Preliminary Spring 2021 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.
NOTE: This LC has a lab fee of $150.

LC 209 Organic Chemistry of the Cell, 3 cr., Prof. L. Liotta
BIO 211 Cell Biology (WID), 4 cr. (Must have taken Fall 2020)
CHM 222 Organic Chemistry II, 4 cr. (Must have taken Fall 2020)

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: This is a year-long LC. BIO 211 and CHM 222 must be taken prior to registering for LC 209. BIO 211 fulfills the Writing in the Disciplines 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.
LC 222-A Crime and Punishment in North America, 3 cr., - TRAVEL LC
CRM 412-A Seminar: Punishment and Public Policy, 3 cr., Prof. A. Rocheleau
POL 357-A Topics in Politics: Politics of the Ethnically Divided, 3 cr., Prof. K. Buckman

The course explores the political, legal and penal systems in Canada and the United States. We examine how cultural, political and economic variation shapes the definition of crime and its punishment. We will visit local, state, federal and Canadian (provincial and federal) courts, legislatures, and prisons. The approximate cost of travel is $1300.

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LC 235 Quantum Waves (WID), 3 cr. Prof. H. Su, Prof. A. Massarotti
MTH 261 Multivariable Calculus, 4 cr. (Must have taken Fall 2020)
PHY 221 Physics III, 4 cr. (Must have taken Fall 2020)

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 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.

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