Ampersand Programs

Ampersand Programs are special, multi-semester seminar programs open only to matriculating first-year students. An Ampersand Program combines a coherent, group-oriented learning experience with out-of-classroom activities while still allowing time for electives.

Ampersand Programs change each year and have included such topics as Missouri's Natural Heritage; The Theater as a Living Art; Women in Science; Phage Hunters; The Age of Pericles; The History, Memory, and Representation of the Holocaust; Writers as Readers; The Literary Culture of Modern Ireland; Medicine and Society; Global Citizenship Program; Mind, Brain and Behavior; Text and Tradition; and Biotech Explorers Pathway. Enrollment in each Ampersand Program has limited seating to ensure closely mentored personalized instruction. All Ampersand Programs constitute integrations and therefore fulfill one of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree. Ampersand Programs are open to all Arts & Sciences students, regardless of their intended majors, and they complement any major or pre-professional curriculum.

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Faculty

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Majors

Ampersand Programs are special, multi-semester seminar programs open to first-year students. There is no major available in this area.

Minors

Ampersand Programs are special, multi-semester seminar programs open to first-year students. There is no minor available in this area.

Courses

L61 FYP 116 Ampersand: Geographies of Globalization and Development
This course provides an overview to the geographies of globalization and development in the world today. We begin by engaging with a variety of theoretical perspectives, definitions, and debates in order to establish the foundations upon which students can conceptualize and understand existing patterns of inequality, social injustice, and environmental conflicts. In order to further highlight the different ways in which development and globalization interventions are experienced and contested, in the second half of the course, we will focus our considerations toward specific contemporary issues at the forefront of globalization and development debates, including migration and refugees, urbanization, sustainable development, tourism, and alter-globalization social movements. This course is restricted to first-year students in the Global Citizenship Program.
Credit 3 units.
A&S: AMP
A&S IQ: SSC, SC, SD
BU: HUM, IS
EN: S

L61 FYP 120A Ampersand: Introduction to Study of the Mind-Brain: Psychological, Biological, & Philosophical Perspectives
A consideration of three primary areas of research in cognitive science: attention, memory, and language. These topics are used to illustrate the techniques by which mental abilities are investigated and explained in psychology and neuroscience: the focus, in particular, is on the use of reaction time studies, brain imaging, and cell recordings to isolate the basic components that make up complex functions. In addition to the central concepts and theories in each area, the course will address philosophical implications of this research concerning how the mind and brain are related, how the mind-brain encodes or represents information, and the nature of consciousness. And there will be an emphasis on applying these findings to important problems, such as Alzheimer’s disease and deficits due to brain damage. The class is taught by three members of the faculty from different disciplines and combines a whole-group lecture with small discussion classes. The goal is to give students a good understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of cognitive science and to help them develop the ability to think and write critically about scientific research into the mind-brain.
Prerequisite: admission to the Hewlett Program in the Study of the Mind-Brain. Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: NSM BU: BA

L61 FYP 121 Ampersand: Pathfinder — A Sense of Place: Discovering Missouri’s Natural Heritage
Discovering Missouri's Natural Heritage is the first course in the Pathfinder program, and it will introduce students to their new home for the next four years. This interdisciplinary course will cover Missouri geology, climate, archaeology, and native megafauna. We will explore many of the habitats found in Missouri (e.g., prairie, forest, glade, stream) as well as the biology of the state’s diverse plant and animal wildlife (e.g., arthropods, mollusks, fish, salamanders, lizards, birds, mammals). This will provide a foundation that will inform each student's study of ecology, policy, and management in other courses. In addition to weekly lectures and discussions, students in this class will visit sites across the state during three weekend camping trips and two one-day trips. Attendance on field trips is an essential component of the course. Course enrollment is open only to students admitted into the Pathfinder Fellowship program. Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP BU: SCI

L61 FYP 141 Ampersand: Medicine and Society
This course provides the basic foundation in medical anthropology and cultural anthropology for students enrolled in the Medicine and Society Program. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the central themes and theoretical approaches employed by medical anthropologists to study health and illness in cross-cultural perspective. Topical areas include analyses of disease, illness and sickness at micro and macro levels; impact of personal and interpersonal factors on health; health effects of social, political, and economic factors; relationship of anthropology to biological and social science approaches; ecology of health and development; and cross-cultural health studies of language, gender, and race/ethnicity. Note: Content for this course overlaps with and replaces Anth 160 for students enrolled in the Medicine and Society Program. Open only to students enrolled in the Medicine and Society Program. Same as L48 Anthro 141
Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

L61 FYP 1503 Ampersand: Workshop for the Global Citizenship Program
This workshop, which is restricted to and required of participants in the Global Citizenship Program (GCP), is a companion to the core GCP fall course. The workshop will foster critical thinking and push students to explore the significance of cultural and social identities in a globalized society. Students plan a second campus event, and an optional off-campus trip provides further opportunities to engage with experts at large and gain new perspectives on the topics discussed in class. Credit 1 unit. A&S: AMP

L61 FYP 1504 Ampersand: Workshop for the Global Citizenship Program
This workshop, which is restricted to and required of participants in the Global Citizenship Program, is a continuation of the Fall L61 1503 workshop. Course content will foster critical thinking and push students to explore the significance of cultural and social identities in a globalized society. Students plan a second campus event, and an optional off-campus trip provides further opportunities to engage with experts at large and gain new perspectives on the topics discussed in class. Credit 1 unit. A&S: AMP

L61 FYP 181P Ampersand: Pathfinder: Environmental Seminar
A survey of pressing environmental issues, both local and global, as well as an introduction to the breadth of environmental work occurring on campus. Credit/no credit only.
Credit 1 unit. A&S: AMP

L61 FYP 1910 Ampersand: Phage Hunters
A research-based laboratory class for first-year students. Students join a national experiment organized by HHMI, with the goal of isolating and characterizing bacteriophage viruses found in the soil in the St. Louis area. Laboratory work includes the isolation and purification of a phage, DNA isolation and restriction mapping, and EM characterization of the phage. Several Washington University phages are selected for genome sequencing over winter break and then annotated in the spring in Biol 192 Phage Bioinformatics. Students who successfully isolate and annotate a phage may become co-authors on a scientific paper. Prerequisites: High school courses in biology and chemistry, at least one of which is at the AP or International Baccalaureate level; permission of the instructor. Limited to 40 students. One hour lecture, one hour discussion, and three hours lab per week. Course is for first-year students in the Phage Hunters Program only. Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: NSM Arch: NSM Art: NSM BU: SCI

L61 FYP 1920 Ampersand: Phage Bioinformatics
A research-based laboratory class for first-year students. Students join a national experiment organized by HHMI, with the goal of genomic characterization of a local phage. Laboratory work focuses on learning computer-based tools for genome analysis followed by annotation and comparative analysis of the genome of a phage (bacterial virus) that was isolated fall semester at WU and sequenced over winter break. Prerequisites: high school courses in biology, chemistry, and physics, at least one at the AP or International Baccalaureate level; permission of the instructor. Limited to 40 students; preference given to those completing Biol 191, Phage Hunters. One hour lecture, one hour discussion, and three hours lab per week. Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: NSM Arch: NSM Art: NSM BU: SCI

L61 FYP 215 Ampersand: The Theatre as a Living Art
Moving in and out of practice and theory, this plan interweaves a traditional introductory acting course with discussions of dramatic theory and visits to rehearsals where directors and actors work to shape the play. Must be taken concurrently with Drama 228C. Course is for first-year students in the Theatre as a Living Art Program only. Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H
L61 FYP 216 Ampersand: The Theatre as a Living Art
Continuation of the Theatre as a Living Art. Topic varies by year, please consult course listings for a description of current offering. Prerequisite: admission to the Theatre as a Living Art Ampersand program.

L61 FYP 2171 Ampersand: Women in Science
Throughout the centuries, women were interested and involved in the sciences. Their scientific contributions, however, have often been overlooked and their abilities questioned. In this year-long course, we will read biographies of famous women scientists and mathematicians, in addition to scholarly articles, to examine women's involvement in science and mathematics from the 19th century to the present. We will explore the ways in which women have pursued scientific knowledge, look at the cultural factors that affected them, and investigate the impact of scientific theory and social conditions on their opportunities and identities. In addition to reading about women in science, we will hear a variety of women talk about their careers. Faculty from chemistry, biology, engineering, earth and planetary sciences, medicine, physics, medical administration may visit, as well as female scientists who work in industry. This course is restricted to Women in Science participants who must have concurrent enrollment in Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
Credit 1.5 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: HUM, SC, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: BA EN: H

L61 FYP 2172 Ampersand: Women in Science: Contemporary Issues
Following the history of women in science that we explored in the fall semester, this class will begin a discussion and analysis of current issues in gender and science. We will look at the feminist critique of science and scientific objectivity before turning to women's careers in science. Several questions will be central to our inquiry: Do women "do" science differently? Could alternative science and mathematics education help increase women's representation in fields that continue to be male dominated like physics, engineering, and computer science? How do social expectations of men and women effect career choices and retention? In addition to exploring these issues, we will hear from a number of women scientists. Drawing from both the Hilltop and Medical School Campuses, our visitors will include faculty members from chemistry, biology, engineering, earth and planetary sciences, medicine, physics, medical administration, among others, who will share their reflections about women and science. This course is restricted to Women in Science Ampersand program participants.
Credit 1.5 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: SSC, SC, SD Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S