The School of Arts and Sciences is the academic heart and soul of Rutgers University–New Brunswick, providing a comprehensive undergraduate liberal arts and sciences experience. Students engage with an education of uncommon breadth and depth, acquiring the tools and knowledge necessary to pursue a wide variety of career and life paths and equipping them with the intellectual and practical skills to successfully meet the rapidly changing demands of the 21st century. The School of Arts and Sciences combines superb teaching with world-class research in an environment of remarkable cultural diversity.

Students fashion an undergraduate course of study that combines our bold Core Curriculum with deeper explorations of particular areas of interest through study in a major, a minor, and other elective courses. The School of Arts and Sciences is home to more than 30 academic departments ranging from the biological and physical sciences to the humanities, mathematics, and the social and behavioral sciences. Our departments, centers, and interdisciplinary programs offer more than 70 majors and minors, providing multiple opportunities for students to explore and understand our increasingly diverse world. Students study and actively join with our world-class research faculty in following their curiosity to the creation of new knowledge and understandings of the natural world and human behavior, belief, culture, and society.

The School of Arts and Sciences Core Curriculum embodies our belief in and aspirations for our student body and reflects the mission of Rutgers as a comprehensive public research university for the 21st century.
**Signature Courses and the Core Curriculum**

Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Signature Courses are foundational courses covering engaging topics of grand intellectual sweep and enduring importance. They are designed and taught by our renowned scholars and scientists who are not only recognized for their specialized research but are also eloquent and demanding award-winning teachers. Each course is made up of a combination of capacious lectures by faculty and small discussion sections led by graduate students from our nationally ranked graduate programs. They establish a common basis for intellectual exchange and define us as the School of Arts and Sciences community of students and scholars working together.

The Signature Courses are specially designed for the Core Curriculum, which consists of three groups of learning goals that form the core of a modern liberal arts and sciences education at a leading public research university:

- Contemporary Challenges [CC]
- Areas of Inquiry
  - Natural Sciences [NS]
  - Social [SCL] and Historical [HST] Analysis
  - Arts and Humanities [AH]
- Cognitive Skills and Processes
  - Writing and Communication [WC]
  - Quantitative and Formal Reasoning [Q]
  - Information Technology and Research [ITR]

The Core opens the door to new worlds of intellectual adventure, advanced study in particular majors, and success in a wide variety of postgraduate programs and careers. Developing a range of critical thinking skills, students build their capacity to face the public and private challenges of local and global citizenship and develop the habit of questioning the known and exploring the unknown. The Core Curriculum and our Signature Courses prompt students to examine both what they want to be and who they want to be, by discovering their values, talents, and passions. Learn more about the Core at sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/core.

**View our videos at sas.rutgers.edu/signature.**
FAMOUS TRIALS

01:512:216 (3 credits) Core: CC, HST
Professor Paul G. E. Clemens, History

How do courts balance the rights of citizens with the security of the nation? If justice is blind, how can this balance change over time? What can we learn about justice from famous trials: trials that capture national attention and are debated beyond the courtroom in the court of public opinion while being covered relentlessly in the press? How and why do the ways courts, law enforcement, judges, and juries deal with such questions as free speech, racial justice, national security, and appropriate punishment change? What social, political, and economic forces shape the possibilities of legal justice?

Famous Trials provides a historical and global perspective on the role of trials in defining our conceptions of rights and liberties. We will focus on several landmark American cases from the colonial period through the late 20th century. Each of these cases will be paired with a contemporary trial receiving intense public scrutiny that raises parallel issues about rights, liberties, politics, and punishment. For example, Lambdin Milligan’s Civil War-era trial before a military tribunal and his Supreme Court appeal provides historical context for examining the situation of Guantanamo detainees today. The Scottsboro case in Depression-era Alabama raises issues about racial injustice in 21st-century murder trials. Additionally, trials from 17th-century England, 19th-century Africa, and British colonial India, among other jurisdictions, will allow us to develop a global context to examine how contemporary legal notions of rights and justice differ from, and are similar to, traditions in other cultures. We will explore these issues by examining trial transcripts; responding to documentary and feature film clips about trials; reading literary depictions of cases; examining the media coverage of cases and its impact on justice; and considering constitutional arguments advanced about individual rights.

This course is particularly recommended for students thinking about majors or minors in American studies, criminal justice, history, political science, sociology, and women’s and gender studies. The course carries credit for a history major and minor. Famous Trials can be used to fulfill the Core Curriculum goals of Contemporary Challenges (CC) and Historical Analysis (HST).
THE COMING APOCALYPSE

01:358:205 (4 credits) Core: CC, AHp
Professor Richard Miller, English

It's boom time for the End Times.

Millenialists state with confidence that the world's final hour is approaching: the signs are everywhere, for those who know how to see them. Scientists warn that our planet is warming dangerously: in your lifetime, you will see oceans rise; hurricanes and tornados of unprecedented intensity will become the norm; earthquakes, tsunamis, floods will sweep the earth. For those unmoved by such threats, there are other apocalypses from which to choose: a global plague set off either by super viruses or bio-terrorism; population explosion followed by famine and a primeval struggle for basic resources; a dirty bomb; global economic collapse; colonization by extraterrestrials; the earth's collision with a massive comet; the spread of zombies.

Every ending also heralds a new beginning, though; every apocalypse gives way to a post-apocalypse. In this large format discussion-driven course, we will spend the semester learning about how narrative works. By focusing on a range of apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic novels, short stories, movies, and television shows, this course aims to provide students with the opportunity to consider the significance of the human predilection for telling stories about the end of humanity.

Students from all schools and disciplines are welcome to sign up for this course. The course carries credit toward the major and minor in English. The Coming Apocalypse can be used to meet the SAS Core Curriculum goals in Contemporary Challenges (CC) and Arts and Humanities [AHp].
COLOR-LINES AND BORDERLANDS

01:595:202 (4 credits) Core: CC, AHo
Professor Nelson Maldonado-Torres, Latino and Caribbean Studies and Comparative Literature

Today it is easier than perhaps at any other point in human history for peoples to know about each other and connect with each other. Yet we live in a time of violent divides and confrontations. What is at the root of these divides? And what resources are there to overcome the destructive effect that some of them have?

This class will examine the power of “color-lines” in producing divisions among peoples and individuals as well as explore the possibilities to cross borders of separation and create new forms of human connection in the 21st century. We will explore “colorlines” and “borderlands” through the work of a wide range of intellectuals, artists, and social activists and explore theories of blackness, Chicana feminism, Native American hip-hop, Afro-Asian connections, and artistic work related to the Black Lives Matters movement, among others.

This course is particularly recommended for students who intend to pursue majors or minors in Africana studies, American studies, anthropology, comparative literature, English, Latino and Caribbean studies, political science, and sociology among other fields in the humanities and social sciences. This course carries credit toward the major and minor in Latino and Caribbean studies, and it is appropriate for students across the humanities and sciences, including life and physical sciences, seeking to fulfill Core requirements. Color-Lines and Borderlands can be used to meet the Core Curriculum goals in Contemporary Challenges [CC] and Arts and Humanities [AHo].
RELIGIONS NOW: 21ST CENTURY CONTROVERSIES

01:840:105 (4 credits) Core: CC, AHo
Professors Tia Kolbaba and Joseph Williams, Religion

Everywhere you look, religions—and religious controversies—are shaping our world. A powerful source of beliefs, moral claims, and cultural practices, religions profoundly influence our contemporary world.

For some, religion is held up as the key solution to various social ills such as poverty and racial tension. For others, religion is a major part of the problem. Religion generates critiques of inequality and capitalism while others invoke it to celebrate the free market and individual wealth. And, religious concerns shape views on policy issues as diverse as same-sex marriage, climate change, and government-sponsored healthcare. From challenges to evolution to debates on stem-cell research, religions juxtapose faith and modern science. Religions likewise factor prominently in various military conflicts around the globe and in the long-running debates over the proper relationship between religion and the state.

Religions Now focuses on how religions, both as belief systems and socio-cultural systems, are interwoven in today’s challenges. How are religions, themselves, changing in response to contemporary events and developments? How can the academic study of religions help us assess and make sense of religion’s role in 21st century societies?

This course is particularly recommended for students who intend to pursue majors or minors in American studies, anthropology, business, communication, criminal justice, economics, education, environmental policy or science, health sciences, history, Middle Eastern studies, philosophy, political science, religion, and sociology. It is also appropriate for life sciences and physical science majors seeking Core or elective credit. It carries credit toward the major or minor in religion and can be used to fulfill the SAS Core Curriculum Goals in Contemporary Challenges [CC] and Arts and Humanities [AHo].
EXTINCTION

01:070:111 (4 credits) Core: CC, NS, SCL
Professor Rob Scott, Anthropology

Do you worry about nuclear annihilation? Does the possibility of bioterrorism scare you? Are you dismayed by growing political violence and ongoing cultural genocides in places such as Darfur? Are you concerned about habitat destruction, catastrophic climate change, widespread famine, or newly drug-resistant diseases? Ever wonder what it means to be a species that can imagine its own demise, understand its role in the demise of another, or contemplate the end of all life?

“Extinction” takes a multiperspective, interdisciplinary approach to understanding extinction as a biological and cultural process, and probes the meaning and significance of such processes for humans around the globe in the 21st century.

This course is particularly recommended for students who intend to pursue majors or minors in anthropology, various area studies, biological sciences, ecology, geography, history, linguistics, philosophy, political science and public policy, religion, sociology, and women’s and gender studies. This course carries credit toward the major and minor in anthropology. Extinction can be used to meet the SAS Core Curriculum goals in Contemporary Challenges (CC), Natural Sciences (NS), and Social Analysis (SCL).
GLOBAL EAST ASIA

01:098:250 (4 credits) Core: CC; HST or SCL
Professor Paul Schalow, Asian Languages and Cultures

It touches your life every day, yet how much do you really know about East Asia—home to three of today’s most powerful nations and over a fifth of the world’s population?

China, Korea, and Japan are major economic, political, and cultural players in an increasingly global 21st century. At the same time, the push for globalization within East Asia is being met with an equally powerful resurgence of nationalism and regionalism. How do media empires, international sporting events, and regional flows of Japanese and Korean pop culture shape relations among East Asia’s people? How are the rise of China and the U.S. strategy to focus more diplomatic and military attention to Asia creating political divisions in the region even as it integrates economically? Can complex questions of Taiwan’s and Hong Kong’s autonomy, Korean reunification, and conflicting territorial claims be resolved peacefully, or could a geopolitical crisis lead the region into war in the 21st century?

This course is particularly recommended for students who intend to pursue majors or minors in anthropology, area studies, Asian languages, business, economics, geography, history, journalism and media studies, political science, public policy, religion, sociology, and women’s and gender studies. It carries credit toward the major and minor in Asian languages and cultures. **Global East Asia can be used to meet Core Curriculum Goals in Contemporary Challenges [CC] and either Historical Analysis [HST] or Social Analysis [SCL].**
THE AMERICAN DREAM

01:050:210 (4 credits) Core: CC, AHp
Professor Louis P. Masur, American Studies and History

Everyone talks about the “American Dream” and everyone wants to live it, but what, exactly, is the “American Dream”? Does it divide us or unite us? Can it still be achieved in the 21st century?

In this dream, America is a special place. A place of self-improvement, upward mobility, and rags to riches. A place in which hard work and education are rewarded with economic security. A place of hope, of opportunity, and of freedom. A place of happiness and belonging. A place where the individual can control his or her lot in life. The “American Dream” is not one dream; it is many.

The American Dream takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of American culture and society. By reading widely and examining sources as diverse as memoirs, essays, novels, images, music, and film, this course probes the meanings and uses of the “American Dream” in the life of the nation as well as in each of our own lives. The “American Dream,” and its meaning, continues to shift as it collides with changing social realities as each generation projects its hopes and anxieties into its fabric. The history of the evolving “American Dream” provides the building blocks of our own dreams, aspirations, and expectations for life in the 21st century.

This course is particularly recommended for students pursuing majors or minors in African-American studies, American studies, anthropology, art history, business, cinema studies, communication, comparative literature, criminal justice, economics, education, English, history, political science, and sociology. It is also appropriate for life sciences and physical science majors seeking Core or elective credit. This course carries credit toward the major or minor in American studies. The American Dream can be used to fulfill the SAS Core Curriculum goals in Contemporary Challenges [CC] and Arts and Humanities [AHp].
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