

# Upper Liberal Studies Course Descriptions

## Arts & Humanities

Course Code	Course Title	Description
LHUM1307	UNDERSTANDING THE MIDDLE EAST	The Middle East often makes the headlines. The phrase “Middle East” appears on various media in relation to topics ranging from the politics of oil to the price of gas, terrorism, war, women's rights, Islam, or the trials and triumphs of democracy. Meanwhile, there is generally little understanding of the region beyond its representation in headlines or in pop culture. Covering the history of the region from the advent of Islam to the present day, this course provides a basic historical understanding of this diverse and complex region and the global influences which have shaped, and continue to shape, what is known as the “Middle East” today. Through a survey of the region's history, culture, and involvement in international politics, participants will gain a better understanding of this intricate and fascinating region and its vital place within the global community.
LHUM1308	PTS.BEY.:THE WORL.OF TRA.WRIT.	From factual article to personal narrative, travel writing allows us to “journey” to different lands and gain new understandings of people, places, and ideas. In this upper-level, interdisciplinary course, students examine the different forms and purposes of travel writing as well as its personal and cultural significance. They read commercial articles to understand the business of travel writing. They also read travel essays and fiction and watch a travel film, exploring both artistic expression and questions of identity, morality, freedom, and human bonds. Critical theories on travel and travel writing, amongst others, allow a deeper understanding of the genre.
LHUM1310	EXISTENTIALISM	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.(Prerequisite: One lower-level Liberal Studies course)

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
LHUM1320	HISTORY OF CANADIAN BUSINESS	This course examines the history of Canadian Business. History provides a framework to help us solve current problems; it gives us context for many of our current issues, as well as similar problems that have occurred a several in the past. Understanding what has occurred in the past can help us make better decisions for our future. This is a blended course in the history of Canadian business: part of the instructional material is online, and part is through classroom discussion. The course is both a practical and theoretical course. Topics covered include the parameters of studies in history, the origins of many aspects of business, and how we can use these to solve current problems, the greatest being sustainability, inequality, and economic development. The course covers individual topics in Canadian business rather than being a timeline of the development of Canadian business.

## Science & Technology

Course Code	Course Title	Description
LSCI1301	TROUBLED WATERS: OUR FUTURE AND THE GLOBAL OCEAN	<p>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. The oceans regulate temperature and climate, and govern nutrient and chemical cycles that sustain all living things, including you. The oceans, however, are in distress. Our tendency to endlessly pollute and harvest seafood unsustainably is 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 potential ecological collapse resulting from human-influenced changes in ocean temperature, oxygen, acidity, and biodiversity. The course includes readings, videos, and class discussion about how we affect 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 ocean and apply analysis and critical thinking to issues learned in class and their own research.</p>
LSCI1304	STORY OF FOOD:GROW OF MOD MEA	<p>Unlike nature's other eaters, humans have developed enormous control over their food chains. Through the use of various technologies, such as agriculture, synthetic fertilizers, and food processing, we have profoundly modified our food chains and, as a result, created entirely new eating possibilities for ourselves. Today our food is abundant and comes from all over the world. Much of what is consumed in the modern world is heavily processed, making it easy to store, quick to prepare, and convenient to eat. This industrialization of food production has given rise to a new type of consumer – the industrial eater. What implications does eating industrially have for our health and for the health of our environment? In this course, students investigate changes in human food chains from the hunter-gatherers to present-day industrialized agriculture and learn about the impacts of modern food production on people, ecosystems, and biodiversity. The critical role of biodiversity within and beyond human food chains is emphasized. Students analyze and think critically about issues explored in class and through independent research.</p>

## Social Sciences

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
LSSC1319	GLOBAL JUSTICE	The onset of globalization has coincided with the emergence of a variety of calls for “global justice”, reform and alternative forms of globalization. The desire for global justice and alternative globalizations emerges from economic, cultural, ecological and political trends. This course is interdisciplinary in nature, combining perspectives from history, sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, philosophy and civil society to explore the meanings of global justice and alternative globalization, their central policy proposals, institutional structures and the new forms of social experience that are producing the desire for greater transnational and international equality. The course focuses on the intersection between appeals for economic redistribution, cultural recognition, environmental sustainability, and political representation. (Prerequisite: One lower-level Liberal Studies course)