SPRING 2017 FIRST YEAR SEMINARS
(These courses are open ONLY to freshman of the class of 2020)
Students may register for only ONE First Year Seminar

HUMA-159-F1: “We’ll Always Have Paris”  A. Cartal-Falk  MWF 11:30AM-12:35PM
Interdisciplinary and informed by contemporary cultural studies, this course will explore the fascination that Americans have for Paris and all things Parisian.

HUMA-159-F2: Me Llamo: Latino Identity in U. S.  B. Buedel  MW 01:00PM-02:50PM
This course (taught in English) will focus on Latino/a identity in the United States. We will first study the historical immigration of a number of Latino groups whose roots are found in Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. We will then consider the nature of cultural adaptation and social integration as experienced by these groups and the ways in which Latino identity is expressed in art, literature, and music.

HUMA-159-F3: Medieval Food and Culture  C. Chandler  MWF 12:45PM-01:50PM
The course will examine various aspects of food production and consumption during the broad period of the Middle Ages. We will explore such questions as: What kinds of food did people in medieval Europe eat? Where did that food come from? Did the kinds of foods consumed vary from place to place, change over time, or differ according to social class? Why were some foods that were available forbidden? What were the social and cultural meanings of feasts and fasts? What role did gender play in the production and consumption of food? Can we see parallels between modern food practices and those of the Middle Ages?

HUMA-159-F4: Salem Witch Trials  C. Pearl  TTH 01:00PM-02:50PM
The Salem Witch Trials of 1692 are one of the iconic events in American history. Almost from the conclusion of the final trial, these tragic events captured American imagination. This class examines the trials themselves and the various ways in which contemporaries and historians have interpreted them. Largely a discussion based class; students will analyze trial records, poems, and firsthand accounts of the event. Students will also evaluate differing scholarly and popular interpretations of the trials in Salem. Through this class students will learn the historical method, how to critically evaluate texts, and be able to place the Salem Witch Trials within early Puritan New England society, culture and religion.

HUMA-159-F5: Medieval Monsters: Modern Mayhem  T. Preston  MWF 09:00AM-10:05AM
This course will examine the origins of medieval monsters and how they have been reinterpreted for modern audiences. Students will investigate medieval and modern texts (as well as art and film) to interrogate the nature of monstrosity and its relationship to culture and art.
HUMA-159-F7:  Learning Lyco: Hands -on History               A. Gregory                                         MWF 11:30AM-12:35PM
Actively explore the history and transitions of Lycoming College, from its founding to the late 20th century, by using the primary sources available in the College Archives. Couched in the history and context of American higher education as a whole, the course will focus on applied history, using sources like yearbooks, scrapbooks, photographs, college catalogs, and other documents (both print and digital), to recreate the College’s history. Through hands-on research and instruction, gain an understanding of how historians use primary sources to reconstruct the past.

MATS-159-F1: Games/Gambling                                            C. Reed                                                   MWF 02:00PM-03:05PM
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.

SSCI-159-F1:  Understanding Consumer Society              E. Moorhouse                                            MW 02:00PM-03:50PM
For centuries the path to a better society has been one of economic growth to support the ever-increasing consumption habits of individuals and families. A more robust economy can provide better quality healthcare, education and jobs; it can improve living standards through increased consumption; and it allows for happier and more meaningful lives for everyone. In recent years however many scholars are calling into question this association. Is it still true that increased consumption actually enhances our well-being? Students will read works by philosophers, religious experts, environmentalists, psychologists, and economists to understand their views on this link between economic growth, consumption of goods and services, and its relationship to the health and happiness of individuals.

SSCI-159- F3:  Tagged or Blocked? Technology and Relationships         T. Norton                              MWF 12:45PM-1:50PM
Can you imagine life without social media or smart phones? 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.

SSCI-159- F4:  Politics of Immigration                                                        K. Lucas                           MWF 02:00PM-03:05PM
A multi-faceted look at the topic of immigration that includes an examination of contemporary political debates in the United States and abroad as well as a broader historical analysis of the manner in which human migrations have shaped political, economic, and cultural development throughout much of the world.