

Portal Classes Spring 2016

BIOL 188GS - General Studies Portal: Extreme Biology

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.

CSIT 188GS – General Studies Portal: Cyber Ethics

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

With the prevalent use of the internet, we are faced with the reality that basic concepts such as privacy, ownership and freedom of speech are being redefined as a result of the current trends in the use and abuse of the internet. Cyberethics is a topic that covers the ethical use of the internet. In this course we will explore such questions as: “when does your freedom of speech as exercised in blogs, in tweets, and on social network such as Face book, cross the line from socially acceptable communication to cyber bullying, cyber harassment, and cyber stalking”, “Where does the responsibility for controlling and regulating fraudulent websites that operate globally lay”, “When does simply sharing a song or photo online with a friend become copyright infringement or piracy?”, “When do prospective employers, parents, law-enforcement offices or the NIS have the right to your personal internet usage data”, or “Who is held accountable for the security of the credit card information and other personal information you give on-line merchants in order to receive the products or service the merchant is selling”. These are all questions we will explore through lecture, class discussion, team debates. You, as a student will be asked to form your own opinions and ideas on these questions and not only discover where you stand on them, but also how to convince others of the validity of your stance.

CSP 188GS – General Studies Portal: Culture and Ethnic Identity

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.

FSID 188GS – General Studies Portal: Intimate Relationships

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.

GEOG 188GS – General Studies Portal: 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 188GS – General Studies Portal: The History of Food

This course will introduce students to the global history of food and food resources. Students will tackle issues such as: how the control of food resources has led to wars, solidified state formation, created trading empires, and triggered global migrations. Furthermore, students will analyze how food culture defines regional ethnic identity from Basque Spain to sub-Saharan Africa to metropolitan Mumbai.

HIST 188GS – General Studies Portal: The Viking World

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

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 188GS – General Studies Portal: The Worlds of the Bible

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.

MKT 188GS – General Studies Portal: Popular Culture & Marketing in a Global Society

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.

MUS 188GS – General Studies Portal: Amadeus

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This course focuses exclusively on Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the man and the composer---a musical genius who has become a legendary icon throughout the world of western classical music.

MUS 188GS – General Studies Portal: Broadening Global Culture Awareness

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

We will study the following cultures: Africa, Indonesia, China, Japan, India, Middle East, Mongolia, Tibet, South America, and Eastern Europe answering and discussing the following questions: How are each of these cultures similar? What differences do they have? How does their music reveal deep seated beliefs and feelings about the world in which they live? How do gender roles influence participation in the music of these cultures?

PE 188GS – General Studies Portal: The World is Fat

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: The New World Religion

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.

SCM 188GS – General Studies Portal: Dare to be Different: Building Career Capital for a Global Market

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

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.

TE 188GS – General Studies Portal: Leadership for Today & Tomorrow

Effective leaders are needed in our communities, businesses, and schools, as well as in our government agencies and our social institutions if our democratic society is to meet the economic and social challenges generated from a constantly changing world. Our communities, our society, and our world continue to change over time; consequently, the demands associated with leadership will continue to change as well. Accordingly, the preparation of leaders should focus on the development of a broadly applicable base of knowledge and skills for those serving in a variety of roles. Leaders can, and should, be recognized in all walks of life and in all levels of organizations and institutions. This class is designed to assist students in developing the knowledge and skills that will enable them to provide the leadership our communities, businesses, schools, and government agencies and social institutions need and deserve not just now, but also in the future.

TE 188GS – General Studies Portal: Schooling Across the World

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

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.