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.

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. Students 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 the student’s appreciation of humour and self-awareness.

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
Environmental citizenship is based on the principles of national citizenship, yet it goes beyond political borders to emphasize global environmental rights and responsibilities. Through a combination of interactive activities, assignments, and discussions, students learn how they are personally connected with current environmental issues. Students also learn that environmental health is a prerequisite to human health. An environmental citizen is committed to learning more about the environment and to taking responsible environmental action. Therefore, 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

GED5004 Living Green
The need to lead healthy, environmentally conscious lives is 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 the strategies involved in living green.

GED5009Digging 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.