South Mountain College

South Mountain College is an academic program in the College of Arts and Sciences that unites a community of students and faculty in the exploration of intellectually exciting and practically significant topics of investigation. Students in South Mountain College are challenged to assume responsibility for their educations and make connections across disciplinary barriers. Assisted by core faculty – along with faculty and staff ‘friends’ of the program – South Mountain students also draw from the curricular resources and intellectual capital of the University. Its guiding philosophy is that the problems and conundrums which confront us as individuals and as citizens are so thoroughly interconnected that our only hope of disentangling them is through creative, critical and comparative thinking across the full range of academic disciplines, and beyond.

Students work closely with their traditional major advisors, faculty within SMC, and peers having a range of experience in the program. As outcomes of their South Mountain College experience, students will experience a strong liberal-arts education focused on the connections across disciplines, they will develop a portfolio of their accomplishments, and they will gain tangible skills in critical analysis, grappling with complex issues and problems, and managing their own work and that of others to make timely progress on difficult issues.

In SMC courses, letter grades are not used and students simply earn credit towards graduation if they successfully complete the course (a notation of "CR" will appear on their transcript). In lieu of letter grades, for each offering of each course, students receive a narrative assessment provided by their instructor, and these assessments become part of their permanent record.

For additional information, please contact Peter Zeitler, Benjamin Wright, or Joan Ramage Macdonald

Courses

SMC 010 South Mountain College Seminar 2 Credits
The subject of this multidisciplinary seminar is the critical analysis of significant ideas. Each offering is organized around the discussion of books, articles, compositions, performances, films, and artworks selected by the students in consultation with their faculty mentor; sources will be drawn from across disciplines. May include associated workshops that provide a special focus on writing and communication skills. This course is intended for first-year students in the SMC program, and meets concurrently with SMC 200.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

SMC 200 South Mountain College Advanced Seminar 2 Credits
The subject of this multidisciplinary seminar is the critical analysis of significant ideas. Each offering is organized around the discussion of books, articles, compositions, performances, films, and artworks selected by the students in consultation with their faculty mentor; sources will be drawn from across disciplines. May be taken by non-South Mountain students dependent on available space, by permission.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: ND

SMC 050 South Mountain College Investigations 3 Credits
Studies related to the annual theme, involving work across disciplines by members of South Mountain College. Can involve individual or group work, weekly meetings and discussions, and written, artistic, technical or other work as required to explore or make progress on the issue under study. This course is intended for first-year students in the SMC program, and meets concurrently with SMC 250.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated. Attribute/Distribution: ND

SMC 250 South Mountain College Advanced Investigations 3 Credits
Studies related to the annual theme, involving work across disciplines by members of South Mountain College. Can involve individual or group work, weekly meetings and discussions, and written, artistic, technical or other work as required to explore or make progress on the issue under study. If space is available, the course may be taken by non-SMC students, with permission, beginning in the fall semester with the expectation that students will take SMC 250 in both the fall and spring semesters.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated. Attribute/Distribution: ND