

# Liberal Studies Electives (Degree Level)

## Course Descriptions – SPRING/SUMMER 2023 (202203)

### Lower-Level Liberal Arts & Humanities (LHUM)

#### **LHUM 1201 - 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 - The Pleasure of Inquiry**

This course aims to develop the skills of inquiry and argumentation in a time of 'fake news' and destabilized 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 - 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 - 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.

#### **LSSC 1206 - Indigenous Education in the Canadian Context**

This course looks at education in an historical and present-day context, including ways in which Indigenous communities educated their children prior to European contact. It examines the Canadian state's policies on education of Indigenous peoples and explores education in Indigenous communities

today. Specifically, the course provides an understanding of residential schools and their impact on the lives of Indigenous peoples, families, and diverse communities. Additionally, students will look at the various ways in which Indigenous people continue to challenge and resist colonial education and reclaim education for themselves and their communities. The main aim of the course is to provide students with a framework for understanding the historical and contemporary issues surrounding Indigenous Education in Canada. It is hoped that through this course students will gain critical insights into the lives and educational attainment of Indigenous peoples.

## **Upper-Level Liberal Arts and Humanities (LHUM)**

### **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.