

Spring 2021 Portal Courses

CSP 188GS - General Studies Portal: 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

CSIS 188GS - General Studies Portal: Cyber Crime

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.

FAMS 188GS - General Studies Portal: 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.

HIST 188GS - 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

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.

PE 188GS - General Studies Portal: 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.

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PE 188GS - General Studies Portal: Sport: 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.

PHIL 188GS - General Studies Portal: 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."

TE 188GS - 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.