Dietrich College Interdisciplinary Courses

About Course Numbers:
Each Carnegie Mellon course number begins with a two-digit prefix that designates the department offering the course (i.e., 76-xxx courses are offered by the Department of English). Although each department maintains its own course numbering practices, typically, the first digit after the prefix indicates the class level: 76-1xx courses are freshmen-level, 76-2xx courses are sophomore level, etc. Depending on the department, 76-6xx courses may be either undergraduate senior-level or graduate-level, and 76-7xx courses and higher are graduate-level. Consult the Schedule of Classes (https://enr-apps.as.cmu.edu/open/5OC/5OCServ/it) each semester for course offerings and for any necessary pre-requisites or co-requisites.

Dietrich College Interdisciplinary Courses

66-103 HSP First-Year Seminar: Appalachia (for HSP students only)
Interriment: 9 units
The Appalachian region - which stretches from Georgia to New York's southern plateau - has a particular place in American history and memory. This course will examine the political, literary, economic, and historical narratives that surround the region, as well as examining the role that Appalachia can play as a model for developing regions in other parts of the world. This course fulfills the First-Year Seminar requirement for the Humanities Scholars Program. Enrollment is restricted to first-year HSP students.

66-110 DC Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Inequality
Interriment: 9 units
This Grand Challenge first-year seminar on inequality is inspired in part by the specter of global income inequality. Income inequality has reached such a peak that eight men own as much wealth as half the world’s population, the world’s poorest 3.6 billion people. Inequality may be a feature of all societies across history to some degree. But inequality strikes us an especially timely topic because of the current demands for greater political, social, and economic equality. The four of us will use the disciplines we come from - economics, anthropology, history, psychology, and literary/ cultural studies - to introduce you to the concept of inequality in the age of capitalism. We will consider how inequality emerged as a social and political problem in the 18th and 19th centuries, and how it has re-emerged as a key concept for socio-political movements in our current moment. We will conclude with an inquiry into what the future of inequality might look like, especially with the coming of increased automation and the elimination of at least 50% of the jobs currently being done by human beings.

66-106 QSSS First-Year Seminar: Applied Quantitative Social Science I (QSSS students)
Fall: 9 units
The QSSS First-Year Seminar provides a fast-paced introduction to a range of methods in the quantitative social sciences. Organized around a set of case studies, the course introduces the language and methods of empirical research through a combination of seminar-style discussions of academic papers, and hands-on lab work using the statistical software R. Students will replicate results from a high-profile labor market discrimination paper, explore agent-based models of neighborhood segregation, and scrape Wikipedia data to examine imbalances in gender representation. Enrollment restricted to first-year QSSS students.

66-107 First-Year Seminar: Modeling Complex Systems
Fall: 9 units
Most of the major issues confronting humanity—such as climate change, financial collapse, ecosystem survival, terrorism, and disease epidemics—are the result of complex systems where the interactions of the pieces of that system create a whole that is rather different than any of its parts. Unfortunately, traditional scientific methods that focus on reducing systems to their parts and then analyzing each part provide little insight into such systems. This seminar explores the behavior of complex systems as well as how to model and understand them using both traditional tools and computer-based approaches.

66-109 Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Climate Change
Fall and Spring: 9 units
Many consider climate change to be the most serious social, political, and environmental issue of the 21st century. As human activities increase the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, scientists have established the reality of climate change and have estimated its impacts on human society and the natural world. Despite the scientific consensus on its existence, causes, and consequences, a substantial number of Americans and citizens of other countries still question these conclusions and a small but vocal group of doubters continue to challenge the science and scientific consensus on climate change. In spite of some social division over these issues, governments at local, national, and international levels have made concerted efforts to craft policies to address climate change. These policies have shifted over time as the information, attitudes, and technology associated with climate change have evolved. In this course, we will explore the challenges and complexities of climate change by investigating the subject from a variety of angles: scientific, political, rhetorical, cultural, economic, technological, and ethical. Over the course of the semester, we will inquire: What is climate change? How do scientists know it is happening? Why is there public debate over it? What solutions are available? And what are the pros and cons of the different solutions?
66-118 DC Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Thinking With Evidence

Fall: 9 units

In a time of big data and widespread skepticism of science, it is crucial to understand how data and facts can be turned into conclusions, and then into public policy. Using topics from medicine, epidemiology, and public health, this course provides students an introduction into the grand challenge of understanding how evidence is used (and abused) in support of scientific conclusions, and the problems of health and other important areas. Every trip to the doctor, illness, and vaccination involves a complicated mix of science, evidence, and personal or social factors. This course helps students understand the sciences and the humanities as united in their desire for rigorous argumentation rather than as competing or incompatible ways of thinking. Moreover, by taking a wide-angle lens to the topic, students will see how and why standards of scientific proof have changed over time, and track what these changes mean for thinking about evidence. Co-taught by a statistician and historian, this course draws on many different disciplines, providing students a broad introduction to reasoning across the humanities and social sciences. Students will be required to participate in written and oral arguments, read scientific articles as well as political, historical, and legal documents, and prepare a capstone project in which they will be asked to weigh real-life evidence and recommend a course of action to the Food and Drug Administration. Other topics may include vaccination controversies, regulation of carcinogens and toxic chemicals, mammography screening standards, and the treatment of infectious diseases in global health settings.

66-119 DC Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Feeding the World, Feeding Ourselves

Fall: 9 units

Food in the twenty-first century is ripe with paradox: fewer people than ever work as farmers or ranchers, but the quantity and global variety of foods available to consumers continues to expand; public health officials around the world are raising concerns about diseases linked to the over-consumption of fats and sugars, even as hundreds of millions of people do not know where their next meal is coming from; organic agriculture is booming, while agribusiness giants like Monsanto continue to expand. Producing food consumes more land and water resources than any other human activity. The individual and collective decisions people make about food shape individual and community health, social justice, and sustainability. If we are to make sound decisions about how to feed the world and feed ourselves, we need to understand the highly creative and contentious ways science and technology played in shaping “industrial food,” and in shaping the world around us.

66-122 DC Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Beyond Earth

Spring: 9 units

Space, as a television series once told us, is the final frontier. But what lies out there? It could be that the billions of rocky planets and moons in the Milky Way are just inert and ready to be terraformed and colonized...but what happens when we encounter life, intelligent or otherwise? In Beyond Earth, co-taught by an astrostatistician and a linguist, students will consider the various rationales for engaging with the rest of the galaxy...and the potential consequences of doing so. Why should one consider leaving the Earth, and where would he or she go? Just to Mars, or to other planetary systems? How long would it take to get to these other systems? The distances involved in space travel are immense, and we cannot rely on warp drives. Inter-generational space travel is a possibility, but who is willing to leave Earth and spend the rest of his or her life on a spaceship? When one's descendants finally arrive in a suitable planetary system, what happens if they find life? If so, what should they do - communicate with it, control it, or fly away from it? Perhaps these are the wrong questions...perhaps we need to ask if humans have the right to occupy other planets and moons in the first place. But even if we choose not to leave Earth, there will still be the issue of communication: from radio signals to satellites leaving the Solar System to proposed light sails that will be pushed to the nearest stars, we are making ourselves known. Should we do this? And if we send signals into space, how should we design them to make ourselves understood? What should we talk about? Just how should we go about engaging with the rest of our galaxy? By the end of the course, every student will be able to make an informed and dispassionate decision: stay on Earth and improve what we all have, or strike out into the great Beyond?

66-123 DC Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Science on Stage

Spring: 9 units

Art and Science -- two fields of study that are most often considered diametrically opposed. Art is frivolous entertainment. Science is hard rational fact. In this Grand Challenge course, we hope to break down any apparent supposition or at least examine it in great detail. Specifically, we will use theater to argue that drama can produce challenging, demanding and intelligent work that showcases the impact of science on current discourses and cultures. We want to link the two through plays and writings of some of the world's best known scientists and philosophers. The word "theory" has the same etymological root as 'theory' - both words come from the Greek thea meaning view. This shared origin demonstrates ways we can work to analyze and interpret both fields and show the common ground between these two cultures. As we study plays and writings of some of the world's best known scientists and philosophers, such as Thomas Stoppards Arcadia and Michael Frayns Copenhagen to Caryl Churchill's A Number and Oliver Sacks Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat, our class discussions will consider questions that include: Why is science a trend in contemporary theater? Does it reflect on our dependence on technology? What kinds of questions are being asked when science or scientific theory is presented on the stage? Are people attracted to plays about science because of their difficult subject matter or does it lack the engagement of popular culture? In addition to integrating humanities and scientific approaches within Dietrich College, this course will utilize the expertise of both individuals in the School of Drama and the producers in the local theater community, and local science writers. Finally, in addition to weekly writing assignments, the course will ask students to produce original dramatic scenes that incorporate scientific exploration which will, ultimately, lead to staged readings of their work.

66-124 Dietrich College Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Democracy & Data

Fall: 9 units

From gerrymandering to online political ads, data is being used in ways that raise urgent questions about the integrity of democratic elections. But the relationship between democracy and data goes far beyond elections. In a world of constant surveillance, in which vast amounts of data are gathered from our phones, our computers, and from other facets of our lives - and in which new breakthroughs in machine learning and data analytics make such data dramatically more powerful - what does it mean for average citizens to have control over their own lives? What does democracy mean? We will take as our definition of democracy, the nature of democracyn of data will be a central question in this course. We will approach that question from an explicitly transnational framework. We will examine the challenges to democracy in Pittsburgh, in the United States, and in several other countries and regions throughout the world. In addition to being transnational, our approach will also be interdisciplinary. We will approach the relationship between democracy and data from multiple angles and methods: from comparative history and literary analysis to data analytics and internet-based technologies.

66-125 DC Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Democracy & Data

Fall: 9 units

This course investigates the sacred American practice of voting, the cornerstone of American democracy, using the 2020 election cycle as our laboratory. The course uses a multi-disciplinary approach, examining the topic from several different perspectives. We’ll investigate social movements to expand the vote, the role of technology, game theory, polling, predictions, electoral mapping, social media, the structures of American governance, and more. Questions include: What is the electoral college? Who gets to vote and why? How well is that vote accounted for? How can voting systems be compromised? Why is it so hard to predict who will win? How do people make decisions? How useful are polling predictions? What disrupts voting? Why is turnout so low? How does money play a role in the election cycle? Why do we vote the way we do? How is social media changing elections? What are global best practices? Did the founders even intend it as a mass democracy? If the answer is no! My answer is yes, first-time, eligible voters in one of the most remarkable presidential campaigns in American history. We’ll build your skills as new democratic citizens, of this nation or others, and help you make sense of the history-making U.S. news cycle. A note on partisanism: All political viewpoints are welcome in this class. This is a course on how we navigate and account for political difference in a diverse, disparate nation. This is something we’ll practice in class, while we will also study that very process across the nation.
66-127 DC Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Environmental Justice
Fall: 9 units
Worried what the "Green New Deal" proposal is about? Does it seem like you have to choose between protecting people and protecting the planet? How does environmentalism connect to struggles over social justice and human rights? This first-year interdisciplinary seminar is an introduction to the Grand Challenge: Environmental Justice. In Giovanna de Chirollo's words, the environmental justice movement is working toward building diverse, dynamic, and powerful coalitions to address the world's most pressing social and environmental crises: global poverty and global climate change. By organizing across scales and seeking a global vision, for healthy, resilient, and sustainable communities. In this seminar, we will study the history and science behind two interconnected challenges for environmental justice: global climate change and fine-particle air pollution. Both types of pollution start with combustion of fossil fuels. Particulate air pollution kills roughly 7 million globally each year; these air pollution deaths happen close to the source, with unequal levels of exposure and risk for people according to class and race. Race and climate change, mostly from carbon dioxide and methane, is spreading globally and lasts well beyond our lifetimes, yet the effects are again disproportionately based on class and race. In this course, we will explore the science, history, ethics, and public perception of these problems, with implications for Pittsburgh and the planet, and for the near- and long-term future.

66-128 DC Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Palestinian and Israeli Food Cultures
Spring: 9 units
In a region beset by conflict, how do food cultures allow us to approach cultural intersections and connections? This course is designed to provide students with a historical, cultural, and linguistic understanding of the hybrid nature of Jewish and Arab cultures, and the multiple ethnic contributions to local food cultures in Israel and Palestine. The two instructors, from the fields of Jewish history and Arabic Studies, will introduce students to the history, literature, film, and languages of the region, as well as to critical scholarship on food and foodways in the Palestinian and Israeli context. Students will have the opportunity to engage in cooking either locally or in Philadelphia, subject to travel restrictions, and to learn from Michael Solomonov and Reem Kassis, two award-winning US-based celebrity chefs and authors of Israeli and Palestinian cookbooks respectively. Throughout the semester we will also host a range of guest speakers who will deliver lectures on our course topic in the classroom and in the community.

66-129 DC Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Unreality: Immersive and Spatial Media
Intermittent: 9 units
Virtual news stories and game worlds are accessible by putting on cardboard goggles, theme parks are engineered to provide convincing multisensory experiences, and workforces are reliant on augmented views of factory floors. Immersive and spatial media constitute a suite of emerging technologies that offer the opportunity to expand arts, entertainment, science, design, commercial enterprises and countless other domains in ways that were previously limited to science fiction. The potential for augmented reality to disrupt our current technological ecosystem is tremendous. Many of these technologies are now 50 years old and just starting to enter the commercial realm. As immersive experiences and augmented realities become more integrated into our work and leisure, do we need to worry about the ways that unreality affect our experiences of reality, or our interactions with each other? How do we know that we can trust our senses to tell us what is real? How do we begin to grapple with the ethical, cultural, social, technological, and regulatory implications of this shift?

66-131 DC Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Culture, Sports, and Conflict in/and VR
Intermittent: 9 units
Sports have been celebrated for bringing people together; yet, sports have also been a locus of tensions and conflict that most of us only experience from the sidelines. We understand sports, the people, and their cultural impact through the stories that we tell about them in such places as museums, stadium tours, and Halls of Fame as well as in books, documentaries, and podcasts. Through immersive technologies, these stories are brought to life and bring fans to the heart of the action. In this course, students and faculty together will seek to achieve two main objectives: (1) examine ways in which cultural and societal values are reflected in sports and (2) how Virtual Reality (VR) technology can help design experiences that enhance the users awareness of these issues by engaging with these cultural and societal perspectives. We will first unpack sports stories that are squarely situated at the crossroads of sports and culture(s) (e.g., racism, human rights, and the role of government and/or national politics). Then we will explore the role of VR technology to help craft these narratives. Students, then, will discover what it means to write stories for VR experiences. The course will culminate in students designing an immersive experience about a sports conflict of their choice, which will be developed more fully to be displayed in the Askwith Kenner Global Languages and Cultures Room.

66-133 DC Grand Challenge Seminar: We're Not Beyond Race: Race and Identity in America
Intermittent: 9 units
Race matters. How have social institutions and historical factors led to the belief systems and stereotypes that shape how race is experienced in American society, and how do these belief systems affect the way individuals come to view and define themselves and others? This course considers how race and identity affect people's lived experiences - how they think, feel, and act-in America. In this course, we will examine the structural and systemic origins of the racial status quo, as well as the way that individuals navigate the social and racial landscape of modern-day America, including insights from psychology, literature, economics, sociology, and history, the course will focus on how race matters at both a societal level and an individual level. We will consider different racial situations throughout American society to understand how individuals navigate and experience race and identity. Throughout the course, we will watch films, read literature, and analyze music and art that reflect the experience of race and identity.

66-161 DC Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Artificial Intelligence and Humanity
Fall and Spring: 9 units
In 1965 British mathematician I.J. Good wrote, "An ultraintelligent machine could design even better machines; there would then unquestionably be an 'intelligence explosion,' and the intelligence of man would be left far behind." As we enter an age where companies like Uber are testing driverless cars in Pittsburgh and innovative interfaces like IBM's Watson can play Jeopardy, we need techniques for managing new threats. As we are asked to negotiate an 'intelligence explosion' that can threaten the very notions of what it means to be human? The future of human-to-machine relationships will likely define our historical epoch and yet, many young technologists and humanists underestimate the downstream impact of technological innovations on human society. Presently, we have little choice but to attend to this rapidly anxiety-ridden question. This seminar will attend to the challenge of contemporary existential questions on what it means to be human (read not machine) in the context of a rapidly advancing technological age. We will consider human narratives throughout history that examine how governments and individual citizens define humanity in the context of slavery and colonialism as a framework for exploring and projecting what it means to be human in the age of rapidly advancing 'intelligent' machines. We will trace the technological advancements of the recent five decades and identify historical precedents and speculative narratives that help us to consider issues like labor, economic disparity, negotiations of power, human dignity and ethical responsibility within the context of human relations with advancing technological tools that are now coined, artificial intelligence.

66-202 Pathways: Dietrich College Career Exploration Seminar
Intermittent: 3 units
Designed for Dietrich College students, this seminar will assist students in effective career decision making, development of internship and job search skills, and workplace readiness. Students will participate in activities involving self-reflection/self-awareness, major and career exploration, personal branding techniques, and communication skills. We will invite guest speakers including alumni, employers, and on-campus resources. Students will also be required to participate in an evening networking event with alumni throughout the country.
**66-204 Film Festival**

**Spring**

Students will take on the project of planning and managing a film festival that draws a college- and city-wide audience. Students will collaborate on all aspects of the festival: selecting films, generating and distributing marketing materials, designing and scheduling events, arranging facilities and general logistics, coordinating internal and external public relations, organizing fundraisers, rallying the local communities - in short, all the aspects involved in making the event a spectacular/sensational success!

A unique feature of this course-cum-festival will be several directors’ participation as guest speakers on the festival theme and other issues informing their films. Previous Film Festivals have covered topics such as: Democracy, Mechanization, Realism, Globalization, Migration, Media and Work. This course is also designed to supplement the study of film with the historical, political and sociological background that students need for critically analyzing the images and ideologies they see on the screen and understand how those images effect our views of the past and present time.

**NOTE:** Interview with course instructor required prior to the registration.

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**66-215 The Innovation Trials**

**Fall:** 9 units

This course will examine some of the most influential intellectual property court battles throughout history and their impact on innovation. This course is geared toward students curious about America's industrial development and interested in the political and business strategies behind the greatest innovations and technological advances of the past several centuries. The course will answer the who, what, where, when, why and how of a number of legal cases involving various technologies and areas of innovation and place them in their historical context.

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**66-221 Topics of Law: Introduction to Intellectual Property Law**

**Intermittent:** 9 units

This course provides students with an overview of patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secret laws. Goals for the course include identifying intellectual property (IP) rights and understanding how to take the necessary steps to protect and enforce those rights. Many recent developments in IP law will also be covered.

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**66-236 Introduction to Environmental Ideas**

Fall and Spring: 9 units

By recognizing that environmental problems are themselves complex and require insights from both scientific and social perspectives, the University-wide Minor in Environmental Studies urges students to gain proficiency in different disciplinary habits of thinking about environmental problems. This course fulfills a requirement for the University-wide Minor in Environmental Studies. This course will introduce students from any undergraduate major at CMU to key methods and approaches for inquiry in the framework of Environmental Studies. Students will build up their ability to recognize and apply diagnostic criteria; understand key principles and terms; and take part in an informed discussion about ways of seeing, and creating interventions for environmental problems as social and scientific challenges. There are no pre-requisites for this course. Students will develop skills and apply concepts to different scenarios of environmental crisis. Preference for course registration goes to students already declared for the Minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies.

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**66-304 DC Grand Challenge Research Seminar**

**Intermittent:** 9 units

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**66-307 Independent Study**

**All Semesters**

This course is intended for students with a special interest in an interdisciplinary area in the humanities and/or social sciences not covered by a normal course. Readings and other works are developed by the student and an individual faculty member. The number of units will be assigned at the time of registration based on the number of hours to be completed (decided in advance with the sponsoring faculty member).

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**66-320 Internship**

**All Semesters**

Internships-for-credit allow students to apply course-based knowledge in a non-classroom setting, under joint supervision and evaluation by an on-site supervisor and a faculty sponsor. Approved internships must conform to college guidelines for internships-for-credit, and are available by permission only arranged through the Associate Dean’s Office in Baker Hall 154.

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**66-400 Dietrich College Senior Honors Colloquium**

**Fall:** 1 unit

The purpose of this course is to provide students admitted to the Dietrich College Senior Honors Program with a shared set of intellectual and practical sessions that will enhance their senior honors thesis experience. The course will consist of seven bi-weekly 80-minute meetings. Each will be organized around a theme and related topics that are relevant to the senior honors thesis experience, and that take advantage of both the high caliber and interdisciplinary diversity of the course members. Guest visitors will also be a common feature of the course. Topics could include: the meaning(s) of “honors;” getting started and keeping pace: the ebb and flow of an independent research project (including how to recognize and avoid procrastination; forging a successful relationship with one’s thesis advisor - the myth of the separation of research from writing; writing for publication); ethics in research; “interdisciplinarity;” or the “unity of knowledge;” funding for research; preparing for and delivering effective presentations; intellectual property rights, and human subjects policy. Guest speakers invited to address and engage class members in discussion/debate of topics that lend themselves to interdisciplinary discussion and debate (e.g., stem cell research, which calls into play science, ethics, etc.). Course requirements will include mandatory attendance, occasional readings (where appropriate), acting as co-leader for at least one session, and - at course's end - (a) a written, formal preliminary thesis statement and action plan, endorsed by the thesis advisor, and tentatively, (b) a brief oral presentation of the thesis statement and plan to the class + thesis advisors during the last class meeting. All students will participate in critiques of fellow-students’ presentations and plans.

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**66-402 Dietrich Leadership Development Seminar**

**Fall and Spring:** 9 units

The Dietrich Leadership Development Seminar is for juniors and seniors in Dietrich College wishing to advance their understanding of leadership theory and practice and to develop their own skills in this regard, while creating a context for their lifelong leadership development. The course is predicated on a six pillar model proposing that ideal leaders must at once be visionary, ethical, engaging, tactical, technical - including sub-expert conversancy in realms beyond their own expertise, and reflective - including both personal mindfulness and assessment against clear metrics. In this context, the course includes a focus on strategic planning, teamwork, cultural awareness, conflict resolution, risk management, sustainability and personal welfare, professionalism, personal financial planning, and ongoing professional development. The course includes an attendance requirement and active engagement in class discussion, assigned readings/videos/podcasts (2 hours/week), self-selected experiential opportunities (2 hours/week), reflective journaling (2 hours/week), three hour-long one : ones per semester with the instructor, special guests who are leaders in various occupational and service domains, a mid-term, a final, and a final presentation. The course includes case studies and role plays to amplify the learning experience. The course is limited to twelve students, with registration based on approval of the faculty member.

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**66-501 Dietrich College Senior Honors Thesis I**

**Fall and Spring:** 9 units

This is the first semester of a two-semester sequence that culminates in an original, year-long independent research or creative project. The course is open only to students who have been approved for entry into the Dietrich College Senior Honors Program. Thesis topics are selected by faculty and students, and reviewed and approved through the senior honors program application process. Dietrich College senior honors students are also required to participate in an annual meeting of the Minds Undergraduate Research Symposium, offering either an oral presentation or poster session based on their senior honors thesis.

Course Website: [http://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/undergraduate/programs/shp/index.html](http://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/undergraduate/programs/shp/index.html)

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**66-502 Dietrich College Senior Honors Thesis II**

**Fall and Spring:** 9 units

This is the second semester of a two-semester sequence that is the culmination of an original, year-long independent research or creative project. The course is open only to students who have been approved for entry into the Dietrich College Senior Honors Program. Thesis topics are selected by faculty and students, and reviewed and approved through the senior honors program application process. Dietrich College senior honors students are also required to participate in the annual Meeting of the Minds Undergraduate Research Symposium, offering either an oral presentation or poster session based on their senior honors thesis.

Prerequisite: 66-501

Course Website: [http://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/undergraduate/programs/shp/index.html](http://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/undergraduate/programs/shp/index.html)
66-503 Dietrich College Senior Honors Thesis
All Semesters: 18 units
This course is a one-semester alternative to the two-semester Dietrich College Senior Honors Thesis sequence 66-501/66-502. The course is open only to students who have been approved for entry into the Dietrich College Senior Honors Program, and whose senior honors thesis project has been approved as a one-semester undertaking. Thesis topics are selected by faculty and students, and reviewed and approved through the senior honors program application process. The thesis culminates in an original independent research or creative project. Dietrich College senior honors students are also required to participate in the annual Meeting of the Minds Undergraduate Research Symposium, offering either an oral presentation or poster session based on their senior honors thesis.

66-504 Senior Capstone I
All Semesters: 9 units
Dietrich College student-defined majors (primary or additional) must complete a senior capstone project for at least 9 units (in one semester), or 18 units across both semesters of the senior year. The capstone project culminates in an original independent research or creative project that draws on all of the strands of the student's particular student-defined program. This course is the first in a two-course capstone sequence open only to seniors who have been admitted to the Dietrich College Student-Defined Program as a primary or additional major, and who choose the two-semester capstone sequence option. The second course in the sequence is 66-505, Senior Capstone II. Projects are proposed by eligible students, and must be approved by a member of the faculty who agrees to be the project's primary advisor, as well as by the Dietrich College Student-Defined Program Director. These approvals must be secured no later than registration week of the semester prior to the start of the student's senior year. NOTE: For Dietrich College student-defined majors (primary or additional) who are accepted into the Dietrich College Senior Honors Program and who successfully complete a senior honors thesis based primarily on their student-defined major, the senior honors thesis fulfills the student-defined major capstone requirement.

66-505 Senior Capstone II
All Semesters: 9 units
Dietrich College student-defined majors (primary or additional) must complete a senior capstone project for at least 9 units (in one semester), or 18 units across both semesters of the senior year. The capstone project culminates in an original independent research or creative project that draws on all of the strands of the student's particular student-defined program. This course is the second in the two-course capstone sequence, and is open only to seniors who have been admitted to the Dietrich College Student-Defined Program as a primary or additional major, and who have chosen the two-semester capstone option. The first course in the sequence is 66-504, Senior Capstone I. Projects are proposed by eligible students, and must be approved by a member of the faculty who agrees to be the project's primary advisor, as well as by the Dietrich College Student-Defined Program Director. These approvals must be secured no later than registration week of the semester prior to the start of the student's senior year. NOTE: For Dietrich College student-defined majors (primary or additional) who are accepted into the Dietrich College Senior Honors Program and who successfully complete a senior honors thesis based primarily on their student-defined major, the senior honors thesis fulfills the student-defined major capstone requirement.

66-506 Senior Capstone
All Semesters
Dietrich College student-defined majors (primary or additional) must complete a senior capstone project for at least 9 units (in one semester), or 18 units usually spread across both semesters of the senior year. The capstone project culminates in an original independent research or creative project that draws on all of the strands of the student's particular student-defined program. This course is a one-semester option for student-defined majors who propose a 9-unit/one-semester capstone project; it is also an 18-unit/one-semester alternative to the two-semester Senior Capstone sequence (66-504/66-505) for Dietrich College student-defined majors who choose the 18-unit capstone option, but who are unable to spread these units across both semesters of the senior year. The course is open only to seniors who have been admitted to the Dietrich College Student-Defined Program as either a primary or additional major. Projects and unit values are proposed by eligible students, and must be approved by a member of the faculty who agrees to be the project's primary advisor, as well as by the Dietrich College Student-Defined Program Director. These approvals must be secured no later than registration week of the semester prior to the start of the student's senior year. NOTE: For Dietrich College student-defined majors (primary or additional) who are accepted into the Dietrich College Senior Honors Program and who successfully complete a senior honors thesis, the senior honors thesis fulfills the student-defined major capstone requirement.

General Dietrich College Courses

65-201 Humanities Scholars III
Fall: 9 units
Billionaires: Entrepreneurship, Inequality, and Obligation in America (Fall, 2020) How does the concentration of wealth influence business and entrepreneurship? Furthermore, what are its effects on politics, media, the arts, and philanthropy? The course will focus on a series of case studies from the beginning of the Republic to the present day that examine how American society, built on systems of both free enterprise and individual rights, balances the ongoing reality of economic inequality with the ideals of democracy and equal representation. Students will learn about the role that wealth has played in the creation of contemporary society, and will be asked to consider how societal norms have changed over time, including the moral obligations the ultra-wealthy individuals may have in shaping society.
Prequisite: 65-102
Course Website: http://www.hss.cmu.edu/hsp/

65-203 Applied Quantitative Social Science II
Spring: 9 units
Applied Quantitative Social Science II is the second course in the QSSS core sequence. Conducted in a seminar format, the course will feature guest lectures from a series of faculty at CMU. Students will discuss ongoing research across the social sciences, and over the course of the semester will develop a research project proposal. Seminar participation is limited to QSSS students.

Course Website: http://www.hss.cmu.edu/hsp/