

FEIT INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR PROGRAM (IDC 4050H)
Courses for Fall 2026

IDC 4050H (KTRH Honors) – It Can’t Happen Here: Dystopia and the State of the World
Tu/Th 2:30-3:45

Vince DiGirolamo (History)
Frank L. Cioffi (English)

The dystopia or negative utopia has become a scarily capacious genre. From dystopic science fiction literature to commercial advertising, to films, dystopias abound in our present. Dystopias imagine other worlds; ones parallel to and far worse than our own. Usually nonexistent at present, these worlds represent possible—maybe even probable—extensions of our own or of an author’s landscape into very different, often dangerous realms. In this course, we will explore what insights this genre offers about our own world and society, about those of individual authors, or about the human psyche itself. In this seminar, we will read some relatively recent (post-WWII) novels, including works by American, Canadian, Polish, Japanese, and Russian writers. We will also consider films, graphic novels, short stories, and essays to analyze what dystopias might tell about our possible, unforeseen future.

IDC 4050H (MWAH Honors) – Creativity Unleashed
W 11:10-2:05 (In-Person)

Sarah Saddler, Fine and Performing Arts
Maria A. Halbinger, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Creativity is everywhere. Against a backdrop of unprecedented global uncertainty and change, the ability to apply imaginative thinking to decisions, ideas, and relationships is now widely regarded as one of the most indispensable skills of the 21st century. This course invites students from all fields to unleash their creative potential through exploring practical and theoretical tenets of creativity and creative thinking from disciplines including business leadership, theater and performance, innovation studies, music, writing, photography, film, and others. Through weekly reading, case studies, guest visits, and experiential group activities including games, role-play, simulations, and more, students will explore what creativity is, the different forms it assumes across a wide array of professional paths and processes, and how it can be leveraged to fulfill opportunities in any realm of personal or professional life. Students will be responsible for engaging in weekly participatory and embodied learning exercises, as well as incorporating ideas learned throughout the semester in a final creative project.