

Preliminary Spring 2020 Learning Communities

LC 203 Making a Magazine about Big Questions, 3 cr.

IND 357 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies: Skepticism and Rationality, 3 cr., Prof. G. Scala

PHL 210 God, Darwin and America's Struggle with Creation, 3 cr., Prof. K. Giberson

The Integrative Seminar in the Learning Community Exploring Big Questions has a tangible goal: The student-led conceptualization, design, and production of a magazine that will engage meaningful philosophical questions in an accessible, journalistic, thoughtful way. This magazine will be produced, edited, reviewed and printed by the end of the semester. Each student will have a copy by the end of final exams.

Students will engage the full range of activities associated with a magazine. Based on interests and experience the students will be divided into teams: Editorial, marketing, creative design, production. Every student will have a slot on the masthead of the magazine. Members of the class will function as editor-in-chief, editor, senior editors, acquisitions editors, copy editors, book editors, layout editors, production directors, photo editors, and so on.

The bulk of the written content for the magazine will be produced in the companion courses in the LC, both of which have been designed to feed material into the magazine. Editing for style & length, graphics, cartoons, and other journalistic details will occur in the integrated seminar.

NOTE: PHL 210 fulfills the Catholic Intellectual Traditions and Natural Scientific Inquiry requirement.

LC 204 Food Justice (CBL), 4 cr., Prof. B. Meigs, Prof. C. Wetzel

This Learning Community challenges students to critically analyze their personal relationships with food and the larger structure of the food system, including food production, distribution and consumption, and disposal. Students will learn about and reflect on how food choices have local and global environmental, political and social impacts.

NOTE: LC 204 allows students to fulfill the Moral Inquiry requirement along with the LC requirement of the Cornerstone Program.

LC 206 Depression, War, and BOOM! 4 cr., Prof. N. Hammerle, Prof. A. Brecke

In this learning community, students will explore the socio-economic experiences of the American family in the mid-twentieth century. Using a combination of economics, history and popular culture, students will role-play as families from varying social, economic, and racial or ethnic perspectives. Throughout the semester, the students will present the changing landscape of the American family, in its varied demographics, as it was affected by economic changes, technological innovation, and evolving social mores, as well as by national and international events. As we traverse the decades from the 1930's through the 1960's, covering the Great Depression, WWII, the post-war boom, and the Civil and Women's Rights movements, students will see how these various changes affected our various family groups. We will employ popular culture artifacts like music, movies and television contemporary to, or illustrative of, the times. This LC will include guest speakers and presentations from members of the local academic and music community. This course is the equivalent to ECO 217, Economic History of the 20th Century American Family.

LC 221 Lift Every Voice: The Vocal Revolution, 4 cr., Prof. K. Oberoi, Prof. A. Popa

This interdisciplinary learning community explores the topic of singing traditions in diverse cultural and historical contexts. Why does song have so much power and meaning across all cultures? How has communal song served as a vehicle for social, cultural, and political change? We will take a comparative approach to these questions, contrasting Western and non-Western musical traditions and styles. Each student will participate in a final project involving the creative use of song as a means of personal or social expression. No previous musical experience is required.

NOTE: This LC has a lab fee of \$150.

LC 226 Community Health Promotion (CBL) Prof. L. Carlson, Prof. J. Greene

IND201 Nutrition & Health Behavior, Prof. J. Greene

In this course we will examine the development, prevention and treatment of common diseases and ailments affecting the U.S. population. We will learn about health problems ranging from obesity and heart disease to relationship violence and eating disorders. In addition, we will explore factors that increase an individual's risk for these health issues such as culture, gender, race and the environment. This course also includes a Community-Based Learning component.

LC 234 Community, Faith, and Social Justice, 4 cr., Prof. L. Hoke, Prof. L. Carlson

This course examines spiritual and religious belief systems and psychological research in physical and mental health, as they inform the promotion of social justice. Students work closely with the Brockton Interfaith Community to learn about inequality in the city, develop skills to take action, and participate in community-based projects.

LC 235 Quantum Waves (WID), 3 cr. Prof. H. Su, Prof. A. Massarotti

MTH 261 Multivariable Calculus, 4 cr. (Must have taken Fall 2019)

PHY 221 Physics III, 4 cr. (Must have taken Fall 2019)

The course is meant for students with a strong background in elementary physics. It is a natural continuation of the two elementary physics courses PHY 121-122, and students who have already taken these preliminary courses plus MTH 126 can automatically join LC 235. "Quantum Waves" can be taken as a stand-alone course or as part of a Learning Community, which includes Multivariable Calculus (MTH 261) as well as Physics III (PHY 221). "Quantum Waves" teaches about various quantum mechanical phenomena. With the creation of quantum mechanics in the 1920s, physicists conceived of a new and unexpected kind of wave that is neither a Newtonian (c. 1700) mechanical wave nor a Maxwellian (c. 1860) electromagnetic wave. These mysterious DeBroglie – Schroedinger waves of probability are the essence of quantum mechanics. These waves determine the structure of atoms and molecules, i.e. they are the deepest foundation of both physics and chemistry.

NOTE: MTH 261 has a prerequisite of MTH 126. PHY 221 has a prerequisite of MTH 126 and PHY 122.

NOTE: LC 235 allows students to fulfill the Writing in the Disciplines requirement along with the LC requirement of the Cornerstone Program.

LC 236 Everybody Counts: Elementary Math for Teachers, 1 cr.

MTH143-A Mathematical Reasoning for Educators, 3 cr., Prof. K. Marin

This four credit LC pairs MTH143: Mathematical Reasoning for Educators with a one-credit seminar taught by a math specialist from a partner district. Students will examine the ways in which elementary school students engage with mathematics content through curriculum, instructional routines, games, and pedagogical structures.

LC 238 Biomedical Dramas, 1 cr., Prof. C. Mekios, Prof. J. Petty

PHL 235 Biomedical Ethics, 3 cr., Prof. C. Mekios

VPT 331 Topics in Theatre I: The Theater of Medicine, 3 cr., Prof. J. Petty

Biomedical Dramas explores issues in biomedical research and their portrayal in the context of popular culture. The reading and critical analysis of dramatic works in script and film will present a lens through which to evaluate the historical impact and current state of medicine and biomedical research on the human condition.

LC 241 Schemers...and Monsters: Representations of Women, 4 cr., Prof. M. Freitas, Prof. E. Parks

Against a backdrop of recent scholarship in social history, students in this discussion-oriented course will explore to what extent Classical ideas about women are affirmed or subverted in contemporary culture. Material from a variety of genres will include film, poetry, fiction, drama, history, nonfiction, philosophy, and the personal essay.

LC 272 Women's Global Issues, 3 cr.

BUS 336 International Business, 4 cr., Prof. J. Swanson

COM 313 Gender and Communication, 3 cr., Prof. M. Myers

This LC will explore women's issues in a global context, a theme that integrates the Gender and Communication and International Business courses. We will examine how women's voices are encouraged and expressed in different cultures and organizations. Specific topics will include violence against women, women's human rights, women leaders, women-owned businesses, marriage and motherhood, work and family balance, and other relevant topics. This LC will incorporate invited speakers, peer presentations, lectures, readings, discussions, and on-campus and off-campus events relating to the subject area. Students will have the opportunity to research a topic of their choice for the concluding project. Both women and men are welcome to enroll.

LC 324 Discovering Devotion in Creative Practice/Sacred Spaces, 3 cr., Prof. C. Smith-Corby, Prof. M. Curtin - TRAVEL LC

VPS 225 Artist, Craftsman, Alchemist, 4 cr., Prof. C. Smith-Corby

This Learning Community culminates in a week-long on-site authentic fresco painting workshop in the countryside of Italy as well as important related sites in the capital city of Rome. The travel component fulfills a CIT requirement with an intensive investigation into fresco's religious iconography; the stories of saints, how their lives interacted with local lore and sacred spaces, as well as the religious meaning inherent in artistic practice. The course travels to Italy from May. Travel dates to be determined. The approximate cost of travel is \$3,300.

NOTE: LC 324 allows students to fulfill a Catholic Intellectual Traditions along with the LC requirement of the Cornerstone Program. VPS 225 fulfills the Natural Scientific requirement.

NOTE: Since participating in this learning community involves travel, you will incur additional costs. Soon after being enrolled in this Learning Community, you will be asked to attend a mandatory meeting, at which timing and travel logistics will be discussed, including estimated costs. After this meeting, you will have just a few days to decide whether you can remain in the learning community or not. However, once you have decided to remain, you will be responsible for all additional costs and these will be incorporated into your semester bill. Student Financial Services will review your file and, if you are eligible for additional aid, you will receive a revised award letter via e-mail from Student Financial Services.