

## **Core Concentration Theme Descriptions:**

### **Identities & Systems:**

Students engaging in the Identities & Systems Core Concentration will reflect on the ways that societies, communities, and individuals define themselves and how they organize their understanding of different aspects of the world. Students will approach these concepts from a variety of disciplinary perspectives in order to explore questions such as:

- How are identities constructed and expressed on an individual, societal, and global level?
- How do those identities inform and shape the systems (of knowledge, thought, politics, expression, technology, etc.) that order our world?
- How do the identities and systems that we engage with determine our worldview and values?
- How are the members of a particular identity treated by other individuals and by the systems around them?
- How are systems and identities defined and constructed across different disciplines?
- How and why do individual and collective identities and systems change over time?

### **Power & Justice:**

Students engaging in the Power & Justice Core Concentration will examine how ideas of power and justice shape and challenge each other, as well as their repercussions for societies, individuals, and the world. Students will draw on a range of disciplinary approaches to consider questions such as:

- How have the concepts of power and justice been theorized and explored across different disciplines and time periods?
- How do issues of gender, sexuality, race, disability, ethnicity, class, and sustainability shape the dynamics of power and justice?
- How has power been challenged historically and in the present?
- How have concepts of political, social, and environmental justice evolved?
- How do structures of power support and inhibit the search for justice?

### **Sustainability & Progress:**

Students engaging in the Sustainability & Progress Core Concentration will explore ways in which their world has historically moved forward socially and scientifically to determine how we currently imagine progress being sustained into the future. Students will bridge the disciplines of history, ethics, creative arts, economics, and the social, political, and natural sciences to engage questions such as:

- What is progress and how do we quantify it so that we know when we have achieved progress?
- What is sustainability and why is it important personally and globally?
- What is the aesthetic expression of progress and sustainability?
- How do progress and sustainability interact as we seek desired outcomes?
- How are we defined by progress and sustainability? Do progress and sustainability add meaning to our lives?
- What are the social and scientific consequences of progress? Sustainability?
- How has technology encouraged or prevented progress and is it sustainable?

### **Exploration & Imagination:**

Students engaging in the Exploration & Imagination Core Concentration will build an understanding of the human quest for knowledge through innovation and discovery. Students will be exposed to different realms of knowledge, be challenged to question knowledge, and be asked to reimagine how we gain knowledge. Students will bridge the arts and the sciences to pursue questions such as:

- How have humans historically gained knowledge and has that changed with technological advances?
- How does the role of imagination differ in artistic and scientific exploration?
- How do we verify our interpretation of the world through exploration?
- How does knowledge gained in different ways change our view of the world?
- How do we integrate knowledge from different realms to gain a holistic perspective?