the types of knowledge that shape our world. Together we will contemplate historical and contemporary moments to critically ask ourselves, “What is being said? Who has the authority to be heard? And how did they acquire that authority?”... and most importantly “Why?” Additionally, we will engage with stories about individuals who have challenged their own socialization by questioning authority in the pursuit of positive social change and greater equality. Our inquiry will span across multiple topics and culminate in a project about the kinds of reflective questions a first-year college experience can generate. Students will participate in small group discussions, presentations and interactive assignments.

Students who complete this course will:

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3. Develop pre-writing practices that involve reflective thinking, reading for meaning and critical inquiry.
4. Engage in oral and written communication to present and critically reflect on the way in which social knowledge is constructed and our individual role in relationship to that knowledge.

TCORE 103F, SLN 21092, M/W 8:00 – 9:20 am

Cheryl Gilge, Urban Studies

Course Title: Intervention Urbanism: Citizen Participation

Description: Provisional, informal, guerrilla, insurgent, DIY, hands-on, unsolicited, unplanned, participatory, tactical...? These are words of the opening salvo of a recent international architecture exhibition at the 2012 Venice Biennale. This course explores the intersection of the urban environment, the creative spatial practices that materially affect it, the citizens that inhabit it and their role within it. Tracing out a series of interventions, strategies and tactics, we will investigate the ways in which the creative design disciplines positively impact the city, expound on the importance of the ‘minimal gesture’ and most importantly, locate ‘agency’ for the individual inhabitant. Throughout the course, we will continually draw from scholarship from the design disciplines, the humanities and social sciences as well as the material practices that emerge, with an emphasis on the role New Media can play in facilitating such engagements.

PATH C

INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING (TCORE 101) 5 CREDITS
COMPOSITION

TCORE 101G, SLN 21079, M/W/F 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM

Alison Walker Stromdahl, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: Teaching Lessons: Tales, Proverbs, and Rhymes

Description: Over the course of our lives, we are continually taught lessons through alluring and fanciful tales, rhymes, and proverbs. These deceptively simplistic forms of writing are, in fact, an intricate layering of rhetorical, literary, and social devices that both seek to reflect and manipulate history, culture, time, gender, race, sex, and socio-economic factors. Through our investigation and interrogation of these texts, we will come to a better understanding of these consciously crafted works through various forms of academic writing, including writing our own personal tales.

TCORE 101H, SLN 21080, T/TH 10:15 AM – 12:20 PM

Janie Miller, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: 7 Texts to Save the World

Description: This academic writing course will analyze, research, argue and reflect upon 7 texts that shaped our human perceptions of nature. We will engage in hands-on experience as well as considerable reading and response in order to develop academic writing skills and discover our own relationships to place.

TCORE 101I, SLN 21081, T/TH 12:50 – 2:55 PM

Alison Cardinal, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: Are Words Mightier than Swords?: Examining Power and Persuasion

Description: In this writing course, we will learn how to write academic arguments by analyzing pivotal moments where speeches changed the course of history and analyze what made those speeches so effective in that historical moment. We will also examine how certain people groups have been silenced or undervalued because their use of language runs counter to those in power. We will write about these important moments in language and also make our own attempts to change the world with words.

INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES (TCORE 104) 5 CREDITS
VLPA

TCORE 104A, SLN 21093, M/W/F 8:00 – 9:20 AM

Danica Miller, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: Contemporary Native American Art, Literature, and Film

Description: In *Contemporary Native American Art, Literature, and Film*, we will analyze contemporary interpretations of the Native American experience and discuss how the experience is shaped by history and culture. How is Native American art influenced by tradition, yet influenced and inspired by the present? We will analyze the transition between oral tales to more contemporary formats. Where do we see traces of the oral in *Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection* and what makes Native American oral tales conducive to graphic storytelling anyways? Sherman Alexie includes both oral tales and graphics in his young adult novel, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

What film conventions do Native American filmmakers support or deconstruct in their works? What aspects of the oral tradition are evident in *Smoke Signals* and *Skins*? These are a few, among many, of the questions we will be addressing in this class.

TCORE 104B, SLN 21094, M/W/F 11:00 am – 12:20 pm

Cheryl Gilge, Urban Studies

Title: "Experiencing the city"

Description: The purpose of this course is to examine some of the ways that cities are represented and to consider the effects of such representations on our perceptions of urban spaces, on cities themselves, and on the ways cities are planned, organized, and experienced.

TCORE 104C, SLN 21095, T/TH 8:00 – 10:05 AM

Ingrid Walker, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: The King of Pop: Reading Michael Jackson

Description: Michael Jackson was one of the most recognized and celebrated global icons and entertainers in the world. This course explores why by examining his work and its popular culture context: Jackson the boy and the man; his artistic and cultural influences and his impact and legacy; and the corresponding affect his unique celebrity seems to have had on him. As we pose questions through a cultural studies framework, we'll explore aspects of Jackson's identity, artistry, and influence. The course employs Jackson as a springboard to consider broader cultural issues of blackness and whiteness, gender, performing and personae, artistic agency, the power dynamics of the music industry in the 1970's-present, the rise of music video, celebrity, and that white, sequined glove, among many things. Using critical reading and research skills, we'll create focused analyses of Jackson's work and his cultural context. If that's not enough: there's a rumor that there may be a Thriller flash mob for extra credit. This class is an introduction to the Humanities, the study of the human condition. We'll explore aspects of the human experience through our examination of video, music, and lyrics, dance, cultural history, etc. By the end, you'll be conversant in some of the social issues typical of the late 20th and 21st century arts and culture in America and how they resonated across the world.

TCORE 104D, SLN 21096, M/W 1:30 - 3:35 PM

Andrea Modarres, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: It's Not Just Your Little Brother's Comic Book: Understanding the Graphic Novel

Description: The "graphic novel" is a publishing genre that has exploded in popularity in the past decade, but the term can refer to texts as disparate as superhero stories, personal memoirs, war narratives and dystopian novels. Despite its growing readership, the form is often regarded as simplistic and below the notice of "serious" readers and intellectuals. In this course, we will foreground the graphic text as a genre worth analyzing, asking what it offers us that other texts cannot. What ideas can authors explore by using image and text in conjunction with each other? How do readers interpret these conjoined images and words in ways that are similar to or different from their analysis of prose or illustration by themselves? As we study primary texts (possibilities include *V for Vendetta*, *Fun Home*, *Maus*, *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*, *Watchmen*, *Persepolis*, *Waltz With Bashir*, *American Born Chinese*, or *Ghost World*) and critical approaches, we will challenge the perception that reading a graphic text is easy, and learn methods of study that combine traditional literary and cultural analysis with visual literacy. This course is an introduction to the humanities, academic disciplines that examine the human condition in part through the cultural, philosophical, and historical construction of values and artifacts. Students will use critical reading, discussion, and written analysis to study how our increasing interaction with graphic material is shaping our experience of the world.

TCORE 104E, SLN 21097, T/TH 12:50 – 2:55 PM

Merna Hecht, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: Voice and Visibility: Changing Worlds with the Arts

Course Description: In this course we will encounter diverse visual and literary artists from around the globe. We will examine different art forms and trends as they relate to individual expression and community visibility. A wide range of readings will bring us the experiences of spoken word, slam and "page" poets, memoir writers, muralists, graffiti artists and other global writers and artists. We will consider how literary and visual art pieces created by writers and artists from different countries speak to critical issues of the day, particularly to issues of war, forced migration and human rights. A significant portion of the course will focus on how the visual and literary arts can provide people who are living in pressing situations with important opportunities to create arenas of visibility through taking voice and creating art.