



**Periclean Faculty Leadership (PFL) Program in the Humanities
Mellon Cohort IV
Periclean Faculty Leaders and Courses**

Bates College, Lewiston, ME

Mary Rice-DeFosse

Professor, French and Francophone Studies

Course: *Le Français dans le Maine/French in Maine*

Community Partner: Lewiston Public Library

Grand Challenges Addressed: Education, Immigration; Race and Inequality

Course Description: This course introduces students to the French-speaking populations of Maine, their histories as immigrants and the challenges they have faced and continue to face in the whitest state in the nation, including racism, ethnic discrimination constructed in terms of racial difference, and linguistic discrimination. It considers the intersections of French-speaking identity with race, social class, gender, and sexual orientation. Our community partner, the Lewiston Public Library, is a welcoming and neutral space for all community members of Lewiston-Auburn. Students will interact with French-speakers through programs designed to foster discussion in both French and English in order to develop much-needed English language skills for refugees and asylum seekers while offering students opportunities to strengthen intercultural and communicative skills. The discussion partnerships will eventually form the groundwork for documenting the immigrant experience, especially of “new Mainers” from Africa, through individual oral histories.

Peer: Désirée Díaz, Swarthmore College

Carleton College, Northfield, MN

Seth Peabody

Assistant Professor, German, Analysis & Inquiry

Course: *Seeking Shelter in a Dangerous World*

Community Partner: Greater Northfield Sustainability Collaborative (GNSC)

Grand Challenges Addressed: Climate Change; Immigration; Race and Inequality

Course Description: In this course, students will learn about how diverse individuals and communities have approached the idea of “home” within the context of changing, unfamiliar, unwelcoming, or seemingly ruined environments; they will then draw on these theoretical ideas to develop concrete input for local environmental leaders. In their civic engagement project, students will partner with the Greater Northfield Sustainability Collaborative (GNSC), a local environmental nonprofit that recently helped the city of Northfield to create and adopt a Climate Action Plan. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan will require sustained partnerships with a broad set of local communities and constituencies: the work is cultural and relational as much as political or technological. Therefore, in tandem with the GNSC, students will explore how diverse local stakeholders and communities understand their environment as a “home” and how these varied understandings impact the ways in which each group responds and contributes to sustainability initiatives.

Peer: Erika Huckestein, Widener University

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

Désirée Díaz

Associate Professor, Spanish

Course: *Latinx Images: Film and Visual Culture*

Community Partner: The Creative Living Room

Grand Challenges Addressed: Education; Immigration; Race and Inequality

Course Description: This course focuses on the representation of Latinx communities in film and visual culture and the politics behind those representations. From Carmen Miranda to Selena and Jennifer Lopez, from the films of Robert Rodríguez to the productions of Lin Manuel Miranda, the course will discuss how Latinx communities have been portrayed largely through a racialized and discriminatory point of view. Throughout the course, students will discuss the representation of issues such as gender stereotypes, race and ethnicity, migration, discrimination, and violence. Based on these discussions, and in collaboration with The Creative Living Room, a local organization that provides afterschool activities for elementary school children, students in the course will create an 8-week after-school program on diversity and multicultural representation, particularly related to Latinx communities. For the curriculum, students will select age-appropriate books and films, and organize activities that will provide the children with a better multicultural appreciation and understanding.

Peer: Mary Rice-DeFosse, Bates College

Widener University, Chester, PA

Erika Huckestein

Assistant Teaching Professor, History

Course: *Introduction to Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies: Gender, Race, and Civic Engagement*

Community Partner: The Yes We Can Achievement and Cultural Center

Grand Challenge Addressed: Race and Inequality

This course focuses on the experiences of women and the significance of gender from an interdisciplinary perspective. It explores the extent to which gender, as well as other social characteristics such as race, class, and sexual orientation affect access to opportunity, power, and resources. Students in the course will engage with the history and theory of women's activism, paying particular attention to gender and patriarchy in relation to other systems of oppression based on race, class, and ethnicity. Students will also participate in a community-based learning project developed in collaboration with the Yes We Can Achievement and Cultural Center in Chester, whose mission is to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace and justice for all.

Peer: Seth Peabody, Carleton College

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