

# INQUIRY STUDIES 101

## ASKING QUESTIONS, MAKING CHOICES

### WARTBURG COLLEGE FIRST-YEAR INQUIRY STUDIES (IS) 101 OPTIONS

Welcome to **Wartburg College** and **SOAR registration**. As you sign up for a Summer Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) Day, you will be making your first big choice: **Which IS 101 classes will you list as your top choices?**

**Inquiry Studies (IS) 101** is the foundational class taken by all first-year students. This class begins during **Orange EXCEleration**, our fall orientation program. Often IS 101/O groups become good friends! The instructor for your section also will serve as your mentor, guiding you in making a successful transition to college.

Half the class includes content common across all IS 101 sections. You will have **two textbooks in common**, do some of the same readings, and complete similar assignments as all other new students. The other half of the class, while aiming toward the same goals, will be focused on the topic chosen by the instructor. **Please review these options carefully.**

Your choice will help place you in a class where you will meet other students and a faculty member with whom you share interests.



#### **IS 101:01 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE**

Why are you going to college? This course will explore this question and, more broadly, the role of education in society. How does it affect our lives, work, perspectives, and society? You will be encouraged to understand liberal education as a call to action through citizenship and social change. In addition to reading, analyzing, and discussing, you will explore these issues by engaging in activities outside of the classroom. By the end of the term, you will better understand how positive social change applies to your life.

*Instructor: Daniel Kittle, Dean of Students*



#### **IS 101:02 CHARACTER, ETHICS, AND ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP**

This course will provide an in-depth look at your personal character and ethics. A wide variety of materials and activities will be used to explore questions and choices related to this theme. Students will have ample opportunities to select and consider materials, experiences, and projects as they engage in the inquiry process and end the semester with a deeper appreciation of what it means to be an engaged citizen.

*Instructor: Kristin Teig Torres, Center for Community Engagement*



#### **IS 101:03 SOCIAL ACTIVISM**

Individuals are the greatest change agents in any society. We will look at current and historical movements of people who had great passion for a cause and worked to change the course of history through social activism.

*Instructor: Cassie Hales, Residential Life*



#### **IS 101:04 BANNED BOOKS**

This course will consider questions regarding why certain books have been banned. Many rich literary works have been censored at one time or another. Literature suppressed on political, religious, sexual, and social grounds will be studied in light of its status as censored work.

*Instructor: Ashley McHose, Vogel Library*



#### **IS 101:05 FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING: HOW TO HAVE THE RICHEST COLLEGE EXPERIENCE**

How are you going to ensure that you get the most out of your four years? What are strategies to be successful? How will you implement these strategies in natural ways? This class will explore what you need to know about higher education, Wartburg, and yourself to not only survive in college but to thrive in college.

*Instructor: Lindsey Leonard, Admissions*



#### **IS 101:06 VAMPIRES, SLAYERS, AND POP CULTURE**

This course examines how academics study popular culture, focusing on the vampire genre in film and television, with special attention to *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Students will view films and television episodes outside of class.

*Instructor: Erika Lindgren, History*



#### **IS 101:07 LEADING LIVES THAT MATTER**

What makes a life meaningful for the individual who lives it? What makes it significant to others? Can I shape a life for myself that integrates work, family, friends, and other interests or values, or will I be overwhelmed by the things competing for my time and attention?

*Instructor: Kathryn Kleinhans, Religion*



#### **IS 101:08 DIVERSITY AND THE MEDIA**

This course presents a current analysis and historical perspective of minority groups and how the media depicts them. Students will better understand why and how stereotypical media portrayals have been produced and how the underrepresentation of diversified images affects their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors toward others. Students will investigate alternative media voices, multicultural contributions to media, the image-rebuilding process, and corrective stereotypes.

*Instructor: Pamela Ohrt, Journalism & Communication*



#### **IS 101:09 TRANSCENDING THE "BLACK MIRROR"**

We spend most of our days staring at a black mirror: our phones, our computers. Staring back at us are trolls, fake news, and cyber bullies, a reflection of our own worst selves. Instead of disconnecting, we'll learn how to promote peace, justice, and civil discourse. We'll ask critical questions about what we are experiencing through the lenses of ethics, morals, politics, and faith. You'll never look at the internet (and your life on it) in the same way.

*Instructor: Wil Ranney, Religion*

### **IS 101:20 CHANGING THE WORLD**

For generations, students have struck out for college with the idea that their lives would somehow change the world. But what does that mean? In this section, we will inquire into the people, ideas, events and inventions that have changed the world in the last 500 years and in the last twenty years, identify what was necessary for them to do so, and consider what that might mean for those who would attempt to have such an impact.

*Instructor: Corey Smith, Adjunct Professor in History*



### **IS 101:30 SURVIVOR: THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE**

This section will present an overview of the history of the liberal arts college in the United States. There also will be discussions regarding skills, goals, and choices to increase the chances of becoming a successful college student.

*Instructor: Doug Koschmeder, Academic Affairs*



### **IS 101:31 ENGINEERING AND WRONG-SIZED GLASS**

Since its beginnings in the 19th century, the engineering profession has been difficult to classify. While engineers must be adept at the methods of mathematics and

science, they are not mathematicians or scientists. Engineering requires a creative bent, but neither are they artists or architects. We will examine some of the obvious and not-so-obvious contributions of the profession to the modern world in an attempt to understand what engineers "are" rather than what they "are not." At the heart of these discussions will be the fluid relationships between this and other learned professions and the liberal arts.

*Instructor: Dan Black, Engineering Science*



### **IS 101:32 FAITH AND THE QUESTIONING MIND**

Does faith have to be blind? Can you believe and still have questions? What is the relationship between faith and reason? We will explore the questions raised for people of faith

by challenging issues such as interfaith dialogue, the intersection of religion and science, and the problem of suffering.

*Instructor: Kristin Wendland, Religion*



### **IS 101:34 A SOCIAL HISTORY OF PUNISHMENT**

Since before the earliest written laws, societies have perceived a need to punish those who violate the group's rules. While the methods of punishment

and opinions about why we must punish have changed, a perceived necessity for punishment remains dominant in modern societies. We will trace the history of both the methods and reasons for punishment—from fines to torture, excommunication and death, and moral justice to deterrence—ending on contemporary theories that question the need to punish at all.

*Instructor: Brian McQueen, Sociology*



### **IS 101:36 CODES AND CODEBREAKING**

The evolution of secrecy through coding will be explored from its roots in military espionage to our battles to keep our secrets on the Internet. The course will focus on the people, the history, and, to some extent, the actual methods of cryptography.

*Instructor: Terry Letsche, Math, Computer Science & Physics*

### **IS 101:37 DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND LEARNING**

As free and responsible citizens, we need skills and tools that protect us, facilitate our learning, and help us discover, reflect, and read between the lines. In this course, you will explore what it takes to be a responsible digital citizen and how to manage your online safety. Moreover, you will find your voice in your reflections while using different digital tools and resources.

*Instructor: Maryam Rod Szabo, Assistant Professor of Education*

### **IS 101:38 VOCATION FOR THE WORLD'S WELFARE**

As a mentor from my college days asks, "Is it possible to know the world and still love the world?" A college education helps us to see the world more clearly, to notice the joys and sorrows mingled together. It also prepares us for leadership and service in a world that delights and frustrates us. We will consider how the choices we make during our college years help us to weave together belief and behavior.

*Instructor: Ron Johnson, Executive in Residence*

## **SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

Applications will be accepted through April 1. An invitation to apply for the Scholars Program has been extended to students in the top 10 percent of their graduating class, whose composite ACT score is 26 or higher, or who earned a high school GPA of 3.5 or higher. If a student applies and is accepted into the Scholars Program, SCH 101 substitutes for the IS 101 requirement in the Wartburg Plan of Essential Education. The two scholars sections will be linked in living-learning communities. Students will be housed together in the residence halls and participate in joint learning activities.

*Prerequisites: Admission to the Scholars Program, EN 111*



### **SCH 101:01 BETTER LIVING THROUGH SCIENCE**

Caffeine, aspirin, penicillin, cell culture, and technological advances are just a handful of things that make our lives better, but do we ever think about the

importance of science and technology in our lives? We will explore the image and common uses of these and many more scientific and technological advances among the general public—in terms we can all understand. While the ways we use science and technology may seem like progress, we also will look at the downsides to better living through science and technology, considering the ethical issues that arise as a result of such common uses as well the general scientific knowledge that each of us should have.

*Instructor: Leilani Zart, Chemistry*



### **SCH 101:02 UTOPIAS AND DYSTOPIAS**

The word "utopia" is based on a Greek pun and can mean both "no place" and "good place." A utopia is a good world that doesn't exist.

In this course, we will examine the shifting characteristics of utopias (and their dark twins, dystopias) as we study literature, film, and music throughout history, from Sir Thomas More to Janelle Monáe. In the process, we will explore questions crucial to the future of humanity. How do we make the world better for everyone? How do we handle differences of religion, race, gender, sexuality, age, class, and ability? How do we strike a balance between the needs of the individual and those of the community? And what is the value of a liberal arts education in addressing these complex, urgent problems?

*Instructor: Rachel Clark, English*

# WHAT'S Next?

If you have questions about IS 101, please contact the Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans, professor of religion, at [kathryn.kleinhans@wartburg.edu](mailto:kathryn.kleinhans@wartburg.edu) or 319-352-8283.

