



General Education (GNED) Course Descriptions Spring/Summer 2022

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GNED 1101 – Leadership and Motivation

Our turbulent 21st century calls for leadership perspectives that move beyond the top down management paradigm. While leadership remains an idea in motion, meaning different things to different people, the universal purposes of leadership are to change lives and create a culture of trust, progress and growth. This course focuses on the ways in which leaders must respond to a variety of competing value systems and motivations. Students will explore the varying perspectives on leadership theory and practice. They will explore critical and emerging ways of understanding leadership. Students will explore concepts such “developing new habits of mind” and “leading from within” to question, clarify and articulate their core values and to build a sense of self-direction, critical thinking and personal effectiveness. Inheriting new and expansive leadership perspective opens up tremendous opportunities for ethical, creative and sustainable collaboration in teams and partnerships.

GNED 1104 – Management and Leadership Skills

This overview course is designed to provide participants with a beginning-level understanding of management and leadership styles, and an opportunity to develop personal management skills. In today’s changing economic and political climate, the role of a manager/supervisor is extremely demanding and complex. In addition to managing the many practical aspects of a business operation, he/she must provide leadership by motivating, empowering, and supporting staff. Topics include types of organizations, ethics, diversity, innovation, problem solving, and team building skills.

GNED 1106 – Introduction to Psychology – an Applied Science

In this course, students will learn about some popular topics in psychology including learning, memory, sleep and consciousness, psychological disorders, and social psychology. Through hands-on experiments, activities, case studies, multimedia, and demonstrations, students will gain an appreciation for psychology as a social science. Assessments for each unit will be students’ choice but will include either a multiple choice test or an assignment of various formats (written, video, etc.).

GNED 1120 – Stress, Wellness & Nutrition

Stress can play a huge factor in our professional lives. Learning how to deal with it is vital to our long-term health. While stress alone doesn’t cause disease, it triggers molecular changes throughout the body that make us more susceptible to many illnesses. In this course, students will gain an understanding of the importance of how to deal with both positive and negative stress in their lives. By using wellness perspectives, each student will gain more insight into how he or she can control both internal and external stressors.

GNED 1129 – Classical Philosophy

Classical philosophy has had profound influences on the way we think reason and exchange ideas, how we develop new ideas and refine old ones, and how we discover the world around us and conceive of our place in it. Students in this course will engage in discussions of logic, ethics, theories of knowledge and reality, and theories of well-being and the good. They will come to appreciate the basis of much of Western thought,

to understand how these issues continue to offer intellectual challenges for contemporary thinkers, and to develop strong analytical skills honed from having to critically evaluate their own beliefs in light of the arguments offered by classical philosophy. Students will be evaluated using a combination of tests, short assignments, in-class assignments and essays.

GNED 1137 – Fear

Fear has robbed people of their true potential and while we were made to soar like eagles, many of us will end up scratching like chickens. This course aims to take a critical look at external factors in the media, society and personal interactions that have contributed to this debilitating phenomenon known as fear. We will expose messages that we have received and look at how they have influenced the decisions we currently make. Students will evaluate external messages that have prohibiting them from achieving their true potential. Through online discussions, video analysis, article reviews and self-reflective exercises, students will identify how fear is constructed.

GNED 1201 – Literature

This introductory English literature course is designed to help students develop or enhance their appreciation of literature. The course examines a variety of short stories with varied themes covering the last two centuries and considers the common elements of short and long fiction. Stories examined are authored by a wide range of international writers. In addition to participating in and leading discussions, students will have the opportunity to enhance their research, critical thinking, writing, and oral presentation skills.

GNED 1204 – History of Popular Music

The history of Rock and Roll is synonymous with the history of popular music. Popular music has a number of elements: it appeals to a large percentage of the population; it is familiar and widely heard; and it is profitable. Leading up to the early 1950s, American music experienced the merging of a variety of musical styles that blurred racial, economic, geographic, cultural and class boundaries. According to historian Michael Campbell, "...the marketplace dictated the rules, for better or worse." The music became known as Rock and Roll and would reflect, and even shape, mainstream culture, politics and economics in America and abroad. Through readings, lectures, the use of historical audio and video recordings, discussions, and group work, students will examine the thematic growth of popular music, paying attention to music industry structure, technological innovations, and social and political impetus.

GNED 1213 – Hero's Journey - Frodo, Luke and Harry

This course will examine the timeless and enduring theme of the hero's journey as expressed in The Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, and Harry Potter series. What is it about this narrative that continues to draw our imagination? What are its roots in ancient mythology and legend? What is the impact of the visualization capabilities of film on our experience of these stories? These questions will be examined through an exploration of legend, literature, and film. Familiarity with the stories of these three narratives (through books and/or movies) will be assumed—the course will not require the student

to read all the books. However, students will compare one of the books under study to the film version in relation to one element of literature in a research assignment. This course also includes an open book/resource final test. The course is delivered 100% online and requires students to manage their own time and workload in order to be successful.

GNED 1214 – Children’s Literature

Do you remember your favorite bedtime story when you were a kid? Did you curl up and read a special book that made you feel safe or unique or powerful? Did a certain book when you were 7 or 8 years old make you feel like you belonged and were understood? Students will develop an in depth knowledge of the trends in Children’s Literature and how children respond to them. Students will examine a global perspective on storytelling for children within different cultures. This course will give students a multi-faceted view of the stories that creates magic in the lives of children. Students will experience tests, journal writing, opinion processing and, oral presentations using written and verbal skills to analyze and evaluate course content.

GNED 1222 – Making Monsters

A society is defined by what it fears. From the inhuman shapes taken on by Jews in Nazi propaganda to the radio broadcasts likening Tutsis to cockroaches in Rwanda, governments throughout history have turned minorities into monsters in order to excuse terrible actions. This course aims to explore how and why monsters are created in societies. We begin by examining the mythology of several societies around the world to explore what their monsters say about what the societies they come from. Building on this, we will examine what it means to be a monster through fiction using movies and horror novels. The course will then focus on what it means to call a human a monster by examining examples from history where people were considered monsters. In addition, this course will use video games, role-play, and primary sources to understand how good people can be convinced to do bad things and become monsters themselves. Through discussion and reflection, students will learn the critical thinking skills to evaluate the messages they receive from government and media. Students will also develop a greater empathy with their fellow humans to resist the bigotry and violence associated with dehumanizing other human beings.

GNED 1227 – Funny Bone: The Canadian Comedy Identity

Jim Carrey, Mike Myers, Samantha Bee - Canada has a reputation for producing strong comedic talent, but its thriving comedy industry has largely been unexplored. What is a comedian? What does a career in comedy look like? What impact do comedians have on the Canadian identity? By examining the development, use, and value of comedy as communication, this course will answer those questions and more.

GNED 1308 – Canadian Law

This introductory course is designed to introduce the student to the historical context and operation of our legal system, the institutions within the system, roles of persons within those institutions and the process of thought which applies to current Canadian legal issues. Students in this course should gain a general understanding of how laws

are defined, created, implemented and interpreted to give meaning and solutions to modern social problems. Students will apply the function of law in a practical manner through case scenarios and/or case analyses. Students will be evaluated using a combination of mind maps, in-process assignments, discussions and/or debates participation, work sheets, quizzes and two assignments.

GNED 1314 – In Prison: Canadian Incarceration

Prison is Canada’s harshest form of punishment. Personal opinions surrounding the use of prison and its administration remains a popular and largely debated subject ranging from kitchen table arguments to large-scale political battles. Students will be introduced to basic prison theory and concepts. Specifically, this course will provide an understanding of the prison experience and culture. Students will examine these concepts through a critical lens employing a combination of readings, videos, lectures and discussions with special attention being paid to mainstream debates. Students will be evaluated by means of assignments, participation and a final essay.

GNED 1317 – Human Rights

Human rights has emerged as a powerful idea in current times. The purpose of this course is to raise students’ awareness of human rights issues and supply them with a foundation for understanding the historical, philosophical, and legal aspects of human rights. We will critically discuss ideological and cultural perspectives of human rights; sources of rights violations; the United Nations and non-governmental organizations; women's rights and gender equality; LGBT rights; indigenous rights; free speech and freedom of expression. In taking this course, students will develop a critical understanding of these issues and many others. They will hone their analytic skills by learning to uncover and question their own assumptions about these themes while seeking ways to address them in their personal and professional lives. Students will be evaluated through a combination of short assignments, projects, personal reflections, and essays.

GNED 1401 – Contemporary Canadian Social Issues & Problems

Students will analyze current social and cultural issues, both global and local, and articulate the ways in which they challenge the values, beliefs and morals of contemporary Canadian society. The topics range from immigration to First Nations, from climate change to prostitution, and from the interpersonal to the personal.

GNED 1403 – A Short History of the World

Become a more global citizen by exploring the world as one planet through the broad patterns of our shared human history. Our past can reveal much about our present and future. Discover how the modern world was shaped, how globalization is taking hold, and what wisdom this can bring to your life and career choices. This is our story – the human story. It is forward looking and thoroughly modern, an exciting and inspiring big-picture course that includes a student-designed website, dynamic communications-driven assignments, and an engaging “talk show” feature that brings the world to the classroom.

GNEC 1407 – Introduction to Sociology

Sociology is the study of people and how they interact with each other and various social groups. This course deals with the study of people's lives, their relationship to society as a whole, and how people are affected by the society in which they live. The concepts, theories and methods of the discipline will be introduced and discussed with particular emphasis on the dynamics of Canadian society and Canadian social problems.

GNEC 1412 – World Religions

Can you imagine a world without religion? Most of us would probably find it very difficult to do. No wonder; religion has been central to human culture for millennia. And as it looks at the moment, this is not likely to change any time soon. We shall explore the major tenets of five religions: the three Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), Buddhism - a religion without God, and the belief system of the aboriginal tribe of the Navajo. We shall also explore the (often troubled) relationship between religion and science, and the historical influence of religion on human sexuality. Students will be evaluated through a combination of written assignments, quizzes, discussions, and group presentations.

GNEC 1413 – Current Affairs

Current Affairs is about the world in which we live and the events that shape and influence our lives. Students will be introduced to important events that have happened during their lifetime, and whose repercussions will shape the world that they live in. Along the way, students will learn about the geography, politics, and history of some of the most active regions of the world. They will learn how to think critically, understand multiple sides of an issue, and come to logical conclusions about current events.

GNEC 1429 – Introduction to Black Studies

This course is a survey of the Black Studies discipline including its social and academic origins, goals and development. Emphasis is placed on providing students with an understanding of the fundamental areas of study within the field and of the interdisciplinary approach to studying the African experience in North America and the world.

GNEC 1435 – Deviance

Wrong. Bad. Illegal. Weird. What is defined as “deviant” in society, and why? From cannabis use to cannibalism, our fascination with behaviours that break social norms is never-ending. In this General Education course, students will explore the nature of deviance from a sociological perspective, including foundational theories to guide our journey through highly subjective and often controversial subject matter. As such, students will be invited to reflect upon their biases and connect their learning to their own lives, local communities, and current events. Major topic areas of this course include violence, sex & gender, cyberdeviance, mental illness, appearance, countercultures, and positive deviance. Within these topics, examples such as gangs, serial killers, sex work, cyberbullying, addiction, body modification, and cults may be discussed. This course will use music, videos, documentaries, newspaper articles, and

scholarly sources to examine the complexity of contemporary social issues from a Canadian perspective, including Indigenous knowledge, with historical and cross-cultural comparisons. Students will be evaluated using a variety of assignments where they will have considerable freedom to choose meaningful topics and forms of submission.

GNED 1438 – Hip Hop: History, Culture & Society

Hip hop has become one of the most popular and influential forms of music currently listened to today. This course will examine hip hop's early roots in African history and its migration to American soil. From there, the course will chart the evolution of modern hip hop from its birth place in the Bronx up until the present day where it is now a global phenomenon. Along the way, the course will examine hip hop music and culture, and its complex relationship with power, business, class, gender, race and society. Students will also get a better grounding in the four foundational elements of hip hop: MCing, DJing, Graffiti and B-boying. The course will wrap up with an examination of the culture's current challenges and its future opportunities.

GNED 1441 – Food for Thought

Students in this course will center on expanding the knowledge of our continually changing food systems through studying academic essays that focus on issues arising from the question, "How should we eat?" There will be a focus on food as fundamental to the human experience, and will introduce students to the shifting interpretations, perspectives, challenges, governance issues, and future visions that shape the ethical issues surrounding food. As a result, this course will heavily examine the benefits of adapting a more environmentally friendly vegetarian lifestyle worldwide. By studying modern issues and developments surrounding food ethics, students will cultivate a new appreciation for where their food supply comes from, how it is brought to their plates, and how to make more conscious food choices that will benefit themselves, others, and the environment. This course will be delivered in a fully online format. Students in this course will be evaluated using online discussions, study questions, and a cumulative assignment.

GNED 1444 – Introduction to LGBTQ Studies

This course offers an interdisciplinary introduction to the social, cultural, and political histories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer peoples in the Western world. It is intended that students will, on one hand, explore and come to appreciate the dynamics between sexual and gender minorities and the gender conformant and heterosexual majority and, on the other hand, investigate and come to understand how sexual identities are socially constructed and how sexual identities in turn intersect with other categories of identity such as race, gender, class, and ethnicity. The methods of evaluation for this course include: weekly in-class discussion, written reactions, quizzes, written analysis of a primary text and a final summative piece.

GNED 1449 – Women Across Culture; a Global Perspective

In this course students will look at the experiences of women globally, especially in developing countries. Topics that students will explore include status and power of

women, their role in the home and the workplace, sexuality and reproduction, and issues (such as violence and female circumcision) and practices unique to certain countries. Exploring the aspects of women's lives globally is done by the consistent reference to the overall context of gender relations generally; thus the issues affecting women are examined in relation to the experience of their male counterparts. In addition, students will be encouraged to make comparisons between women's lives and situations in North America and the women's lives being explored in a global context. Students will be assessed using a combination of discussion board postings, assignments, tests, and projects.

GNED 1466 – Organized Crime

This course will provide students with an understanding of organized crime, its structure and practices. Organizations including motorcycle gangs, Italian and Russian mafia and Latin Cartels will all be examined and the businesses in which they run. Students will look at the development and history of organized crime as well as the government and law enforcement responses. Through a variety of readings, assignments, film reviews and in-depth discussion; students will gain an understanding of the key players and organization as well as societal contributors and will learn to think critically about some of the largely debated areas of organized crime.

GNED 1473 – Conflict, Colonization & Courage: First Nations, Métis, & Inuit in Canada

The course will provide students with an introduction to First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) peoples in Canada including their diverse histories, cultures, and ways of knowing. Students will challenge pre-conceived ideas and stereotypes about FNMI people and will learn about the past, present, and future as it relates to FNMI peoples in Canada. Some topics will include Indigenous world view, colonization, treaties, the Indian Act, residential schools, the 60's Scoop, urban issues, intergenerational trauma, resiliency, and reconciliation.

GNED 1475 – Pocahontas: Indigenous Peoples in Popular Culture

Pocahontas is a household name, but the true story of her short but powerful life has been buried in myth due in large part to her stereotyped portrayals through fictional works. Indeed, media driven stereotypes like the "Indian princess" or the "noble savage" for example, contribute to our already very distorted view of Indigenous people and culture. This course will provide context for past and current portrayals of Indigenous peoples and topics in literature, film, and media. With a better understanding of Indigenous cultures, histories, and perspectives, students will analyze sources related to, and/or about Indigenous peoples, through a critical lens whilst identifying the failings of the past and the successes of contemporary developments.

GNED 1477 – Then, Now, Forever - Indigenous Resiliency in the Modern Era

This course will explore the current issues affecting First Nation, Metis, and Inuit populations, and will showcase modern examples of Indigenous resistance, resilience, and resurgence. Students will study the contemporary interactions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada, environmental concerns (e.g. Trans Mountain

pipeline), laws and policies, national issues (e.g. the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls), contemporary movements (e.g. Idle No More), and reconciliation initiatives.

GNED 1508 – The Digital Learning

Students in this course will have opportunities to engage in digital learning while identifying the relationship between learning and digital technologies. Students will explore the significance of theoretical constructs of learning and how they apply to available tools. This course will provide individuals with an understanding of the theories behind digital learning as well as provide them with an opportunity to discuss the strengths and limitations of this field. Students will explore principles of learning and apply these to the digital world. The course will also focus on specific learning tools that can be used in educational practices.

GNED 1509 – Astronomy: Exploring the Night Sky

Students in this course will examine celestial objects and phenomena that originate outside the atmosphere of Earth. Celestial objects such as our moon, sun, planets, stars, nebulae, meteoroids, asteroids, comets and galaxies will be explored. Students will use scientific inquiry to develop an understanding of how matter and energy influences our universe. Students will also uncover the mysteries behind how a telescope works, the Earth's seasons, and the evolution of stars. Students will be evaluated through research, small group discussions, and hands on activities.

GNED 1523 – Mass Extinction: The end of (almost) Everything on Earth

Extinction is a frightening topic that is rarely talked about. It often brings to mind images of dinosaurs and the earth millions of years ago. So why should we talk about extinction today? Aren't there more relevant, cutting-edge science topics that are better to study? At present many scientists have gathered evidence to suggest we are on the brink of another major extinction, one that will impact and potentially eliminate humankind. Is this true or just another gloomy future prediction? Unearth the topic and the facts during this course to decide for yourself if this topic is really "dead" or just plain "deadly".

GNED 1527 – Artificial Intelligence

This course explores the idea of artificial intelligence (A.I.) from three different perspectives: scientific, philosophical, and cultural. The scientific perspective provides insight as to how artificial intelligence technologies work, the current limitations, and supposed future potential. The philosophical perspective explores whether A.I. is good or bad, essential or dangerous, and what the future could hold. The cultural angle examines how society views A.I. and whether these views are accurate. Toward the end of the course deeper topics will be introduced including how A.I. compares to human intelligence, the singularity, and futurism.

This course is taught in one of two formats; completely online, or hybrid (two hours in class and one hour online). The Learning Plan described in this course outline applies to both formats, regardless of the delivery method stated in each week. It is the responsibility of the student to understand which format they have enrolled in, and to attend and actively engage with the learning environment.

GNED 1528 – Bioarchaeology: Interpreting Behaviour from the Human Skeleton

The food we eat, the water we drink, the hardships we go through, and the activities we engage in all leave their mark on our bones and teeth. Bioarchaeology uses the scientific investigation of human remains to interpret past people's behaviour. This introductory course will give an overview of research methodologies used and types of questions addressed by this discipline. We will start with the basics of identification, such as age, sex, and race (including a discussion of issues surrounding these categorizations). We will cover a variety of health indicators, including signs of stress and deprivation during development, diseases, healed trauma, and violent death. Evidence of voluntary body modifications and activity patterns (from athletes to weavers) will be discussed, along with genetic relationships. We will also explore diet, origin, and mobility, with a focus on stable isotope analysis. The course will end with a discussion of the challenges faced in bioarchaeology today.

GNED 1530 – The Impact of STEM in Society

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) plays a major role in our everyday lives. It affects virtually every aspect of human endeavors. From the way we travel to the way we communicate, STEM has been a factor in the shaping of society. This course will examine and analyze the technical and human dimensions that have influenced the past, present and future of STEM in society. Prior STEM background or experience is not a prerequisite for this course.