

Fall 2019 Portal Courses

ACCT 188: Accounting Numbers & Business Press

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 188: Photo and Cultural Change

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 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 188: Extreme Biology

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.

CSIT 188: Video Game Studies

For thousands of years, people of all cultures across the globe have played games. Games can tell fascinating stories and encourage us to conquer challenges, sometimes with or against other participants. Recent times have seen the growing importance of video games on a variety of platforms. This growth led to the development of a multidisciplinary field of academics called "Game Studies", which explores, in part, the societal and cultural impact and history of video games. Through interaction with various video games and through related course materials, this course will explore topics within the field of game studies. Sample topics include the history and importance of games, culture in games, the affect of games on people including game addiction, art in games, storytelling, gender in games, and the role and effect of games globally.

CSP 188: Culture and Ethnic Identity

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.

ECON 188: Agricultural Issues for Today

Production agriculture influences all aspects of our daily life – from the food we eat and the clothes we wear to the fuel used in vehicles and manufactured goods. However, as the proportion of the population with direct ties to the farm or ranch continues to decline, so does the level of understanding of how agriculture, and the issues confronting agriculture, influence our daily lives. In this class we will explore and discuss how agriculture is an integral part of everyday life. We will critically examine the issues currently confronting agriculture and how the resolution of those issues may impact individuals in the U.S. and abroad.

ENG 188: Old Norse Mythology in History and Popular Culture

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 of 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.

FAMS 188: Intimate Relationships

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.

FIN 188: Philosophy of Business and Market Economics

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.

GEOG 188: The Population Paradox

This course introduces students to critical issues in population geography. The primary focus is on developing critical thinking skills through examining the implications of global population patterns and trends. Specific topics explored fall under three broad categories: demographic issues, spatial movement and distribution, and policy and management. Basic demographic issues including: age / gender composition, growth, fertility and mortality are examined across cultural and national boundaries. The distribution and spatial movement of individuals is explored in the context of migration and urbanization. Finally, public and national policies on population are discussed along with associated management practices. The scope of the course is a global perspective with comparisons drawn between socio-economic, demographic and ethnic groups within the United States and those from other countries around the world.

HIST 188: History of Warfare

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 188: Viking World

This course analyzes the multi-cultural nature of the Viking world. Topics explored include the nature of Viking society; the motivations behind Viking migrations; Viking contact with and settlement in Europe, the Byzantine Empire, Central Asia, the North Atlantic, and North America; and the impact of Viking migrations.

HIST 188: The Worlds of the Bible

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.

MGT 188: Healthcare Management: Building Clinical and Institutional Trust

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.

MGT 188: Entrepreneurship Around the World

A course designed to provide opportunities for students to comprehend and practice the tenets and skills of operating an entrepreneurial new venture. The course also provides an orientation of the risk and rewards, as well as the important social role of entrepreneurial activity in the local, national, and global economy.

MIS 188: The Art and Science of Decision Making

This course is designed to provide students with an environment conducive to developing their critical thinking skills so that they can better understand the world around them. Beginning with review of classic decision theory students will learn that most decision makers are not as rational as they believe they are. This course will then focus on how to use proven techniques to make better decisions in both an unaided context and with the use of decision aides such as software applications.

MKT 188: Popular Culture & Marketing in a Global Society

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 188: The World is Fat

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 188: PE: The New World Religion

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.

PSCI 188: Contemporary Political Issues: Health Policy

Teaches students to analyze a contemporary political issue, to evaluate arguments on multiple sides of the issue, and to construct a written argument to support and defend their own political viewpoint.

PSY 188: Science and Skepticism

This course will address the proper use of scientific methods in Psychology and other social sciences by analyzing claims of the paranormal, and other erroneous beliefs. Besides scientific methods, we will review some of the biases and errors that are common in everyday thinking about psychology.

REC 188: In Pursuit of Adventure

This course examines the prevalence of adventure activities in today's society. Topics of discussion will include: the history of adventure activities in a recreation context, the role of reality television, the challenges and rewards of adventure pursuits.

SCM 188: Dare to be Different: Building Career Capital for a Global Market

This course will assist students in developing their personal "career capital" (knowing of "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.

SOC 188: Generation Me

The Millennial generation has been described as a “Me Me Me Generation,” who is “lazy, entitled narcissistic, [and] still live with parents” (Time Magazine). Born between 1981 and 2000, Millennials are a unique generation of individuals that have lived through an ever-changing political climate, economic recession, and digital revolution like no other in history. So who are these Millennials? How do they experience work/careers? The economy? Family life/marriage/dating? Politics? Leisure? This course will examine the life of the millennial, from social expectations, stereotypes, to the real life situations and experiences of Millennials in a complex social world.

SPCH 188: Global Thinking, Individual Dreams

This course is designed to emphasize an individual’s power to make decisions regarding his/her own future. Students will learn “classical reasoning tools” of critical thinking and apply them to racial disharmony as an area of global concern. Discussion will focus upon: global power perspectives; how race, money, and education impact individuals’ possibilities; the argument of violence vs. non-violence in racial movements; methods to influence change; and how one’s actions will impact his/her destiny of success/failure.

TE 188: Diversity, Democracy, and the American Dream

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.

TE 188: Schooling Across the World

Students will be exposed to the field of comparative education on an introductory level. Class activities are designed to develop critical thinking skills while examining the various factors that influence schooling in diverse nations and the various commonalities associated with schooling across nations.

THEA 188: Why We Wear Clothes: History European Dress

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.