

## Spring 2017 **Downtown Campus** AIS Descriptions

### **The Age of the Anthropocene (Human Activity Impacting Earth's Sustainability)**

D. Matiella

Humans now represent the most significant source of impact on the geology and ecosystems of Earth. How did this come to be and what can be done? Through multidisciplinary research practices and studies, we will examine human activities in the age of the Anthropocene, where we've come from, where we could be and where we should be by the 22<sup>nd</sup> century. We will examine the social, environmental, economic, and political consequences and opportunities that lay before us and how we can create a sustainable future for ourselves.

TR 10:30-11:45am

28520

Standalone

**\*Social Science Emphasis \*\*Special Focus**

**\*\*\* AIS Courses not listed above as special emphasis or topic-focused sections, take a multidisciplinary approach to the course\*\*\***

Through rigorous intellectual content, students have an opportunity to learn about epistemologies (i.e. ways of knowing) in the Humanities/Fine Arts, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences through an approach that is multidisciplinary and experiential. In addition, student will gain skills in critical thinking, communication, information literacy, and basic inquiry/research. As a pinnacle experience, students work in teams to develop a semester-long research project that explores an academic question through the lens of various academic cultures and/or disciplines.

Spring 2017 **Natural Science Emphasis** AIS Descriptions

**The Scientific Method: Inquiry in the Natural Sciences**

L. Martinez Rivera

In this AIS course students will learn how to develop research proposals that emphasize on the application of the scientific method. Students will learn basic principles of experimental design and fundamental research techniques used within the Natural Sciences.

MWF 1:00-1:50pm

28479

Standalone

TR 10:00-11:15am

28506

Standalone

\*Natural Science Emphasis

**Inquiry in the Natural Sciences: Research Design, Ethics and Application**

S. Dalterio

In this AIS course students will practice library search skills, design research projects, write Abstracts, construct Poster Projects, and develop Power Point presentations that represent current standards and practices in science and engineering. Ethical considerations for conducting research involving human and animal subjects will be discussed. Themes and topics will represent class interests/majors and participation in University-sponsored undergraduate research opportunities will be encouraged.

TR 2:30-3:45pm

28512

Standalone

\*Natural Science Emphasis \*\*Special Focus

**Clean Water and Environment**

J. Scherer

Flint, Michigan; Gold King Mine, Colorado; Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill... the list of disasters despoiling our water resources is long. We will practice Natural Science critical thinking and communication skills necessary for science and engineering majors by investigating cause and effect of environmental disasters while proposing new research questions.

MWF 12-12:50

28850

Standalone

\*Natural Science \*\*Special Focus \*\*\*Service Learning Component

**Gaming and Computer Simulations**

J. Scherer

Many computer games simulate real-life situations by use of mathematical algorithms. We will practice Natural Science critical thinking and communication skills necessary for science and engineering majors by experimenting with various simulation games to detect the underlying controlling models, and proposing new research questions. Students will be expected to use their own laptops in class.

TR 2:30 – 3:45pm

28854

Standalone

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Spring 2017 **Social Science Emphasis** AIS Descriptions

**What is the World in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?**

R. Minten

What are the most pressing problems in the world today and what can we do to resolve them? Why are these problems so challenging? What are the most important advances in the world today? How can we use these advances to improve the world? In this AIS class, we will examine the motivations that cause beneficial and detrimental change and explore the consequences of those changes through research practices in social sciences.

MWF 10:00-10:50am

28849

Standalone

**\*Social Science Emphasis \*\*Special Focus**

**Be The Change**

L. Furrh

Connect, become an active citizen, and make a real impact on the San Antonio community. Students will practice civic engagement by volunteering for a service project of their choice, and then use these experiences as a lens to explore academic research skills and information literacy throughout the semester and discover how social scientists would conduct research studies on local issues.

MWF 9:00-9:50am

28819

Standalone

MWF 10:00-10:50am

28466

Standalone

TR 11:30-12:45

28853

Standalone

TR 10:00-11:15am

28498 and 28499

Linked with WRC 1013

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Spring 2017 **Humanities Emphasis** AIS Descriptions

**Media and Popular Culture**

C. Medina

This course examines the mass media as a site where values and beliefs are disseminated and discussed. The focus of the course is popular culture, which is defined as any mass produced form of culture (e.g., film, television, comic books, magazines, newspapers, etc.). Students will be provided with an overview of key concepts and theories utilized in the analysis of popular culture. An individual and a group project are required.

MWF 9:00-9:50am

28448

Standalone

TR 11:30am – 12:45pm

28502 and 28504

Linked with WRC 1023

\*Humanities Emphasis \*\*Special Focus

**Media, Technology, and Culture**

C. Medina

This section of AIS examines the role of communication technologies in society. The course provides a brief overview of selected communication technologies that emerged and developed within the last 150 years, in order to analyze and discuss their impact on social life. An individual and a group project are required.

MWF 10:00-10:50am

29132 and 29133

Linked with WRC 1023

TR 10:00-11:15am

29137

Standalone

\*Humanities Emphasis \*\*Special Focus

**A Journey Into Art, Photography, and Music**

A. Malagamba

This AIS course will take you on a journey to analyze art, photography and music while exploring the ways in which scholars in the Humanities engage in research and seek to understand the complexities of the art world. The course will expose you to research principles and methodologies that will encourage you ask questions in a whole new way.

MWF 2:00-2:50pm

28485 and 28486

Standalone

TR 2:30-3:45pm

28513 and 28514

Linked with 1023 and Standalone

\*Humanities Emphasis \*\*Special Focus \*\*\*Service Learning Component

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Spring 2017 **Multidisciplinary Application** AIS Descriptions

**Contemporary Issues in the Lives of Children and Adolescents**

T. Leveridge

This AIS course will examine current research investigating the contemporary issues that affect children and adolescents. Many issues will be investigated and will include a multidisciplinary approach (Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences) to understanding how they may affect children.

MWF 10:00-10:50am

28468 and 28470

Linked with WRC 1013

TR 1:00-2:15pm

28507

Standalone

**\*Multidisciplinary Application \*\*Special Focus**

**“To Infinity and Beyond...” Science Fiction and Fantasy**

D. Edmondson

The ancient Greeks told epic stories of superhuman beings like those of Mount Olympus or one-eyed giants and a six-headed creature. Early Europe and into the Industrial Revolution gave us stories of robots, traveling to far off planets and utopian societies. Through a multidisciplinary (Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences) lens, we will explore research practices and ways of knowing about what makes us human in a cosmic context.

MWF 11:00-11:50am

28449

Standalone

**\*Multidisciplinary Application \*\*Special Focus**

**What Does it Mean to be First?**

S. Colorado-Burt or D. Edmondson

To be the first in your family to go to college and earn a four-year degree is an empowering and impactful experience. Although being a Pioneer poses challenges, in this course we will examine the assets and strengths that first generation students bring to a campus community. Through an exploration of multidisciplinary (Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences) approaches, research practices, scholarly articles and studies, this course will analyze what it means to be the first in your family to go to college.

MWF 12:00-12:50pm

Edmondson

28475 and 28476

Linked with WRC 1013

TR 10:00-11:15am

Colorado-Burt

28451

Standalone

**\*Multidisciplinary Application \*\*Special Focus on Issues Critical to First-Generation College Students**

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Spring 2017 **Multidisciplinary Application** AIS Descriptions cont.

**U.S-Mexico Border Issues**

A. Malagamba

The U.S.-Mexico Border region has been the site of cultural, political, geographical, ecological, social and artistic developments that most of time are not reflected in the national narratives of the border on both countries. This AIS course will explore research practices through a multidisciplinary (Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences) lens and explore border facts and fictions while proposing new questions.

MWF 1:00-1:50pm	29130 and 29131	Linked with WRC 1023
TR 4:00-5:15pm	28517 and 28518	Standalone

**\*Multidisciplinary Application \*\*Special Focus \*\*\*Service Learning Component**

**Politics and Pop Culture**

P. Rodriguez

This section of AIS closely examines the dynamic interaction between the political spectrum in the United States and the vastness of popular culture. Through this course, students will explore how music, social media, film, and visual arts contribute to the social construction of sociopolitical issues and political figures. This course will accomplish this objective through gaining a deeper understanding of academic cultures and research.

MWF 11:00-11:50am	28473	Standalone
TR 1:00-2:15pm	28508	Standalone

**\*Multidisciplinary Application \*\*Special Focus \*\*\*Service Learning Component**

**Making Your Own Path**

K. Laborde

This section of AIS includes hands on research that uses mixed methods to explore what it means to be a first year student by examining one's personal transition from high school to college. While engaging in research with the class, students are also able to explore their own multi-disciplinary research focus. The semester includes an opportunity for students to present class research at a campus wide research showcase.

MWF 8:00-8:50am	28455	Standalone
MWF 9:00-9:50am	28460 and 28461	Linked with WRC 1013 and Standalone
TR 8:30-9:45am	28852	Standalone
TR 10:00-11:15am	28500 and 28501	Linked with WRC 1013

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## Spring 2017 **University Peer Mentor (UPM)** Themes

### **Student Success & Leadership**

*Restricted to First-Year-in-College Students.*

Students will be provided information regarding how to best succeed at UTSA while engaging in activities that promote student success and enhance leadership skills, including community involvement opportunities.

### **First Generation**

*This section is reserved for First-Generation College Students*

Students will be provided information regarding how to best succeed at UTSA while engaging in activities that promote student success and enhance leadership skills, including community involvement opportunities.

### **FAME**

*This section is reserved for FAME Students.*

Students will be provided information regarding how to best succeed at UTSA while engaging in activities that promote student success and enhance leadership skills, including community involvement opportunities.

### **Honors**

*This section is reserved for Honors Students.*

Students will be provided information regarding how to best succeed at UTSA while engaging in activities that promote student success and enhance leadership skills, including community involvement opportunities.