

FOUNDATIONS (FNDS)

Course Descriptions

FNDS 101 Major and Career Exploration in Social and Environmental Justice 4 Credit Hours

This is a Practice-Based Learning (PBL) course. PBL focuses on applying what is being learned and learning by doing. A major goal of the course is to help students explore different majors and careers and to develop connections in CASL and across campus. Students will work together to address an applied problem within the theme of Social and Environmental Justice. At the end of the course, students will reflect on their experiences and develop a multi-year plan for academic, career, and personal growth. Information on the specific project for this section of the course may be found here: <https://umdearborn.edu/casl/undergraduate-programs/foundations-program> (F).

FNDS 102 Major and Career Exploration in Storytelling: Arts, Media and Culture 4 Credit Hours

This is a Practice-Based Learning (PBL) course. PBL focuses on applying what is being learned and learning by doing. A major goal of the course is to help students explore different majors and careers and to develop connections in CASL and across campus. Students will work together to address an applied problem within the theme of Storytelling. At the end of the course, students will reflect on their experiences and develop a multi-year plan for academic, career, and personal growth. Information on the specific project for this section of the course may be found here: <https://umdearborn.edu/casl/undergraduate-programs/foundations-program> (F).

FNDS 103 Major and Career Exploration in Health and Community 4 Credit Hours

Course Description: This is a Practice-Based Learning (PBL) course. PBL focuses on applying what is being learned and learning by doing. A major goal of the course is to help students explore different majors and careers and to develop connections in CASL and across campus. Students will work together to address an applied problem within the theme of Health and Community. At the end of the course, students will reflect on their experiences and develop a multi-year plan for academic, career, and personal growth. Information on the specific project for this section of the course may be found here: <https://umdearborn.edu/casl/undergraduate-programs/foundations-program> (F).

FNDS 104 Major and Career Exploration in Technology: People, Innovation, and Design 4 Credit Hours

This is a Practice-Based Learning (PBL) course. PBL focuses on applying what is being learned and learning by doing. A major goal of the course is to help students explore different majors and careers and to develop connections in CASL and across campus. Students will work together to address an applied problem within the theme of People and Technology. At the end of the course, students will reflect on their experiences and develop a multi-year plan for academic, career, and personal growth. Information on the specific project for this section of the course may be found here: <https://umdearborn.edu/casl/undergraduate-programs/foundations-program> (F).

FNDS 1201 Shakespeare on Page, Stage and Screen 4 Credit Hours

What has made the plays of Shakespeare so relevant to a well-rounded education in universities around the world? How do Shakespeare's plays transcend his period making him, in Ben Jonson's words, "not of an age, but for all time"? From comic books to live performance, Slings and Arrows to Kenneth Branagh, this course explores how Shakespeare's plays are performed, adapted, and sampled in contemporary culture and the cultural significance of Shakespeare today. We shall discuss the literary, stage and film traditions of Shakespeare's plays as well as the wholesale borrowings from, echoes and parodies of them in popular culture, such as Dr. Who, graphic novels like Kill Shakespeare, or TV commercial for products such as Levis jeans and H&M. This course challenges students to consider how the medium of the artistic work (e.g. film, play, TV commercial) affects interpretation and how we re-make Shakespeare in contemporary culture. Students will have the creative opportunity to 're-make' Shakespeare themselves as part of this course. Note: the course will include an excursion to see a play at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Ontario, Canada. (F, YR).

FNDS 1202 Democratizing Democracy: Expanding, Suppressing, Idealizing, & Ignoring the Right to Vote in Amer 4 Credit Hours

This course will explore voting in America, examining both historical and contemporary perspectives on the fundamental right of "the franchise" for American citizens. The course will emphasize the debates, reforms, practices, ideals and actualities of voting, which is widely regarded as an exemplar of citizenship enactment even while history illustrates clear exclusionary practices. (F).

FNDS 1203 Because Internet: The Language of Digital Media 4 Credit Hours

This course examines new forms of language resulting from the digitization of communication. Email, texting, the internet, and social media have changed the English language. The course introduces the field of sociolinguistics, which tracks these language adaptations and interprets associated social meanings. Students will examine formal and informal language practices, learning about academic and other styles and interpreting the significance of their language choices in different contexts. Studying language choices in this way creates an awareness of language that has widespread application to the speaking and writing tasks of academic and professional life, but even more importantly, to how individuals define themselves through their language. (YR).

FNDS 1204 Fearing the Unknown: Horror Fantasy in Hispanic Fiction 4 Credit Hours

A good horror story incites fear, one of the strongest emotions that we as an audience seek. Horror offers the possibility to talk about our irrational human fears through dark narratives. It makes a space for the inexplicable, the supernatural, the undead, while allowing the appearance of troubled characters: the non-normal, the bizarre, the other. While fear is universal, what are the contexts in which Hispanic horror is produced? What or who is the other in these contexts? What makes it different than other artistic productions in English? This course offers the opportunity to explore major Latin American and Spanish short stories, novellas, and films. It considers how religion and superstition, violence, and doubt inform Hispanic horror while intertwining it with other genres from the early 19th through early 21st centuries. (F, OC).

FNDS 1205 Understanding Global Cultures 4 Credit Hours

Globalization is the predominant interpretative concept through which we analyze the state of the planet in general, and the intermingling of cultures in particular. This course proposes a comprehensive examination of cultures around the world to first-year university students. A transdisciplinary approach (history, political science, economics, geography, and anthropology) will introduce students to a wide breadth of content and depth of contextualization, and enhance their understanding of the complexities of the (post)modern world. In addition to readings on the main groups of world cultures, we will analyze several films that address the issues of cultural identity and globality. The question of stereotyping cultures will be discussed through examples of parodic representations of cultures. The course will also address the tensions between local ways of life (historical, linguistic, ethnic, and religious) and today's pressures for transnational and multiple identities, intensified by the communication of ideas and the movement of people around the world. Thus, we will also look at how the cultures of immigrant communities in southeast Michigan have contributed to the local cultural configuration. (YR).

FNDS 1301 Trauma, Text, & the City 4 Credit Hours

An exploration of how artists and writers represent urban trauma (terror, violence, destruction, absence) to describe indescribable suffering. In the wake of urban chaos, how do writers make urban community possible? To answer this question, we will examine traumatic events in New York City (9/11) as well as London and Detroit to understand how emails, photographs, novels, documentaries, and films try to narrate chaos and stabilize urban history. In addition to films that experiment with narrative (such as *Memento* [2000] and documentaries), texts may include writings by psychologists (Freud), urban historians (Sugrue), cultural theorists (Baudrillard), and novelists (Joseph Conrad). (F, YR).

FNDS 1302 Art, Power, and Persuasion 4 Credit Hours

Do you ever see election and political ads on TV or on apps and websites? What images do these ads use? How do they use visual media to draw your attention and influence your opinions? Can you detect the strategies they use? Do you think these attempts to persuade through imagery and words are effective? Learn about the use of imagery and words as means of political influence and persuasion while you develop your skills in critical thinking, writing, and research in this course. This course focuses on the historical examples of the "heretic king" Akhenaton in Egypt, the ideology of the Persian empire, the imperialist democracy of classical Athens, and the autocratic rule of the first Roman emperor, Augustus. We will investigate the visual and literary strategies that have been used for thousands of years to define difference, signal virtue, and garner public support. By the end of the semester, you will look at the images and words around you today with new eyes. (F).

FNDS 1303 ART/France--ART/Japan 4 Credit Hours

We would be lost without our personal technology devices that allow us to chat with friends around the world, listen to music that has just dropped, or search/download high resolution images to study the culture of others every minute of our lives. Have you wondered how the exchange of ideas and images was possible prior to the digital revolution? This course focuses on cultural exchange in Japan and France during the second half of the 19th century. New technologies like photography, color lithography and ready-made art supplies allowed artists to explore their creativity in new ways. This period also was a time of increased international travel, international expositions, thriving private art exhibitions, and a flourishing print culture; all of these elements facilitated the rapid spread of information and images between Paris and Tokyo. We examine this dynamic flow of culture and ideas through the study of texts, photographs, paintings (Impressionist/Yoga/Nihonga), prints, advertisements, and fashion. Using the frame of Orientalism, we will study how some artists appropriated motifs, but we also will examine how others were inspired to change the way they represented the world because of an encounter with art or artists from the opposite side of the world. (F).

FNDS 1304 American Horror Stories 4 Credit Hours

This course analyzes American culture through the lens of its horror industry: in film, literature, art, and other forms of artistic and popular culture. Horror, because of its nature as an extreme form of representation and its association with the imagination rather than reality, has the ability to reveal certain truths and theories about history, culture, and ways of being that are difficult to access through other modes of expression. This course explores these truths and theories by studying American horrors in a way that contextualizes film, stories, art, and other forms of popular culture within particular social, political, and historical moments. Examples include: Cold War horror productions (the short stories of H.P. Lovecraft and Richard Matheson) and the use of aliens and other invaders as a stand in for outsiders and "others," domestic horrors like *The Nightmare on Elm Street* and *Beloved* and the ways in which violence, gender, race and the home intersect, and a study of post-feminist heroines in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Pretty Little Liars*. (F, YR).

FNDS 1305 Gothic Monsters Next Door 4 Credit Hours

This course traces how English and American Gothic writing casts others—particularly neighbors in both the country, suburbs, and cities—as monstrous threats to the control of one's "Home." The villains of supernatural gothic stories frequently embody fears related to gender, race, and sexuality that threaten a community's fictions of normalcy. We will particularly read gothic horror fiction to understand how fiction shapes the fears and anxieties about nationality and tries to reimagine "community" for its readers. Readings may include *Dracula*, *Carrie*, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, and *Linden Hills*. (YR).

FNDS 1306 Crossing Boundaries: 'Passing' and Social Identity in American History 4 Credit Hours

Have you ever thought that life would be easier if you had been born a different person? This course examines the stories of boundary crossers: individuals who choose to 'pass' for a member of a different social group. People who have lived on different sides of social identities offer a unique opportunity to understand the meaning of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation in American society. Their experiences can help us understand social categories – both what they mean and how they have changed over the course of time. What, for example, can a person who lived as both a woman and a man tell us about the significance of gender in our society? Ultimately, the course seeks to answer the question, what is the nature and significance of identity? (AY, F).

FNDS 1307 You Call Them Nobel Prize Laureates? A Worldwide Perspective 4 Credit Hours

This course will empower you to be a better reader and a better judge of what you read! We will learn to 'close read' international Nobel Prize bestsellers from various regions of the world. We will discuss the role of an author and that of the reader, what makes an author "a Nobel Prize winner" in Literature, and what these authors and books might have in common. By reading, discussing and critiquing, we will also learn their historical, geographical and cultural backgrounds. Finally, we will attempt to answer the question of which books deserve the Nobel Prize. (F, OC, W, YR).

FNDS 1308 Comics, Graphic Novels, Manga and What They Can Do: Understanding Visual Narratives 4 Credit Hours

Comics, Graphic Novels, Manga and What They Can Do studies this wonderful blending of literature and art of the world of comic books. Reading American comics, the Franco-Belgian comics known as bande dessinée, and Japanese manga, all in English, we will explore the significance of visual storytelling, examine approaches to visual analysis, and discuss their themes and styles. We will follow the history of visual-textual narratives from referring to them as "the funnies" in the early 20th century, limiting them to young people, to controversial issues of censorship, to graphic novels that are now increasingly treated as serious literary works worthy of Pulitzer Prizes and other prestigious awards. Produced across cultures, this is a mode of expression that ranges widely from an inspiration to major blockbusters such as superhero movies to sophisticated literary works such as *Maus* and *Persepolis*. We will discuss the controversies over colonialist-era works such as *Tintin* and contemporary graphic journalism such as in graphic novels about war and asylum in Rwanda and Bosnia. No artistic tendencies, prior knowledge of comics, or second language proficiency are required. (OC).

FNDS 1309 Let's Talk about Talk! 4 Credit Hours

This course explores different types of talk we engage in on a daily basis and discusses features, motivations, rules, and functions of everyday interaction. The wonderful thing about studying talk and conversation is that it is important in almost every major and career following from the university experience. Why do we talk? What types of talk do we routinely have? Do we have the same goals and purposes for these interactions? Why do people interrupt? Do we have rules to follow in conversation? What happens if we break or violate rules? Is swearing always bad? What is the purpose of gossiping? Should gossiping be discouraged? Is linguistic politeness a universal concept? Can one be funny in one culture but not in another culture? Is talking always better than silence? These are some of the questions we will discuss in this class. (AY).

FNDS 1310 Cyberpunk, Steampunk and Science Fiction Culture 4 Credit Hours

This course explores speculative culture, the umbrella term that includes science fiction, fantasy, cyberpunk, and steampunk. It is the culture that gave work as ancient as Greek mythology and as recent as the *Avatar* and *Matrix* movies, and as varied as the *Interstellar* film theme music and *Cyberpunk 2077* games. This course examines these texts in addition to other novels, films, paintings, comic books, and songs, to understand why and how futuristic and speculative themes are everywhere, whether extra-terrestrials and cyborgs, or magic rings, swords and sorcery, shaping and being reshaped by our realities and our aspirations. To make the that, we will conduct interviews, do creative work, and design our own futuristic world. All readings are in English. (F, W, S, OC).

FNDS 1311 Tech Bros, AI, & World Domination 4 Credit Hours

This course explores how changing technology and control of the high-tech industry affects who wields power in society. (YR).

FNDS 1501 Physics for 21st Century Citizens - the Science Behind the Headlines 4 Credit Hours

Does it surprise you that the GPS on your phone needs to know about Einstein's special and general relativity to work properly? Are you confused by the claims and counter-claims in the current debate over global warming? Have you ever wondered whether a nuclear power plant can explode like an atomic bomb? About how spy satellites work? If you answer "yes" to questions like these, then *Physics for 21st century citizens* is for you. This is a mixed-format lecture/seminar course that takes a mathematics-free approach to everyday applications of physics. We focus on understanding the physics behind today's headlines. Students learn to describe the world around them in physical terms, without extensive mathematics, and to use their new-found physics skills to critically assess issues in the headlines, through the eyes of a physicist. Three credit hours. (F).

FNDS 1601 OK Boomer: Gen Z and Civic Engagement 4 Credit Hours

Climate change, violence, racism, sexism, and consumerism are among the concerns of young people born after 1996. How will this generation define the most important challenges in today's society, set about fixing these problems, and ensure they don't fall to the next generation? How is Gen Z going building a political community through civic engagement to ensure justice, safety, health, and sustainability? We will consider these topics using the tools of Political Science, Sociology, and History while exploring activism happening on campus and in the surrounding community in order to better understand the particular worldview of Gen Z, effective tools for social change, and the key factors that contribute to lasting activism and significant change. (YR).

FNDS 1602 Hope and Joy in Queer and Trans Lives 4 Credit Hours

Hope and joy are important tools, particularly for groups that experience oppression and violence. This course does not shy away from the more difficult dimensions of queer and trans lives. But our focus is centrally and emphatically on the ways that queer, trans, and other sexually and gender-diverse people produce hope, joy, healing, pleasure, and community. Perspectives of queer and trans people of color are integral to the course. The material is appropriate for students of all levels of preparation, including those with little or no prior knowledge of LGBTQ issues. As part of the Foundations program, this course will also support students in acclimating to campus and to college-level work. (F, YR).

FNDS 1604 Biology is Not Destiny: Exploring the Role of Culture on Human Biology 4 Credit Hours

This is a course that will deal with some very "big questions" about human nature. This course is rooted deeply in anthropology, and anthropologists love asking questions about the nature of human existence. What does it mean to be human? How variable are humans from one another? What causes that variation? Are men and women really all that different from one another? Do races exist in biology? Are men born to be more aggressive than women? We're going to approach these important questions through the lens of "myth busting", where we'll tackle one theme at a time and see what anthropology and related sciences have to say about it. My goal is that you will leave the course with not only some understanding of anthropology and human existence (which should have a profound impact on how you view and interact with people around you), but that you'll have developed some critical thinking and communication skills that will set you up for success in your college career and beyond. (F, W).

FNDS 1605 DIY in Detroit 4 Credit Hours

This course examines Do It Yourself (DIY) cultures in Detroit. Detroit's larger story – of migration, cars, growth, shrinkage, revitalization – hides smaller stories of community, resilience, and people who have decided not to wait on societal structures and instead do for themselves. We will look at both historical and contemporary communities who have established their own structures of support and cultural production in the face of resistance and disregard. What social and economic conditions encouraged or required them to do it themselves? What are the benefits of do it yourself culture – ownership, control, connective communities, etc? (W).

FNDS 1607 Real Housewives of Crime: Crime, Law, & Reality TV 4 Credit Hours

As a wise woman once said, “until mankind is peaceful enough not to have violence on the news, there's no point in taking it out of shows that need it for entertainment value” (Cher, *Clueless*, 1995). Or is there? In this class we will ask and answer the following: what does reality TV teach us about crime, law, and justice? In doing so, we will explore issues of crime and law through the lens of reality television (including “true crime” shows and docuseries). Along the way, we will: analyze media constructions of crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system; examine the effects media has (and doesn't have) on the way we think and act; and engage in “newsmaking criminology.” Skills acquired in this course—in particular, the ability to evaluate media representations of crime, law, and justice, to synthesize content across disciplines, and to produce informative digital content for the public—will serve students on campus and in future careers. (YR).

FNDS 1608 School of Rock 4 Credit Hours

This course examines the origins and evolution of Rock & Roll music from its American roots in the early 20th Century to its near global appeal by century's end. The course also explores the connections between the creation of the music and the political, economic and social trends of the period. Emphasis is also placed on the role of African Americans and women, as well as the impact of technology and media on the development of the genre. The emergence of Rock & Roll was, in many ways, a reflection of the time period it was developed in. This course will also explore those connections. (F).

FNDS 1609 Act Your Age!: The History of Childhood & the Culture of Growing Up 4 Credit Hours

What does it mean to “act your age”? While it might seem like a simple question, many of our basic assumptions about the stages of life between infancy and adulthood have changed over the last 300 years. At the same time, children and teens have become increasingly central to our society and pop culture. This course examines how ideas about childhood and the experiences of children from different classes, races, and cultures have changed in the modern world. It uses the history of childhood to guide students in reflecting on their own path from high school to college. By introducing the idea that assumptions about maturity, adulthood, education, and work have changed over time, it gives students new tools for thinking about their interactions with the institutions and practices that mark the passage to adulthood. Children rarely leave behind their own stories in the historical record, so learning about their lives also means developing a range of creative investigative skills that will help students prepare for university-level research, writing, and analysis. Through these investigations, this course seeks to understand what children can teach us about ourselves and our values—and why it is so hard to feel like an adult, no matter your age. (F, YR).

FNDS 1702 Infinity Plus One 4 Credit Hours

Mathematics: Queen and Servant of Science. How much mathematics do you need in life? Is it relevant to non-mathematicians? Is it something exclusive for a selected group of people? In this course, we want to explore the beauty of mathematics, see how it relates to anyone, and how useful it is for all of us. (F).

FNDS 1970 Making a Positive Difference: Environmental Activism in Our World 4 Credit Hours

What exactly is environmental activism? What propels some people, but not others, to take action to try to address environmental problems? Who are some of these environmental activists in our world and what have they done, or what are doing right now? And, in what ways can we make a positive difference, too? In this course we will explore both historical and contemporary environmental activism at a global level. Environmental activists are needed in our world now more than ever, as human-created climate change, pollution, and destruction wreak havoc on our planet. In this course we will see that “environmental activism” has a very wide definition, thereby countering numerous stereotypes and biases individuals have on this topic. Activists across all walks of life are tackling environmental issues around the globe and although they are united in their commitment to making a positive difference, they differ in background, experiences, nationality, culture, gender, age, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religion, political affiliation, and geographic area. In this course we'll explore how we, too, can tackle environmental issues and help create positive changes. (OC).

FNDS 3201 Weeds, Wastelands and the Salvation of the World 4 Credit Hours

What are the connections between cities, weeds, social problems and the climate crisis? This class considers the dynamic, evolving relationship between cities and nature in light of the the challenges presented by climate change. We begin with 19th century ecologists and sociologists contemplating changes wrought by urbanization and corresponding shifts in attitudes towards nature. We then consider 20th century conservation and environmentalist movements in relation to globalized trade patterns, habitat fragmentation and accelerating urban inequality. Finally, we consider the concepts of green infrastructure, patch dynamics and novel ecosystems and the prospects of urban life on a disturbed planet. And we will take a lot of walks. (AY, F).

FNDS 3301 Restless Women 4 Credit Hours

This class invites you to reflect on the lives of select women from very different historical periods. Some of the women played the roles that the society prescribed for them. Some of them stepped outside of – or even deviated from – the social norms that defined their lives. Yet many others were put in very difficult life situations in which they had to make – what we would define today as – choiceless choices, and yet choices that they had to make. In this class, we will call them ‘restless’ – women who searched for solutions in desperate situations, for ways to express themselves, for ways to find satisfaction and redefine their own lives. Their lives can teach us about the importance of the individual in history, but they also show how our lives are defined by the context in which we live: the place and time, historical events, social norms, and the ethnicity, class, race, and gender we are born into. This means that looking at individual lives provides us with lenses to have a closer look at societies at various historical junctures and places: at norms that organize them as well as various subtle changes that they undergo. (F, OC).

FNDS 3302 Multimedia Art 4 Credit Hours

How does something new in art emerge? How do artists use their own body as a medium for art? How can the body be augmented by film, video, and sound equipment in multimedia art? Multimedia art is an innovative twentieth century genre that combines elements from film, literature, music, drama, dance, visual art, and design. This course traces the history of multimedia art from the 1910s to the 1990s. These selected case studies will allow us to better understand a contemporary media landscape. (W, YR).

FNDS 3303 Vive la Différence: Perspectives in hybrid identities in French language and francophone cultures 4 Credit Hours

This course will explore and deal with perspectives on identities, both broad and specific. Students will engage in discussions that delve into identity as a general theme, and will then begin to add different 'lenses' to other aspects that identity encompasses, with the specific angle of different cultures, even more specifically, cultures that have been influenced by the French language. As a French professor, I am passionate about French language and culture, which has led me to meet people from a wide range of countries, and some of the conversations I've had with various French speakers has had an immense effect on my world perspective, on my own identity and culture, and has helped me to be a more self-aware human being, more sure of myself and more interested in understanding others. This course aims to give you that same exposure, and my goal is that you will leave the course with not only some understanding of other culture, about the idea of hybrid identities, and how identity is viewed in various Francophone cultures (which should have a profound impact on how you view and interact with people around you), but also that you'll have developed some critical thinking, communication skills, and self-awareness that will set you up for success in your college career and beyond. (F, W).

FNDS 3304 Mysticism and Politics 4 Credit Hours

The course explores the potential and the actual links between mysticism and politics. In other words, our main question will be this: How does mysticism affect politics? Didn't we forget to define "mysticism"? Well, let me try this simple definition: "Mysticism is a belief that people can directly experience and know true reality or unite with God or reach transcendence" (let's stop here: the more words we use the more obscure the mysticism becomes). Anyway, all talk about mysticism boils down to "mystical experience" or actually experiencing the true reality. Those people who have had mystical experiences are called "mystics." Mystical experiences of the mystics will be the starting and the central focus of our investigation. We will examine various examples of mystical experience from the literary texts, science fiction, and movies using relevant scholarly sources and lenses. Once you have good understanding of what mystical experience is, its characteristics, attributes and types and how mystical experience is socially organized, we will move on to explore various ways mysticism affects politics. I call those ways "incursions." I have identified six "incursions" of mysticism into politics so far: (1) the Hero archetype; (2) political visioning, utopias and dystopias; (3) social movements' innovations; (4) reactions of the traditional religions; (5) mystical political philosophy, and (6) traditionalism and Alt-right. There may be more than six but six is enough for a class. We will spend some time discussion each incursion by drawing on a separate scholarly discipline, including psychology, history, anthropology, sociology, political philosophy, and political science. Most importantly, little has been known about the links between mysticism and politics so with enough dedication to this course you can make discoveries even if you have never personally had any mystical experiences. (F).

FNDS 3401 Reporting on the Middle East: Revising First Drafts of History 4 Credit Hours

Western journalists reporting on the Middle East are part of a larger group of diverse travelers to the region that have shaped narratives about it for global audiences. Journalists from the Middle East are part of a larger group of modern professionals that influence trends of political and social change at home and also aim to represent their home societies to global audiences. In this course, we will use the tools of today's Middle East specialists to investigate the narrative frames used to simplify the complexities of past and contemporary events. As a final project, student research teams will do scholarly revisions of press accounts that they select from among today's headlines and "breaking news" segments. (YR).

FNDS 3402 Modern Crime: Jack the Ripper 4 Credit Hours

During the summer and fall of 1888, five prostitutes were gruesomely murdered in Whitechapel, a district in the East End of London. The killer, who identified himself as "Jack the Ripper" was never identified and the unsolved case has been the focus of amateur sleuths and detectives (known as "Ripperologists") for over 100 years. It has also been the topic of media attention and sensationalism, both then and now. It has spawned numerous tabloid articles, books (both non-fiction and fiction), movies, websites and blogs. There is even a Jack the Ripper musical. Jack the Ripper was, in many ways, the first modern serial killer and the case provides students with a unique view of issues of class, gender and race as they relate to society, crime and the media, both then and now. (AY).

FNDS 3403 American Voices: Exploring Language and Identity 4 Credit Hours

Is American English a kind of Pirate English? Is it what your teachers told you to write in school? Is it a linguistic melting pot or a word salad? How do movies and other kinds of culture use these differences to create characters? How do language differences express different identities? In this course you will learn how to analyze the social meanings of different kinds of English. You will develop practical skills through researching and presenting ideas about American English. (AY).

FNDS 3602 Hope and Joy in Queer and Trans Lives 4 Credit Hours

Hope and joy are important tools, particularly for groups that experience oppression and violence. This course does not shy away from the more difficult dimensions of queer and trans lives. But our focus is centrally and emphatically on the ways that queer, trans, and other sexually and gender-diverse people produce hope, joy, healing, pleasure, and community. Perspectives of queer and trans people of color are integral to the course. The material is appropriate for students of all levels of preparation, including those with little or no prior knowledge of lgbtq issues. As part of the Foundations program, this course will also support students in acclimating to campus and to college-level work. (F, W, YR).

FNDS 3603 When Nature Strikes: Dealing with Natural Disasters 4 Credit Hours

Natural disasters kill on average 60,000 people per year. The vulnerability to disastrous events is influenced by physical factors as well as hazards perception and behavior, public policy, and economic factors. This course will draw from the physical, social, and behavioral sciences to examine the interplay between physical mechanisms and human dimensions of natural disasters. (F).

FNDS 3901 Cultures in Contact: The Arab Near East and the West 4 Credit Hours

Arab Near East-West relations were not always frayed and confrontational. We look beyond colonialist legacies for sustained cultural contacts and their lasting effects. As such, we examine Arab contributions to humanity from late antiquity through the the age of European explorations and Arab cultural awakening thanks to introduction of printing presses by the French in Egypt and the Americans in the Levant. (F).

FNDS 3902 Who Owns the Past? 4 Credit Hours

The past is not neutral. This class explores this idea, recognizing how representations of and stories about the past play a role in modern discussions and conflicts. Issues such as race, religion, national sovereignty, and both individual and group rights to self-determination, education, and property are all deeply entwined with how we learn about and tell each other about the past. We consider archaeological and historic sites and controversies in Asia, Africa, the Mideast, and the US, and focus on discussion and argumentative writing skills. (F, OC).

FNDS 3903 Rules of the Game: How Institutions Work 4 Credit Hours

Topic Title: Rules of the Game: How Institutions Work All transactions/ economic activity occurs under an underlying framework. This can range from: if I bash your head with a rock I get your wooly mammoth to going to the grocery store to buy food to dating to the gig economy. In this class we will discuss a wide range of institutions; that is the framework under which exchange happens. We will begin with formal institutions of government rule of law, patents and foreign development. Next we will analyze informal institutions that deal with common pool resources, the market for body parts and culture. At the end we will discuss various criminal organizations. While there are no prerequisites for this course an introduction to economics class is highly recommended. (AY, W).

FNDS 3910 Make Learning Your New Superpower 4 Credit Hours

Learning is a life-long process of acquiring new knowledge, skills, or behaviors and building upon what you already know through experiences, study, engagement, or teaching. You have been learning since the day you were born and may not give how you learn much thought but consider these questions. Why is it that some things are easy to learn and others difficult? Or why can you remember some things you learned long ago but totally forget others? How is it possible you can cram for an exam and not recall the material a few weeks later? Why are you energized to learn in some circumstances and in others it is a real drag? Why does learning in college seem to be so much more challenging than other types of learning? Can you become a better learner or are you just stuck with the ability you have? These questions and more will be explored throughout the semester as we learn about learning. Drawing from a number of disciplines including psychology, communication, biology, sociology, and education, this course is designed to provide you with a broad understanding of learning theories, processes, problems, strategies, and motivations while offering you opportunities to more deeply engage with the content and apply what you are learning. As a Foundations course, this course is also designed to provide you with the support, skills, and knowledge needed for academic success at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. In this class, you will begin to build a supportive network of peers, get to know the campus and its resources, and become better prepared to undertake university-level coursework. (F).

*An asterisk denotes that a course may be taken concurrently.

The following abbreviations are used to denote the frequency of offering: (F) fall term; (W) winter term; (S) summer term; (F, W) fall and winter terms; (YR) once a year; (AY) alternating years; (OC) offered occasionally