

## **Core Seminar Sub Themes – Spring 2014**

### **Rhythm and Blues: A Dance of Life (Prof. Jackson Thompson)**

As a sub-theme, this course will explore various types of elements that humans use to navigate the dance of life. Through an exploration of music, culture, community relations, value systems and religious rituals, students will examine the expressions of happiness and its pursuit that mark time, as well as the interruptions – or the Blues - that throw off the rhythm.

### **Gender Identity (Prof. Lehman)**

“You throw like a girl!”

“She’s a slut.”

“Act like a man!”

“That’s so girly!”

“Who wears the pants around here?”

We’re born either female or male, but what does that really mean? Sex is biological, but gender is social, and the kind of woman or man we grow up to be depends on how we’re raised, what we learn, and what society expects of us. The roles once assigned to women and men were fixed, but they have been changing for some time. This course examines what it means to be a woman or a man and how gender identity develops. We’ll look at gender roles in the family, the classroom, the workplace, and on the sports field, and we’ll explore how the media depict such roles.

### **Think Globally, Act Locally (Prof. Achuthan)**

This course will present an opportunity to work on your aspirations, within 'the Idea of the Human', which are sometimes short-changed by our 'consumerist' society. Learn to 'Think Globally and Act Locally' working with students from two other sections on explorations of various sociological projects in New York City. We will view and discuss the movie 'Gattaca' in class, on the pros and cons of genetic counselling in reproduction, striving, cheating and trying to get ahead.

We will also examine the challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) to the human condition. Your final take away: you will acquire the behavioral experience and know-how to become more than what you are, anytime, anywhere.