



Signature Courses

Fall 2017



Cheri Davis, Assistant Planetarium Director
Walk Like an Egyptian

A cultural study of the ancient people and their influences on modern society. Students will develop an original presentation or model based on course content. We will explore historical

backgrounds, associate lifestyles, cultural beliefs, and use the planetarium to compare the view of the sky as they saw it to how we see it today. We will examine current and ancient caste systems, and students will draw conclusions as to the beliefs ingrained in the Egyptian way of life in contrast to today's American lifestyles.



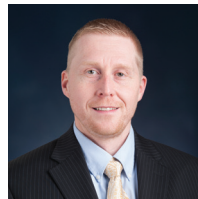
Benjamin May, Assistant Professor of Social Work
Do What's Fun and Live a Happier Life: Teaching Major Coping Skills to Create Happy, Successful Students

This course uses a strengths-perspective model to help students address their behaviors and enhance their coping skills. The model examines five different areas of life experience, then proposes the application of life domains. The five domains are 1) finding a love of career/education 2) building a support system 3) physical movement and nutrition 4) creative activity/hobby and 5) spiritualism.



Lavelle Hendricks, Associate Professor of Counseling
Beyond the Discussion of Just Drugs and Alcohol: Mental Health Issues that Students Face on Today's College Campuses

Students will become aware of various mental health assessments, treatment modalities, and intervention strategies. Students will engage in support group meetings within the Community Counseling Clinic and throughout the area. Also, students will have an opportunity to interact with guest speakers who are professionals in the field of mental health.



Brandon Randolph-Seng,
Associate Professor of Management
Learning How to Think Critically

The course is designed to increase students' critical thinking knowledge and skills. Concepts covered include perception, memory, creativity, and problem-solving as they relate to critical thinking. We will examine the effects of attitudes, values, logical fallacies, and thinking errors on critical thinking and problem-solving. Assignments will require students to apply their skills to real-life situations and to understand the levels of the critical thinking process through problem-solving activities.



John Humphreys, Professor of Management
Business, Society, and Unfettered Thought

This signature course will focus on the critical thinking skills required to manage the increasingly integrated,

interdependent, and complex relationship between business and society. Students will gain an understanding of the role of business in society, the capacity to use knowledge to effectively analyze, debate, and solve societal/organizational problems in a socially responsible and ethical manner, and the ability to successfully communicate potential solutions across audiences.



Robert Williams, Professor of Agricultural Education
Food: Choices, Challenges, and Consequences

This course explores the history, economic, geographic, sociological, and political perspectives surrounding food. Students will study choices, including customs, traditions, celebrations, food in media, marketing, and labeling. Then the course will focus on a study of food challenges, including civic agriculture, animals as food, environmental concerns, and social justice. Finally, students will explore questions surrounding the consequences of food, including obesity, food assistance, and outreach.



Judith Ball, Professor of Biology

History of Great Diseases and Effects on Civilization

This course crosses several lines of discipline, from science and medical history to wars with territory expansion, to the loss and/or remaking of social/

political order. Students will learn how devastation and suffering can introduce and implant an altered worldview and how the human spirit overcomes desperation and hopelessness.



David Davies, Assistant Professor of Music

Music in the Movies

In addition to covering the history and aesthetics of music written for Hollywood films, this course will explore the sociological, philosophical, and

psychological issues surrounding the use of music in film, and by extension the American film industry as a whole.



Mehmet Celik, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Voting and Apportionment

Can one person's vote make a difference? How are voting decisions made? How does the study of mathematics inform our understanding of everyday decisions like purchasing a home, saving for college,

investing in retirement, and purchasing car insurance? This course will develop students' natural ability to know something without requiring any proof of evidence.



John Howard Smith, Associate Professor of History

Star Wars: The Course Awakens

Star Wars: The Course Awakens takes students on a journey to explore the spiritual, religious, and mythological material in the Star Wars universe,

particularly the sources of concepts such as the Force, the Jedi and Sith orders, and themes of enlightenment, morality, depravity, and redemption as depicted in the films and some attendant literature. The status of Star Wars as an American mythology will also be explored, as well as the development of the Force as an emerging religious belief in the 21st century.



Quynh Dang, Associate Professor of Health and Human Performance

Global Foods: From Soil to Soul

Students will examine the issues and conditions that affect the availability and quality of food in the global market. This

course also reviews the landscape of both food and farming, in both rich and underdeveloped countries. Nutrition circumstances differ as well, as persistent hunger is still a deadly challenge in many tropical countries, while in rich countries, particularly the United States, excessive food consumption and obesity are now a more prominent diet linked challenge to health.



Yvonne Villanueva-Russell, Associate Professor of Sociology

WTF (Where's The Food): Food, Culture, and Society

Eating is a biological imperative, but more often, we take it for granted. This course will view food production, processing,

distribution, and consumption as social and cultural phenomena. We live in an ironic time where access to too little and too much food co-exists with many negative consequences. While food brings us together, it also differentiates us. We will use food as a lens to examine the complex social, economic, and cultural relations that determine what we eat and the people we become.

