

General Education Course Descriptions

Arts & Humanities

Course Code	Course Title	Description
GHUM1052	WORLD RELIGIONS	<p>The uniquely human practice of religion is a pervasive phenomenon. Historically, religions have had and continue to have significant effects on how we understand the world and on how world events have been presented and interpreted. The course explores the nature of the religious response and introduces the world views, ethics, practices and beliefs of five major world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. A brief overview of the origin and development of each religion is included. To develop an awareness of these religions within the Canadian context, First Nations' beliefs and perspectives are also introduced. Contemporary issues that are currently relevant and engage each of the five religions are examined throughout the course.</p>
GHUM1059	WESTERN ART: POWER & INFLUENCE	<p>In this introductory course, students will focus on the development of art and architecture from antiquity to modernity. With the application of conceptual and theoretical tools, students will analyze visual culture through various thematic lenses (environment, myth, religion, power, politics, gender, and class) from the Paleolithic to the Modern world. Learners will also examine why certain images and spaces are considered 'great' works of art and culture. Discussions about "gaze" theories, the impact of our "locatedness" (i.e., our cultural roots and traditions, gender, and individual frames of reference), and intersections with a variety of non-western cultures will be considered.</p>
GHUM1065	SEXUAL DIVERSITY	<p>This course is an introduction to the discipline of sexual diversity studies or queer studies. Contemporary debates among lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans, two-spirit, intersex and queer people are featured. Questions of sexual diversity-and intersecting forms of difference (including race, gender, ability, age) - are discussed and analyzed, along with queer culture, politics and thought. Students explore these issues by analyzing a wide variety of cultural</p>

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		productions (video, magazines, digital media, books, visual art). This course focuses on histories of Canadian and Toronto-based queer communities.
GHUM1078	PHOTOGRAPHY: SHOOTING THE TRUTH	Photography has been a tool for documenting reality, spreading information and capturing fragments of everyday life. Photography does not lie! Is this a true statement in the era of digital photography? Was this ever a true statement? Despite the fact that it was presented to the world as a technology that doesn't lie, photography has been used as a political tool that has misguided the public even before the invention of digital images. Documentary photography, which claims to present reality, has been manipulated throughout the years. Photography: Shooting the Truth explores the impact of photography on society. The course examines photography's role in politics, media, science, communication and culture, as well as how it shapes our real and virtual lives. Photography: Shooting the Truth combines study of the work of practicing photographers and hands-on production of multimedia projects.
GHUM1088	ANCIENT GREAT THINKERS	The ideas of the ancient philosophical and literary traditions have played a significant role in the history of the world and the history of imagining our world. These ideas have become even more important in our rapidly globalizing society. This course takes a global, comparative philosophical look at diverse ancient schools of thought such as the Greek, Chinese and Indian. In each tradition the course will examine various original writings on the following questions: What is human nature? What is the nature of society? And what is the nature of the universe. Some of the writings that we will review to answer the above questions are those of Plato, Aristotle, Sappho, Herodotus, Confucius, Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu, Sun Tzu, the Brahmennical tradition, the Buddha, The Epic of Gilgamesh, and the Mayan Popol Vuh.
GHUM1112	JOURNEYS IN WRITING: EXPLORING TRAVEL STORIES	From personal narrative to factual article, travel writing allows us to "journey" into different lands and gain new understandings of people, places, and ideas. In this course, students will explore the different forms and purposes of travel writing as well as its personal and cultural significance. They will read commercial articles from newspapers in order to understand the business of informative travel-writing. Moreover, they will read personal accounts of travel, as well as travel fiction, in order to analyze the important themes raised

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		therein, themes such as knowledge, discrimination, politics, religion, morality, and human bonds. Beyond reading about travel, students will evaluate or write a commercial article.
GHUM1169	LABR HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION TO CANADA	Canada's history is one of wave after wave of immigrants from all over the world. Hope and Hardship gives students the opportunity to analyze case studies of specific groups of new arrivals, the reasons they came, the work they did, the struggles they encountered, and the impact of Canada's First Nations. The course links the overall patterns of immigration to Canada with the work that immigrants have done and the unions they have formed in building our social and economic base. This innovative view of Canada's working history gives students a chance to document themselves and their family within this history. They will also develop a critical awareness of historical accounts by examining whose achievements, losses and disappointments are highlighted or left out. Films, oral history, historical accounts, recent Canadian literature, material from guest speakers, along with assigned readings will form the core materials for the course.
GHUM1189	AN INTRO TO WESTERN PHILOSOPHY	What does it mean to be human? Is anything really right or wrong? What if there is no God? What if there is a God? Is the practical world we usually focus on truly the "real" world? This introductory philosophy course invites students to experience both the fun and the challenge of learning to think clearly and critically about basic questions that are a part of our human heritage and our own lives.

Science & Technology

Course Code	Course Title	Description
GSCI1007	HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY	This course traces the history of technology from the year AD 1000 to the present, and deals with how technology has shaped our values and thinking. Agricultural, communication and transportation technologies and their defining influences on such contemporary values as progress, precision, efficiency and individuality will be dealt with. As well, this course investigates our Western cultural attitudes towards our technologies and compares them to attitudes from other cultures.
GSCI1014	SO THAT'S PHYSICS	What holds a sand castle together? How do professional wrestlers manage to go unhurt when they throw each other down onto the mat? The value of physics is that it explains much about the world around us and the rules that govern behaviour. In this course physics is presented in a conceptual way. It is hoped that his course demystifies physics and shows that physics can be interesting, useful and enlighten our understanding of the natural properties that govern the world. Students expand their critical thinking and problem solving skills throughout the course. They learn about physical laws that govern familiar object and activities and begin to appreciate connections between science, people and the world.
GSCI1024	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	Students explore the basic ecological concepts that govern the natural world through the analysis of the cause and effect relationships underlying environmental issues. In considering the many ways in which humans affect the environment, students examine concerns such as sustainability, resources, overpopulation, energy production and pollution, and discuss possible solutions.
GSCI1030	MIND YOUR BRAIN: NEUROSCIENCE FOR EVERYDAY LIFE	Our brain is as unique as our fingerprint and changes throughout our lives. As our command center, it mediates our daily experiences at every level, controlling who we think we are, what we do, how we feel, and the ways we adjust to our various experiences. Every sustained physical, sensory, and mental activity-including thinking, learning, and imagining, as well as feeling, attitude, cultural experience and perception-changes our brain. The brain's ability to change itself is called neuroplasticity. In this course, learners explore topics and concepts of neuroplasticity to understand the workings of our plastic

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		brain. Learners become familiar with historical understandings and present discoveries in the area of neuroplasticity and explore unanswered questions that continue to baffle neuroscientists. Understanding brain plasticity will enable learners to apply that knowledge to their everyday life and personal goals.
GSCI1065	HUMAN BIOLOGY	Introducing the student to human anatomy and physiology, this course emphasizes how the structure of the human body determines the function of each part.
GSCI1146	PLANTS AND SOCIETY	Plants form the basis of our health, economy, and environment and yet we often overlook the important impacts that plants have on the society in which we live. Plants and Society is an introductory science course about the essential role plants play in the everyday lives of people. Students will learn about society's historical connections to plants and how traditional knowledge of plants, the development of agriculture, and biotechnology have changed how people live today. The course reveals the basic structure and physiology of plants and highlights the economic or applied aspects of plants as sources of food, commercial products, and pharmaceuticals.

Social Sciences

Course Code	Course Title	Description
GSSC1026	PSYCHOLOGY OF CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR	This course introduces students to the psychology of consumer behaviour. Through an investigation of perception, learning, memory, motivation, attitudes, and group influence, students learn how marketers attempt to influence a consumer's decision-making process. Students also learn how possessions influence the way they feel about themselves and others, and they gain an understanding of marketing strategy from the perspective of the marketer and the perspective of a discriminating consumer.
GSSC1027	PERSONAL FINANCE	This is a course in personal finance through both lectures and classroom discussion. The course is both a practical and theoretical course in personal financial planning. Topics covered include overall financial planning, income tax, wills and estate planning, insurance, retirement income, saving and investment, debt securities, stocks and mutual funds as well as consumer credit, loans and home mortgages. The course will also look at some of the socioeconomic issues surrounding these topics.
GSSC1054	FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY	The abundance of television police and legal dramas reflects and promotes an interest in forensic issues in Canada. This course is designed to help students understand the role of psychology - research and practice - in the law-enforcement and legal settings. Theories, research findings, professional practices, and real-life cases will be discussed and analyzed throughout the course.
GSSC1084	PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMAN RELATIONS	This course examines theories of social and interpersonal psychology as they apply to personal and professional success. Some of the major themes discussed include: self-esteem, psychological defensiveness, interpersonal communications, personality theories, learning theories, lifespan development, and abnormal psychology. Other topics to be discussed include relationships, theories of moral development, and behavioural conditioning. Learning to apply these concepts can help students to gain self-awareness and improve their ability to communicate in meaningful ways. Emphasis is placed on personal reflection, improvement, and development.

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GSSC1159	SOCIOLOGY: ENCOUNTERING THE STRANGE WORLD OF THE FAMILIAR	This course introduces you to the language and practice of sociological inquiry, the workings of modern society, and the rise of globalization. Some of the topics we will address as we explore the puzzles and contradictions of our social world include everyday rituals, family life, gender and sex, poverty and inequality, the workplace, socialization, and the particularity of Canadian culture. Note: Success in this course requires regular attendance.
GSSC1183	FOOD AND THE CITY: AN INVESTIGATION OF FOOD SYSTEMS	We know that food doesn't grow on grocery store shelves, but where does food come from? This course examines the origins and impacts of modern food systems on individuals, environments and cultures. Blending ecology, political economy, environmental studies, community development, and nutrition, students will investigate food systems - conventional and "green" alternatives - from field to table, uncovering hidden relationships along the way. Using Toronto's food system as a case study to illustrate global phenomena, students will explore the benefits and challenges of addressing global issues through local actions. Through critical analysis, creative problem-solving, hands-on application and reflexive practice, this course takes a holistic approach to building food literacy and environmental consciousness.

Indigenous Studies

Course Code	Course Title	Description
ISHU1035	INDIGENOUS STUDIES	This course provides an overview of the order of events of Indigenous peoples in Canada, beginning with pre-contact and moving through the centuries to more recent events, including the Truth and Reconciliation process, report, and recommendations. The course addresses the complexities of Indigenous identity in Canada and provides a world view. Students will begin to develop a perspective through an examination of the historical context of specific government policies and their influence on past and current conditions for Indigenous people.
ISHU1037	INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE MEDIA: RAISING OUR VOICES	This course is grounded in Indigenous Knowledges and narratives which reflect historical accounts through an Indigenous lens that has not always been accurately represented in mainstream media. The course centres stories by and about Indigenous Peoples, offering a critique of historical misrepresentation and stereotypes. In the established tradition of oratory and storytelling, the course begins with Indigenous Creation stories which provide insights into Indigenous worldviews, relationships with land, and understanding of the interconnection of all living things. Moreover, this course contextualizes the experiences of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. By providing a critical analysis of media representations of Indigenous Peoples, it illustrates the contrast between Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives. Indigenous activism that challenges these representations addresses colonial narratives and has led to the emergence of Indigenous voices and authorities in all media forms including film, journalism, and social media that reflect the truth about Indigenous experiences.
ISSS1072	INDIGENOUS EDUCATION: INSIGHTS & PERSPECTIVES	The course Indigenous Education: Insights and Perspectives aims at providing a critical understanding of the experiences of Indigenous people in the education system in Canada. The course will examine the methods and highly developed systems of teaching and learning used by Indigenous peoples in Canada prior to European contact. The focus will be on the historical and present day experiences of Indigenous peoples under the broader theme of colonialism and colonial education. Students will be required to reflect critically on the history

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		and impact of Canadian education policies in the lives of Indigenous peoples. The course will also provide examples of the ways in which Indigenous peoples have reclaimed education from their own perspectives making it meaningful and relevant to them.