

# **GENERAL STUDIES PORTAL TOPICS OFFERED FOR FALL 2015**

## **ACCT 188GS - General Studies Portal: Accounting Numbers and the Business Press - 3 hours**

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

What is the connection between the annual report of the corporation and the information reported in the financial press? The numbers derived by accountants and reported in the annual financial statements appear in business periodicals in several ways. These ways include earnings reports, stock and bond listings, debt ratings, investment recommendations, and stories that relate to public policy. In this class we will explore the use of accounting numbers in these and other contexts through a study of annual reports to stockholders, financial statements of corporations, and daily reading of the Wall Street Journal.

## **ART 188GS - General Studies Portal: Photography and Cultural Change - 3 hours**

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

Photography and Cultural Change is a course that will explore the role photography has, and has had, in shaping cultures. We will examine individual photographs and small groups of photographs from around the world and throughout photography's history and discuss how they were made, why they were made, and ultimately explore the affect each of these image(s) has had in shaping culture. There will be theoretical exploration as well as a practical exploration of photography and its relationship to culture. The course will be graded on quizzes and papers and will culminate in original photographic research. The final project will be in the form of a printed and bound book that has photographic images that you capture. These images will explore a specific element of your social landscape and the written research will relate to this social landscape and other photographs that have explored similar ideas.

## **BIOL 188GS - General Studies Portal: Extreme Biology - 3 hours**

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

Biology contains many examples that dramatically demonstrate mechanisms and concepts in the field. By highlighting these examples it is possible to learn about biology in an engaging way. Focusing on examples also allows the interdependence of fields of biology and other sciences to be shown. By focusing on the "-est" (to borrow from the feature of this name in Science News) the frontiers of biology will be examined as opposed to attempting to broadly learn the discipline.

## **BSAD 188GS - General Studies Portal: Strengths & Skills in the 21st Century Workplace - 3 hours**

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This course is designed to emphasize critical thinking about contemporary career choices, strengths and skills that fit with career choices, and how those strengths and skills impact the ability to identify and address challenges in the global environment. The goal of this course is to provide students with opportunities to identify individual strengths and skills, and then relate those strengths and skills to various career disciplines and global issues.

## **CSIT 188GS - General Studies Portal: Cyber Crime - 3 hours**

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

Arguably one of the most important challenges of the 21st century, with billions lost each year, cyber crime has evolved from a minor nuisance to a major concern involving well-organized actors and highly sophisticated organizations. This course will examine computer-related crime and what individuals and businesses can do to protect themselves. This class will discuss specific examples of criminal activities involving computers. Sample topics will include ID Theft, spam, phising and pharming, fraud, protecting personal privacy, passwords and encryption, organized crime, and dangers to avoid. Students will be shown how they can use software to safeguard their identity, data and computers, as well as how to avoid various on-line scams. The rights and responsibilities of software developers will be discussed. This course will also examine the effect of cyber crimes on the global economy and individual freedoms and rights around the world, and discuss future issues with respect to cyber crime.

## **CSP 188GS - General Studies Portal: Culture and Ethnic Identity - 3 hours**

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This course addresses the impact of culture on the development of personal identity and cross-cultural interactions. Topics addressed include becoming aware of one's own assumptions, worldview values, and biases; understanding types of racism and their relationship to identity development; understanding the impact of majority or minority status on identity development and cross-cultural interactions; and promoting understanding among culturally diverse groups.

**ENG 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Old Norse Mythology in History and Popular Culture - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

Ancient and medieval mythologies have long held a prominent place in our culture, as shown by the wide range of editions of the original texts, the retellings in more accessible forms, and the adaptations that place the characters and events in new contexts. In this course, we will concentrate specifically on Old Norse legends and mythology and analyze both the original stories and how those stories have been adapted and reimagined in current popular culture. We will focus on three specific narratives: the story of Beowulf, tales of the Old Norse Vikings, and legends of the gods and their ultimate destruction at Ragnarok. We will read original versions of all of these stories and then examine the different ways that they have been transformed in a variety media for many different audiences. Texts will include novels such as Eaters of the Dead by Michael Crichton and American Gods by Neil Gaiman; graphic novels such as Alexis E. Fajardo's Kid Beowulf and the Bloodbound Oath; and recent blockbusters such as Thor. Comparing these texts to the originals will allow us to examine what about these myths make them so enduring and what about our culture makes us adapt them in the ways that we do.

**FIN 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Philosophy of Business and Market Economics - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

Philosophy of Business and Market Economics will introduce the student to the cultural, historical and philosophical thought surrounding the issues of business and free-market activity throughout the ages. By examining the words of great authors, students will develop a sense of the timeless nature of business activity and commercial enterprise and make the observation that the issues currently facing individuals and business have their origins in philosophical writing, thought and speculation centuries and even millennia old. A brief historical trace will be made to connect us to those market players who pursued many of the same goals and objectives as we do today, albeit with limited resources and inefficient political and economic tools with which to do so.

**FSID 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Intimate Relationships - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This introductory course is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary course about human intimate relationships. It includes a review of theory and empirical research along with an exploration of the fundamental human experiences of intimate relationships.

**HIST 188GS** - General Studies Portal: History of Warfare - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This course is a survey of military technology, tactics and strategies in a global perspective. Students will investigate questions such as: What are the tactics and strategies of war making? How has military technology evolved over time? How do different cultures adapt to and utilize military systems and technologies?

**HIST 188GS** - General Studies Portal: The Worlds of the Bible - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

Few literary works have exerted such a large influence upon World History as the Bible. From ancient times to the present, the various texts that comprise the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures have shaped religious cultures, influenced philosophers and ethicists, inspired poets, musicians, artists and film-makers, and provided direction, hope and solace for countless religious believers in societies around the world. At the same time, the meaning of these texts has frequently been contested; the Bible has served as a point of controversy in wars, social movements, political conflicts and humanitarian campaigns of almost every kind. Using biblical texts, scholarly writings about the Bible, and various literary and artistic representations of biblical stories drawn from around the world and across time, students will discuss, analyze and write about the worlds of the Bible: the historical world that shaped the texts, the literary world within the texts, and the contemporary world in which readers interpret and apply the texts. By the end of the semester students will have a better

understanding of the Bible as literature and of the various ways that biblical writings have influenced the history of the world.

**ITEC 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Career Decisions: Achieving Success in Today's Global Economy - 3 hours  
Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This course will provide the student with insight into making career decisions in light of today's ever increasing global economic environment. No longer can a student think only domestically. Regardless of what career field a student chooses, they are sure to be impacted by the global nature of business in today's ever changing fast-paced economic environment. To be successful tomorrow will require the student to think and act "Globally." Globalization is a reality.

**ITEC 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Energy Gone Green - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

The environmental, social, political, and economic impact of current and proposed energy policies and practices will be explored in a broad context along with a detailed examination of the choices for the consumption/conservation of energy on a local, regional, and global scale.

**MGT 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Health Care Management: Building Clinical and Institutional Trust - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

Students interested in careers in health care are introduced to the concepts and principles underlying trust in clinical settings. We will explore the development of trust that promotes patient activation and adherence to therapeutic regimens. Emphasis is also placed on understanding how trust in medical institutions is fostered. Students will examine these aspects of trust by comparing and contrasting medical practices in different countries.

**MKT 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Popular Culture & Marketing in a Global Society - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This course is designed to emphasize critical thinking in marketing sports, fashion, music, television, movies, videogames, religion, social media, and celebrities as brands in a global context as they play integral roles in all aspects of life. Students will interact with marketers involved in activities related to popular culture, understand the global reach of popular culture, develop and critique customized resumes, and create plans to market themselves and build their own brands.

**PE 188GS** - General Studies Portal: The World is Fat - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This course is designed to emphasize critical thinking about the fads, trends, policies and products that are fattening the human race. Nutrition, lifestyle, fitness issues and health information sources in America and the World will be discussed.

**PE 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Sport: The New World Religion - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This course is designed to emphasize critical thinking about sport in a global context and how it has become more than a national pastime. Students will be engaged in looking at sport as a religion, religious experiences in sport, religion in sport and sport, religion and ethics.

**PHIL 188GS** - General Studies Portal: The Joy of Sales Resistance - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

As the title of the course indicates, this is a course about what might broadly be called "sales resistance." We live in a time when vast numbers of technologies and ideas are proposed and adopted in response not to needs, but to mere wants. These wants are promoted, enhanced, and made to appear justified by advertising, salesmanship, and fashion. This course will present an antidote to the persuasive powers of those (whoever they are) who would (for whatever ulterior motive) seek to "sell" to us what is neither needed, nor ultimately useful. This will require the development the logical skills needed to resist the language, the ideas, the categories and the rhetorical devices of this ubiquitous sales talk. Certain crucial concepts will be discussed and clarified in the course: "freedom," "community," "economy," and "good work."

**PSY 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Death, Society and the Human Experience - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

Death and dying are studied from other cultures' world views as well as our own. Topics include mourning, burial, ritual, remembrance, as well as palliative care and euthanasia.

**SCM 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Dare to be Different: Building Career Capital for a Global Market - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This course will assist students in developing their personal "career capital" (knowing "how," "whom," and "why" of their career capabilities), realize the value of unique perspectives in the global "sandbox," and develop an understanding of how global business issues may influence future career opportunities.

**SPCH 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Speeches That Changed the World - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

In this course students will learn about the different functions speeches play in society and the impacts speeches have on the world. They will be introduced to rhetorical history and rhetorical concepts, read and critique famous speeches, learn about the relationship between history and the speeches that took place at pivotal historical moments, and examine the impact speeches had on public issues. Students will research historical figures and events (Luther, the Reformation, Galileo, the Enlightenment, Lincoln, the American Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement, etc.). They will write papers critiquing famous speeches. They will develop and deliver presentations examining the role specific speeches played in political and social movements.

**TE 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Diversity, Democracy, & the American Dream - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

The purpose of this course is to provide students with new perspectives on the aspects of diversity impacting American communities with a focus on the following four areas: (1) immigrants, migrants, & mobility; (2) first languages, second languages, and who speaks American; (3) social status, poverty, & equity in education; and (4) learning strategies for building democracy in local communities. Students will participate in four modules for each of the areas above. Modules will consist of background readings, guest speakers, at least one field visit to a local school/community, and online discussions. Particular emphasis will be placed to teaching students specific strategies for promoting civil discourse and community collaborations.

**THEA 188GS** - General Studies Portal: Why We Wear Clothes - The History of European Dress - 3 hours

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This course will survey the history of dress from the beginning of recorded history to the modern era while stimulating creative and speculative thinking about the history of European dress and how people have chosen to adorn, cover or uncover their bodies throughout history.