

## Fall 2022 Course Catalog

### Cultural Studies

#### **Memory, Form, and Meaning (Kevin Georgas)**

**Fall 2022**

Humans are meaning-making creatures. For as long as our species has existed, we have invented forms—in language, in images, in architecture, in music—that help us find meaning in a world that is often chaotic and cruel. These forms vary across societies, and within them as well, and as societies change—say from feudalism to capitalism or from industrial capitalism to “late” capitalism—our sense of meaning shifts too, requiring us to invent new forms in conversation with the old ones to make sense of our experiences. In this course, we will examine how some artists from Black and Jewish communities in the 20th Century invented forms that helped them wrestle with the memory of atrocity and imagine a different future. With their help, we will learn how to 1) recognize and name formal principles in works of art in various media, 2) see connections between artistic form and social structure, and 3) imitate forms by creating original works of art.

*This course fulfills a Cultural Studies credit.*

#### **The Writing Life (Kevin Georgas)**

**Fall 2022-Spring 2023**

Writing is difficult. Even many people who write professionally seem to spend half their time on social media complaining about how difficult writing is. Our thoughts move so quickly and our speech is so fluid that making it stay in place on a page can feel like dressing a toddler who’s just eaten a bag of candy.

Writing is so difficult that sometimes writers describe it as something approaching a mystical process. They tell us they’ve received their words from the muses or a spirit of genius. Writing comes to seem like a special talent given to certain very special people at birth, and to others not at all. But this is nonsense. Writing is not magic, even if great writing makes us feel like it is. The truth is that this sense of magic is a product of technique. Writing is a skill, and it’s a skill that anyone can learn, like playing a sport or a musical instrument. Some people might attain a greater level of skill than others, but just as anyone can learn to throw a ball or play a G-chord, anyone can learn to write.

In this course, we’ll focus on different forms of essay writing to practice the basic skills everyone needs in order to write. The first unit will involve practice with different forms of syntax, before we move on to work with the journalistic essay, the personal essay, and the academic essay in each subsequent unit.

*This course fulfills a Cultural Studies credit.*

### Experiential Learning

#### **D-Lab 1.OH (Susan Haws, Patrick O’Meara, Dagan Tranka)**

**Fall 2022**

Do you sometimes think, “Why do we do things that way? Do you ever wonder, “How come no one ever thought of that?” Have you ever heard someone say, “I really wish...”? Together, let’s stop, think & act. What will it be like when I improve our world?

# INSIGHT COLEARNING

Design Lab 1.OH is a new core class at Insight that introduces students to the principles and practices of human-centered design, a creative problem solving and innovation discovery process that is driven by empathy. Developed at Stanford University's d.school, human-centered design, also known as "design thinking," upends traditional design approaches by centering the voices and experiences of end-users, making them co-creators (rather than merely recipients) of the opportunities and solutions generated through this process. Using human-centered design, we can uncover new ideas that allow us to disrupt for good—improving the status quo to affect lasting change. In the first unit of this entry-level course, students will practice the basic design cycle and the art of teamwork through a variety of exercises and scenarios. In the second unit of the course, student teams will complete a full design process on a local problem of their choice.

*This course fulfills an Elective credit.*

## **Wayfinding/ Living in Beta (Susan Haws, Patrick O'Meara)**

**Fall 2022**

All Insight students are expected to participate in Wayfinding and Living in Beta. Living in Beta is an approach that empowers students by providing the necessary scaffolding and feedback to not only dabble, but to dig in, past the idea phase into action, failure, success, and growth. Through Living in Beta students will work with their advisors to plan and take on independent projects of increasing complexity. Through these projects, students will cultivate an interdisciplinary understanding of the world. They will be able to perform fundamental academic and 21st century work skills. Most importantly, they will have a firm grasp of their why-- their motivation, their goals, and how they aim to make a difference in their community and world, because they will already be doing it. Living in Beta is an approach. It is a mindset. It is a shift, and hopefully, a permanent shift, to learning as a lifestyle-- lifelong, interdisciplinary, applied learning that has intrinsic and extrinsic value.

*This experience fulfills an Elective credit and various requirements for graduation.*

## **Mathematics**

### **Algebra I (Emma Hayes)**

**Fall 2022-Spring 2023**

In Algebra I students will formalize and extend the mathematics they learned in the middle grades. The modules deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend, and students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. Using a variety of exercises and practice problems, students will cultivate a deep understanding of algebraic concepts and their applications.

*This course fulfills a Mathematics credit and fulfills the requirement of Algebra I.*

### **Algebra II (Emma Hayes)**

**Fall 2022-Spring 2023**

Building on their work with linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, students in Algebra II will extend their repertoire of functions to include polynomial, rational, trigonometric, and logarithmic functions. Students work closely with the expressions that define the functions and continue to expand and hone their abilities to model situations and to solve equations, including solving quadratic equations over the set of complex numbers and solving exponential equations using the properties of logarithms. Using a variety of exercises and practice problems, students will continue to deepen their understanding of algebraic concepts and their applications.

*This course fulfills a Mathematics credit and fulfills the requirement of Algebra II.*

# INSIGHT COLEARNING

## **Geometry (Lucy Bergwall)**

**Fall 2022-Spring 2023**

Geometry will be a practice in exploring patterns that we identify in the world around us. Over the duration of the course, we will practice using inductive and deductive reasoning to observe and codify regular patterns in geometric relationships. Integral to this exploration will be the use of logic and proof to move from informal observation to formal principles of geometry. The Standards for Mathematical Practice (e.g. making sense of problems and persevering through them, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively) outline the skills that students will need to apply in order to be successful in their exploration of geometry. We will be developing these skills through hands-on experiments, class discussions and creative projects.

*This course fulfills a Mathematics credit and fulfills the requirement of Geometry.*

## **Natural Sciences and Engineering**

### **Dive Into: Food Waste (Dagan Trnka)**

**Fall 2022**

At times it feels like we live in a world of abundance: you can find any food you want at a supermarket; cheap fast fashion clothes are a click away on Shein or Amazon; and there's endless content to scroll through on IG, TikTok, or Youtube. At the same time, scarcity is all around us: rising housing costs are making more and more people housing-insecure; more than 38 million people are food insecure in the US; and our consumerism and disregard for the environment is wrecking the planet.

In this course, we're going to use a scientific lens to focus in on our food system and try to get a handle on how 38 million people struggle with getting consistent access to food in this country while we collectively waste 40 percent of all the food we produce. We'll explore what impact (nutrient loss, pollution, greenhouse gas emissions) this has on our environment. And finally, we'll dive into what people are doing about it and how we can help.

*This course fulfills a Natural Science and Engineering credit.*

## **Outdoor Adventure Education**

### **Insight Outside (Banks Dixon)**

**Fall 2021-Spring 2022**

Outdoor Adventure Education (OAE) provides challenging, exciting, and rewarding opportunities to gain skills across multiple domains, including interpersonal, community-building, leadership, and technical skills, as well as physical fitness and well-being. Not only are these skills associated with high achievement; they will also be particularly useful in the rapidly changing and uncertain world students are preparing for. This course will meet for a full school day every other week throughout the year, with novice and advanced groups going out separately on alternating weeks. In addition, it will include 2 multi-day expeditions (Fall and Spring) that include a variety of activities, like backpacking, paddling, camping, and climbing. Together we will continue exploring the interdisciplinary theme for the year, *culture*, through our adventures and make connections to our other courses, including Action-Oriented Ethnography, Dive Into: Food Waste, and Memory, Form, and Meaning.

*This course fulfills a PE credit each semester.*

# INSIGHT COLEARNING

## Social Studies

### **Action-Oriented Ethnography (Benjamin Pulgar)**

**Fall 2022**

Every day, we are faced with an overwhelming number of problems and issues happening in the world. We hear about them on social media, in the news, from our friends. It feels like there is something wrong everywhere all the time! It is important to take a deep breath and think, “What am I actually in control of, and what am I not in control of?” Even though people may be struggling far away, it is also the case that those closest to you are going through things that you may have the power to change or aid. But how can you help if you do not explore what they are going through first?

In this real-world learning, project-based course, students will engage in ethnographic exercises and research building. After creating your own co-constructed questionnaire and interview structure, you will be meeting and interacting with your neighbors to find out what they think about your neighborhood and the broader city to better understand the world around you. Next, you will work with your community and engage in problem-solving and organizing towards a common goal. In doing so, you will show your community that there are things that are immediately in their control that they can influence and work towards while working on your own community-oriented organizing and capacity.

*This course fulfills a Social Studies credit.*