

General Education Elective Course Descriptions

Theme 1: Arts in Society

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.

ENL1726 Symbols, Text and Meaning

Symbols and text are used to express, evoke, and manipulate an entire range of human emotions and reactions. In this interactive, discussion-based course, students will explore historical and contemporary approaches to using symbols, text, and language in conceptual and contemporary art, graphic design and advertising, poetry and lyrics, and in online technology. Through discussion, analysis, informal debate, and critical thinking, students will explore how symbols and text influence individuals, society, and culture.

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 students' appreciation of humour and self-awareness.

GEN1957 Science Fiction

Science fiction is both a genre of popular entertainment and an effective mode of social commentary. Students explore the formal conventions and the history of the genre, analyze a representative range of science fiction, and develop their critical appreciation of the role and place of science fiction in society. In addition to writing reflective and analytical assignments, students 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

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. An environmental citizen is committed to learning more about the environment and to taking responsible environmental action. Through a combination of interactive activities, assignments and discussions, students learn how they are personally connected with current environmental issues. Students are also 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.

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Theme 3: Social and Cultural Understanding

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 Canadian Identity and Multiculturalism

Students explore the concept of multiculturalism and some of the ways in which it is interpreted by Canadian society. Through an online quest, students 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, students 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. Therefore, 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

Since becoming policy in Canada in 1971, multiculturalism has been an important part of Canada's cultural identity. Through viewing and reflecting on a series of films, students 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.

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

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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.

HOS2288 The Dinner Party

Table manners are as unique to a culture as the foods they eat – how people eat varies widely from country to country. Participants in this course explore the culture and customs of international dining practices. Through investigation, discussion and reflection, participants have the opportunity to raise their own and each other's awareness and sensitivity to different cultural behaviours and customs. Over scheduled lunches and dinners, participants consider the influence of culture, society, religion, geography and history on dining practices around the world.

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

Students explore the social, economic, political and environmental impact of the automobile on North American lives. Through a combination of assignments, discussion boards, and quiz work, students study the history of the automobile, from its introduction to the present day. Doing so allows students to track the changes the car has introduced to manufacturing, lifestyles, design principles, transportation systems, the environment, 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

FIN2300 Introduction to Personal Finance

Establishing and maintaining healthy personal financial affairs are important steps towards overall success in life. Through self-study of | text material, review questions, self-test quizzes, assignments and a final examination, students acquire knowledge and skills concerning credit and debt, home ownership and mortgages, the savings challenge, government programs to encourage saving, fixed income and equity investments, mutual funds, budgeting and financial planning, retirement strategies, public and private pensions, business ownership and insurance.

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 is the Big Deal?

In today's society there is increasingly more attention focused on questions of right or wrong, good or evil. Ethical issues relating to a wide variety of concerns are examined. Students clarify their own moral values and explore how these values impact the course of their lives. Students practise using tools and decision-making models to deal with personal and professional 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

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. Through a combination of assignments, discussion boards, and quiz work, students investigate the history and development of current environmental concerns, the environmental impact of our choices and behaviours, and strategies involved in living green.

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.