**EXPLORING THE MEANING OF HAPPINESS ACROSS CULTURES.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of 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.

*FTS-100-002* Sidonia Alenuma-Nimoh  
*T R 1:30PM–3:20PM*

**LEISURE QUEST.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation into the concept of leisure time from historical, socio-cultural, and personal perspectives. 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.

*FTS-100-005* Aaron Banks  
*M T W F 12:30PM–1:20PM*

**EVOLUTION.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of the scientific and societal implications of evolution. In this course, we consider evolution in its broadest sense, as change through time, and in its particular scientific senses, as biological, geological, and cosmic evolution(s). The recognition that scientific study of change through time is crucial to understanding the present and future status of our world has profoundly influenced the way science works, the way society views scientific inquiry, and even the way humans view themselves on this planet. We will study the scientific evidence for and implications of change through time and will also investigate what these scientific ideas mean for us as thinking, ethical participants in the world.

What are the scientific and societal questions relevant today? How does evolutionary thinking matter in issues such as environmental activism, climate change, and conservation? A field trip will be required.

*FTS-100-007* Julie Bartley  
*M T W R F 11:30AM–12:20PM*

**REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES: SAVING GRACE OR BRAVE NEW WORLD?** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of technologies used to monitor or modify reproductive processes. Students will examine the biological basis of several reproductive technologies (e.g., contraception, genome-editing, mitochondrial transfer, prenatal genetic testing), analyze the scientific and social contexts in which these technologies have been developed and used, and explore the risks and promises of various technologies.

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

**COMMUNICATE VALUES.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of value statements in contemporary public discourse. It challenges students to consider questions of value as applied to speeches and other public statements from a variety of overlapping contexts in contemporary society, including politics, religion, science, economics, business, education, justice, entertainment and popular culture, health and human services, and social services. Values and public communication are intertwined; from cable news to talk radio, from political ads to corporate apologies... each of these message sources communicates values. In this seminar students will critically analyze values-centered public messages organized around three main themes: (1) Speeches that Create Concern for Problems, (2) Speeches that Affirm Propositions of Value, and (3) Speeches that Intensify Social Cohesion.

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

**RACE & THE AMERICAN VISION.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of race in America. This seminar explores the impact of race on the fundamental American vision of freedom and equality for all. Against the backdrop of the American ethos, how has race shaped and formed the experience of Black Americans, in particular, in their quest to achieve inclusion into the American vision of freedom and equality? We will examine how Black Americans have thought about the problem of race and the American vision as well as read of their experiences when confronted with the paradoxes that arise from the contradiction of living in a society that is reluctant to include them into this vision and the basic struggle to get that society to live up to its own principles and beliefs. We will read Frederick Douglass’ “Narrative, The Autobiography of Malcolm X,” “The Souls of Black Folks” by W. E. B. DuBois, and “A Testament of Hope” by Martin Luther King, Jr.

*FTS-100-026* Philip Bryant  
*M W F 12:30PM–1:20PM*
GOOD ART, BAD ART. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of successes and failures of art. Through readings, creative exercises, 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?

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

INTERFAITH RELATIONS: CONTEMPLATION, COMPASSION AND COMMUNITY. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of interfaith relations and how these strengthen spiritual practices, ethical commitments, and community building in a pluralistic world. We will focus on writers from Buddhist, Christian and Hindu religions, as well as perspectives from other traditions, including secular humanism, and examine the positive impact interfaith relations have on participants and society at large.

FTS-100-051 John Cha M W F 8:00AM–8:50AM

VISUAL CULTURE. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of the rise of visual culture and its consequences for American Identity. Students will learn to write about and analyze a variety of visual texts—advertising, art, television, film, hypertexts, the internet, videogames and graphic novels—and understand how our world is increasingly dominated by visual culture. The students will learn how to read and write about this visual world by cultivating their analytical and observational skills through traditional and non-traditional sources. We will consider a variety of topics through this focus on visual culture: history, aesthetics, identity, representations of race, class and ethnicity, iconicity, etc.

FTS-100-052 Sean Cobb M W F 12:30PM–1:20PM

BUILDING COMMUNITY. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of what it takes to live in an integrated community. In which communities do you feel a sense of belonging? In which do you feel you do not belong or are excluded? Were you ever uncomfortable or threatened when you were separated by color, place of origin or status? In this class we will analyze both at a micro level (our classroom, our campus) and macro level (the Midwest, our country, the world) how to foster inclusive societies. We will study different community building strategies such as Citizen Diplomacy, the Art of Hosting and the Sister Cities, to name a few. In this class expect to have engaging conversations both inside the classroom as well as in the St. Peter community and surrounding areas, as we will meet immigrant families from diverse backgrounds, we will visit local companies that hire migrant workers, and we will support English learning endeavors and enrich our own knowledge of other peoples, their cultures and contributions to the current U.S. landscape. This class has a required time commitment for community engagement outside of the scheduled class time of approximately 15 hours during the semester.

FTS-100-080 Kathleen Dwyer M T R F 10:30AM–11:20AM

USE YOUR WORDS: THINKING, TALKING AND WRITING ABOUT ECONOMICS. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of the "Big Ideas" in economics and how they can be used to understand how people make choices about their own resources and the resources of the society. These "Big Ideas" in economics concern the reality of trade-offs and opportunity cost, how incentives influence choices, the power of trade, the importance of social institutions, how markets are often, but not always, useful for organizing economic activity, and how markets sometimes fail and require some help from government.

FTS-100-087 Paul Estenson M T W F 8:00AM–8:50AM

ANIMAL MINDS. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of animal minds. Sophisticated minds produce thoughts, emotions, and consciousness. As humans, it is easier to observe and measure our own intellect, so what do we know about the intelligence of other animals? In this course, we will explore the similarities and differences between human and nonhuman animal minds. In doing so, we will gain an understanding of our identity and ours, allowing us to evaluate the "animal vs. human" perspective. Along the way, we will learn how humans think about and study animal minds, we will consider how this knowledge informs ethical treatment of animals in a variety of situations.

FTS-100-134 Lauren Hecht M T W R F 9:00AM–9:50AM
FTS-100-135 Lauren Hecht NEW M T W R F 8:00AM–8:50AM

THE SIXTIES: A HISTORY. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of the origins, contours, and legacies of the long Sixties (c. 1960-1973). Along the way we will pay particular attention to the events, developments, conflicts, persons, practices, music, values, and ideas that defined the decade, to the changing and contested meanings of "the Sixties" over time, and to the continued presence and impact of the era today.

FTS-100-176 Gregory Kaster M W F 10:30AM–11:20AM

OUTSIDERS IN AMERICA?: ASIAN AMERICANS IN LITERATURE AND FILM. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills through an investigation of Asian Americans in literature and film. The people of Asian descent have been in the United States since the 1800’s and have largely contributed to such important U.S. achievements as the transcontinental railroad and a robust agricultural industry. Despite this history, they are still often seen as foreigners and outsiders. Furthermore, the mainstream American society has often described them as sneaky, dangerous, primitive, heartless, weak—attributes that go against American values. Why is this the case? In this context, how can we better understand the struggles and successes of Asian Americans? Through readings in literature, history, and social sciences, and films and other visual media, we will explore the experiences of multiple Asian Americans from different historical periods. By studying such varied peoples as the Chinese railroad workers, the Filipino farming communities, and recent Vietnamese and Hmong immigrants, students will learn about Asian American lives in the past and the present.

FTS-100-194 Sun Hee Lee M W F 1:30PM–2:20PM

FILM MUSIC. This course introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communications skills, through an investigation of films and their musical scores. The main objectives of the course are: to
offer a brief history of film music, to explore the ethical issues regarding copyright and worker's rights, to discuss the purposes and roles of music in the context of film production, to render a fundamental understanding of the various elements of music and its role in film music, and to gain a better understanding of the role of film composer.

**FTS-100-195** Ruth Lin  
**M T W F 10:30AM–11:20AM**

**THE POLITICS OF HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of housing and homelessness in the United States. In the U.S. housing is a part of the “American Dream” that confers privileges on its occupants; it is also a critical component of the economy and of personal wealth. In contrast, homelessness exists in the United States. Why? Who does it affect, and what is being done to end homelessness? As part of this course, students will participate in a three day, three night November Sleepout in recognition of National Hunger and Homelessness Week.

**FTS-100-199** Richard Leitch  
**M W F 9:00AM–9:50AM**

**LET'S GAMBLE!** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills through an investigation of gambling. We will analyze the gambling from a probabilistic perspective, an economic perspective, a societal perspective, a moral perspective, and an entertainment perspective. In each of these contexts we will think critically about the personal, business, and societal consequences of gambling.

**FTS-100-204** Thomas LoFarro  
**M W F 10:30AM–11:20AM**

**DESIGNING ARCHITECTURE.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of architecture. Architecture, the art and design of homes, places of worship, skyscrapers, public and private spaces, articulates who we are and who we would like to be. Historical or contemporary, opulent or common, the structures we interact with speak of the needs, desires, values, and aesthetics of a community. In this course, we will explore significant pieces of architecture throughout history as well as the cultural context that birthed these spaces and structures. In so doing, we develop a new way of thinking about who we are and where we live. During the semester, students discover and define their relationships with space and place.

**FTS-100-207** Michal Maatman  
**T R 10:30AM–12:20 PM**

**BURNING BOOKS & FREE SPEECH.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of the history of book burnings, focusing on three different episodes from three different eras: (1) China in the 3rd century BCE, (2) Rome in the 1st century CE, and (3) the U.S. in the 20th century. All three instances of censorship share in common a desire to eliminate voices of opposition to the dominant political regime. Students will learn about issues related to free speech and freedom of expression and the historical contexts surrounding these periods of censorship and may investigate questions such as, Is it ethical to suppress an idea that is not commonly adopted in society? How do we know about these attempts at censorship? What do sources reveal about a desire for ideological conformity? How do these sources differ from one another? How does fiction lend itself to exploration of contemporary, real life questions? How successful were those in power at silencing their opposition through censorship?

**FTS-100-220** Mary McHugh  
**M T W R F 10:30AM–11:20AM**

**FTS-100-221** Mary McHugh  
**M T W R F 9:00AM–9:50AM**

**THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST?** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of important issues confronting the world (and the scientific community) in the 21st century. Students will learn to analyze, critique, develop, and refute arguments related to these issues. In addition to the course readings on other issues, Nobel Conference 2019, “Climate Changed: Facing Our Future,” will provide us with case studies to examine. While certainly appropriate, this course is NOT intended exclusively for students contemplating a major in the sciences. The ultimate goal is to achieve an understanding of and an ability to communicate effectively about important issues like environmental sustainability, energy use and production, space exploration, and terrorism.

**FTS-100-231** Steven Mellema  
**M T W R F 11:30AM–12:20PM**

**AMERICAN MUSIC & POPULAR CULTURE.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of intersections between popular culture and art music. From video game music scores to the symphonic concert hall, musical theater to the movie theater, contemporary music composed in America reflects society and culture in often surprising and significant ways. Does art music influence our politics, culture, or ethical decisions? How are contemporary operas and symphonies intertwined with video games like The Legend of Zelda or Final Fantasy? How do musicals like Wicked! and West Side Story comment on American politics and is that significant? And, most importantly, how does the music of your favorite artists, bands, films, or video games reflect and influence our society?

**FTS-100-237** James Patrick Miller  
**M W F 9:00AM–9:50AM**

**FTS-100-242** Scott Moore  
**NEW M W F 2:30PM–4:20PM**

**COMING OF AGE IN NORDIC FOLK & FAIRY TALES.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of how childhood is depicted and moved beyond in Nordic folk and fairy tales. This seminar will explore narratives written primarily for and/or about children and childhood, with a focus on well-known folk tales from throughout the Nordic region. Special emphasis will be given to the tales of Danish storyteller Hans Christian Andersen: their narrative structures, their light and darkness, their characters, what they grapple with and the settings and conditions of their emotional and physical lives. We will consider the origins of the fairy tale, analyze its mythology, psychology, and structures, expanding, at the close of the semester, from the Nordic region into expressions of this genre from around the world.

**FTS-100-240** Kjerstin Moody  
**M W F 12:30PM–1:20PM**

**FTS-100-243** Fuad Naem  
**M T W F 1:30PM–2:20PM**

**AMERICAN MUSIC & POPULAR CULTURE.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of intersections between popular culture and art music. From video game music scores to the symphonic concert hall, musical theater to the movie theater, contemporary music composed in America reflects society and culture in often surprising and significant ways. Does art music influence our politics, culture, or ethical decisions? How are contemporary operas and symphonies intertwined with video games like The Legend of Zelda or Final Fantasy? How do musicals like Wicked! and West Side Story comment on American politics and is that significant? And, most importantly, how does the music of your favorite artists, bands, films, or video games reflect and influence our society?

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**FTS-100-240** Kjerstin Moody  
**M W F 12:30PM–1:20PM**

**ISLAM FROM THE PROPHET TO POP CULTURE.** This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of the many ways in which Islam has been understood and contested by Muslims and others. We will ask: what has made the Islamic tradition a compelling way of understanding the world and human beings' place in it over the centuries in vastly different cultures and for over a billion people around the world today? What does the Qur’an say and who was the Prophet Muhammad? How did Muslims develop and debate scriptural, legal, theological, philosophical, scientific, literary, and mystical traditions? What are Muslim perspectives on controversial issues often associated with Islam like jihad, the status of women, the place of democracy, and relations with non-Muslims in a pluralistic world? We will examine the panorma of what Islam is and has been from the life of the Prophet to contemporary representations of Muslims in film and music.

**FTS-100-243** Fuad Naem  
**M T W F 1:30PM–2:20PM**
TELL ME A STORY. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of the role of story and storytelling in our lives. Storytelling—both oral tradition and written word—helps us translate our experiences into words. The stories we create, the stories we remember, and the stories we tell over and over again position us in our own lineage 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 make sense out of what happens in our day-to-day lives.

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

POWER & PRIVILEGE IN SPORT. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of power and privilege in sport. Throughout this class students will explore how sport as an institution has influenced the United States and how the norms, values, and inequities of the United States have shaped American Sport. Students will learn about issues related to race, gender, socioeconomic status, and age within the context of youth, college, Olympic and professional sport and as such begin to think about sport from a more critical perspective.

FTS-100-282 Hayley Russell  M T W R F  11:30AM–12:20PM

ARGUMENTATION & DEBATE. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of the implications of global climate change. Students will discover the factual, value and policy implications of rapid changes in the earth’s climate and will learn how to effectively engage in global warming debates. They will also leave the course with a strong sense of the best ways to mitigate impending disaster. The focus on argumentation makes this course a good choice for anyone interested in pre-law or oral advocacy.

FTS-100-316 Phillip Voight  M W  8:00AM–9:50AM
FTS-100-317 Phillip Voight  M W  10:30AM–12:20PM

GLOBALIZATION. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of different aspects of globalization. On the one hand, economists believe that globalization creates opportunities for countries to grow and thrive. Countries create employment by exporting goods to other countries, and consumers have more purchasing choices than ever before. On the other hand, globalization seems to be looked on as an unmitigated good by economists as they seem to be guided by their badly flawed models so that they miss real-world problems. In particular, they miss the point that the world is finite. We don’t have infinite resources, or unlimited ability to handle excess pollution. So we are setting up a solution that is at best temporary. This seminar will explore the issues generated by globalization from the aspects of cultural awareness, economic perspective, environmental conflict, historical background, and political reckoning.

FTS-100-347 Sheng-Ping Yang  M T W R F  11:30AM–12:20PM

NEW! QUANTITATIVE REASONING AND COMPARISON. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of scientific and mathematical comparisons. The concepts of relative size and scale will be explored through physical, social, and informational science topics. In addition, measurement, uncertainty, growth, and statistics will be studied, allowing us to use quantitative reasoning to place current world dilemmas and technological advances in perspective. As we develop the tools to compare, we will consider important questions such as, “What is the total cost of something, and does the price reflect the cost?”, “Is it possible to compare fundamentally different objects?”, and “What does it mean to be better?”

FTS-100-254 Stephanie Otto  M T W R F  10:30AM–11:20AM

FTS-100-255 Jeffrey Owen  M T W R F  9:00AM–9:50AM

WHO ARE WE? POETRY AND IDENTITY. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of identity. Through reading, discussing, and analyzing a diverse body of American poetry we will address and develop an understanding of the factors contributing to their food choices such as family, culture, tradition, media, and peer pressure. The third quarter of class the theme will change to “What should you eat?” During this time we will discuss current food and nutrition recommendations and talk about where they come from. The theme for the final quarter is “What will you eat?” This week will be devoted to discussing how our attitudes about food may or may not have changed over the semester. Students will be asked to reflect on what they have seen and learned and about how they think their food choices may change in the future.

FTS-100-254 Stephanie Otto  M T W R F  10:30AM–11:20AM

NEW! QUANTITATIVE REASONING AND COMPARISON.

FTS-100-255 Jeffrey Owen  M T W R F  9:00AM–9:50AM

WHO ARE WE? POETRY AND IDENTITY. This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of identity. Through reading, discussing, and analyzing a diverse body of American poetry we will address and examine issues of race, class, sexuality, and gender as manifestations of identity. From Emily Dickinson’s “I’m Nobody! Who are you?” to Danez Smith’s “Dear White America,” American poetry has always been concerned with creating, examining, and deconstructing identity. In this course we will read and analyze poems that explore both who we are and who we are becoming with a focus on poetry that addresses transitional moments and stages such as, but not limited to, growing up, coming out, or coming of age.

FTS-100-256 Jessie Petricka  M T W F  12:30PM–1:20PM

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