Complete the Registration Preference form (gustavus.edu/first-year/checklist/) to indicate your top five preferences for the Challenge Curriculum’s First-Term Seminar course or to choose the Three Crowns Curriculum. If you choose the Three Crowns Curriculum as your first preference, you will be enrolled in CUR-100: Transformations, Values, and Identity. All other students will be enrolled in one of their top five FTS preferences. We will use the information you supply on your Registration Preference form to assemble the rest of your fall class schedule around your FTS or Three Crowns seminar.

*Please note that classes listed with an asterisk are online-only content delivery. Please consider these sections only if you are immunocompromised or have other health considerations that necessitate choosing an online-only seminar.

EXPLORING THE MEANING OF HAPPINESS ACROSS CULTURES. This seminar explores the meaning of happiness across cultures. The seminar will provide students with a forum for analyzing the universal nature of happiness and how its definition varies across cultures. We will start by consulting the definition of happiness by some of the greatest minds in history and in present day, and then proceed to dig deeper by exploring the cultural dimensions of happiness. We will also discuss how the conceptions of happiness across cultures relate to the perception of goodness and the decisions that individuals make in different cultural contexts for their own good and the common good of society. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-002 Sidonia Akenuma-Nimo T R 1:30PM–3:20PM

LEISURE QUEST. For one semester, we will examine the most precious commodity in America: time. Specifically, we will explore the role and meaning of leisure time in the United States, on both the individual and societal level, through writings, readings, films, lectures, class discussion and personal experience. Additionally, we will examine how access to leisure experiences develops identity and promotes greater life satisfaction. More importantly, however, we will consider how lack of access to leisure experiences impacts the human experience. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-005 Aaron Banks M W F 8:00AM–8:50AM

REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES: SAVING GRACE OR BRAVE NEW WORLD? Technologies to support or prevent reproduction are varied and commonly used. Who uses these technologies and what are the consequences of their use? You will examine the biological basis of several reproductive technologies including contraception, genome-editing, in vitro fertilization, and prenatal genetic testing. You will also use popular and academic accounts of reproductive technologies to analyze the scientific and social contexts in which these technologies have been developed and used. Finally, you will explore the risks and promises of various technologies; who is affected by and excluded from their use; and the perspectives, assumptions and beliefs of these stakeholders through role-play and class discussion. In this seminar, you will discuss values related to reproductive technologies, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance your understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-009 Margaret Bloch Qazi M T W F 9:00AM–9:50AM

*VITAL SPEECHES. This seminar represents the intersection of current events and speech analysis. Students will learn to write critiques of important public speeches, while also developing and sharing their own views on contemporary issues. All of the speech texts will have appeared during the past year in Vital Speeches of the Day, a magazine containing speeches by globally recognized public and private sector leaders with diverse perspectives. The texts will be organized around three main themes (1) Speeches that Affirm Propositions of Value, (2) Speeches that Intensify Social Cohesion, and (3) Speeches that Create Concern for Problems. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

*FTS-100-017 Mark Braun T R 10:30AM–11:50AM

GENETIC TESTING. Genetic testing technology has exploded in recent years with tests available for everything from cancer diagnostics to genealogy to predicting the risk of developing Huntington’s Disease or Alzheimer’s Disease in the future. As the numbers and types of genetics tests expand, so do the questions about accuracy, privacy, and dangers of genetic discrimination. We will assess the costs and the benefits of genetic testing from a variety of perspectives and explore the nuances of a developing field with great potential to improve human health, but also with significant risks and ethical dilemmas. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-033 Laura Borrack M W R F 10:30AM–11:20AM

SCIENCE AND RELIGION. Science and religion are often portrayed as mutually exclusive ways of knowing. We will examine the ways in which science and religion establish and validate knowledge, discuss the limits of what is knowable, and look for ways in which science and religion have influenced each other. We will use cancer and its treatment as a context to explore how science and religion may work together to offer a technically sound yet compassionate response to human suffering. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-034 Scott Bur M W F 8:00AM–8:50AM

GOOD ART, BAD ART. This seminar investigates the success and failure of art. Through creative exercises, readings, and visits to museums and galleries we will grapple with the timeless question of what makes an artwork “good” versus “bad.” As students, you will be charged with investigating both historic and contemporary examples of notoriously refuted and beloved artworks. As a class, we will attempt to define and even create examples of “good” and “bad” art. Developing and honing a critical eye and voice will be essential as we ask ourselves: Does art have inherent value? Who determines what makes an artwork “good”? What role does a community versus an individual play in delineating the line between success and failure in the art world? In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-035 Betsy Byers M T W F 9:00AM–9:50AM

*VISUAL CULTURE. This seminar investigates the rise of visual culture and its consequences for American identity. Students will learn to analyze a variety of visual texts—advertising, art, television, movies, music, fashion—of different social, economic, political, and cultural contexts. Students will be charged with interpreting these texts, assessing the role they play in presenting and reinforcing ideas of who we are as Americans and what we value as a society. In a series of films, lectures, and student projects, we will examine the content, form, and ideas these texts convey, and how they are designed to promote certain ideas and values.

*FTS-100-036 Mark Braun T R 10:30AM–11:50AM

CULTURES. This seminar explores the meaning of happiness across cultures. The seminar will provide students with a forum for analyzing the universal nature of happiness and how its definition varies across cultures. We will start by consulting the definition of happiness by some of the greatest minds in history and in present day, and then proceed to dig deeper by exploring the cultural dimensions of happiness. We will also discuss how the conceptions of happiness across cultures relate to the perception of goodness and the decisions that individuals make in different cultural contexts for their own good and the common good of society. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-003 Margaret Hafner M T W F 9:00AM–9:50AM
Why Multi Matters. Why does being Multi(cultural) matter in the world today? We might call ourselves multilingual or multicultural, but why are such terms important? How is being multi an asset and why is it sometimes looked down upon? We’ll investigate what it means to be "multi" in U.S. culture, focusing on Minnesota with its diverse cultures including First Peoples, Hmong, Latinx, and Somali. We examine migration and race in the USA. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

Framing Multi in American History and Film. While the history of multi is complex and varied across American history, we will discuss how and why a multi world has been and is constructed. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

Asian Americans in Literature and Film. The people of Asian descent have been in the U.S. since the 1800’s and have contributed to the building of this nation. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

Energy: Where Are We and What’s Next. Currently, the United States and most of the world meets the majority of its energy needs through fossil fuels (oil, coal, natural gas). There is growing concern about climate change and other environmental effects from burning fossil fuels. Conventional supplies of these fuels are rapidly diminishing, and at the same time there has been extraordinary growth due to utilization of unconventional sources such as tar sands and hydraulic fracturing (fracking). Some are calling on expansion of these sources to try to achieve energy independence, while other voices want to greatly limit production to mitigate climate change. We will investigate some technical, economic, and political aspects of the United States’ dependence on fossil fuels. We will also explore the possibilities and policy implications of shifting to alternative energy sources such as nuclear, solar or wind energy. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

Managing People in Public Sector. This course focuses on how we manage people in the public sector and the process by which a scarce resource (public jobs) is allocated, and why we need to consider competing values: efficiency, individual rights, and social equity. In discussing these abstract concepts, the course considers issues of gender and race relations. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

College: College Life in the Media. Long before you submitted your application essay or took your first campus tour, you probably had some pretty good ideas about what college life would be like. Most of that knowledge came to you through the media: TV shows, social media posts, news articles, even those glossy college “viewbooks.” But the media can offer mixed messages: Is it ivy-covered buildings and dusty old libraries, or is it toga parties and double-secret probation? Pathway to a prosperous career or slippery slope to endless student debt? In this seminar, we will dive into media messages about college to analyze how they shape the way college students think and act. Experts from across campus will help us separate facts from myths—and give the inside scoop on how to survive and thrive in your first semester and beyond. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST: CREATING THE 'IDEAL AMERICAN'. Americans have debated what it means to be an American since the founding of the country. This debate took on a new urgency at the end of the 19th century, when the country changed drastically because of the abolition of slavery, rapid industrialization, imperialism, immigration, and urbanization. Through the careful examination of immigration policies, naturalization and anti-miscegenation laws, sterilization programs, debates over abortion and birth control, detention and deportation programs, scientific racism, and social Darwinism, students in this course will analyze how the United States have imagined, shaped, and fought over what it means to be an American over the last century. These debates inevitably excluded some groups, created a second-class status for others, and limited the chances for belonging for yet other groups. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-227 Karrin Meffert-Nelson M W R F 8:00AM–8:50AM

THE WAR ON DRUGS IN FILM AND LITERATURE. This course explores the issue of drug trafficking by contrasting its different representations in cinema, television, academic research, official policy making, and journalism. It will enable students to trace transnational and global issues, such as migratory trends, international military intervention, criminalization and decriminalization of specific agricultural and chemical goods, etc. Students will participate in a group dynamic where they will play the role of a drug lord, political leader, journalist, or specific constituencies affected by this problem. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-228 Carlos Mejia Suarez M T W F 3:30PM–4:20PM

AMERICAN MUSIC & POPULAR CULTURE. This course examines social issues surrounding American popular music from the country’s founding to modern times. Our goal is for students to express a deep understanding of American pop culture, both orally and in writing, while gaining insight into the choices we make within the relentless torrent of societal pressure faced by Americans every day. An additional element of the course involves the consideration of success and motivational writings of the past and present. Students are guided through literature designed to elevate one’s consideration of career and purpose. With popular culture providing a contrasting edifice for our thinking, we will work to come near our goal of leading a self-examined life. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-242 Scott Moore T R 8:30AM–9:50AM

ECONOMIC LITERACY. This seminar will apply basic concepts of economics to current public and social issues, such as globalization, climate change, economic growth and inequality. We will also look at how economic theory adds insight into understanding individual decision-making over a wide range of situations such as marriage and family, personal safety, and consumption and saving, to name a few. Monitoring current economic issues will be a priority, so course content will adapt as events warrant. We will read, discuss, and write about books, articles, and blogs written by economists for a broader audience. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-255 Jeffrey Owen M W F 11:30AM–12:20PM

CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY AND THE TROJAN WAR. The Trojan war and its aftermath was the backdrop for the most important gods, heroes, and monsters of classical mythology. The Greeks and Romans hold these stories in high esteem and they continue to provide central questions about their world and themselves: What was the nature of the gods and fate? How could human beings best navigate life? In such difficult circumstances how can human beings decide between right and wrong? We will read and discuss selections from the most important literature on this topic including Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey, Vergil’s Aeneid, and plays by Sophocles and Euripides. We will also look at examples of Greek and Roman art that feature mythology and the Trojan war. We will conclude the semester by reading one book from Rick Riordan’s series, Percy Jackson and the Olympians. It is recommended that students take either Greek or Latin at the same time as this seminar. There will be opportunities for alternative assignments for those enrolled in Greek or Latin. In this seminar students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

FTS-100-267 Matthew Rasmussen T R 1:30PM–2:50PM

THE NATURE MOVEMENT. Students will explore various theories regarding why our world has become disconnected from nature. They will examine the significant impact this disconnection is having on people and our planet and the multitude of issues (public policy, inequitable access, etc.) that surround this relationship between humans and nature. Students will reflect on their personal connection to nature and study the powerful impact and importance that connecting to nature can have on an individual. Students will be provided opportunities and strategies for connecting to nature and balancing their involvement with nature and technology. In this
seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

**FTS-100-270** Bonnie Reimann  
M T W R F  1:30PM–2:20PM

**CULTIVATING PRACTICE: UNLEASHING THE CREATIVE.** Students will engage in contemplative, embodied practice/praxis of writing, meditation (sitting, standing, walking), and movement to unleash the imagination into creative action. Regular practice, awakening of awareness and creative inspiration have a cross pollinating influence upon one another. As practice deepens, awareness grows and insight follows sparking the impulses for ideas and action. Two ongoing questions will guide this course. What does it mean to live a creative life? How do we access our creative potential and resourcefulness in the everyday mundane and the extraordinary sacred? Practice, in context of this course refers to cultivating a consistent and intentional pattern of focused activity. The class will examine the writing of artists, scholars and teachers espousing a variety of viewpoints concerning the nature of creativity and practice. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

**FTS-100-277** Melissa Rolnick  
M T W F  8:00AM–8:50AM

**TELL ME A STORY.** Storytelling, both oral tradition and written word, helps us to translate our lived experiences into language. Stories we create, stories we remember, and stories we tell ourselves and others, position us in our own lineage, identify our core values and define our sense of self. In this course we will spend time reading and writing, speaking and listening, and ultimately exploring the power of stories to help us recognize what is truly important to us as we make sense of what happens in our day-to-day lives. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

**FTS-100-279** Michele Rusinko  
M T W R F  12:30PM–1:20PM

**EAST ASIAN POPULAR CULTURE.** What is popular culture? To what extent have your values, attitudes, behaviors, and lifestyles been shaped and influenced by pop culture? What’s the impact of East Asian pop culture on America and yourself? What accounts for the global popularity of Chinese martial arts movies, Japanese manga and anime, and K-pop? What “Asian values” do pop culture products from China, Japan, and Korea exemplify? This course provides students with a variety of critical approaches and case studies to enable them to explore these and other practical and intellectual questions. Students will analyze East Asian pop cultural phenomena ranging from manga to popular music, film to anime, advertising to fashion to explore how larger issues of gender, globalization, youth culture, nationalism are shaped by or relate to pop culture. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

**FTS-100-287** Liangying Shan  
M W F  9:00AM–9:50AM

**FAST FOOD & POLITICS.** This seminar explores government policies affecting the fast food industry and efforts by the fast food industry to influence government. Topics may include the minimum wage, workplace safety, immigration, public health, and environmental protection. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

**FTS-100-294** Kate Knutson  
M T W R F  9:00AM–9:50AM

**RIVER.** Rivers have always been the mighty arteries of human civilization: from ancient Egyptians farming along the Nile, to Huck Finn escaping down the Mississippi, to the controversial construction of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in China, rivers are central to human economy and culture. Rivers are the crucial link between the land and sea because they move water, eroded soil and rock, and chemicals–both natural and unnatural—from the continents to the oceans. We will study rivers as a physical systems: How do rivers shape the landscape? How do they control the chemistry and ecosystems in the oceans? How have humans changed them? Some outdoor work will be required, including a field trip. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

**FTS-100-313** Laura Tripplett  
T R  8:00AM–9:50AM

**THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND.** The Dakota dream of returning to their homeland, restoring the environment, and restoring community. How can we help realize this dream? In particular, how can we, historically and to this day, profit from the extermination and exile of the Dakota change our ways and join together in the movement for restoration of land, water, air, and community? In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

**FTS-100-315** Anna Verslius  
M T R F  10:30AM–11:20AM

**DEBATING NOBEL.** This course teaches critical thinking and argumentation skills by engaging students in fact, value and policy debates centered around the annual Nobel Conference theme. In 2020, students will debate questions such as, “Resolved, that the US Federal Government should significantly increase funding for cancer research,” and “Resolved: That funding long-term cancer research is more important than treating patients currently suffering from rare forms of cancer,” and “Resolved: That widespread genetic testing can significantly reduce occupationally-induced cancer risks.” In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

**FTS-100-316** Phillip Voight  
M W  8:00AM–9:50AM

**MUSIC AND NATURE.** This seminar investigates the relationships between music and nature. Composers find inspiration in nature to create some of their most beautiful and lasting works. The same balance and design found in nature are also underlying principles in music. From pop to classical, nature’s influence in music is unmistakable. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

**FTS-100-325** Esther Wang  
T R  12:30PM–2:20PM

**UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES THROUGH DOCUMENTARY AND FILM.** This course examines environmental issues through the lens of documentaries and feature films. Issues such as environmental injustice, climate change, consequences of plastic usage, water and air pollution, use of herbicides and pesticides (including Agent Orange), and the environmental legacies of both nuclear weapons and nuclear power will be considered. Since environmental issues do not recognize national boundaries nor traditional academic disciplines, these topics will be analyzed as a local/global dichotomy and from an interdisciplinary perspective. We will examine how gender, social economics and race/ethnicity are ever present in environmental issues and how one’s understanding of these issues change when viewed through these social constructions. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

**FTS-100-522** David Obermiller  
M W  2:30PM–4:20PM

**YOUTH SPORT IN AMERICAN SOCIETY.** Coaches, athletes, and parents often describe youth sport as a positive activity—engaging athletes in health promoting physical activity, and helping athletes develop perseverance, teamwork, and discipline. Research on youth sport suggests the relationship between participation and positive physical and psychosocial outcomes is not so clear. We will critically evaluate if youth sport is a health promoting and prosocial activity and if so for whom? and under what conditions? Students will consider issues of access, racism, sexism, and classism, and evaluate what is valued in youth sport. In this seminar, students will discuss values related to the course topic, develop critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills, and enhance their understanding of academic and campus life.

**FTS-100-557** Hayley Russell  
M T W R F  12:30PM–1:20PM