

## SCIENCE IN HUMAN CULTURE

### Fall Quarter 2012 Undergraduate Course Offerings – Long Version

Available from <http://www.shc.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/courses.html>

The following is a list and description of courses that may be counted toward the SHC adjunct major or minor. You may also petition the SHC Director to count a course not listed here.

#### CORE COURSES:

HISTORY 275-2-01 (13179)

#### **History of Modern Western Science and Medicine**

MoWeFr 10:00AM - 10:50AM	Fisk Hall 217	Kenneth Alder
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See below under “History” for the complete description.

#### *DETAILED LISTING BY DEPARTMENT FOLLOWS...*

#### ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHRO 101-6-22 (12085)

#### **Freshman Seminar: Making of the Fittest**

Fr 2:00PM - 3:20PM	Anthropology Seminar Room B07	Erin Waxenbaum Dennison
We 2:00PM - 3:20PM	Anthropology Seminar Room	Erin Waxenbaum Dennison

We recently celebrated the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth. But what would he think of our world today? We have a sophisticated understanding of genes and the ability to trace our ancestry over generations. Yet despite this knowledge, conclusive and irrefutable proof that we have or are continuing to evolve has not been found. In this course we will address where we might have come from and where we might be going. We will cover some of the major "issues" in biological evolution ranging from those of originating in Darwin's time to the many questions that persist today.

ANTHRO 308-0-20 (16555)

**Global Health in Human History**

Fr 9:00AM - 11:30AM	Anthropology Seminar Room	Erin Waxenbaum Dennison
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Over the course of human history, health and disease patterns have changed markedly. The field of paleopathology explores the history of disease, predominantly through skeletal patterns of evidence, to understand and predict its course in the future. This area of investigation also sheds light on how the past informs our understanding of health in contemporary human societies. In particular, paleopathology addresses such key questions as: What are the patterns of disease throughout history? How has human disease and transmission changed over time? Are the processes different than what we see today? This course will explore patterns of pre- and proto-historic adaptations to human disease, health and medicine. A bio-cultural perspective on patterns of disease will provide a link between past perspectives and current realities. No explicit background in biology or osteology is required to be successful in this course.

ANTHRO 332-0-20 (13206)

**Anthropology of Reproduction**

Mo 6:30PM - 9:00PM	Kresge Centennial Hall 4-445	Caroline Bledsoe
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While human capacities share commonalities, they display enormous variation in social identity, political status, geographical dispersion, and historical moments in time. Variation arises in societies across the world that we have considered "exotic." It can also be found in elements of our own society to which our cultural perceptions blind us. The goal of sociocultural anthropology, the largest subfield of anthropology and the core of the discipline, is to understand the dynamics of human variation in social action and cultural thought. A key question is how these variations are produced and reproduced, whether we speak of society (subsistence, ideas) or individuals (biology, psychology, social identity). Equally telling are instances when reproduction fails to occur or does so when it should not. Because reproduction is so strongly associated with biology in our society, viewing it through a cultural lens poses significant challenges to some of our most basic tenets. Tensions arise in questions of agency vs. control, nature vs. culture, identity construction, reproducing under varying conditions, and so on. The study of reproduction, therefore, offers a window into the heart of anthropology itself. The goals of this course are (1) to expose students to just a few of the many sociocultural approaches to reproduction by ranging broadly across topics, time, and place; and (2) to identify and evaluate concepts and theories embedded in writings on the dynamics of reproduction. While the concept of "reproduction" can refer to societal reproduction, emphasis will be on the reproduction of children. To this end, possible topics may include fostering/adoption, AIDS orphans, fatherhood, technologies of fertility control, assisted reproduction, obstetrics, gender imbalances in Asia, debates over abortion, etc.

ANTHRO 370-0-20 (11208)

**Anthropology in Historical Perspective**

TuTh 9:30AM - 10:50AM	Anthropology Seminar Room	Robert Launay
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Rather than attempting the impossible--an overview of the whole history of the discipline of anthropology--this course will focus on one particular problem: the relationship between theory and ethnographic description in cultural Anthropology. The course will attempt to survey the development of certain schools of thought in the discipline since the mid-nineteenth century: evolutionism; historical particularism; structural-functionalism; culture and personality; cultural materialism; interpretive anthropology. In order to examine the ways in which each of these theoretical approaches affects the ways in which anthropologists choose to describe what they observe, the class will read a series of ethnographies (or excerpts from larger works) written at different times from different points of view.

ANTHRO 390-0-21 (12267)

**Obstetrics in Turn of the Century U.S.**

We 6:30PM - 9:00PM	Kresge Centennial Hall 4-445	Caroline Bledsoe
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No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.

ANTHRO 390-0-22 (12692)

**Evolutionary Medicine**

TuTh 12:30PM - 1:50PM	Parkes Hall 223	Christopher Kuzawa
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No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

BIOL\_SCI 103-6-20 (16951)

**Values of Biodiversity**

MoWeFr 11:00AM - 11:50AM	Technological Institute LG62	Joseph Walsh
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"Biodiversity" is a buzzword familiar to most people, but relatively few possess a clear idea of what it means and why it is important. This course investigates the importance of biological diversity from different standpoints - scientific, practical, and aesthetic. We examine core concepts in ecology and evolution, such as the definition of "species" and recent research on how more diverse ecosystems function better than less diverse ones. We address applied questions such as, "what benefits do humans gain by preserving biological diversity?", and we deal with the aesthetic and ethical dimensions of biodiversity. A field trip to a nearby prairie restoration site enhances our understanding of what biological diversity means in people's everyday lives and how people are working hard to preserve it. There are 4 main writing assignments that total 18 pages: a 3-page

essay based on the field trip experience; a 4-page essay based mainly on Abbey (1968); a 5-page essay based mainly on technical scientific papers; a final synthetic paper of 6 pages. There will be two short (ca. 1 page) in-class writing exercises.

BIOL\_SCI 104-0-20 (16813)

**Plant-People Interactions**

TuTh 8:00AM - 9:20AM	Pancoe Building Abbott Aud	Christina Russin
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We will cover the various ways in which people use plants, including food, clothing, fuel, and pharmaceuticals.

**ECONOMICS**

ECON 101-6-30 (10211)

**Freshman Seminar: Innovation and Technological Change**

TuTh 2:00PM - 3:20PM	University Library 3722	Laura Kiesling
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**ENGLISH**

ENGLISH 359-0-21 (13083)

**Studies in Victorian Literature: Evolution and Literary Thinking**

TuTh 2:00PM - 3:20PM	Kresge Centennial Hall 2-435	Jules Law
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What do we mean when we say that sex is an instinct? Let's put it another way: What does it mean to give an "evolutionary" explanation for a particular human behavior or practice? What does it mean to say that people or cultures "inherit," or are determined by, instincts? Are we speaking metaphorically or literally? In what sense are children "destined" to be like their parents (or ancestors)? Is this something logically certain, or is it a narrative we make of the facts? This course will be an exercise in reframing some of the claims of evolutionary psychology--an enormously influential strain in our contemporary popular and intellectual culture--through a critical reading of evolutionary thought in its original historical milieu (the Victorian era in Britain). From its very inception, evolutionary science was interwoven with literary concepts and concerns: what is "character"? how are things "plotted"? what is a plausible "narrative"? how conjectural are "beginnings" and "ends"? to what extent can we regard various manifestations of the natural world as a set of "analogous" phenomena? Throughout the course we will ask how the conjectural stories that comprise evolutionary thinking (often referred to as "reverse engineering") differ from the kinds of conjectures that comprise literary and literary-critical thinking. Our central premise will be that the relationship of hard-wiring to human behavior is a figurative one. We will read three types of texts: classic Victorian novels by Thomas Hardy which take up the "nature-nurture" debate; Victorian "evolutionary" writing; and contemporary debates on evolutionary psychology by prominent social scientists and philosophers.

ENGLISH 378-0-20 (13085)

**Studies in American Literature: Literature of the Environment**

MoWeFr 10:00AM - 10:50AM	Parkes Hall 215	Brian Bouldrey
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In many ways, the subject of the environment is a focal point for any number of disciplines, both in the liberal arts and hard sciences, to come together in the great clearing house we call "the humanities". This course will offer a balanced approach to the growth and change in literature devoted to the subject of the environment, touching briefly on 19th century foundations (Muir, Ruskin, Emerson, Thoreau) and moving quickly to writers of all genres of literature and their engagement with the subject. We will consider contributions from poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction; purely aesthetic constructions, advocacy journalism, polemic. Students should be ready to engage in discussions of mode and invention, of genre and structure, and intent and execution. We will consider the way science, philosophy, art, religion, history, and politics play into the work generated on this pressing subject.

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & CULTURE**

ENV\_POL 390-0-21 (12311)

**Co-listed as** POLI\_SCI 349-0-20 (12303)**International Environmental Politics**

TuTh 12:30PM - 1:50PM	University Hall 121	Yael Wolinsky
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International environmental policy-making has become increasingly important as critical environmental problems cannot be resolved unilaterally. This course explores different approaches to the resolution of international environmental problems. We will address the special nature of environmental conflicts and will study the role of new and old players in advancing politically feasible solutions to regional, international and global environmental problems. We will focus on issues including climate change, water, and sustainable development and will also discuss recent grassroots environmental activism. The class sessions will include lectures and a few guest speakers. This course counts toward the Weinberg College social and behavioral sciences distribution requirement, Area III.

ENV\_POL 390-0-22 (13114)

**U.S. Environmental Politics**

Tu 6:00PM - 9:00PM	Tech Institute Lecture Room 5	Staff
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No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.

**GENDER STUDIES**

GNDR\_ST 101-6-20 (12292)

**Freshman Seminar: Our Bodies, Ourselves**

TuTh 2:00PM - 3:20PM	Kresge Centennial Hall 2-359	Amy Partridge
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No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.

GNDR\_ST 220-0-20 (17122)

**Sexual Subjects: Introduction to Sexuality Studies**

TuTh 12:30PM - 1:50PM	Harris Hall 107	Lane Fenrich
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No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.

GNDR\_ST 332-0-20 (13071)

**Gender, Sexuality, and Health: Health Activism**

MoWe 2:00PM - 3:20PM	Kresge Centennial Hall 2-359	Amy Partridge
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No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.

**GLOBAL HEALTH**

GBL\_HLTH 301-0-20 (12682)

**Introduction to International Public Health**

TuTh 9:30AM - 10:50AM	Kresge Centennial Hall 2-415	Staff
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No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.

GBL\_HLTH 302-0-20 (17644)

**Global Bioethics**

We 3:00PM - 5:30PM	University Hall 412	Kearsley Stewart
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No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.

GBL\_HLTH 308-0-20 (17461)

**Global Health in Human History**

Fr 9:00AM - 11:30AM	Anthropology Seminar Room	Erin Waxenbaum Dennison
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No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.

GBL\_HLTH 390-0-22 (13334)

**Refugee/ Immigrant Health**

Tu 5:00PM - 8:00PM	Kresge Centennial Hall 4-355	Bechara Choucair
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No Freshmen. No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.

**HISTORY**

HISTORY 275-2-01 (13179)

**History of Modern Western Science and Medicine**

MoWeFr 10:00AM - 10:50AM	Fisk Hall 217	Kenneth Alder
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Scientific change has profoundly reshaped our lives in the past 200 years, transforming both the material conditions under which we live and our expectations for the future. But change has worked in the opposite direction as well: social values and political agendas have shaped the development of scientific knowledge and medical practice. This class invites students in the sciences and the humanities to explore the dynamic relationship between science, medicine, and our broader society. We will begin with a study of the Faustian relationship between the physical sciences and technological innovation. How has scientific knowledge been used to create such products as infant formula, modern telecommunications, or the atom bomb? We will then turn to the reciprocal relationship between the life sciences and social values. From Darwin to genomics, bio-medicine has developed in conjunction with public mores, altering our understandings of race, sexual difference, and our definition of life and illness. This course seeks to understand how the rise of specialized knowledge of nature has transformed human life in the past two centuries. Our guiding premise is that science is an intrinsically human activity and hence an integral part of our modern world.

**PHILOSOPHY**

PHIL 109-6-22 (12934)

**Minds, Brains, and Computers**

TuTh 9:30AM - 10:50AM	University Library 3670	Michael Glanzberg
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In this course, we will explore the nature of the mind and its relation to the brain. Is the mind like a computer program? If so, what is the relation between the 'software' of the mind and the 'hardware' of the brain? Or, is the mind more like a complex network of associations, which might reflect neural structure of the brain more directly? To what extent is the mind organized around separate 'modules'? To what extent are our cognitive abilities innate, and to what extent are they acquired through learning? Readings will be drawn from classical and recent papers in philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience, and will introduce students to some of the key ideas and concepts in the philosophy of mind and cognitive science.

PHIL 310-0-20 (13260)

**Studies in Ancient Philosophy: Aristotle: Scientist and Philosopher**

TuTh 3:30PM - 4:50PM	Kresge Centennial Hall 2-370	David Ebrey
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No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

POLL\_SCI 349-0-20 (12303)

**Co-listed as ENV\_POL 390-0-21 (12311)****International Environmental Politics**

TuTh 12:30PM - 1:50PM	University Hall 121	Yael Wolinsky
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International environmental policy-making has become increasingly important as critical environmental problems cannot be resolved unilaterally. This course explores different approaches to the resolution of international environmental problems. We will address the special nature of environmental conflicts and will study the role of new and old players in advancing politically feasible solutions to regional, international and global environmental problems. We will focus on issues including climate change, water, and sustainable development and will also discuss recent grassroots environmental activism. The class sessions will include lectures and a few guest speakers. This course counts toward the Weinberg College social and behavioral sciences distribution requirement, Area III.

**SCIENCE IN HUMAN CULTURE**

SHC 115-6-20 (13292)

**Freshman Seminar: Biological Thought and Action**

TuTh 4:00PM - 5:20PM	Parkes Hall 224	Andreas Matouschek, Tania Munz
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No description available. Check CAESAR for updates.



**SOCIOLOGY**

SOCIOL 101-6-21 (10800)

**Freshman Seminar: Sustainability and Society**

TuTh 9:30AM - 10:50AM	Allison Residential Comm 1021	Susan Thistle
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This course looks at the key environmental crises on earth, such as climate change. We then consider what might best lessen such crises, such as sustainable agriculture or green consumption, and the dilemma of how countries might industrialize in today's world. We also debate whether the market, government regulations or social movements and alternative ways of living are most effective paths toward living sustainably.

SOCIOL 311-0-20 (16888)

**Food, Politics, and Society**

TuTh 3:30PM - 4:50PM	Harris Hall L07	Susan Thistle
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This course looks closely at how different social groups, institutions and policies shape the ways food is produced, distributed and consumed in different parts of the world, especially the United States, and the social and environmental consequences of such a process. We look at the dramatic growth of factory farming and the social and political factors lying behind such rise, and alternatives such as sustainable farming, Farmers' Markets, and local food. aspects of the food systems we examine, and the social actors and policies giving rise to such alternatives.

SOCIOL 376-0-21 (12265)

**Topics in Sociological Analysis: The Politics of Scarcity**

TuTh 2:00PM - 3:20PM	555 Clark 00B01	Wendy Espeland
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Is scarcity ever natural? Or is it an inevitable by-product of human society? Can technology and political will ever make possible a post-scarcity society? What are the conditions that produce, distribute, and mediate scarcity locally, nationally and globally? How does scarcity interact with abundance? What are the cultural and historical effects of scarcity? When and to whom is scarcity invisible? Which policies work best in confronting scarcity? These are some of the questions that will animate this class as we examine scarcity in the distribution of water, food and healthcare in countries and communities around the world, including in Africa, South Asia and the U.S. Topics will include: How western drug companies affect healthcare in less developed countries; the effects of gender, race, ethnicity on scarcity; what the developed world can learn from the developing world about conservation and distribution; how scarcity is portrayed or ignored in contemporary media. This class will be organized as a seminar with students sharing responsibility for its content and for leading discussions. Students will be expected to stay abreast of relevant current events.