

**CRN#** **Fall 2020 Learning Communities**

**20416 LC 200-A Mental Health and Juvenile Justice: Challenges and Solutions, 4 cr., Prof. E. Jacobs, Prof. Spinale, TR6:00-7:15, R7:30-8:20**  
Of the 2 million children, youth, and young adults who encounter the juvenile justice system each year, a large number (65–70 percent) have at least one diagnosable mental health need, and 20–25 percent have a serious emotional issue. A substantial number have a significant history of trauma and substance abuse. This course will examine promising strategies and best practices to address mental health of these youth, both in the public and private sector. The course will be taught by two active practitioners, a current Massachusetts Juvenile Court Justice and a clinical social worker with over 40 years' experience in juvenile justice and adolescent forensic mental health. As a Community Based Learning (CBL) component students will directly observe community based juvenile justice programs and work with program youth on positive youth developmental strategies.

***NOTE: LC 200 has a prerequisite of SOC 101 or CRM 120 or CRM 201 or PSY 101.***

**20205 LC 203-A Making a Magazine about Big Questions, 3 cr., TR4:00-5:15**

**20204 IND 357-A Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies: Skepticism and Rationality, 3 cr., Prof. G. Scala, TR2:30-3:45**

**20505 PHL 210-A God, Darwin and America's Struggle with Creation, 3 cr., Prof. K. Giberson, TR1:00-2:15**

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.***

**20260 LC 206-A Depression, War, and BOOM!, 4 cr., Prof. N. Hammerle, Prof. S. Morris, MW2:30-4:30**

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.

**20062 LC 207-A Mathematical Experiments in Computer Science, 3 cr., W2:30-5:00**

**20056 CSC 201-A Discrete Mathematics, 3 cr., Prof. S. Simonson, MWF9:30-10:20**

**20057 CSC 211-A Data Structures, 3 cr., Prof. R. Bravaco, TR11:30-12:45**

Computers provide us with tools to explore mathematics in deeper ways than ever before. They allow empirical testing of mathematical conjectures with elusive proofs. Computers enable us to experimentally analyze algorithms whose performance defies theoretical analysis. This LC focuses on the delicate balance between theory and practice in computer science, revealing the dual and sometimes contradictory nature of computer science as both an engineering and a mathematical discipline.

***NOTE: CSC 201 has a prerequisite of CSC 104 and MTH 126. CSC 211 has a prerequisite of CSC 104.***

**20783 LC 209-0 Organic Chemistry of the Cell, 0 cr., Prof. L. Liotta (This course will be taken in Spring 2021)**

**BIO 211 Cell Biology (WID), 4 cr.**

**CHM 222 Organic Chemistry II, 4 cr.**

Students will select, read, and critique primary literature that ties together topics currently being learned in Cell Biology and Organic Chemistry II to develop their abilities to understand and critically analyze the literature. The seminar will culminate with student teams proposing an experiment or series of experiments that address a specific area of interest on the boundary between organic chemistry and cell biology. These proposals will be presented in both written and oral forms, allowing fellow students to evaluate and expand upon the proposed ideas.

**NOTE:** *BIO 211 has a prerequisite of BIO 101 (grade of C- or better) and BIO 102. CHM 222 has a prerequisite of CHM 221 (grade of C- or better).*

**NOTE:** *BIO 211 fulfills the Writing in the Disciplines requirement.*

**20761 LC 213-A The Compound "I": Memoir, Fact & Fiction, 1 cr., Prof. J. Green, Prof. D. Itzkovitz F2:30-3:20**

**20762 ENG 271-A Film and Story, 3 cr. Prof. Itzkovitz, M2:30-5**

**20567 ENG 390-A Topics in Modernism: Fictions of the Self (WID), 4 cr., Prof. J. Green WF11:30-12:45**

In this LC we'll consider what it means to translate the disorderly details of life into the orderly narratives called autobiographies. We'll challenge assumptions about truth in autobiography with films and texts that blur the lines between fact and fiction--and we'll create our own audio memoirs in our podcasting studio!

**NOTE:** *ENG 390 fulfills the Writing-in-the-Disciplines Requirement.*

**20570 LC 224 -A What Is There Beyond Knowing: Poetry Writing, Poetry Reading, 1 cr., Prof. A. Brooks, Prof. G. Piggford, R1-1:50**

**20559 ENG 242-A Topics in Creative Writing: Poetry I Prof. A. Brooks, 3 cr., TR10-11:15**

**20566 ENG 380-A Modern Poetry 3 cr., Prof. G. Piggford TR11:30-12:45**

This learning community couples the creation of students' original works in verse (ENG 242) with an understanding of significant trends in twentieth and twenty-first century poetry, including slam, song, and rap (ENG 380). The seminar affords opportunities to write a chapbook, organize a reading, and/or critique one's own work.

**20203 LC 226 -A Community Health Promotion (CBL), 1 cr., Prof. J. Greene, Prof. K. Pierce, W2:30-3:20**

**20202 IND201-A Nutrition & Health Behavior, 3 cr., Prof. J. Greene TR1-2:15**

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.

**20417 LC 229-A Family Matters: Kinship, Culture & History, 4 cr., Prof. T. Gernes, Prof. E. McCarron, W2:30-6:00**

This interdisciplinary learning community explores the history of American families and children, from Colonial times to the present from an interdisciplinary perspective, treating the family as a basic unit of our nation's society, one that has always been a site of cultural contention and debate. How have changing perspectives and historical events impacted American families over the decades and centuries? How have historical constructions or race, ethnicity, class, and gender shaped our historical understanding of family life? The course concludes with a multimedia project on family history.

**20087 LC 235-0 Quantum Waves, 0 cr., (This course will be taken in Spring 2021)**

**20086 MTH 261-B Multivariable Calculus, 4 cr., Prof. H. Su, TR11:30-12:45; F11:30-12:20**

**20361 PHY 221-A Physics III, 4 cr, Prof. A. Massarotti, MWF 10:30-11:20, W2:30-3:55**

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

**20152 LC 236-A Everybody Counts: Elementary Math for Teachers, 1 cr., W4-4:50**

**20080 MTH143-A Mathematical Reasoning for Education, 3 cr., Prof. K. Marin, WF11:30-12:45**

This four credit LC pairs MTH143: Mathematical Reasoning for Education 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.

**20756 LC 241 Schemers...and Monsters: Representations of Women, 4 cr., Prof. M. Freitas, Prof. E. Parks TR10-11:15**

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.

***NOTE:** LC 241 fulfills the Moral Inquiry and Social Scientific Inquiry requirements.*

**20418 LC 336-A The Origin of Resources from Farm to Studio (CBL), 1 cr. TRAVEL LC****20047 ENV 326-A Sustainable Agriculture (CBL), 3 cr., Prof. B. Meigs, TR1:00-2:15****20475 VPS 207-A Special Projects: The Handmade Studio: Making Art Materials, 3 cr., Prof. C. Smith-Corby, T2:30-5:50**

This seminar combines a dual interest in sustainable food systems, an in depth understanding of the basis, production, and use of historical studio materials and how they share a symbiotic relationship. There will be a focus on homemade and sustainable ingredients that reflect the local and global Slow Food movement and important issues of fair trade, organic production, and humane methods of consumption will be discussed. Travel dates will be in January 2021. Throughout the semester, students will participate in creating historical artist materials from start to finish, which will include harvesting plant materials from the farm to make pigments and inks, tools, making hand-made paper, utilizing animal by-products, and cooking with the same ingredients. We hope to reflect a "nose to tail" mindset to honor the origins of our resources.

The week-long travel component will be held at an agriturismo whose mission aligns with our course goals (negotiations underway) in Italy and include visits to Italian Slow Food Presidias, which support the protection of biodiversity, territories and knowledge of traditional productions. Visits to small-scale producers may include farmers, fishers, butchers, shepherds, cheesemakers, bakers and pastry chefs. A studio workshop will be held at the agriturismo featuring indigenous materials and how they relate to the history of art in Italy. Day visits to nearby Siena and Florence will also allow students to see how the studio materials they have worked with all semester are made evident in the masterworks from Art History.

***NOTE:** ENV 326 fulfills the Natural Scientific Inquiry requirement.*

***NOTE:** Travel will occur in January 2021 (dependent on scheduling airfare, etc.). The approximate cost of travel will be \$3,300. 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.*

**20419 LC 342-A HON: Yoga, Mindfulness and Indian Philosophy, 4 cr., Prof. A. Lännström, Prof. K. Donnelly, MW2:30-3:45, R4:15-6:15**

This Learning Community has two parts:

A theoretical component where we study Indian philosophy and its Western adoption. We will study classical Indian philosophy (including but not limited to the *Bhagavad Gita* and Buddhist scriptures), investigate our Western fascination with 'the mystical East', including the hatha yoga tradition, and examine some of the current research on the benefits of contemplation and on the mindfulness movement.

A practicum, where we practice hatha yoga (first hour) and discuss the experience of doing yoga on and off our yoga mats, exploring how you might use mindfulness and yoga as tools to slow down and to center, becoming more aware of your strengths and weaknesses, and better balancing your priorities (second hour).

***NOTE:** This LC is restricted to Honors students.*

***NOTE:** Students will need a yoga mat, 2 yoga blocks, and a strap or belt.*

***NOTE:** LC 342 allows students to fulfill the Moral Inquiry requirement along with the LC requirement of the Cornerstone Program. It also counts as an elective for Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Asian Studies.*