

## Signature Courses

Professor	College	Course Title	Semester	Description
Andrew Baker	CHSSA	Where Are You? Finding a Place in Public Space	F19/F20	From the suburban shopping mall and the football stadium to the front yard and the TAMU-C campus, the places we inhabit shape our lives and reflect our cultural values. Ultimately, students will propose ways to reshape the campus community by refashioning part of its built environment.
Benjamin May	COEHS	Do What's Fun and Live a Happier Life		
Benjamin May	COEHS	Creating Dreams: Coping Skills	F20	Opportunity to explore unique topic of creating personal dreams and to engage in learning environments.
Bob Williams	CASNR	Food: Choices, Consequences, Challenges	F18/S20	This course explores the history, economic, geographic, sociological, and political perspectives surrounding food. Students will study choices, including customs, traditions, celebrations, food in media, marketing, and labeling. Then the course will focus on a study of food challenges, including civic agriculture, animals as food, environmental concerns, and social justice. Finally, students will explore questions surrounding the consequences of food, including obesity, food assistance, and outreach.
Bob Williams	CASNR	Cowboys & Cowgirls	S21	Revolves around the history of the cowboy culture in the American West, especially the Southwestern U.S. Culture, traditions, food customs, stereotypes, myths, legends, competitive events, and fashion.

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Brandon Randolph-Seng	COB	Learning How to Think Critically	F18/F19/ F20	The course is designed to increase students' critical thinking knowledge and skills. Concepts covered include perception, memory, creativity, and problem-solving as they relate to critical thinking. We will examine the effects of attitudes, values, logical fallacies, and thinking errors on critical thinking and problem-solving. Assignments will require students to apply their skills to real-life situations and to understand the levels of the critical thinking process through problem-solving activities.
Cheri Davis	COSE	Walk Like an Egyptian	F18	A cultural study of the ancient people and their influences on modern society. Students will develop an original presentation or model based on course content. We will explore historical backgrounds, associate lifestyles, cultural beliefs, and use the planetarium to compare the view of the sky as they saw it to how we see it today. We will examine current and ancient caste systems, and students will draw conclusions as to the beliefs ingrained in the Egyptian way of life in contrast to today's American lifestyles.
Cheri Davis	COSE	Star Lore	F19/F20	Learn about star lore, discover and recognize constellation patterns, understand how to navigate the night sky, explore what is in a name, and discuss pop culture influences such as "Harry Potter" and other literature.

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David Davies	CHSSA	Music in the Movies	S19	In addition to covering the history and aesthetics of music written for Hollywood films, this course will explore the sociological, philosophical, and psychological issues surrounding the use of music in film, and by extension the American film industry as a whole.
George Swindell		Wizarding World of Harry Potter	S21	Fly into the magical world and discover areas of self-identity, social issues, personal relationships, and more.
Johanna Delgado-Acevedo	COSE	Environmental Justice	S19	Environmental Justice refers to social movements that have been created to confront inequalities in the distribution of environmental hazards and the exclusion of specific members of the society in the decision-making process of environmental policies. Environmental Justice also refers to environmental policy that helps to ameliorate inequalities and to a multidisciplinary field to study and analyze environmental injustices. This course is intended to help students to develop a critical and constructive thinking about the strength, potential and threats of Environmental Justice movements, policy and scholarship.

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John Humphreys	COB	Business, Society & Unfettered Thought	F18/F19/ F20	This signature course will focus on the critical thinking skills required to manage the increasingly integrated, interdependent, and complex relationship between business and society. Students will gain an understanding of the role of business in society, the capacity to use knowledge to effectively analyze, debate, and solve societal/organizational problems in a socially responsible and ethical manner, and the ability to successfully communicate potential solutions across audiences.
John Smith	CHSSA	Star Wars: The Course Awakens	S19	Star Wars: The Course Awakens takes students on a journey to explore the spiritual, religious, and mythological material in the Star Wars universe, particularly the sources of concepts such as the Force, the Jedi and Sith orders, and themes of enlightenment, morality, depravity, and redemption as depicted in the films and some attendant literature. The status of Star Wars as an American mythology will also be explored, as well as the development of the Force as an emerging religious belief in the 21st century.
Josh Thompson	COEHS	Power of Stories & Words	S21	This course on early language acquisition informs the learner about the work of language in creating the ways one thinks and knows and carries on in the world.
Judith Ball	COSE	History of Great Diseases		
Kent Montgomery	COSE	Death from the Skies	S19/S20/ S21	The universe is a dangerous place in which any number of disastrous events could end the reign of humans on the Earth. This course will delve into humanity-ending, catastrophic phenomena.

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Kriss Kemp-Graham	COEHS	Separate and Unequal? The State of Public Education Sixty Years Post Brown	F18/F20	Is equal access to a quality education possible for all students in the US if vestiges of separate but unequal public schooling still exists? Extreme educational disparities also exist in academic achievement and performance of students based on race, gender, region, community locale and socioeconomic status. Many scholars and politicians have argued that education is the great socioeconomic equalizer. Students taking this Signature Course, through hands-on interactive activities will critically explore the state of public education in the US post the Brown v. Board of Education decision.
Lani Lyman-Henley	COSE	How to Build a Monster	F19	
LaVelle Hendricks	COEHS	Beyond the Discussion of Drugs and Alcohol		
LaVelle Hendricks	COEHS	Cultural Competence: What it is and Applications for Change	S21	Cultural competence is the ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with people across cultures. Cultural competence encompasses being aware of one's own worldview and developing positive attitudes toward cultural differences.

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Mario Hayek	COB	I Think, Therefore I Create Value	F18/F19/ S20	This is a course focused on teaching the importance of value creation and developing a value-creating attitude in multiple aspects of life. The ability to contribute to one's profession, organization, family, society hinges on the ability to add value. This course helps students scan the environment, identify opportunities, analyze those opportunities, develop plans involving how an idea would be implemented, and then articulating/communicating the concept/vision to a target stakeholder group.
Mark Menaldo	CHSSA	The Quest for Happiness	F18/S20	What is happiness? What makes life worth living? What is the best life for a human being? Through a careful and slow reading of Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, students will explore the answers to these questions. The ancient Greek philosopher presents three competing alternatives: the lives of pleasure, virtue, and contemplation. In his work he examines each. The virtuous gentleman, the human being of moral excellence, takes the predominant role in the investigation.
Mark Rudin	Pres	Chemical & Biological Effects of Radiation	F19	
Mehmet Celik	COSE	Voting and Apportionment	S19/S20	Can one person's vote make a difference? How are voting decisions made? How does the study of mathematics inform our understanding of everyday decisions like purchasing a home, saving for college, investing in retirement, and purchasing car insurance? This course will develop students' natural ability to know something without requiring any proof of evidence.

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Quynh Dang	COEHS	Global Foods: From Soil to Soul	S19/F19	Students will examine the issues and conditions that affect the availability and quality of food in the global market. This course also reviews the landscape of both food and farming, in both rich and underdeveloped countries. Nutrition circumstances differ as well, as persistent hunger is still a deadly challenge in many tropical countries, while in rich countries, particularly the United States, excessive food consumption and obesity are now a more prominent diet linked challenge to health.
Ricky Dobbs & Sri Nippani	COB	Blood & Money: War & Finance	S21	War requires the wise investment of national resources and commitment. The purpose of this course is to give a financial context to three historical conflicts: the American Civil War, World War I, and World War II.
Robert Rodriguez	CHSSA	Sports and Politics	S20	
Sandra Kimbrough	COEHS	Must Love Dogs	F20	Explore how the relationships between humans and dogs have changed in the last 100+ years and learn hands-on about dogs who help individuals.

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Tara Tietjen-Smith & Jennifer Schroeder	COEHS	Tyranny to Sainthood: A Journey Through the Human Mind	S19	Students will explore the minds of great and notorious individuals throughout history as well as the systems that supported or worked against them. What made some of them leaders? Why did people follow them? What made them who they were? Explorations will include several individuals at both ends of the morality and ethics spectrums: Mother Theresa, Adolf Hitler, Ghandi, Charles Manson, and many others. Students will investigate the concept of mental health and mental illness by using historical, contemporary, and personal examples.
Yvonne Villanueva-Russell	CHSSA	WTF: Where's the Food?: Food, Culture, and Society	F18/S20	Eating is a biological imperative, but more often, we take it for granted. This course will view food production, processing, distribution, and consumption as social and cultural phenomena. We live in an ironic time where access to too little and too much food co-exists with many negative consequences. While food brings us together, it also differentiates us. We will use food as a lens to examine the complex social, economic, and cultural relations that determine what we eat and the people we become.
Yvonne Villanueva-Russell	CHSSA	The Aurora Initiative	F20	