

General Studies Portal Topics Fall 2017

BIOL 188- 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.

CJUS 188- Terrorism

Prereq: freshman or sophomore standing

This course is designed to introduce the students to the overall theories behind the use of terrorism to obtain a political objective and an overview of the major terrorist organizations. Emphasis will be placed on the cultural diversity of the United States and other countries. Specifically, it will show the actions of different ethnic, culture, and religious groups that have resorted to the use of terrorism because of government actions. This class will also discuss the primary methods of operation and counter actions taken by police and government agencies.

CSIS 188- Cyber Crime

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, phishing 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 188 - 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

ENG188- Old Norse Mythology in History and Popular Culture

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 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.

FIN 188- Philosophy of Business and Market Economics

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 188- 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.

HIST 188- The Great War: History, Film, Modern Memory

This discussion-oriented seminar, which is paired with a World War One Film Series, will focus on the sources for the interpretation of the Great War and the way in which those sources have been adapted for entertainment and anti-war propaganda in films of the 20th and 21st centuries. Readings will begin with the selections from some of the poetry, reflections, and memoir

sources for the Great War and continue on to examine the Great War in film and modern memory.

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 - The 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.

ITEC 188- Energy Gone Green

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.

ITEC 188- Career Decisions: Achieving Success in Today's Global Economy

This course will provide the student with insight into making career decisions in light of today's every 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.

MGT 188 – Healthcare Management: Building Clinical and Institutional Trust

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 188 - 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.

MKT 188- Fashion and Marketing in a Global Society

This course is designed to emphasize critical thinking in the marketing of fashion in a global context as it plays an integral role in many aspects of life. Students will interact with marketers involved in activities related to fashion, understand the global reach of fashion, and create marketing plans for a fashion product within an international context.

PE 188 - 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 188 - Sport: 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.

PHIL 188- The Joy of Sales Resistance

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 188 - General Studies Portal: Death, Society and the Human Experience

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 188 – 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.

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- General Studies Portal: Diversity, Democracy, & 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.

THEA 188 - Why We Wear Clothes - The History of European Dress

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.