

LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM COURSE OFFERINGS, FALL 2019

ENGL 110: Academic Writing (3)

This course introduces students to academic discourse, emphasizing such tasks as researching and arguing a position, analyzing information, and defining complex terms. Through individual conferences, writing workshops, journal writing, and regular writing assignments, students will be encouraged to develop strategies for writing clearly, effectively, and creatively for a variety of purposes and audiences. (To register for ENGL 110, students must demonstrate proficiency in the skills taught in ENGL 105 or ENGL 109. ENGL 110 satisfies the writing requirement in the Core curriculum. All students take ENGL 110 in the first year).

COMM 101: Oral Communication (3)

This performance course introduces students to the art and practice of face-to-face human communication. Classwork will help students grow their capacity to express themselves clearly, informatively, and persuasively in contexts both public and private. Interpersonal and group communication experiences are emphasized alongside focused work in public presentation. Progressive skill set development will help students refine abilities to generate, arrange, detail, word and deliver various types of messages with an individual sense of purpose and style.

ENGL 141: Introduction to Literature (3)

This course introduces students to the formal study of literature, with an emphasis on analyzing a variety of literary texts in their social and historical contexts, interpreting the meanings of those texts, and developing close readings. Special attention will be given to relations between thematic content and formal properties and readings must include key works of poetry, drama, fiction, and creative nonfiction from a range of historical moments and cultural contexts.

ART 141: Imaginative Writing (3)

These introductory writing courses will ask students to work in several genres, including poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and/or drama. Class focuses on defining good writing and encouraging a process approach. Students will be asked to work through multiple drafts of work and participate in group editing sessions.

HIST 101: Western Civilization

This course examines Western Civilization from the foundations of human history to the West's domination of the globe at the beginning of the First World War. Major themes of the course can include gender and class, war, classical antiquity, Christianity, feudal society, capitalism, the Reformation, democratic institutions, the international state system, nationalism, and imperialism.

HIST 102: Global History II

This course investigates the development of globalization from the mid-18th century—an era of revolution that birthed both new modes of production and new social relationships. Our discussion of the global modern will focus on the manner in which people sought to understand, control, and transform the world around them according to their own ideological prescriptions for order (nationalism, liberal democratic capitalism, colonialism and communism, first among them) and will trace resistance to these same attempts to create order.

HIST 111: American History to 1877

The course begins in the centuries before European arrival, continues through colonization, the American Revolution, and the Civil War and Reconstruction, making many other stops along the way. Major themes that we shall address include but are not limited to: economic development and the emergence of social classes; racial slavery and its causes and consequences; everyday life and the position of workers, women, immigrants, etc.; the development of distinctive forms of American culture; and the complex development of US politics.

NSCI 100: The Scientific Endeavor (3)

A study of the empirical methods scientists use to gain knowledge about the world and how this knowledge shapes our human experience. The course offers a study of the scientific approach, its limitations, and what distinguishes science from other approaches to understanding the world. While examining contemporary issues in science, students will learn how scientific observations and data become accepted scientific theories, how controversies are settled, and how science and scientists retain credibility and authority.

ECON 111: Introduction to Microeconomics (3)

Students will study the allocation of scarce resources in a market economy, supply and demand, comparative advantage and trade, consumer theory, theory of the firm, market structure, pricing of factors of production, income distribution, and the role of government.

PSYC 101: Introduction to Psychology (3)

A survey of basic topics, concepts, and psychological principles, including child development, learning, memory, motivation, physiological influences, stress, coping, personality dynamics, social functioning, abnormal behavior, and psychotherapy. Special emphasis is given to covering disabilities, crime and violence, profiling and forensics, managing stress, psychotropic medications, additions, brain injury, and counseling. At the end of this course, it is expected students will (a) understand the research principles that make psychology a scientific discipline; (b) be able to critically evaluate research findings; (c) understand the biological and psychological factors involved in cognitive and emotional development from birth to old age; (d) know the causes and effects of psychological disorders; (e) appreciate various psychotherapies; and (f) be capable of evaluating the use of prescription medication for treating mental disorders, among other topics.

SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology

This course introduces sociology's basic concepts, theories, research methods, and subfields, covering such topics as culture, socialization, group behavior, deviance, and social inequalities. Students will come to understand the many ways that the lives of individuals are shaped by the social world, and how human behaviors and interactions serve to both reinforce and reshape existing social structures. This course was previously listed as CORE 157.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy (3)

Philosophy is the attempt to answer, through rational reflection, the deepest and most fundamental questions of human existence. What is the meaning of life? How can people achieve true happiness and fulfillment? Does God exist? What do we mean by God? Why should we be moral? How should we decide what is right? Are people really free? Do humans have souls, or are we just physically complex organisms? What is a soul? Is there life after death? What can we know and how can we know it? This course invites students to critically reflect on these and other perennial issues through contemporary and historical texts.

PHIL 171: Popular Culture and Philosophy (3)

This course explores fundamental questions of human existence through the lens of popular culture. While a good deal of popular culture is undoubtedly shallow and ephemeral, some is substantive and enduring. Popular but high-quality films (e.g., Star Wars and The Matrix), television series (e.g., House), and books (e.g., Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings) often raise big questions in compelling ways. Although particular topics and readings in this course will vary from semester to semester, likely topics include: the limits of human knowledge, the nature of reality, the possibility of free will, ethical decision making, individual liberty versus state authority, the meaning of life, and life after death.

THEO 160: Christian Ethics (3)

Christian Ethics is the discipline of thinking critically about how best to embody the Christian way of life in particular places and times. This class investigates concepts such as narrative, practice, law, virtue, and liturgy and the ways they inform the Christian moral life. These notions will be applied to concrete moral questions of contemporary relevance.

CJ 110 — Introduction to the Criminal Justice System (3)

Survey of the formal institutions of social control: the body of the criminal law, the police, the courts, and various forms of corrections. The course perspective may be alternately historical, organizational (sociological), or social-psychological. May includes visits and field trips.

CORE 193/IB 241 — Globalization

This course will provide a broad overview of the environment in which international business takes place. The topics to be covered include but are not limited to analysis of the political, legal, ethical, and cultural environments in which international businesses operate; understanding corporate strategy formulation in the face of government intervention; understanding the International monetary system; and discussing international trade and foreign direct investment. The course covers a broad spectrum of topics to equip students with the fundamentals of international business.

MATH 128 — Introduction to Statistics, Data Analysis, and Applications to Life Science (4)

Basic methods of data analysis. Emphasis on the use of logical reasoning in analyzing statistical data. Students are taught how to clearly communicate statistical results. Topics include displaying data graphically; measures of central tendency; measures of dispersion/ variability; general laws of probability; normal, t, chi-square, and F distributions; sampling distributions; confidence intervals; hypothesis testing; analysis of variance; two-way tables; use of statistical software. Biological applications are emphasized. Three 50-minute lectures and one 50-minute lab per week. Prerequisite skill in arithmetic and Algebra II is required. Closed to students who have taken or who are currently taking MATH 124, MATH 126, ECON 221, PSYC 220, or SOCS 261. Offered fall semesters.