

General Education Electives (Certificate & Diploma Level)

Course Descriptions – SPRING/SUMMER 2023 (202203)

Arts and Humanities (GHUM)

GHUM 1024 – Women in Film: Scandalous Sisters

How are women represented in film? What kinds of stories are told about women's experiences – and who is telling these stories? What kinds of women are represented in films – and what kinds of women don't we see in mainstream movies? Women in Film: Scandalous Sisters explores and analyzes representations of women in a range of mainstream historical and contemporary films. Our focus is on movies that were seen as "scandalous" or controversial when they were released because of the "unconventional" behavior and/or appearance of the central female character(s). We explore the historical, social, and political factors that influenced both the representations of women in these films and the controversies that arose when the films were released. We also discuss how and why representations of women (both "scandalous" and "proper") in film have changed over time and consider the future of women in film. Issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality are central to our discussion and analysis.

ISHU 1035 – Introduction to Indigenous Studies

This course will provide an overview to the order of events of Canadian Indigenous people beginning with pre-contact and moving through the centuries to current events including the Truth and Reconciliation process, report, and recommendations. This course will address the complexities of Canadian Indigenous identity and provides a worldview. Participants will begin to develop a perspective through an examination of the historical context for specific government policies and their influence on past and current conditions for Indigenous people.

GHUM 1052 – World Religions

This course explores the nature of religious experience and introduces the worldviews, ethics, practices, and beliefs of each of the world's religions. It includes a brief background of the origin and development of each religion. Additionally, the course explores contemporary issues that have relevance to the personal and public arena.

GHUM 1059 – Western Art: Power and Influence

This is a survey course designed to introduce students to the development of art and architecture in Western culture from prehistoric times to the 18th century. In chronological format, the course highlights the major periods and movements in history through a study of the impact of environment, history, and culture on the development of art and architecture. Artistic styles are explored in relationship to humans' social history, thoughts, needs, and beliefs. In class, a timeline is created of Art History through readings and discussions relevant to the students' knowledge and aesthetic understanding.

GHUM 1065 – Introduction to Sexual Diversity Studies

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 productions (video, magazines, digital media, books, visual art). This course focuses on histories of Canadian and Toronto-based queer communities.

GHUM 1078 – 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 will examine 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 using current web technologies (Google Sites, Wikis, Blogs, etc.). This course requires access to unrestricted Internet access.

GHUM 1079 – Film Studies

This introductory course in film studies looks at technical aspects of filmmaking, historical development in film innovation, and interpretive models of film analysis. The course is divided into two parts: the first part deals with such micro-level filmic elements as the use of the camera, lighting, editing and related technical aspects that comprise film structure; the second part focuses on such macro-level filmic elements such as modes of screen reality, the influence of Hollywood, and film theories, from which meaning may be derived.

GHUM 1088 – Ancient Great Thinkers

The ideas of the ancient great thinkers and texts in the Greek, Chinese, Indian, Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Indigenous, and other classical philosophical and literary traditions have remained an integral part of social, economic, cultural, and political life across the world. Their philosophical and literary contribution has shaped their specific communities and have extended to shape our global society today. This course takes a cross-cultural historical look at some of the world's most influential philosophical and literary traditions and compares the major texts of various traditions. 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 texts that we will review to answer the above questions are from Plato, Aristotle, Confucius, Lao Tzu, Sun Tzu, the Buddha, as well as the Epic of Gilgamesh, the Popol Vuh and others.

GHUM 1112 – 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 therein, themes such as knowledge, discrimination, politics, religion, morality, and human bonds.

GHUM 1145 – From Galleries to Graffiti: Putting Art to Work

This course examines the roles of workers and the arts in our society. Examples of popular culture, visual art, textiles, film, video, music, literature, and theatre give students a chance to analyze how

these reflect workers' concerns. By examining contemporary art and meeting local artists, students develop a critical perspective on various social and labour issues, and they gain some tools in analyzing art, media, and our political and economic world. Students also have an opportunity to create artwork on some of the social themes discussed.

GHUM 1169 – Hope and Hardship: A Labour 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.

GHUM 1189 – Introduction 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. Students will work through texts written by various philosophers from different schools of thought throughout Western history. The course begins with an overview of the rise of philosophy in the ancient world and follows the development of philosophical ideas through the medieval period and into the early modern and modern eras. Key themes in the first half of the course include the nature of wisdom, the place of friendship in a philosophical life, rationality vs. faith, and the nature of knowledge and reality. In the second half of the course, we examine themes relating to ethics and the relationship between the individual, God, and society.

Science & Technology (GSCI)

GSCI 1003 – Truth and Lies: Understanding Statistics

This course introduces students to the concept of statistics, how statistics can affect the decisions they all make, and how scientists arrive at conclusions or make predictions. Students learn the basic methods of data collection, organization, and presentation, and the different techniques that they can use to analyze and make sense of data.

GSCI 1006 – Understanding Drug Use and Abuse in Canada

This course presents the problems associated with drug use and abuse from an interdisciplinary perspective. The central theme to this course is that a drug's effect is determined not only by its chemical structure and interaction in the body, but also by the drug user's unique biology and psychology, as well as the setting and circumstances in which they are using the drug(s). Core concepts in the sciences, sociology, and psychology will be used to help in understanding many of the human costs involved with drug use in our society. Pre-requisite readings will accompany each lesson to provide the necessary science background to help the student fully understand these concepts and issues.

GSCI 1007 – History of Technology

This course traces the history of technology from the year AD 1000 to the present and explores how technology has shaped our values and thinking. Agricultural, military, communication, and transportation technologies and their defining influences are dealt with. As well, this course investigates our Western cultural attitudes towards these technologies and compares them to attitudes from other cultures.

GSCI 1009 – Astronomy: Unraveling the Mystery and Science of the Universe

In this course, students will explore the science of Astronomy. They will learn about the history of the discipline and discover the ways in which human beings have observed and experienced the universe for thousands of years, including all aspects of the solar system. In addition, students will gain an appreciation for the new discoveries that constantly refresh our understanding of the cosmos.

GSCI 1014 – So That's Physics

What holds a sandcastle 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 behavior. In this course physics is presented in a conceptual way. It is hoped that this 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 objects and activities, and begin to appreciate connections between science, people, and the world.

GSCI 1024 – Environmental Science

Environmental Science explores the basic ecological concepts that govern the natural world. It analyses the cause and effect relationships underlying environmental issues. The many ways in which humans affect the environment are investigated. Concerns about various types of pollution are examined and possible solutions discussed.

GSCI 1030 - Mind Your Brain: Neuroscience for Everyday Life

Your brain is as unique as your fingerprint and designed to change throughout your life. It is your command centre that mediates your daily experiences at every level, controlling who you are, what you do, how you feel, and even how your brain changes. Every sustained physical, sensory, and mental activity — including thinking, learning, and imagining, as well as feeling, attitude, and perception — changes your brain. The brain's inherent ability to change itself is called neuroplasticity. You will explore topics and concepts in neuroplasticity to understand the workings of your plastic brain. You will become familiar with discoveries in neuroscience that refute persistent myths about the brain, as well as unanswered questions and unresolved problems that continue to baffle neuroscientists. Understanding brain plasticity will enable you to apply that knowledge to your everyday life and personal goals.

GSCI 1045 – Nutrition

In this course, students learn the basic principles of nutrition. The scope of the course ranges from a review of the gastrointestinal system, energy sources, and macronutrients to socio-cultural aspects of food. It also includes a more detailed discussion of nutrient function, dietary sources, recommended intakes, deficiencies, and excesses. Students consider behavioural aspects of diet and weight management as well as the effects of modern technology, cultural diversity, and aging on views of nutrition. They also examine aspects of nutrition related to disease and to physical and mental health, as well as controversial topics such as alternative therapies. Upon completion of this course, students

have the basis for assessing their own diet for nutritional adequacy, and for putting concepts into practice for overall better health.

GSCI 1146 – 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.

GSCI 1172 – Bodyworks

This course provides the student with a basic background in anatomy and physiology. The two major themes emphasized throughout the course are how structure (anatomy) determines function (physiology), and how homeostasis of the human body is achieved and maintained. Unique to this course is the application of selected course concepts, using medical terminology, to the students' understanding of the promotion of health and well-being and the prevention of illness.

Social Sciences (GSSC)

GSSC 1027 – 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 socio-economic issues surrounding these topics.

GSSC 1028 – Politics and Contemporary Issues

How does politics affect your life and future? What happens to Canada if Quebec separates? Can aboriginal self-government work? Is Canada even governable any longer? This course introduces students to major debates and questions in Canadian politics, and fosters confidence in students' abilities to both participate in, and effectively influence, the political choices that are shaping Canada now and in the future.

GSSC 1040 – Understanding Violence Against Women Partners

This course gives learners the information they need to understand and support women and trans people who have experienced abuse from their intimate partners. It provides learners with the opportunity to develop entry level knowledge and skills necessary to understand the work of agencies such as shelters, rape crisis centres, community-based programs for abuse survivors, advocacy services (such as victim/witness programs), social action groups, etc. Learners will be exploring a feminist, gender-based analysis of intimate partner violence. While this course concentrates on the topic of male (partner) violence against women, other contexts of violence, such as violence perpetrated by women against other women, will be addressed.

GSSC 1054 – 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 and

research and practice in law-enforcement and legal settings. Theories, research findings, professional practices, and real-life cases will be discussed and analyzed throughout the course.

GSSC 1058 – Introduction to Psychology

This survey course introduces students to psychology - the scientific study of behaviour and mental processes. Students will examine the basic principles of psychology and their application to everyday life. Topics include biology and the brain, consciousness, learning, memory, health and social psychology, psychological disorders, and therapeutic approaches.

GSSC 1066 – How the Weekend Was Won: Canadian Labour History

Do you know how Canadian workers talked their bosses into giving them the weekends off? Or when it became legal to join a union in Canada? What do unemployment insurance, health and safety laws, and maternity leave all have in common? This course answers these, and many other questions about the history of working people in Canada in the past 150 years. Through readings, films, online activities, and discussions, we will look at how unions have helped win rights, benefits, and social programs (like public health care) for today's workers. The course examines how unions are formed, how they have evolved and changed with the Canadian and global economies, and what relevance they have for young working people today.

GSSC 1071 – Understanding Intercultural Communication

The goals of this course are to increase understanding of culture as a framework through which communication is created and interpreted and to develop knowledge and skills in intercultural communication. Intercultural communication theories and their supporting research are used to examine the challenges of intercultural communication and to provide specific examples and suggestions for effective intercultural communication and culturally appropriate behavior. Activities are designed to help students think critically about intercultural communication issues and actively involve students in the practical application of intercultural communication principles.

ISSS 1072 – Indigenous Education: Insights and Perspectives

Indigenous Education: Insights and Perspectives aims to provide a critical understanding of the experiences of Indigenous people in the education system in Canada. The course examines the methods and highly developed systems of teaching and learning used by Indigenous peoples in Canada prior to European contact. The focus is on the historical and present-day experiences of Indigenous peoples under the broader theme of colonialism and colonial education. Students are required to critically reflect on the history and impact of Canadian education policies in the lives of Indigenous peoples. The course also provides examples of the ways in which Indigenous peoples have reclaimed education from their own perspectives making it meaningful and relevant to them.

GSSC 1083 – Understanding Globalization

Globalization is a term that is frequently utilized in the mass media and political discourse in general, yet we are rarely told what globalization actually means. This course explores the global nature of contemporary society, its impact on Canada, and the way it fosters social and political change. Globalization is a multi-faceted process that affects economic, political, social, technological, legal, artistic, and spiritual trends. The course is interdisciplinary in nature, combining perspectives from sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, and philosophy to explore the meanings of globalization and its central processes and institutional structures. It pays particular attention to the relationship between globalization, inequality and poverty, the notion of cultural diversity in a globalizing world, and issues such as gender, ethnicity, the environment, social justice, and human rights.

GSSC 1084 – Psychology of Human Relations

This course examines theories of social and interpersonal psychology as they apply to the individual in society. Some of the major topics discussed include self-esteem, social psychology, psychological defensiveness, interpersonal communications, personality theories, learning theories, lifespan development, psychological disorders and treatments, attachment theory and parenting styles, adult relationships, violence, theories of moral development, and conditioning. The emphasis is on applied psychology to help students gain self-awareness and improve their ability to communicate in meaningful ways with others in order to live a more purposeful life. Emphasis is placed on personal growth and development of awareness.