In a first year seminar, individuals experience a whole different way of learning. Confronting Cultural Dilemmas is a seminar that explores issues in the world and teaches students how to research, critically analyze, and work within a group to explore deeper meanings into the cases provided.

- Students will look into many different issues within society like culture, law, art and many others.
- This first year seminar gives students an opportunity to work in a classroom setting, while working with others and looking at issues that are happening in the world.

**What we do**

1. A group member reads out the scenario. With one member writing down the information, the group works together to formulate all the facts that we know based on the given information.

2. Once the “What We Know” is complete, the group then works to deduct everything “We Don’t Know”.

3. Once all the “What We Don’t Know” have been written down, the group then creates learning issues, one for each member of the group of or teams of two, based on what information we need to gain.

4. The members of the group do research on their own time and present their material to the group at the next meeting, relating the research back to the case.

5. Group have discussions and try to draw a conclusion to the case after all the research and deductive reasoning has been completed.

**Example Cases**

**Will’s Will**
- This case study examined how historians create a legitimate timeline and record in order to prove authenticity when faced with adversity.
- The case was based around the Sander’s portrait said to be the only portrait of William Shakespeare painted in his lifetime and why the fakes can’t compare to it.
- During the study the group actually got to examine the painting which is located in the library archives.

**Chimp or Chump?**
- This case study examined the difference between being a human and being considered a person.
- It took a look at the line between homosapiens and their closely related families to determine why do we have rights that don’t extend onto our relatives.
- The case was based around an article about a chimpanzee called Hiasl and his trying-to-be guardian Paula Stibbe fighting for chimpanzee’s and other primate’s right to be considered a person under the law.

**Where We’ve Visited**

**Conclusion**

This course has been an exciting and innovative way to learn about the world. Through it, we have acquired and developed many fundamental skills required in a post-secondary learning environment, such as critical thinking, effectively presenting information and working in a team. With engaging and complex topics, this seminar-based class teaches you to think outside the box. Ultimately, this course will leave a lasting impression on any first year student transitioning into university.