

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 20. The small class size fosters a sense of community and engaged learning. See your advisor to enroll in these courses.

WINTER 2015 CORE COURSES

PATH A

INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING (TCORE 101) 5 CREDITS COMPOSITION

TCORE 101A , SLN 20019 , M/W/F 8:00 – 9:20 AM

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.

TCORE 101B, SLN 20020, 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 20021, T/TH 10:15 AM – 12:20 PM

LeAnne Laux-Bachand, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

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

Description: "Introduction to Academic Writing" – what does that mean? One of the many ways we could begin to define it is as "the writing you'll do in college." Part of what will help make you a stronger writer in college will be learning about your history as a reader, writer, and overall learner, both as an individual and as a member of different groups. In this course we'll explore our literacy histories, and then we'll look at the types of writing we do, both in and outside of school. 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, communities, or situations. What makes "good writing" one place "bad" in another? We'll tackle questions like that, and all the thinking and writing you do will build toward a research paper on a writing-related topic of your choosing.

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

TCORE 113A, SLN 20034, T /TH 8:00 – 10:05 AM

Donna Jordan-Taylor, Education

Title: From the Harlem Renaissance to Hip Hop: Examining the Interrelationship between Politics, Economics & Art in the U.S.

Description: In this class, we will examine political and economic changes from the 1920s to the present from both a sociological and literary perspective. The class will explore the effects of various political and economic changes on diverse communities primarily within the United States, particularly the connected experiences between people living in the United States and the rest of the world. For instance we will study the move from manufacturing towards globalization, how these economic policies impacted migration between and immigration into urban centers, as well as, the creation and proliferation of predominantly white suburbs.

TCORE 113B, SLN 20035, T/TH 10:15 AM – 12:20 PM

Cynthia Howson, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: Trafficking, corruption, informality and crime: Investigating the illicit global economy

Description: Illicit and illegal flows of goods, services, information, money and even people, cross national borders every day, representing a critical and understudied dimension of the global economy. This course introduces students to the sources of regulation, networks and incentives that drive illicit transactions. Case studies will include smuggled goods, from music and cheese to credit card numbers and human organs, as well as illicit services such as money laundering and counterfeiting. As they investigate the opportunities and challenges these issues present for global governance and economic development, students will gain insight into the contributions and methods of different social science disciplines.

TCORE 113C, SLN 20036 , M/W/F 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM

Alice Payne, Social Work

Title: Doing Time Together: A Perspective on Prison Life

Description: Let's listen to the voices of those inside our prison walls as we examine the lives of two incarcerated individuals, one male and one female. Both are sentenced to life without parole. Both bring meaning to their families and friends. Both influence others who live with them inside as well as those who enter and leave their world on a daily basis. Together our hearts and minds will be impacted by what we discover.

TCORE 113D, SLN 20037, M/W 1:30—3:35 PM

Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Section Cancelled

TCORE 113E, SLN 20038, M/W/F 9:30 – 10:50 AM

Alice Payne, Social Work

Title: Doing Time Together: A Perspective on Prison Life

Description: Let's listen to the voices of those inside our prison walls as we examine the lives of two incarcerated individuals, one male and one female. Both are sentenced to life without parole. Both bring meaning to their families and friends. Both influence others who live with them inside as well as those who enter and leave their world on a daily basis. Together our hearts and minds will be impacted by what we discover.

TCORE 113F, SLN 20039, T/TH 10:15 AM – 12:20 PM

Linda Ishem, Urban Studies

Title: Communities and the Common Good

Description: We live in an era of giving back, pay it forward, and random acts of kindness. Contrast that to growing income inequity, rampant individualism, greed and excess. Communities and the common good is an experiential social science course designed to examine our rights, role and responsibilities as members of the various social groups to which we belong. Based on interdisciplinary assumptions, theories, and methods of the social sciences, this course will address multiple definitions and configurations of the “individual,” “community,” “civic engagement,” and “the common good.” The course will explore tensions between individualism and communalism; individual rights and social responsibilities; and special interests in relation to the common good.

PATH B

INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING (TCORE 101) 5 CREDITS
COMPOSITION

TCORE 101D, SLN 20022, M/W/F 9:30 – 10:50 AM

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.

TCORE 101E, SLN 20023 , M/W 1:30 – 3:35 PM

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 101F, SLN 20024, T/TH 12:50 – 2:55 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?”

INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES (TCORE 104) 5 CREDITS

VLPA

TCORE 114A, SLN 20040, M/W/F 8:00 – 9:20 AM

Kim Davenport, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Title: Listening Outside the Box: Concert Music in the 21st Century

Description: With only ten weeks to explore the world of "classical music", we will immerse ourselves in a multitude of listening experiences, to include live concert attendance and in-class performances by local musicians. Building on this foundation, we will explore the impact of today's global society on this musical tradition: to what extent have new technologies, increased communication and the ensuing democratization of music impacted the ways in which we relate to “concert music”? Does this music still have relevance in our lives? How have other cultures embraced this tradition, and how has the music of other cultures influenced composition and performance in this genre?

TCORE 114B, SLN 20041, M/W/F 11:00 am – 12:20 pm

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 114C, SLN 20042, T/TH 12:50 – 2:55 PM

Mark Pendas, Urban Studies

Title: The City in Popular Culture

Description: How we think about cities shapes how we plan, build, and live in cities. But where do our thoughts about cities come from? In many cases they come from our own lived experiences, our daily interactions with the different people, practices, and spaces of the city itself. But mostly our perceptions of urban environments—especially those environments that we do not routinely experience first-hand—are shaped by or derived from the various ways that cities are represented in popular culture (film, television, literature, art, music, etc.) and in the news media. Through such representations we learn what different urban places are like, or might be like, or could become; we formulate opinions about “good” places and “bad” places; we make decisions about the places we should visit or avoid, remember or forget; and, perhaps most importantly, we draw conclusions about the people, the lives, and the circumstances both of the places where we live and of the places we may never see.

TCORE 114D, SLN 20043, 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 114E, SLN 20044, T/TH 12:50 – 2:55 PM

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 114G, SLN 20045, T/TH 10:15AM – 12:20 PM

Mark Pendras, Urban Studies

Title: The City in Popular Culture

Description: How we think about cities shapes how we plan, build, and live in cities. But where do our thoughts about cities come from? In many cases they come from our own lived experiences, our daily interactions with the different people, practices, and spaces of the city itself. But mostly our perceptions of urban environments—especially those environments that we do not routinely experience first-hand—are shaped by or derived from the various ways that cities are represented in popular culture (film, television, literature, art, music, etc.) and in the news media. Through such representations we learn what different urban places are like, or might be like, or could become; we formulate opinions about “good” places and “bad” places; we make decisions about the places we should visit or avoid, remember or forget; and, perhaps most importantly, we draw conclusions about the people, the lives, and the circumstances both of the places where we live and of the places we may never see.

PATH C

INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING (TCORE 101) 5 CREDITS
COMPOSITION

TCORE 101G, SLN 20025, 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 20026, T/TH 10:15 AM – 12:20 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 101I, SLN 20027, T/TH 12:50 – 2:55 PM

LeAnne Laux-Bachand, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

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

Description: “Introduction to Academic Writing” – what does that mean? One of the many ways we could begin to define it is as “the writing you’ll do in college.” Part of what will help make you a stronger writer in college will be learning about your history as a reader, writer, and overall learner, both as an individual and as a member of different groups. In this course we’ll explore our literacy histories, and then we’ll look at the types of writing we do, both in and outside of school. 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, communities, or situations. What makes “good writing” one place “bad” in another? We’ll tackle questions like that, and all the thinking and writing you do will build toward a research paper on a writing-related topic of your choosing.

INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE (TCORE 102) 5 CREDITS
NATURAL WORLD

TCORE 112A, SLN 20028, T/TH 8:00 – 10:05 AM

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 112B, SLN 20029, T/TH 3:05-5:10

Vanessa Hunt, Education and Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

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 112C, SLN 20030, T/TH 12:50 – 2:55 PM

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 112D, SLN 20031, 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 112E, SLN 20032, 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.

TCORE 112F, SLN 20033, T/TH 10:15 AM – 12:20 PM

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.

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