**Honors First-Year Seminars: UNIV 1784 Fall 2014 Course Descriptions**

"The thrill of victory, the agony of defeat": The Experience of Being a Sports Fan (UNIV 1784: Section 1)

**Instructor:** Kari Adamsons  
**Day:** Monday/Wednesday  
**Time:** 12:20–1:10/LH 108  
**Description:** This course will examine the phenomenon of being a sports fan - from etiology and origins to characteristics and types of fan identities to outcomes. We will discuss the fans themselves as well as others around them, especially families and how team allegiances are shaped by family histories and traditions. Course content will draw from sociology, family studies, exercise and sports science, and psychology. Different sports and types of teams (college vs. professional vs. national) will be considered, and students also will explore their own and others' experiences. No fandom is required to participate in the class.

**Designing the Great Campus Space** (UNIV 1784: Section 2)

**Instructor:** John Alexopoulos  
**Day:** Tuesday/Thursday  
**Time:** 2:00–2:50/Young Room 2  
**Description:** This course explores the process of designing outdoor spaces. Students will be introduced to what makes an outdoor space great. Students will create a design for a space on campus using sketches and simple models. No “skills” required.

**Why Read?** (UNIV 1784: Section 3)

**Instructor:** Jason Courtmanche  
**Day:** Tuesday/Thursday  
**Time:** 2:00–2:50/Buckley 119  
**Description:** We are told daily that the Humanities are in decline and that reading—for pleasure and for school—has changed dramatically, and not necessarily for the better. However, not all scholars and writers embrace such a gloomy view. In this course, we will read (both assigned texts and self-selected texts) and we will discuss why and how to read—both for success in college (not just English class) and for pleasure. There will be brief weekly writings in a class blog and a final paper in which you will answer the course’s essential question for yourself. Required texts will be Mark Edmundson’s *Why Read?*, Thomas Foster’s *How To Read Like a Professor*, and Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*.

**Exploring Emotional Intelligence** (UNIV 1784: Section 4)

**Instructor:** Elizabeth J. Cracco  
**Day:** Monday/Wednesday  
**Time:** 3:35–4:25/ Arjona 441 on Mondays and Strs 002 on Wednesdays  
**Description:** This course will focus on the exploration of Emotional Intelligence, and its major domains of personal and interpersonal competence as defined through the work of Daniel Goleman. We will emphasize exploration of intra- and interpersonal competence through reflection, journaling, and guided, interactive in-class activities, with a broad goal of building skill sets that promote emotional competence. A major emphasis on building mindfulness skills, including an expectation of daily practice is a part of this course. In addition, class may engage in adventure-based exploration at the UConn 4 Arrows Challenge Course. We will also examine the significance of EI in work, family, relationships, and academic success.

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Psychology of Musical Theatre (UNIV 1784: Section 5)
Instructor: James Kaufman
Day: Tuesday/Thursday
Time: 10:00-10:50/STRS 001
Description: This class will critique, analyze, and discuss musical theatre (on film or video) as a vehicle for understanding human psychology.

The Forgotten Senses: How Taste and Smell Influence Your Health and Behaviors (UNIV 1784: Section 6)
Instructor: Dr. Valerie Duffy, Professor, Allied Health Sciences
Day: Monday/Wednesday
Time: 1:25–2:15/ Oak Hall 441
Description: In this course, we will discuss the basic science of taste and smell and how we apply this knowledge to questions about behavior and health. Through readings, class discussion, and exercises, we will explore answers to many food-related questions. This course may appeal to students interested in the health professions and in health and behavior.

A Cure for the Common Code (UNIV 1784: Section 7)
Instructor: Keith Barker
Day: Monday/Wednesday
Time: 10:10–11:00/ ITE 127
Description: We are either digital immigrants (most faculty) or digital natives (most students) and we use digital signals to communicate, store and play audio and video files, produce financial transactions, direct and hide information, input data, and identify objects. However, the coding of all these operations and activities are taken for granted and we don’t always appreciate the theory and practicalities of their use. This course will explore the bases behind many of these codes including an introduction to cryptography. We will answer such questions as “how do we ensure error-free computing and communications,” “how do CDs cope with drop-outs caused by strawberry jam,” “how do barcodes work so well,” and “of what significance is the US 1890 census to encoding.”

Environmental Sustainability (UNIV 1784: Section 8)
Instructor: Rich Miller
Day: Tuesday/Thursday
Time: 9:30–10:20/Buckley 119
Description: As members of the UConn community, we make everyday decisions about our energy and water consumption, recycling and waste reduction, what we eat, how we travel, what we purchase and so on. Collectively, these choices, along with the decisions, policies, and practices of the University’s administration, have an impact on the environment around us. Today, the importance of this decision-making process is amplified by the profound challenges of climate change. The earth’s climate is heading in a potentially catastrophic direction, threatening the stability of ecosystems and human health around the world. But it is not too late to act. “Environmental Sustainability” refers to the concept that we can work toward individual lifestyle choices and institutional practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the Earth’s ability to sustain future generations. This course will cover general concepts of environmental sustainability in the context of UConn programs and initiatives, including discussion about individual roles and responsibilities. Using the UConn Storrs campus as a “living laboratory,” we will explore ways that the University is working to reduce its ecological footprint while promoting the technological advances that will be necessary to combat climate change in the future. During the
course, students will conduct mini-projects on a theme of their choosing, in order to study one aspect of environmental sustainability in greater detail, and to apply it to practices of the University and/or to assess and better inform the lifestyle choices of their peers.

**Pirates of the Caribbean (UNIV 1784: Section 9)**
**Instructor:** Steven Park  
**Day:** Monday/Wednesday  
**Time:** 9:05–9:55/Buckley 119  
**Description:** The British and their American colonists fought a war on terror in the 1720s, ending the so-called “Golden Age” of piracy.  
  - Did pirates really bury their treasure and walk the plank?  
  - What made this life seem appealing to some young men (and a few women)?  
  - Was this an early form of American democracy?  
In this class we will watch films on Hollywood’s portrayal of piracy, dip into the scholarly literature on the historical reality of it, and make a small website on some aspect of maritime piracy.

**Darwinism (UNIV 1784: Section 10)**
**Instructor:** Michael Cunningham  
**Day:** Tuesday/Thursday  
**Time:** 12:30-1:20/STRS 001  
**Description:** In this course, we will explore a sampling of topics in the history of Darwinism from its inception to the present. We will follow Charles Darwin on his path from amateur naturalist to scientific icon, including his voyage on the HMS Beagle and the resulting books *Origin of Species* and *Descent of Man*. We will then examine the impact of Darwin’s theory on English and American culture, including Social Darwinism, the Scopes trial of 1925, the eugenics movement, and current debates about intelligent design and genetic determinism.

**Music Appreciation (UNIV 1784: Section 11)**
**Instructor:** Glenn Stanley  
**Day:** Monday/Wednesday  
**Time:** 3:35-4:25 /MUSI 107  
**Description:** This course offers an introduction to the primary genres (symphony, opera, string quartet, etc.) and styles of "classical" music, which is the music associated with the centuries-old tradition of music in the church, the theater, and the concert hall. We examine examples of diverse kinds of music, some of which will probably be very new. We will concentrate on developing our listening skills, which will enhance our experience of this richly diverse and expressive repertory. We will study music by Bach and Handel, Mozart and Beethoven, Brahms and Wagner, but we will also get to know works by Josquin and Palestrina, Stravinsky and Schoenberg. Live music - in the classroom and in von der Mehden concert hall - will be an essential aspect of the course.

**Science Fiction, Science Fact and Science Ethics (UNIV 1784: Section 12)**
**Instructor:** Colleen Spurling  
**Day:** Monday/Wednesday  
**Time:** 11:15-12:05/TLS 301  

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Description: Ever finish reading a great piece of science fiction writing and wonder about the feasibility of the topics presented? Ever feel conflicted about the ethical and societal ramifications associated with advances in the biological sciences? Employing a selection of quality science fiction literature we will explore these questions and more.

Personal Creativity for STEM Majors (UNIV 1784: Section 13)
Instructor: Jaclyn Chancey
Day: Monday/Wednesday
Time: 2:30-3:20/Rowe 134
Description: We tend to associate creativity with the arts, but high levels of achievement in any field—including the sciences—require creativity. Research publications, patents, solutions to engineering problems, and all other forms of innovation rely on your ability to go beyond what is already known: to CREATE. Psychological research has shown that creativity is not an innate trait. Join us as we develop the habits of creative people and see how they are applied in STEM fields. You may get a little messy in the process.

Science and Human Service (UNIV 1784: Section 14)
Instructor: Keat Sanford
Day: Monday/Wednesday
Time: 3:35-4:25/LH 110
Description: As you embrace the challenge of the undergraduate collegiate experience, you will find it is all about careful observation, experience, honesty, perseverance, reflection, and your wired and learned habits of character and mind. The purpose of this seminar is to orient you to the college experience, to get your feet on the ground, and to start you running with your interests, ambitions, goals, and promises to yourself. We will discuss biographies of exceptional people who pursued careers in the health professions. We will consider historical and inspirational figures such as Hippocrates, Galen, Vesalius, Harvey, Hunter, Laennec, Semmelweis, Virchow, Blackwell, Montessori, Taussig, Farmer and others.

Human Rights, Media, and Visual Culture (UNIV 1784: Section 15)
Instructor: Michael Orwicz
Day: Tuesday/Thursday
Time: 4:00–4:50/ AB 107
Description: Human rights and humanitarianism have long relied on the power of images --from prints and photography, film, television and video, to social networking platforms like Twitter and Facebook-- to sustain the claim that all humans are holders of universal rights. Today, more than ever, most humanitarian action is itself constituted by various forms of media, and banks its success on the circulation of images. This course explores how visual culture has shaped the landscape in which a politics of human rights can be envisioned, articulated, and sustained.

Perspectives on Zoos and Aquariums (UNIV 1784: Section 16)
Instructor: Allison Kaufman
Day: Tuesday/Thursday
Time: 12:30-1:20/ FS 202
Description: This class will examine the intricacies of the modern zoo or aquarium, covering a wide variety of topics such as husbandry, management and breeding, conservation, exhibit design, training, research, and guest relations. Students will learn about both the "day to day" operations of a zoo or aquarium, and about national and international management issues. Offsite field trips are very likely; however carpools can be arranged so students are not required to have their own
transportation. Students may be required to pay some admission fees to visit facilities. Please note: although controversial issues will be discussed and researched, this class, by definition, takes a positive stance on the issue of animals in captivity.

**Hell Holes and Marvelous Faraways: Travel and Travelers Then and Now (UNIV 1784: Section 17)**

**Instructor:** Roger Celestin  
**Day:** Monday/Wednesday  
**Time:** 3:35–4:25/Oak Hall 105  
**Description:** “What is the point of moving when you can travel so magnificently sitting in a chair?” - J.K Huysmans, *Against the Grain*  
“What's the point of walking when you can travel by car?” - Bernard Olivier, *The Long March*

The course will examine a body of travel literature ranging from the Renaissance to the contemporary period and attempt to answer the following questions, among others: has travel -- its purpose, its practice, its methods, its meaning -- changed in the past few centuries? From the Romantic affirmation of Self as a means of subverting or criticizing Home, to the English gentleman's “tour of the Continent” as “finishing school;” from the “going native” syndrome of the “ultimate travelers” to the cordoned-off “mass tourism” of today, what does travel tell us about what we do and who we are?

**Discover Undergraduate Research (UNIV 1784: Section 18)**

**Instructor:** Caroline McGuire  
**Day:** Tuesday/Thursday  
**Time:** 11:15 - 12:05/Buckley 119  
**Description:** Undergraduate research has a place in every Honors student’s plan of study. In this class, we will explore the diversity of research that can be done by undergraduates and consider how each individual can get started. We will do some reading together from scholarly sources, engage one another and several presenters in discussion (presenters will include faculty members and UConn students farther along in their undergraduate careers), and do some organizational service work (helping organize a campus-wide undergraduate research event). Finally, each student will be asked to articulate -- however tentatively! -- how undergraduate research will fit into his or her plan of study. The course will emphasize oral and written communication; class participation and short presentations are important assessed work. Discover the many research opportunities available at UConn for undergraduate students and chart your course for getting involved!

**Documenting the First Year Experience (UNIV 1784: Section 19)**

**Instructor:** Dan Buttrey  
**Day:** Monday/Wednesday  
**Time:** 12:30–1:20/AB 105  
**Description:** In this course, you’ll learn about digital photography while documenting your first semester at UConn. Topics covered will be an introduction to camera operations, compositional techniques, image editing, and documentary theory. Students are required to have a digital camera to complete this course.

**A Path of Papers (UNIV 1784: Section 20)**
Instructor: Oliver Morand  
**Day:** Tuesday/Thursday  
**Time:** 11:00–11:50/ Rowe 420  
**Description:** Students will read a set of seminal papers and works following a path through demography, economics, cosmology, art history, literature, poetry, physics (and more), and discuss their relevance to everyday life. Readings will include “The Anthropic Principle” (Scientific American, 1981), *The Tragedy of the Commons* by G. Harding, “On the Origin of Religion” (Science, 2009), and extracts from Basho’s poetry.

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**We’re Not in Kansas Anymore: Other Worlds and Their Stories** *(UNIV 1784: Section 21)*  
**Instructor:** Susanna Cowan  
**Day:** Tuesday/Thursday  
**Time:** 3:30–4:20/Buckley 119  
*The Wizard of Oz* and *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* are only perhaps the most famous stories describing what happens when someone stumbles (plummet, slips, is transported by tornado, etc.) into a different world. What is the appeal of these stories? Why do these stories, like the fairy tales of Grimm, Hans Christian Anderson, and others, leave such lasting impressions on us, both personally and on our culture at large? We’ll read these two famous adventures alongside some more recent depictions in written and filmed/televised form of this now-familiar plot. Although there will be, inevitably, “literary” elements to our exploration, the course will invite you to explore and make sense of these stories in historical, cultural, economic and other contexts. In addition to regular reading/viewing assignments, there will be frequent short written work. Longer assignments will invite you to be at once academically rigorous and creative (not your standard essay) in your approach.

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**Gender and Violence in Popular Culture** *(UNIV 1784: Section 22)*  
**Instructor:** Barbara Gurr  
**Day:** Monday/Wednesday  
**Time:** 11:15–12:05/STRS 002  
**Description:** From TV and Netflix to novels, magazines, billboards and iPods, we are inundated by popular culture: it socializes us, teaches us, and produces us, even as we produce it, consume it, and at times resist it, most often without thinking critically about our roles, or the cultures we produce/consume/resist, at all. This class will introduce you to feminist, sociological, and cultural studies approaches to studying popular culture, and particularly the study of gender and violence in the media. Our texts are primarily films, commercials, popular music, and documentaries with a few short readings.

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**Professionalism and Law** *(UNIV 1784: Section 23)*  
**Instructor:** Ed Kammerer  
**Day:** Monday/Wednesday  
**Time:** 10:10–11:00/ Rowe 420  
**Description:** “(Why) Should I go to law school? Law is a rich, complex, and varied field. This course will introduce students to concepts central to understanding law and the legal field to help answer that question. Specifically, the course will explore different sources of law and different areas of law. It will also explain what it means to join a profession, and explore the skills necessary to success in the legal profession. Topics here will include internships, networking, and professional identity. **THIS COURSE IS REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS ADMITTED TO UCONN’S SPECIAL PROGRAM in LAW and is open to other Honors students with a pre-law interest with instructor consent.**

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The Art of College (UNIV 1784: Section 24)
Instructor: Jennifer Lease-Butts
Day: Monday/Wednesday
Time: 2:30-3:20/Buckley 119
Description: National Lampoon’s Animal House is a landmark 1978 film that arguably created the genre of the “college movie.” More recent examples like National Lampoon’s Van Wilder (2002), Old School (2003), The House Bunny (2008), Accepted (2006), Pitch Perfect (2012), and Monster’s University (2013), among many others, follow in similar footsteps. What do all of these films have in common? They are telling a story about college and the college experience. Most of us know, however, that these portrayals of college life are not the full picture...or part of it... or perhaps not ‘it’ at all. So what is college? In this course we will examine representations of college life in a variety of films and deconstruct the topics portrayed. As we do this, we’ll discuss the college you are coming to know as a new student here at UConn and encourage you to construct your own narrative about your college experience. Assignments include short papers, a presentation, and a creative project. In addition, we will cover basic aspects of film criticism to aid you as you work with these materials. We hope you’ll end the semester as a connoisseur of college!

The Politics of Hip-Hop and Popular Culture (UNIV 1784: Section 25)
Instructor: Jeffrey Ogbar
Day: Tuesday/Thursday
Time: 3:30-4:20/E2 322
Description: This course examines the development of hip-hop and its intersection with politics, race, class, gender, among other topics. The study starts with the development of American popular culture in the 19th century and the centrality of race to its meaning. Through the emergence of blues, jazz, rock and roll, the course examines the development of African American musical traditions. The literary/poetic structure of hip-hop is examined as well as the social/political implications of the art. The study explores the emergence of rap music in New York City in the mid-1970s through its evolution into a multi-billion dollar industry with wide-reaching influence in movies, marketing and politics.

Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Research (UNIV 1784: Section 26)
Instructor: Jie Shen
Day: Monday/Wednesday
Time: 3:35-4:25/E2 321
Description: This course is designed to give students an introduction to concepts and recent advances in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical research. Topics that are covered include: an understanding of the rational for controlled/targeted drug delivery; the influence of chronobiology and chronopharmacology on controlled drug delivery; recent advances in drug delivery systems (oral, parenteral, nasal, ocular, inhalation, and transdermal drug delivery systems); vaccine and gene therapy; Herbal Medicine; as well as drug/device combination products. This course helps students to focus on specific areas of interest and research opportunities as Honors students.

Nurturing Personal Creativity through Digital Photography (UNIV 1784: Section 27)
Instructor: Del Siegle
Day: Tuesday/Thursday
Time: 12:30 – 1:20/ITE 125

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Description: The purpose of this seminar is to help students develop their digital photography skills and see the world through new eyes. An emphasis is placed on using photography to communicate ideas and feelings. The seminar will culminate with a product showcasing student created images. The course emphasis is less on the technical aspects of using your camera and more on developing your ability to see and capture visually interesting images. Please plan to bring your own digital camera.

Finding Your Purpose in Life (UNIV 1784: Section 28)
Instructor: Bradley Wright
Day: Monday/Wednesday
Time: 2:30-3:20/Oak 111
Description: Research has established having a sense of purpose in life as important. It’s linked to higher quality of life and even longer life. This course will explore research done on this topic plus offer practical exercises for developing a sense of purpose.

Special Program in Medicine (UNIV 1784: Section 29)
Instructor: Ron Wikholm
Day: Monday/Wednesday
Time: 11:15–12:05/CHM T215
Description: With the pre-professional student interested in health professions in mind, this course will discuss multiple aspects of what it means to aspire to a career in health care. This course includes a weekly discussion examining current issues in the health care industry. Topics are chosen from current literature that impact or have the potential to impact medicine. Students will present topics and lead discussions on topics of their choosing. Guest presentations will be arranged from those familiar with the various professions. From successful study strategies to understanding current scientific and political developments, this course is an opportunity for students to broadly discuss issues in medicine and
science. **THIS COURSE IS REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS ADMITTED TO UCONN’S SPECIAL PROGRAM IN MEDICINE AND DENTAL MEDICINE** and is open to other Honors students with an interest in health care professions with instructor consent.

**Morality Police: Obscenity, Indecency, and Vice under the Law** (UNIV 1784: Section 30)

**Instructor:** Edward Kammerer, Jr.

**Day:** Monday/Wednesday

**Time:** 3:35–4:25/Rowe 420

**Description:** This course will look at how the legal system deals with issues of morality. Specific topics may include obscenity and indecency, dress codes, public nudity, profanity, alcohol and drug use, and gambling. We will look at Supreme Court cases, statutes, and other materials to determine how the law regulates these things and question whether that authority is appropriate and, if so, when and how it can be properly used.