

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING QUESTIONNAIRE

Your Name: _____ Your Major: _____

Your email address: _____

Please complete both pages of this questionnaire and return it by email **BEFORE** Friday, July 31st to:

Laura Messina – laura.messina@necmusic.edu

Brass, Percussion, Strings (including Harp and Guitar), and Woodwinds

Yukii Ntumba – yukii.ntumba@necmusic.edu

Composition, Contemporary Improvisation, Jazz, Piano, and Voice

1. General Advising Questions:

Your responses to these questions will help us prepare for your arrival at NEC in August.

1. Whether you are an official “transfer student” or not, have you ever taken any college courses for credit?
_____yes _____no
2. If yes, have you had the college or university where you took the courses send an official transcript to NEC?
_____yes _____no
3. Did you take any AP or CLEP tests for college credit? _____yes _____no
4. If yes, did you have your test scores sent to NEC? _____yes _____no
5. What, if anything, would you like your Academic Advisor to know about you and/or your academic needs before you arrive for the Fall 2020 semester? Is there anything we can do to help ease your transition to NEC?

2. Liberal Arts Seminar Preference:

NEC’s Liberal Arts department requires a Liberal Arts Seminar for first-year students. This course, offered in the fall semester, explores a single topic through major texts and discussion to encourage active learning and participation. Since NEC pre-registers first-year students, we ask that you indicate your choice of three seminars (using the numbers 1, 2, and 3 next to the description to indicate your order of preference). We hope to honor but cannot guarantee your first choice since section sizes are limited and other scheduling factors may come into play. We will offer priority based on the order in which we receive your response.

Please note that non-native English speakers who have scored below 88 on the TOEFL will not register for a Liberal Arts Seminar in the first semester.

See second page for Liberal Arts Seminar course descriptions.

**Liberal Arts Seminars, Fall 2020:
Rank 1, 2, and 3 in order of preference.**

_____ ***Diversity and Difference*** with Jill Gatlin

“Diversity” has become a buzzword for universities, communities, artists, businesses, and politicians, but what does it really mean? This seminar explores diversity and human difference as subjects of both celebration and controversy, through the study of personal experiences and observations as well as literary, popular, and scholarly writings. We will examine how we—as individuals, community members, and citizens of different nations—experience and define human difference and diversity on a daily basis. Looking at how race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, age, religion, (dis)ability, and other differences shape people’s lives, we’ll consider both destructive and constructive uses of the idea of difference.

_____ ***Consumption and Waste in America*** with Jill Gatlin

This seminar examines habits of consuming and discarding at the individual, community, corporate, and national levels to think about the concept of “culture.” We may be accustomed to thinking of “culture” as the opposite of “trash”- yet nearly everything we consume becomes or produces waste. Looking at fiction, essays, poetry, visual art, advertisements, architecture, and waste itself, we will question how throwaways, garbage, and waste - labels for not only what we throw in the trashcan but also groups of people, art, or even landscapes - define culture. In addition to short written responses, students will develop a unique argument regarding an object or phenomenon of “waste” of their choosing, using skills of detailed observation, close analysis, and interpretive questioning.

_____ ***Complexities in Repairing the Environment*** with Matthew Duveneck

Solutions to environmental problems raise scientific, economic, and ethical questions about whether and how humans should interact with their environment. Through readings, reflection, and discussion, and through the use of several case studies, we will explore the merits of both mitigation and adaptation strategies to problems arising due to climate change, wildlife-human conflicts, wetland degradation, air pollution, and invasive species. For example, we’ll discuss mitigation strategies to reduce the magnitude of climate change itself, such as recovery of methane from landfills, but we’ll also explore adaptation techniques that focus on limiting the impacts of climate change, such as using alternative crops suited for a changing climate. Although mitigating a problem may theoretically provide the best solution, the process is often expensive and rarely ameliorates an environmental problem completely. Students in this seminar will gain an appreciation for the complexity and challenges of the decisions we make that affect the natural world.

_____ ***The Presidential Campaign, 2020*** with James Klein

This seminar offers students the opportunity to discuss contemporary American politics in the context of this year’s on-going campaign. Together, we will read about – and analyze – the personalities, the policies, and the strategies that shape the campaign as it is happening. We will then compare this campaign – with all its unique features – to past elections, to better understand the workings of American democracy.

_____ ***Family Dramas*** with Patrick Keppel

This seminar explores the tension between the individual and the family by examining plays and films in which this tension is the central focus. The impulse toward creating a coherent, even impenetrable, family unit is by necessity strong, yet in practice that unit is relentlessly challenged from within by problems of hierarchy, power, individuality, and communication, and challenged from without by past family patterns, social obligations, or financial pressures. Drama and film are useful art forms to study these family conflicts because of the way they provide a provocative glimpse behind the walls that hide such tensions from the world. Seminar participants will also examine the complex concept of the family from the point of view of contemporary history/anthropology and contemporary sociology.

_____ ***Happiness*** with Jacob Vance

This seminar offers a survey of philosophical theories of what constitutes human happiness. The seminar will cover philosophical texts from the ancient and late antique traditions (Aristotle, Epicurus, Seneca, Augustine), the early modern period (Hobbes, Butler, Hume, Bentham, Kant), and the modern period (Schopenhauer, Mill, Nietzsche, Sartre). It will also include a number of readings by contemporary authors on the subject of happiness. In addition to covering foundational historical and contemporary writings on happiness from the Western philosophical tradition, the seminar will focus on developing college-level skills in critical reading, thinking, writing and speaking through the study of philosophical perspectives on happiness.