

Liberal Studies Electives (Degree Level)

Course Descriptions – SPRING/SUMMER 2022

Lower-Level Liberal Arts & Humanities (LHUM)

LHUM 1201 / IAC 190 – The Evolution of Filmmaking

This film studies course deals with the evolution of film in terms of its historical and cultural development, critical filmic analysis, and technical aspects of filmmaking. The course is divided into five parts, each of which examines a major time period in the development of film in a historical, social, cultural, critical, and technical context.

LHUM 1203 / PHC 180 – The Pleasure of Inquiry

This course aims to develop the skills of inquiry and argumentation in a time of 'fake news' and de-stabilized truth by introducing you to the practice of philosophy and approaches to key philosophic questions in a lively, accessible way. It uses ordinary examples such as learning a martial art, detergents, dreaming, films like The Matrix, making money, the rise of artificial intelligence, and everyday consciousness to inquire into ongoing questions regarding knowledge, justice, reality, God, and the human condition, and to consider provocative responses to these questions.

Lower-Level Liberal Science & Technology (LSCI)

LSCI 1204 / IAC 192 – Preserving the Planet

A personal computer running 24 hours per day adds about two tonnes of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere each year. When you consider the explosion of computer ownership alone, you can appreciate the growing impact people have on our planet. Preserving the Planet is a natural science course emphasizing awareness, conservation, and sustainability of ecological systems.

This course will provide students with an understanding of the major principles in the biological and physical sciences. Students will also learn how technology and schools of thought can have both negative and positive impacts on biodiversity. With this information, students will gain an understanding of problems and solutions to maintaining natural systems. Students will learn the role of scientific inquiry in ecological studies and apply analysis and critical thinking to issues learned in class and their own research.

Lower-Level Liberal Social Science (LSSC)

LSSC 1203 / POC180 – Introduction to Canadian Politics

How does politics affect your life and future? Is there a Canadian national identity? This course introduces students to major debates and questions in Canadian politics and society, and the more enduring problems underlying these issues. The aim of the course is to foster the student's capacity to develop their own interpretation of Canadian politics and society.

Upper-Level Liberal Arts and Humanities (LHUM)

LHUM 1306 – Global Classical and Medieval Literature (Prerequisite: One lower-level Liberal Studies course)

This course introduces students to literature and thought from several major traditions across the globe, spanning roughly the 4th through the 14th centuries. The main theme of the course is a cross-cultural comparison of how the emotional lives of individuals are expressed, communicated, and shared in and through language. This will require introducing students to basic religious, political, and cultural contexts of each area of the world. The course balances an appreciation for each literary tradition on its own terms with an understanding of how religious ideas, moral values, role-models, histories, and fantasies spread across cultures via the oral and written word. Along the way students will be introduced to various literary forms, such as the allegory, the poem, and the frame-tale narrative, along with the reflections of writers from around the world on the nature and purpose of literature.

LHUM 1310 Existentialism (Prerequisite: One lower-level Liberal Studies course)

What is worth living for? If we have an answer – say, love, happiness, justice, or eternal life – where did we get this answer from? Are religion, social norms, political, and economic ideologies credible sources? If not, are we free to create any value and meaning we want for our own lives? And if we are completely free, what sort of responsibility do we have to other people, if any? In this course we will be exploring these perplexing but fundamental questions about human existence through an examination of philosophical essays, film, literature, and theatre from a movement of thinkers and artists known as the existentialists.

Upper-Level Liberal Science and Technology (LSCI)

LSCI 1301 Troubled Waters: Our Future and the Global Ocean (Prerequisite: One lower-level Liberal Studies course)

The global ocean is our life-support system. Covering nearly three-quarters of Earth's surface, the oceans produce half of the oxygen in our atmosphere, regulate temperature and climate, and govern nutrient and chemical cycles that sustain all living things, including you. The oceans, however, are in distress. Pollution and unsustainable seafood harvesting are causing fundamental changes throughout the ocean system that will result in dire consequences unless our habits change substantially. Students investigate what is happening to our oceans and the ecological consequences of human-influenced changes in ocean temperature, oxygen, acidity, and biodiversity. Through readings, videos, and class discussion, students learn about human impacts on the ocean and how ocean change will affect not only us but life in general. Students learn the importance of scientific study of the world's oceans and apply analysis and critical thinking to issues learned in class and through independent research.