

UNV 100 – First Year Experience Courses
As of April 25, 2011

Fall 2011 Offerings

CRN 14485 UNV100:01 Social and Cultural History of Food: Rice, Maize and Coffee (3 credits)

Meets: Monday/Wednesday, 2:30-3:45 pm, 317 MSB
Instructor: Guluma Gemedo, Associate Professor, Africana Studies

Course description:

This course explores the history of three food crops – rice, maize and coffee – which are very popular in our contemporary diet. These crops originated at different places, but they are now consumed all over the world. From where do they come? What kinds of cultures are associated with the cultivation and consumption of these crops? Did these cultures survive as the crops spread to different geographical areas? Can we still detect the cultures from which they came from the production, preparation and consumption of rice, maize and coffee? Or did they become our collective diet with homogenized culture? Students will learn a brief history of each crop – its production, processing, exchange, preparation and consumption. Studying the history of the crops, students will gain knowledge about different cultures and diets. Students will also learn the global economic process and interdependence by studying the chain of food production and consumption in contemporary globalized economy and society. With group or individual projects, students will share how their favorite family or cultural food is prepared. At the final preparation, each student group will discuss the significance of their dishes and reflect upon the differences and similarities with other cultures.

CRN 14418 UNV100:02 Prove it! (3 credits)

Meets: Tuesday/Thursday, 2:30-3:45 pm, 161 FH
Instructors: James Anderson, Lecturer, English
Cathy Akers-Jordan, Lecturer, English

Course description:

In an age where a wealth of information can be acquired by the simple click of a computer mouse, information is often conflated with knowledge. The need for a healthy, principled skepticism among the citizens of a democratic society has never been greater. How do we sort through the Internet's tangle of fact and opinion, claim and counter-claim, to pull out threads of truth? In short, how do we decide who and what to believe? This course looks to rhetorical tradition and theory to help answer this question. Readings will include Aristotle's Rhetoric and a textbook like Logic and Contemporary Rhetoric. These texts, along with the rhetorical perspectives of guest speakers from multiple disciplines (philosophy, law, and marketing), will serve as the conceptual framework for the course. Students will use this framework to 1) analyze evidence presented in case studies about social issues relevant to the Flint community as presented in forms common to the digital age and 2) to further investigate issues presented in the case studies with a critical eye towards evidence in a final research project. Students will be asked to identify, interrogate, and at times dispose of their preconceived notions and dubious sources and to replace them with credible sources, critical thinking, and methods appropriate for academic study. Students will gain practice and confidence with finding, analyzing, and evaluating sources. They will learn to identify bias and misleading information from a variety of sources, including web sites, television, and film. Ultimately, in learning about and applying ideas from rhetorical theory, students will gain confidence in their ability to negotiate the influx of information available in the digital age and develop the skills required for rational and critical inquiry in academia and beyond.

CRN 14426 UNV 100:03 Let's Go Arts (3 credits)

Meets: Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00-12:15 pm, 107 MSB

Instructors: Mike Sevick, Associate Professor, Art
Elizabeth Kattner-Ulrich, Lecturer, Dance
Andrew Morton, Lecturer, Theatre

Course description:

The course will focus on four major arts disciplines (visual arts, music, theatre and dance) and take students outside of the classroom into the exhibit and performance venues. Students will experience a variety of local arts venues (Flint Institute of Arts, Flint Symphony, Flint Youth Theatre and university exhibits and performances) as an introduction to the fine arts. The arts contribute greatly to the health and identity of an urban area and for Flint, this is especially true. The students will experience the vitality of the city through the arts.

CRN 14424 UNV 100:04 Food and Hunger (4 credits)

Meets: Tuesday/Thursday, 10:30 am – 12:10 pm, 305 MSB

Instructor: Peggy Kahn, Professor, Political Science

Course description:

This course examines the production and consumption of food. It is focused on the United States, but in a (limited) global perspective. A benefit of looking at food is that eating is often an unexamined, taken-for-granted daily activity, which can be better understood through learning and reflection from a variety of perspectives within and among disciplines. Both production and consumption of food are shaped by national and global political economy, national regulation, technologies and science, social structures and culture. Thus, many perspectives and approaches to understanding food are important. Public collective action and private action shape food production and consumption; global food policy and trade advocates, corporate interests, farmer movements and lobbies, public health advocates, social welfare policymakers and agencies, and individuals all play important roles.

CRN 14425 UNV100:05/06 Intergroup Dialogue (3 credits)

Meets: Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-1:45 pm, 121/319 MSB

Instructors: Tom Wrobel, Professor, Psychology
Hillary Heinze, Assistant Professor, Psychology

Course description:

Students register for the course and specify which group identities they hold such as gender, sexual orientation, racial identity, ethnicity, religion, age, ability and class. Depending on the registration, groups of like identities are formed paired with groups formed of those with a different identity and experience and which may have had contentious relations in the past. Each group is facilitated by a trained leader. The like groups are taught the skills of active listening and taught to dialogue, not debate, each other. They then move through exercises of increasing detail of exploration including an exploration of social identity groups, socialization, and a series of "Hot Topics" or exercises in confronting areas of historical conflict. Students keep a weekly journal of their experiences, present a testimonial of their background and socialization, complete an Intergroup Collaboration Project, and a Final Reflection Paper which integrates the learning from the assigned reading, weekly journals, class activities, and dialogue discussions.

CRN 14427 UNV100:07 Who am I? (3 credits)

Meets: Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-1:45 pm, 3145 WSW
Instructor: Suzanne Selig, Professor, Public Health & Health Science

Course description:

The focus of this course is on the multitude of influences on one's social identity and the role that "Who Am I?" plays in the potential and realized students' educational experience. Exploring "Who Am I?" and social identity will provide a foundation for developing increased self awareness, an awareness of others, connection to community and the larger society.

As the factors which contribute to social identity are multiple and interactive, an examination of biology, culture, family, socioeconomic status, social location, peer influence, formal and informal education, religion, ethnicity, and generation will be considered. Key concepts and theories from multiple academic disciplines including biology, psychology, social psychology, sociology, demography will be included as they relate to identity development. Additional areas will be added based on student input.

CRN 14463 UNV100:08 Let's Talk About Sex and HIV (4 credits)

Meets: Friday, 12:30-3:15, 307 FH
Instructors: Alicia Kent, Associate Professor, English
Tonya Bailey, Lecturer, English

Course description:

See Summer 2011 description

CRN 14417 UNV100:09 Media Mix (4 credits)

Meets: Monday/Wednesday, 12:30-2:10 pm, 3203 WSW
Instructors: Mike Lewis, Assistant Professor, Communication (Journalism)
James Schirmer, Assistant Professor, English

Course description:

In a mediated society, how can students learn to become media literate as consumers and producers of media messages? Students will learn to find, and produce, reliable and useful information in digital formats that engage specific audiences. The course will explore traditional and new media with an eye toward building communities locally and globally.

CRN 14931 UNV100:10 Sites and Sounds of Africa (3 credits)

Meets: Monday/Wednesday, 4:00-4:15 pm, 305 MSB
Instructor: Ernest Emenyonu, Professor, Africana Studies

Course description:

The central focus of this course is on the diversity and contrast which characterize the African continent. Students will study countries from four regions of Africa and analyze how diversity and contrast though problematic, have been harnessed for the development of Africa in general. Students will study relevant factors (religion, economy, cultural pluralism, political evolution, etc) that give identity to and account for the present realities and standing of each region in Africa. The intention is for students to explore the contrasts and diversities in Africa in relation to their own social background and experiences and how

such is interrelated.

CRN 14959 UNV100:11 Microbes & Our World (3 credits)

Meets: Wednesday, 9:10-10:45 am, TBD

Instructor: Margaret Ware, Lecturer, Biology

Course description:

Microbes have co-existed with humans throughout time, some interacting to the benefit of man, some having adverse relationships. This course will survey the microbial world and explore the effects of microbial life on mankind. Discussions will involve the study of microbes not only from a health related view, but as interactive organisms, very much intertwined with our existence. Units of study will explore the microbial effect, advantageous or otherwise, on industry, local economy, daily activity and cultural practices, and the arts; examples will be drawn from the past as well as the present. The emphasis will be on encouraging the ability to view a topic, in this case microbes, from multiple perspectives as opposed to traditional or popular thought, with hopes of sparking an interest in the interrelationships between and respect for disciplines other than one's own. Hands-on demonstrations will be included where appropriate. Discussion bases exploration will be encouraged. Speaker(s) with various perspectives will be sought out. Written work will require appropriate research and referencing to support statements made.