2010-2011 Courses

Fall 2010

First Year Experience (FYEX) 100: First Year Seminar. Dr. Corley

This course supports the development of student success skills, such as reading, writing, and speaking; helps students gain intellectual confidence; builds in the expectation of academic success; and provides assistance in making the transition to university life. The course provides an orientation to the mission and core competencies of the Honors Program, and strengthens the interaction and sense of community among first-year honors students. Students will analyze and categorize leadership, research, and global citizenship themes, identify appropriate learning goals, and develop an e-portfolio for their use in the Honors Program.

This course satisfies General Education Category 12

Anthropology (ANTH) 102: Ancient Peoples. Dr. Schirmer

The world as we know it today is the outcome of global historical patterns that stretch back many thousands of years. In some cases, cultures have changed immensely, and in other cases it seems they've hardly changed at all. A basic understanding of human cultural practices over the last 10,000 years can thus provide students with a deep understanding of, and appreciation for the similarities and differences we see around us today. In this course, we will spend two weeks focusing on each of seven major cultural areas: southwestern, southern, and eastern Asia, Africa, Europe, and central, southern, and northern America. The course will use a comprehensive world prehistory text supplemented with current, scholarly articles relevant to major research questions for each focus area.

This course satisfies General Education Categories 5 and 10

English (ENG) 242W: Introduction to Creative Writing: Dr. Sheffer

This introduction to poetry and creative prose writing will include regular writing assignments (each on a two- or three-week cycle), and readings in both fiction and poetry--to increase our understanding of how to shape and format work in those genres. The small class size will make possible regular (weekly or every-other-weekly) one-on-one sessions with the instructor.

This is a writing-intensive course (General Education Category 1C) and also satisfies General Education Category 11.

Sociology (SOC) 150: Social Problems: Dr. Hunter
How do individuals in societies come to recognize, define, and respond to social problems in the various ways that they do? This course will utilize a social constructionist framework to analyze particular contemporary social issues. The goal of this course is that students learn to apply this framework when attempting to understand social problems that affect and interest them. To provide practice at applying a social constructionist perspective to the study of social problems, the class will focus on three specific social issues: 1) food and nutrition, 2) immigration, and 3) criminal justice responses to deviant behavior. In studying each of these topics, students will also learn about the dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in society and how this inequality is relevant to each issue. The course will include the study and analysis of news media presentations and their influence on the ways in which individuals understand and respond to social problems. Ideally, learning to deconstruct ideas about social problems by utilizing a social constructionist framework will provide students with effective tools to better understand the multitude of social problems facing our world today.

This is a Diverse Cultures Purple Course and also satisfies General Education Categories 5 and 7.

**Leaders of Tomorrow (a non-credit seminar). Mr. Yunkers**

In its third year of existence, this seminar is a collaboration between Greater Mankato Growth, Inc., and Minnesota State Mankato Student Activities. This seminar features semi-monthly events that expose students to conceptual and practical leadership skills. Students will also have numerous opportunities to interact with Mankato's business leaders and to learn about several area businesses through a student membership to Greater Mankato Growth's Young Professionals Organization. Further, Minnesota State Mankato Adventure Education Faculty will assist in teamwork and leadership training. Students can continue to take the seminar for as many semesters as desired. They will emerge from each seminar with a greater understanding of, and exposure to, leadership concepts.

**Spring 2011**

**Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) 220W: Global Perspectives on Women and Change. Dr. Stitt**

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be from a different country? If you aren't from the U.S., have you ever wondered where Americans get their ideas about people from other cultures? In either case, are you curious about how and why different cultures express their ideas about masculinity and femininity through dress, behavior, laws, work, relationships, food, culture? Global Perspectives on Women and Change gives students the opportunity to investigate the conditions, cultures, and changing status of women around the world. This course provides an overview of the rise of the "first" and "third world" nations, the struggles of women for full citizenship, as well as addressing topics such as women and work, sexuality, health, and violence against women. We also investigate the challenges women have faced and the continuing activism and change initiated by women in response to their complex worlds.
Students will acquire a knowledge of the history of the struggle for women's rights globally. Students will gain the ability to think critically about the ways colonialism, ethnocentrism, sexism, racism, classism, and homophobia (among others) function in societies around the world. Students will learn to engage with theories of gender and sexuality. Students will develop speaking skills through required class participation and presentations; seminar skills through the ability to engage in respectful debate through speech and writing; and they will apply their new knowledge of feminist theory to an analysis of a situation facing women in a specific world region.

This course is a Diverse Cultures Purple Course and a Writing Intensive (Gen Ed Category 1C) Course. It also satisfies General Education Categories 8 and 9.

_Urban and Regional Studies (URBS) 230W: Community Leadership. Dr. Filipovitch_

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive overview of community leadership in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, both through classroom work and through service learning. Students will learn the principles and practices of managing community groups, and the ethical and civic responsibilities of a democratic society. What makes this course unique is the students' involvement with the community and its leaders. This course requires a high level of student involvement--volunteering, attending meetings, interviewing, working with both student and community teams, etc...

By the end of the term, students will be able to define and recognize leadership within the voluntary sector and compare/contrast this sector with public and private sectors; apply the criteria of civic and ethical values to behavior in public settings; demonstrate skill in citizen engagement, representative government, collaboration, citizen participation, and citizen self-government; apply knowledge and skills directly in community leadership.

In addition to the specific course outcomes, there are three additional outcomes that are common to most, if not all, courses at Minnesota State: develop one's creative and critical thinking powers in addressing problems and opportunities; develop personal communication skills, both oral and written; improve one's ability to work and interact with others in a team approach.

This is a "service learning" course which requires approximately 30 hours of volunteer activity in the community. It is also a "writing intensive" course, which means that students will be expected to do a fair bit of writing and to edit and rewrite what they have written.

This course is a Writing Intensive Course (Gen Ed Category 1C), and also satisfies General Education Categories 9 and 11.