Spring 2016 FIRST YEAR SEMINARS
(These courses are open ONLY to freshman of the class of 2019)
Students may register for only ONE First Year Seminar

FINA-159-F1 Digital Storytelling L. Estomin / A. Rogers TTH 09:15AM-11:35AM
Learn the art of digital storytelling through two creative projects. Students will begin by creating a personal story to learn the process. Then we will research the rich history of the Underground Railroad and the African-American community in Lycoming County and work with community members to create digital stories about their lives. Students will work with members of the local Black community, tape their oral histories or memoirs, and create digital stories on some aspect of local Black history.

FINA-159F-2: Music and the Muse Chris Jackson TBA
Music nourishes the soul, but it also enhances so many other impossible to life. In this course, we will learn the basics of musical language and analysis, in addition to creating live performances in class. Students will uncover the ways in which music (practicing, performing, and listening) teaches us about ourselves and our ability to grow and succeed—not merely as musicians but as creative human beings in all fields.

FINA-159-F-3 Special Effects in Film Through Time O. Perez MW 10:15AM-12:35PM
We all know that filmmakers use special effects to wow audiences, but have you ever considered how they are used to manipulate the audience? Through screenings and discussions, students will examine the history and technology of special effects, beginning with animation in the early 20th century through today’s sophisticated CGI.

HUMA-159-F1 Finding Australia L. Seddelmeyer MWF 12:45PM-01:50 PM
Australia's history and culture extend far beyond the familiar symbols of koalas, kangaroos, and pristine beaches. This seminar introduces students to important events, people, issues, and debates that contribute to the creation of an Australian identity. By exploring historical and cultural perspectives, the course asks what it means to be "Australian" to different people and at different times. Course topics include Aboriginal Australia, British colonization, national mythology and warfare, egalitarianism, immigration, and tourism.

HUMA-159-F2 Learning Without Teachers G. Hafer TTH 09:45AM-11:35AM
In this course, we will learn about exciting new research on knowledge and learning that occur independent of teachers. Sample topics include how we learn, memory and recall, studying and context, and teamwork. We each will choose and research our own learning topic, not as a dry review of theory, but one that responds to what interests us.

HUMA-159-F3 TBD: Lost (and Found) in Translation S. Kingery MWF 12:45PM-01:50PM
Who decides what gets translated? What makes a translation good or bad? How is translating classical literature different from translating jokes or advertisements? We will discuss mistranslations, retranslation, and the ethics and politics of translation. Students will not need any knowledge of a second language to take this course.
Human beings, both ancient and modern, seem to have a natural urge to explain the origin of things. This course uses an interdisciplinary approach to explore the origins of civilization in the ancient Near East as viewed through (and explained by) ancient mythology, foundation legends, and modern archaeological research.

The course explores the mathematics of games and gambling. Using a variety of hands-on games, including casino games, card games, and board games, students will learn about the mathematics behind these games.

Coffee is one of the most traded commodities on the planet, second only to crude oil. A product this powerful touches the lives of nearly everyone. The global coffee trade demonstrates the interdependent and complex relationship between producers and consumers, political and economic institutions, and the developed and developing worlds. This course introduces students to the cultivation and harvesting processes, explores the role of coffee in trade and international law, and examines its human rights and economic impacts on growers.

Can you imagine life without social media or smartphones? This course will focus on the influence of technology in the development, maintenance, and dissolution of social relationships. This course also challenges students to consider how technological advances have changed our interactions with others in positive, negative, and unanticipated ways.