

## **General Education Elective Course Descriptions**

### **Theme 1: Arts in Society**

**Content:** Courses in this theme group lead to an understanding of the importance of visual and creative arts in human affairs, of artists' and writers' perceptions of the world, and the means by which those perceptions are translated into visual, auditory, performance, literary, and other art forms. They also provide an appreciation of the aesthetic values used in examining works of art and possibly a direct experience in expressing perceptions artistically.

#### **DSN2001: History of Design**

Visual communications and graphic design have played a key role in the evolution of communication through a number of historical and social art movements. Graphic design has had a major impact on civilizations over the ages. Students explore graphic design's many influences, including the invention of writing and alphabets, the origins of printing and typography, Victorian, Art Nouveau, Modern Art and Post Modern design, to the present day computer revolution and its influence on the many forms of contemporary visual communication that surround us every day.

#### **GED5005: Greek Mythology**

Students explore intriguing characters, important places and famous myths of Classical Greece. By examining a variety of popular myths, students discover how the Ancient Greeks crafted narratives of gods, goddesses, monsters, and heroic figures to make sense of their lives and the world around them. Using examples from art, science, and industry, students examine how these epic stories from oral tradition have endured and continue to influence contemporary society.

#### **GED6022: A Sense of Humour**

Humour is a universal tool of communication and social influence. Learners survey the development, use and value of humour in Canadian visual and creative arts. Varieties of humour, such as irony, satire and farce are positioned in the context of Canadian culture to enhance learners' appreciation of humour and self-awareness.

#### **GEN1957: Science Fiction**

Science fiction is both a genre of popular entertainment and a mode of social commentary. Learners explore the formal conventions and the history of the genre, consume and analyze a representative range of science fiction, and strive to heighten their critical appreciation of the role and place of science fiction in society. Learners also have an opportunity to create their own piece of science fiction.

#### **LIB1982: Reading for Recreation**

Reading gives us knowledge and new ideas to draw from in the future. It tones the mind in ways similar to the way exercise tones the body. As a result, time spent in reading for recreation has benefits beyond the immediate appreciation of the text. Students examine the appeal factors of various genres of fiction and non-fiction by reviewing the history and classics of each genre, considering the therapeutic values of reading and examining recent trends in online reading and publishing.

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### **Theme 2: Civic Life**

**Content:** Courses in this area provide students with an understanding of the meaning of rights, freedoms, and participation in community and public life, in addition to a working knowledge of the structure and function of various levels of government in Canada and/or in an international context. They may also provide an historical understanding of major political issues affecting relations between these various levels and their constituents.

#### **ENV0002: Environmental Citizenship**

Based on the general principles of national citizenship, environmental citizenship goes beyond national borders to emphasize global environmental rights and responsibilities. It focuses on both conservation of and planned sustainable use of our planet's resources, as well as the recognition that environmental health is a prerequisite to human health. Being an environmentally-aware citizen involves a personal commitment to learning more about the environment and to taking responsible environmental action. Students are encouraged to adopt attitudes and behaviours that foster global environmental responsibility.

#### **GED5002: Victimology**

An increased awareness of the ripple effect of crime has recently given rise to victimology as a significant field of study. Students investigate victims of crime and the impact that crime has on their lives, their families and society by studying the history of victimology and the victims' movement, the nature and extent of victimization, its emerging theories and resulting legislation. In addition, victims' services, accessibility to services, rights of the victim and the victim in the criminal justice system are examined. Students also learn about crime in the workplace, schools, and campuses, and the importance of recognizing those at risk.

#### **GEN2007: Community Services**

Volunteerism not only benefits a community, it can broaden the worldview of the volunteer. Students who give their time and energy to a particular cause, gain an opportunity to reflect on the value of the volunteer in contemporary society. Through research and discussion, students consider different types of volunteer settings, trace the history of volunteer organizations, examine the various roles volunteers play within society and reflect on ethical issues.

#### **HIS2000: Good Times and Bad - 70 Years in the Life of Canada**

During the 70 years from 1897 to 1967, Canadians experienced times of prosperity and progress, as well as periods of depression and war. There were times of optimism and moments of crisis. Through it all Canadians built a nation and contributed to the world's development. Students explore the political framework of Canada, recurring social issues and the place of Canada in the world.

### **Theme 3: Social and Cultural Understanding**

**Content:** Courses in this area deal broadly with major social and cultural themes that define people and events historically and geographically. Many focus on the various ways that historical and contemporary events may be interpreted through available evidence.

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Students thus develop an appreciation for and understanding of the impact of socio-cultural, ethnic, and religious forces on individuals and groups.

### **ARC9001: Conserving Canada's Architectural Heritage**

If your field is architecture, building trades, engineering, social planning or tourism, your future is certain to include the past. To Canadians, preserving our heritage resources is a visible sign of community pride and environmental responsibility. Protecting heritage buildings requires an understanding of their histories and the principles of conservation shared by the preservation community. Students acquaint themselves with a variety of building styles and traditional building techniques as they have evolved across the Canadian landscape.

### **FAM1218: A Cultural Diversity Quest**

Learners explore the concept of multiculturalism and some of the ways in which it is interpreted by Canadian society. Through an online quest, learners expand their knowledge of Canada's various cultural groups and examine the issue of ethnocentricity, and analyze factors that lead to prejudice, racism and discrimination in Canadian society. Finally, learners seek out ways to appreciate cultural differences and promote positive intercultural relationships in their communities and in their workplaces.

**GED1896: The Middle East: An Understanding of Media Sources and Their Impact** We live in an age in which influential messages about pressing events and social issues are delivered through mass media. It is essential that people consciously analyze and evaluate media messages when interpreting history and current events. Students seek out current, accurate and credible sources of information and examine the influence that media messages have on their understanding of the world. Through the analysis of readings, audio and video materials, students develop critical- thinking skills while gaining an understanding of historical and current events in the Middle East.

### **GED5006: World Religions**

In Canada, society embraces people from many cultures of the world. By exploring different religious beliefs about the world, the individual, the meaning of life and death, and how individuals are encouraged to conduct themselves, students begin to appreciate the underlying forces that shape followers' lives. Students explore the history and basic teachings of six of the major religions of the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and the Baha'i Faith. Each religion's distinctive features are highlighted, while their similarities and shared values are examined. Students have the opportunity to broaden their worldview through an exposure to divergent religious traditions.

### **GEN2000: Film and Multiculturalism**

Official policy in Canada since 1971, multiculturalism remains controversial in many sectors of Canadian life. Through viewing and reflecting on a series of films, learners enhance their understanding of multiculturalism, as well as the values and representations of multiculturalism, both positive and negative, that the films present. Among the issues covered are immigration, refugees, ethnic enclaves, the "Quebec question," indigenous relations, racism and ethnic violence.

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### **HIS0001: Saints and Heroes: Shining a Spotlight on the 'Dark Ages,' Europe A.D. 410-1096**

When the mighty Roman Empire began to collapse, it was attacked from all directions by barbarian armies. The resulting turmoil caused Europe to sink into a period of social and political upheaval known as the Dark Ages. However, during these troubled times, extraordinary warriors and missionaries emerged whose profound influence has played a vital role in shaping what has become our modern world. Students examine the social, political, intellectual, and economic history of this era and explore its enduring impact on modern western society.

### **HOS2228: Wine, Food and Culture**

An understanding of culture can be discovered by exploring eating and drinking customs. Students experience a virtual global tour, exploring culture, history and traditions through the lens of wine and food. Students acquire a sense of the customs of their culture and those of others. Through comparison, observation, discussion, and reflection, students discover something found in all cultures: the importance of food and drink.

### **MGT7330: Trends in Today's Workplace**

In today's culture of work, every employee needs to be knowledgeable about current trends and issues in the workplace. Students explore emerging issues facing employees in today's technology-driven workplace and investigate the realities of social networking, diversity in the workplace and work mobility.

### **MVM8800: The Impact of the Car on North American Culture**

Learners explore the social, economic, political and environmental impact of the automobile on North American lives. Studying the history of the automobile, from its introduction to the present day, allows learners to track the changes it has introduced to manufacturing, lifestyles, design principles, transportation systems, the environment and labour-management negotiation and economic organization.

### **PSI0003: Globalization and Sustainability**

The rapid growth of the global economy raises fundamental questions: How does trade and politics affect development and the environment? What are the effects of free trade and the rise of multi-national corporations on local cultures? What are the effects of the 'clash of cultures' produced by international travel, migration, and new social, collaborative technologies that send film, books, television, music and other 'proprietary' content spinning around the world instantly? Is globalization environmentally sustainable? Students examine these and other questions and analyze the day-to-day choices raised by globalization in an increasingly interconnected world.

### **RAD2001: Popular Culture**

One dictionary definition of popular culture is the "totality of socially transmitted behaviour patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought." This definition allows us great freedom and scope. Students examine recent North American popular culture including trends, fads, styles, theories and the cult of the new. By exploring our perceptions of culture and the trivialization of society, students begin to appreciate how the media has relentlessly helped to shape today's values. Through online research, assigned readings, and participation in self-directed learning, students critique popular culture's place in North American society, concentrating on their decade of choice.

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### **Theme 4: Personal Understanding**

**Content:** Courses in this area focus on understanding one's personal development, economic function, social life, place in the environment and universe, challenges and opportunities, setbacks and success, and meaning and purpose. Courses facilitating the study of human social behaviour systematically allow students to understand how individuals can function and succeed in a variety of contexts.

#### **FIN2300: Introduction to Personal Finance**

The ability to establish and maintain one's own financial health is a lifelong skill that benefits everyone. Students examine the topics of credit and debt, home ownership and mortgages, the savings challenge, government savings vehicles, fixed income and equity investments, mutual funds, financial planning, retirement strategies and insurance. Students evaluate the role of financial service providers in developing and implementing financial plans.

#### **GED5200: Learning Disabilities, The Invisible Disability**

Students increase their awareness of, and sensitivity to, persons with learning disabilities in social, educational and work settings. The field of learning disabilities is introduced through an historical overview, definitions, characteristics and various models of the causes of learning disabilities. Students learn about the impact learning disabilities have on people's day-to-day lives and the strategies that may be used to compensate for them. Activities include group work, independent research, reflection and case studies. Students are encouraged to share personal experience and knowledge.

#### **GEN1001: Ethics: What's the Big Deal?**

Some would say that "there's a hole in the moral ozone and it's getting bigger." Students clarify their own moral values and understand how these values impact the course of their lives. Students practise using tools and decision-making models designed to deal with personal and professional ethical dilemmas.

#### **GEN2003: Healthy Lifestyle**

Are you eating healthy foods? Do you exercise regularly? Do you know how to prevent injuries and disease? These are some of the skills necessary to live a healthy lifestyle. Through self-evaluation, weekly journals and hands-on exercises, students assess their personal lifestyles and learn how to improve them.

#### **SOC2003: Understanding Human Sexuality**

Students study human sexuality through an interdisciplinary approach. Students gain a basic understanding of human sexuality through an investigation of history, culture, physiology, sexual development, sexual behaviours, sexually transmitted diseases, attitudes, sex, deviance and sexual relationships.

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### **Theme 5: Science and Technology**

**Content:** Courses in this area range in focus from the basics of the scientific method to the diverse technological applications that have changed—and will continue to change—our lives for better and worse. While students may develop a wary eye for the dangers of technological excess and encroachment into every aspect of our collective being, they also explore ways that new technology can be used to right the wrongs of old technology, especially with regard to the environment. Other technologies explored may also bring us to a deeper understanding of ourselves and our place in the environment and universe.

#### **GED5003: The Science of Play**

Toys and games, key components of play, have evolved from homemade trinkets to highly engineered items in a multi-billion dollar industry. Students explore the connections between technology and play, specifically the benefits, drawbacks and ethical implications of toy and game design. Case studies allow students to consider familial, cultural, sociological, and other influences upon toy and game design over the last century. Through discussion, analysis and workshops, students move towards designing their own toy or game or modifying an existing one.

#### **GED5004: Living Green**

The need to lead healthy, environmentally conscious lives is becoming increasingly important. Students acquire the practical knowledge and skills required to explore current environmental challenges and identify personal plans for living in an environmentally responsible manner. Students investigate the history and development of current environmental concerns, the environmental impact of our choices and behaviours and, finally, the strategies involved in living green.

#### **GED5009: Digging into Ancestral Roots**

Students are encouraged to become amateur genealogists, recording their past for future generations using the modern tools of science and technology. Students examine how scientists use DNA evidence to trace one's origins back to the beginning of humankind's existence, and to determine how contemporary individuals might be related to one another. By examining microfilm technology and computer databases that store and retrieve data about their ancestors, students uncover data, such as birth, death and marriage records and land transactions. Through discussion forum activities and individual research, students retrieve family records and examine privacy issues associated with putting one's family tree online. The final product is a four-generational family tree supported by genealogical evidence.

#### **GED5300: The Science of Everyday Life**

The mysteries of science surround us and play a significant role in everyone's daily life, regardless of their level of awareness. Familiarity with the basic concepts of science in disciplines, such as biology, physics and chemistry, helps students better understand the world in which they live, the attitudes and opinions of those with whom they interact and the reasons why many things happen. By examining everyday occurrences, students are introduced to scientific ways of thought and to problem-solving methods used by scientists. A background in science and math is not required.