



SEEDS Clusters



# Why take a cluster?

- Clusters create meaningful pathways through the curriculum, allowing students to complete SEEDS requirements while exploring topics of interest. By focusing on a common topic, students will appreciate how different disciplinary lenses analyze a common idea and be part of a community of students and faculty exploring together. Faculty members in each cluster work together to create coherence and meaning. Students will appreciate how different classes speak to each other, reinforce or even reinterpret different ideas. There is no downside to participating in a cluster. Students are encouraged to take the full roster of 3-5 courses. To allow flexibility, however, there is no requirement to complete an entire cluster.

Course	SEEDS Learning	Term in Offer
SEED 109-01 Selected Topics: Analyzing Cultures and Societies: Writing New Jersey	Analyzing Cultures and Societies	Fall 2026
PHIL 221 Reconstructing American Liberty	Political and Civic Life	Fall 2026
AMSD 340 Representing the American West	Historical Thinking	Spring 2027
SEED 110 Selected Topics: Creative Expression: Hip Hop and American Theater	Creative Expression	Spring 2027
AMSD 380 Shakespeare and the Frontiers of American Identity	Literary and Artistic Analysis	Spring 2027

# American Identities and Cultures

What does it mean to be American right now? This SEEDS cluster explores American identity through culture, creativity, and everyday life. You'll examine music, media, art, ideas, and social movements to understand how race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and power shape who we are and how we connect. Learn to question what's familiar, listen across differences, and see your own story as part of a larger American conversation. Being American is not a fixed state, but a vibrant and diverse way of living together. Don't just live in America—learn how to read it.

# Health, Justice and Storytelling

Course	SEEDS Learning	Term in Offer
MEDH 230 Your Story Matters	Interactive Communication	Fall 2026
SEED 111-01 SEEDS Special Topics: Ethical Inquiry: Healthcare approaches to Justice	Ethical Inquiry	Fall 2026

Explores how health, justice, and storytelling shape people's lives and the systems that care for them. These courses examine real questions about inequality in healthcare, disability representation, and access to care. We explore how stories matter in medicine and justice; how cultural images influence public understanding; and how ethical and policy decisions affect individuals and communities. Furthermore, by listening closely to others, we learn how paying attention to social context can lead to more just and inclusive ways of caring for one another.

# Language Diversity and Rights

Why does the idea of speaking multiple languages make some people so uncomfortable—and what are we losing when languages disappear? At a moment when English dominance collides with AI's promise to "solve" translation and preservation, courses in this cluster invite you to explore what's truly at stake when languages are lived, embodied, and passed down through communities. You'll examine language rights, dive into the art and ethics of translation, and engage directly with linguistic diversity—including documenting oral histories in languages spoken right here on campus. Whether languages need bodies to live or algorithms to survive, you'll discover how to respect, reclaim, and champion the voices that make our world richer.

Course	SEEDS Learning	Term in Offer
Anth 230 Indigenous Languages and Lifeways	Political and Civic Life	Fall 2026
ITAL 230 Living in Translation	Interactive Communication	Fall 2026
LNGN 240 Languages of the World	Analyzing Cultures and Societies	Spring 2027
SEED 111 SEEDS Special Topics: Ethical Inquiry	Ethical Inquiry	Spring 2027

# Packaging Nature

Air, water, food, and energy shape everything from what we wear to how societies survive crises. This cluster challenges students to rethink these everyday natural resources by examining how humans have used, valued, and transformed resources across time and cultures. Through discussion-based classes, case studies, field trips, and community-engaged projects, students explore the environmental, social, and ethical dimensions of resource use from multiple perspectives, including science, history, literature, and the arts.

Course	SEEDS Learning	Term in Offer
SEED 111-02 SEEDS Selected Topics: Ethical Inquiry: Fashion, Resources, and Environmental Impact	Ethical Inquiry	Fall 2026
SEED 102-01 SEEDS Selected Topics: Effective Writing II: Health Tourism.	Effective Writing II	Fall 2026
SEED 113 SEEDS Selected Topics: Scientific Reasoning: Climate and Society	Scientific Reasoning	Spring 2027
SEEDS 114 SEEDS Selected Topics: Historical Thinking: Food in Wartime	Historical Thinking	Spring 2027

# Propaganda

In an era of nonstop media influence, political spin, and viral persuasion, we will investigate how influence works. Courses in the Propaganda cluster will uncover how propaganda shapes politics, culture, and everyday life across film, literature, and contemporary media. From George Orwell's *1984* and *Animal Farm* to the cinematic machinery of Nazi propaganda, we will unpack the fundamentals of propaganda and persuasion, learning to dissect political discourse, spot manipulation, and critically evaluate information in a media landscape where clarity is increasingly hard to find.

Course	SEEDS Learning	Term in Offer
CMST / POLS 220: Introduction to Political Communication.	Political and Civic Life	Fall 2026
LGNG 255 Language of Propaganda	Political and Civic Life	Fall 2026
SEED 112 SEEDS Selected Topics: Literary and Artistic Analysis: George Orwell and the Politics of Language	Literary and Artistic Analysis	Spring 2027
SEEDS 109 SEEDS Selected Topics: Analyzing Cultures and Societies: Nazi Cinema and Propaganda	Analyzing Cultures and Societies	Spring 2027



# Wicked Women: Women's Power, Persecution and Resistance

Course	SEEDS Learning	Term in Offer
SEED 109-02 Selected Topics: Analyzing Cultures and Societies: Witches, Healers and Folk Magic in Italy	Analyzing Cultures and Societies	Fall 2026
SEED 114-01 SEEDS Selected Topics: Historical Thinking: Suspicious Women: Witches, Mystics, Heretics and other crimes	Historical Thinking	Fall 2026

Throughout history, women who claimed knowledge or authority were often labeled as dangerous. Healers became witches. Mystics became heretics. Midwives became criminals. Women in politics were dangerous, deceitful, or even diabolical. Why did some women draw suspicion from authorities, and how did they resist and survive? We will study trial records of accused witches, folktales and other sources to recognize patterns in how societies govern women's bodies and speech. These struggles are not just historical: we will examine ongoing conflicts over who gets to hold power and who is tarnished as "wicked."