



Spring 2012

First Year Seminar Course Descriptions

ACC 150 (Accounting) Business in China

As the People's Republic of China's growing economic influence has reshaped the global economy, the need to understand the historical and cultural forces at play in China has become extremely important. This course introduces students to these rich traditions, by exploring how these forces influence the current business environment in China, including market conditions, negotiations, networks, and organizations. Current events in China will be discussed as that nation continues its march from a socialist state to a more market-oriented economy. This course will also serve as an introduction to business in general, with the student becoming exposed to some of the issues surrounding product development, pricing, distribution and promotion in what many consider to be the world's most dynamic economy.

ART 150 (ART) Visualizing the Sacred

Pop artist Andy Warhol created over one hundred images of the Last Supper and other Catholic themes in the mid 1980s, African American artist Henry Ossawa Tanner gave tangible form to Biblical stories in his compelling paintings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and in 2002 Spanish architect José Rafael Moneo Vallés designed the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, California. In more recent years Korean artist Kimsooja has employed Buddhist philosophy in her videos of the Yamuna River in India, Helène Aylon's installations have offered critical readings of the Torah, and Shahzia Sikander has used techniques of Indian and Persian miniature painting to examine the teachings of Islam. These are but a few of the many examples of how modern and contemporary artists and architects have engaged the many intersections between art and religions. Unprecedented globalization has helped spur dialogues among a wide range of creeds and has called attention to artists' (sometimes controversial) visual responses to religion worldwide.

This course will consider debates raised in recent exhibitions and scholarly texts. Although some emphasis will be placed on the relationship between art and Catholicism, students will analyze creative responses many faiths, including other forms of Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. They will explore the work of artists and architects working in a variety of media in the United States, India, and Mexico, among other countries. By focusing on a representative selection of works of art and architecture, we will examine such topics as iconography, censorship, blasphemy, visual interpretations of sacred texts, and the sublime. As art history is a fundamentally interdisciplinary field, this course will help prepare students for a wide range of majors, prompting them to adopt an inquisitive, critical, and global approach toward the various topics they encounter during their years at Saint Joseph's University and afterwards.

ASC 150 (Actuarial Science) Forecasting the Future- the Mathematics of Risk

Actuaries identify, evaluate, and quantify risk. This first year seminar course will examine techniques used by actuaries to forecast the future. The course will be interactive and will make extensive use of simulations based in Excel. Students will learn to make predictions based on past patterns, ranging from sports statistics to bond prices and insurance premiums. There will be classroom debates and group discussions on the challenges actuaries face in reconciling mathematical and social equity. Sample topics will include debating whether younger drivers

should pay more for car insurance, discussing if affordable health insurance is a right, and examining the fairness and future of the social security system. Risk management professionals and actuaries will be featured as guest speakers during the semester. Basic Excel spreadsheet skills will be demonstrated and taught.

CHM 150 (Chemistry) Pollution and Public Health

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental factors governing air, water and soil pollution, and to briefly discuss the impacts of pollution on public health, both in the US and in the developing world. We will examine various physical, chemical and biological sources of pollution such as heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, pesticides, radionuclides, ionizing and nonionizing radiation, thermal and noise pollution, bacteria, viruses, and parasites. These different agents contribute to the pollution of soil, the atmosphere, and water bodies such as lakes, rivers and oceans, and pose a significant public health problem across the globe.

EDU 150 (Education) Schools in Society

Please note: Three hours of fieldwork in a school setting is required as part of this FY seminar. This seminar is typically restricted to Education majors and those pursuing secondary education certification. (Also fulfills the diversity Overlay)

This introductory course explores the role of America's schools in both historical and contemporary contexts. Special consideration is given to the schooling experiences of different groups of students in terms of race, class, gender, special needs, etc. Visits to local schools offer students opportunities to explore the educational issues that impact public education. This field experience is a unique opportunity for both education and non-education majors to think critically about their past experiences in education and about the invaluable role of teachers in a democratic society.

ENG 150 (English) Artificial Intelligence in fiction, Fact, & Film

A key issue in contemporary philosophy and cognitive science is the nature of consciousness. In his introduction to *The Mind's Eye*, Daniel C. Dennett makes the following claim:

Consciousness is both the most obvious and the most mysterious feature of our minds. On the one hand, what could be more certain or manifest to each of us than that he or she is a subject of experience, an enjoyer of perceptions and sensations, a sufferer of pain, an entertainer of ideas, and a conscious deliberator. On the other hand, what is the world can consciousness be? How can living physical bodies in the physical world produce such a phenomenon?

Furthermore, he continues, might consciousness reside in living creatures other than humans or even in manufactured entities? As he queries, "If a cleverly designed robot could (seem to) tell us of its inner life (could utter all the appropriate noises in the appropriate contexts), would be right to admit it to the charmed circle?" In the realm of speculative fiction, writers and filmmakers have explored the nature of consciousness by focusing on such "cleverly designed robots"—by considering whether artificial intelligence can indeed partake of what we call consciousness. In this course, we will examine fictional narratives and films that foreground artificial intelligence in order to explore the nature of consciousness. Concurrently, we will read philosophical and scientific texts that discuss the issues of consciousness and artificial intelligence.

ENG 150 (English) Nature in America

In as many ways as possible, we will explore nature in America—looking to find out what nature has to offer us as we seek to build healthy and responsible lives. Reading will take us to diverse classics of nature writing: H. D. Thoreau’s *Walden*, Edward Abbey’s *Desert Solitaire*, Lorraine Anderson’s *Sisters of the Earth*, Michael Pollan’s *Second Nature—Gardener’s Education*. Just as importantly, we will take field trip walks to discover the value of nature in the suburbs and in the city. Students will keep nature journals and respond to the literary texts and to nature directly in a variety of writing assignments.

HIS 150 (History) Law and Order in History: The Anglo-American World

This seminar is a comparative exploration of the criminal justice institutions of Europe (mostly England) and the United States, from the Enlightenment in the 18th century into the 20th century. We shall look at changing philosophies and practices of crime control, including the evolution of modern police forces and the growth of the prison systems. We shall also look at modern criminal justice trends.

IBU 150(International Business) Cultural Diversity and International Business

(Also fulfills the Diversity Overlay)

This course is an introduction to international business and its many dimensions through the lens of cultural diversity. The course develops the understanding that cultural diversity is a crucial component of sustained and productive cross-border interactions in general and international business in particular. It discusses the power of diversity whereby the whole can be made greater than the sum of the parts. Through in-class exercises and out-of-class assignments, the course leads students to reflect that their framework for looking at the world around them, i.e., their worldview, may be very different from that of other cultures. A necessary condition for engaging in international business is to be aware of cultural differences and be able to adapt to environments that are different from those one is used to. This course develops in students not only the knowledge to better understand the reasons behind these cultural differences, but also the ability to more easily and effectively adapt to them. The main objective of the course is to provide students with a broad context enabling them to develop the capacity for critical thinking as well as the skills necessary to understand what success means in today’s culturally diverse global business environment. It is not enough to be economically successful. In fact, being economically successful is indeed undesirable in the absence of social responsibility and concern for the health of the planet.

LTT 150 (Literature in Translation) Language, Culture, and Identity

This course focuses on the complex relationships between language, culture and identity, studying the example of the French-speaking world. In the course, we will use multiple approaches, drawing on concepts and data from history, political science, sociology, ethics, cultural criticism and postcolonial theory. The course begins with the development of the political and cultural site called “France” and evolving notions of *francité* (“Frenchness”), and extends through the French “civilizing mission” and colonial experience in North America, the Caribbean, southeast Asia, and North and West Africa, to anti-colonial movements inspired by ideals of the French Enlightenment. We end with the contemporary world, especially the international network called “Francophonie,” notions like “altermondialism” and “cultural exception” and, finally, the thought of influential sociologist Pierre Bourdieu. This first year seminar will introduce new students at Saint Joseph’s University to undergraduate scholarship through substantive readings (both primary and secondary materials),

research tasks and critical discussions, as well as movie viewings, meals, and museum visits outside of class.

MTF 150 (Music, Theater & Film) American Roots: Folk Music and Identity

This course explores the variety of music that has been identified as “American folk music.” Questions for investigation include: What music is perceived and promoted as “authentically” American? Is the music of some ethnic or regional groups or economic classes privileged above others? How have the agendas of academic folklorists, record company executives, music promoters, and political activists shaped public perception of American folk music? How have these agendas determined what music is performed and recorded? Is commercialism of folk music necessarily a bad thing? In addition to examining primary and secondary sources, students will learn about this music in three ways. First, they will gain an appreciation of folk music repertoire through practical experience, including informal performance, group music making, and attendance at cultural events in the Philadelphia area. Second, each student will complete a research project about roots music and identity in an American regional or ethnic community. Third, the class will document roots music communities in Philadelphia through interviews with local musicians. The course is not a historical survey of American music; rather, we use the living tradition of American roots music as a reference point for a discussion of the construction of a distinctly American musical identity and the problems inherent in such a construction.

PHL 150 (Philosophy) Sweet Revenge and its Alternatives (Service learning class with Dr. Elizabeth Linehan)

Please Note: This is the first of a two-course Service Learning sequence. Students who enroll in this class must also commit to taking PHL 154 Moral Foundations in the fall with Dr. Linehan – 3 hours of service per week is required as part of the class in the spring and in the fall.

The course will deal with a family of themes: revenge, retribution, forgiveness, and mercy. All of these respond to wrongs: sins and/or crimes. In a perfect world there would be no sins or crimes to respond to, and so such an exploration would not be needed. In the world we live in, however, we have the question – not “why do men and women do evil?” as Augustine asked – but “Men and women do evil; what then?” Revenge seems a natural response to evil-doing, though arguably a destructive one. Many take it as a fundamental moral intuition that those who deliberately harm others deserve to suffer for that. Partly based on this, societies have instituted elaborate systems of “proportional retributive punishments” for crimes and assume this is essentially just. Some distinguish socially administered retribution from revenge, and others argue that they are fundamentally the same thing. Both involve some form of “payback” to one who wrongs other people.

PMK 150 (Pharmaceutical Marketing) Smart Healthcare Consumer

Becoming a smart healthcare consumer enables understanding of what having healthcare benefits means from the patient’s perspective as well as from the way healthcare delivery works in the U.S. It will also provide insights about healthcare delivery from the perspectives of all stakeholders, who either directly provide care to patients, such as doctors, nurses or hospitals, or indirectly participate in healthcare delivery, such as those who influence, regulate, adjudicate and/or pay for it. Class time will be dedicated to enhancing knowledge using research techniques from the business reference librarian to learn about medical innovation and the influence for-profit medicine has on it as well as time-tested basics of effectively treating patients. Learning will be enhanced by weekly service commitments at local not-for-profit healthcare delivery organizations in one section.

PMK 150 (Pharmaceutical Marketing) Global/Macro Developments& Issues in Healthcare

Could this course be more timely! President Obama and Congress passed a milestone healthcare law that took effect in March 2010. We will be present at the creation! We will be analyzing among other issues:

- * Who "wins" and who "loses"?
- * What will change in the delivery of healthcare, if anything?
- * What can stop the ever increasing cost of healthcare?
- * Healthcare systems throughout the world: aka, is it better to get sick in France or in the US?
- * What is "Managed Care"; Who are these guys who operate in a nether world beneath the radar but absolutely control what doctors we can see, what hospitals we can go to, and what drugs we can take
- * What are some of the abuses of healthcare in the US, especially, Fraud and Abuse and Anti-kickback

We will be ANALYZING these and other issues in the course. There will be short papers, one major team paper/presentation and two exams, a midterm and a final exam.

POL 150 (Political Science) Memory, Justice and Reconciliation: Facing the Legacy of Mass Violence

Coming to terms with the past is a challenge for each of us as individuals, and it is a multi-faceted hurdle to overcome in societies that have experienced widespread and horrific violence, in recent decades, many countries have been trying to move beyond dictatorship, ethnic conflict, and other forms of civil violence to establish stable democracies. This course examines how and to what ends nations and the international community have tried to institute transitional justice mechanisms, institutions and processes that seek to address and overcome the past conflict by, at times, finding the truths (honoring memory), holding transgressors accountable for their crimes (meting out justice), and (re)asserting national commitments to the humanity and worth of all citizens and to living together in peace (achieving reconciliation). Not for major credit.

PSY150 (Psychology) Gender in the Workplace

This course will approach workplace issues involving gender from both a psychological and management perspective. Specific issues discussed will include gender and leadership, occupational segregation of the workforce by gender, the effects of gender on manager-subordinate relationships, gender and sexual harassment in the workplace, pay equity, and ||family friendly|| workplace policies. Where-ever appropriate, comparisons to other countries and cultures will be made.

REL 150 (Religious Studies) Asian Spiritualities

Asian "gurus" have been coming West since at least the 19th century and it has become commonplace for Westerners to view the East as in some sense "spiritual" or "mystical." A variety of yogis and Zen masters have brought their traditional (and in some cases not so traditional) teachings to America and found receptive audiences, indeed, disciples. These teachings from the "mystical East" are often presented as profoundly "other," as defying rational analysis, as representing an alternative to such things as "Western Cartesian dualism" (the view that the body and mind are fundamentally separate realities). Where do these teachings come from? Do they in fact "defy rational analysis"? Just how different are they, and why? This course will tackle these questions head on by exploring in depth a few of the key source texts of these spiritual traditions.

The emphasis will be on learning how to make sense of texts that at first sight appear quite foreign and difficult to understand, even in translation. The class will focus on a limited number of such texts. Students will gradually devise methods to make sense of them, both by careful reading and by researching the historical, cultural and religious contexts of their authors. During the first half of the semester the class will work together as a whole in examining the first two chapters of the Yoga Sutra of Patanjali, the earliest systematic presentation of yoga in the Indian tradition. In the second half of the semester students will divide into groups to examine a limited number of other seminal texts from the Hindu and Buddhist traditions. The semester will conclude with each group presenting its findings to the class as a whole. The emphasis throughout will be on the careful reading of short but demanding texts supported by library and web-based research into their contexts.

SOC 150 (Sociology) Long Road to Adulthood

Nearly 100 years ago as the industrial era and expanding opportunities for education made the transition from childhood to adulthood a more gradual and extended process, the psychologist G. Stanley Hall coined the term “adolescence” to describe this unique stage of life. Nearly a century later, the greater commitment to schooling, the shift to a high-tech globalized economy and the changing norms for marriage and family has delayed the transition to adulthood once again. In advanced, post-industrial societies, social scientists believe we are witnessing the development of a new stage of life in-between adulthood and adolescence: emerging adulthood. In this course students will learn about the millenials and explore how cultural, economic, and social shifts transformed the twenty-something years. While the media portrays twenty-somethings as coddled, indulged Peter Pans who refuse to grow up, the reality is far more complex. Young people are reacting to complex historical forces that have transformed work, family, education, and economic opportunity. We will review the work of historians, economists, sociologists and psychologists who have discovered emerging adulthood, debated its significance, measured its impact, discussed the risks and rewards of the increasingly unpredictable path to adulthood, and created policy recommendations on how to support young people during the twenty something years.