

Winter 2019 GNED Offerings

Leadership and Motivation (GNED 1101)

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.

Management & Leadership Skills (GNED 1104)

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.

Psychology - An Applied Science, Introduction to (GNED 1106)

Psychology is the study of human behavior. This course is designed to increase student understanding of the basic principles that underlie behaviour. Through practical examples, students will be introduced to important psychological concepts and key research findings. The course examines such processes as: biology and behaviour, sensation and perception, learning, memory, emotion, motivation, and social psychology.

Human Relations (GNED 1108)

This is an introductory level course that explores the dynamics of human relationships. Knowledge about interpersonal relations, behaviours, attitudes, and the self will be applied to one-on-one and group-type situations. The goal is to cultivate abilities that bring about empowerment, self-management, and effective teamwork to improve personal and professional efficacy. Opportunities are provided to think about the way in which people communicate – that is, to be reflective about the messages that people wish to convey and also how those messages may be interpreted or perceived by others.

Fundamentals of Knowledge Management (GNED 1109)

This course introduces students to the critical importance of knowledge management (KM) within contemporary organizations and personal life. Different in scope and quality from information management, knowledge management focuses on the procedural and historical experiences embedded in people, rather than records. Not only is KM a tool for effective management decision making and efficient operations, it is a looming crisis: organizations face the departure of a large percentage of their intellectual capital as the baby-boomers retire. How are organizations harnessing and retaining this implicit knowledge? How has the explosive growth of the internet, YouTube, wikis and blogs, Twitter, and other social media transformed our ability to record and share what we know? How can we manage our personal knowledge and information in an age of information overload and instant messaging? The course will examine the definition, role, approaches, and place of KM in our culture.

Psychology – A Behavioural Science, Introduction to (GNED 1117)

Psychology is the study of human behaviour. This course is designed to increase student understanding of the basic principles that underlie behaviour. Through practical examples, students will be introduced to important psychological concepts and key research findings. The course examines such processes as: biology and behaviour, lifespan development and aging, cognition and language, personality, and psychological disorders and treatment.

Money Matters (GNED 1119)

Should the government bailout car companies with your tax dollars? Why do we import beef from Argentina when we have lots here? Why does the Ontario government have such a large deficit – and what is a “deficit”, anyway? Do you feel lost when presented with complicated financial news stories or discussion about the world economy? In this course, students will learn how having an effective personal financial plan has consequences which can impact all of the above; how understanding economic principles and developing sound financial knowledge, both personal and societal provide a significant role in comprehending global financial economy. Students in this course will be evaluated using quizzes, assignments, and online activities.

Stress, Wellness & Nutrition (GNED 1120)

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.

Ethics in Your Daily Life (GNED 1122)

Ethics can be defined as a code of behaviour for daily living. Students in this course will have opportunities to examine solutions to ethical situations in both their daily and their future professional lives.

Critical Thinking – The Science of Arguments (GNED 1123)

This course is designed to introduce students to the area of critical thinking and the ability to assess arguments in terms of their credibility. Students will be made familiar with the language and patterns of reasoning, credibility criteria used to assess reasoning and the flaws that occur in many arguments. Students will also develop their knowledge to produce their own credible arguments. Students will be evaluated using a combination of assessment methods including weekly on line posts to relevant topics, individual and group assignments.

Gender and Sexuality (GNED 1125)

Students in this course will explore a variety of issues surrounding gender and sexuality in contemporary Western society: gender socialization, social and cultural norms, identity politics, social deviance and sexual shaming. Through an interactive blend of lectures, discussions and debates, students will broaden and challenge their understanding of the role(s) of both gender and sexuality in media, politics, religion and popular culture. Ultimately, this course also seeks to analyze the shifting landscape of gender and sexual politics and its relevance in this particularly important, controversial time in human history. Students will be evaluated using a combination of participation activities (short reflective papers, debates) as well two (2) tests, one (1) oral presentation and one (1) final paper.

Modern Philosophy (GNED 1128)

Students in this course will be placed amidst one of the great intellectual battles in history: the Rationalists vs. The Empiricists. This battle, couched in modern philosophy which is typically thought of as spanning from the 17th to 19th centuries, has spawned philosophical icons such as René Descartes, John Locke and David Hume. These philosophers dealt with concepts such as the existence of God and the nature of religion, freedom and free will, the nature of reality, and the scope and limits of human understanding. Students will develop a critical understanding of these issues, will hone their analytic skills by learning to uncover and question their own assumptions about these timeless themes, and will perhaps help to resolve some of these classic debates. Students will be evaluated through a combination of short assignments, in-class debates, tests, and essays.

Classical Philosophy (GNED 1129)

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.

Quest for Happiness, The (GNED 1132) – Initially Positive Psychology

It could be said that one of the main goals in life is to “be happy”, but what does that really mean and how do we achieve that goal? Positive Psychology is a newer branch of psychology that seeks to answer those very questions, as well as to provide us with a pathway for our own, personal happiness. In this course, students will develop a greater understanding of how long-term happiness differs from the short-term happiness we get from buying “stuff”. They will explore and debate reasons for the decline in our happiness levels, including the rise in both materialism and technology use. They will increase their awareness of how personal happiness is dependent upon our relationships with other people, both near and far. In addition to developing a deeper understanding of the science of happiness, students will also experiment with some research-based happiness strategies within their own lives. By the end of this course, students will not only be more informed about what happiness is, but they will have the strategies and tools needed in order to achieve personal happiness throughout their lives.

Fear (GNED 1137)

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.

Find your Fit (GNED 1138)

Students in this course will learn about and gain awareness of different types of physical activity and the impact physical activity has on individual health and wellness. Students will gain a personal understanding of the importance of physical activity and of become increasingly aware that each individual is responsible for their own fitness and that there is a form of enjoyable physical activity for everyone and every body type. Students will learn the evolution of intentional exercise, the barriers to exercise and related solutions, exercise adherence, stages of change and the impact of technology on physical activity. Students will be assessed through a combination of online reflections, self and peer-evaluation, interviews, presentations, web quests and online quizzes.

Insight into Economics (GNED 1140)

Ever wonder why some countries are richer than others? Ever question why income inequality has been growing? Ever wonder why Canadian politicians worry when other countries may be going bankrupt? Economics can answer all these questions. This course will introduce students to “economic” way of thinking. Understanding the importance and impact of today’s economic issues on everyday life is a powerful asset in our rapidly changing world.

This course deals with basic economic principles that help us understand the process of decision making by individuals and societies. We analyze the fundamental economic activities of production, distribution, exchange, and consumption at both the micro and macro level. The students will learn how to apply these principles to a wide variety of real world situations in both their personal and professional lives. At the end of the course, the students should be able to talk about economic issues with relative comfort, as they will have a better understanding of how the economy works that will help them prosper in an increasingly competitive and globalized environment. Students in this course will be evaluated using online activities, assignments, in-class discussions, and quizzes.

Understanding Human Intelligence (GNED 1141)

The concept and measurement of human intelligence has been around for thousands of years, but how much more do we know about it now than we did back then? More importantly, why do we continue to measure human intelligence and how is it related to our achievements in life? Perhaps success is not actually about how SMART we are, but about HOW we are smart? In this course, students will learn about traditional and contemporary theories of human intelligence. They will discuss and debate the role of intelligence testing in modern society, and will explore new brain-based methods of understanding human intelligence. Controversial intelligence issues will be presented and explored. Factors that contribute to the development of human intelligence will also be examined, including creativity, wisdom and academic ability. Throughout the course, students will extend their personal and professional connection to the content through the use of individual ePortfolio assignments. By the end of this course, students will not only have gained more understanding about human intelligence, but they will have developed a greater self-awareness.

Literature (GNED 1201)

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.

Rock & Roll: The Beat Goes On (1975-Present) (GNED 1203)

Rock and Roll the Beat Goes On will examine how the simplistic rhythms used by today's rock artists and the powerful lyrics have impacted the social, cultural, financial and political climate of today's society. Although Rock and Roll continues to evolve with each generation, the time period we will concentrate on is from the mid 1970's through post 9/11 and the mid 2000's. The advent of new technology available to mass media may prove to make this the most profitable era in music history.

History of Popular Music (GNED 1204)

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.

Rock & Roll, The Social Impact of (GNED 1205)

The Social Impact of Rock & Roll examines the effect that rock and roll music had on the twentieth century, as well as how it continues to define our society today. Exploring the early, humble roots of this music, we will trace how it became the single most influential element of Western Culture. Although Rock and Roll is alive and well and continues to evolve with each generation, the time period this course concentrates on is from the days of Tin Pan Alley through to the end of the explosive 1960s.

Animated Film, The History of (GNED 1209)

The History of Animated film is the study of the art-form from its earliest primitive candle-light projections to current technically sophisticated theatrical releases. It can be said that film as we know it now got its beginnings not by using live performers, but by attempts to replicate performance with the use of drawings. In fact, some of the earliest recorded sequential images of movement can be traced back to paleolithic cave walls! To study the history of animation is to study the history of all filmmaking. The animation studio has long been the home of innovative approaches that have led the way to advances in visualization that can be reflected in theatre, literature, music, education, industry and mass communication in general. Each class will focus on a particular decade in the chronology of development; a continuation of the decade-by-decade journey of animation cinema, technique, and content. Careful attention will be given to the pioneers and significant practitioners who have been pivotal in the development and growth of animation. Examples from countries across the world will be screened, discussed, compared and analyzed. Above all, the course will be a celebration of the marvel of the animated film, an artform that has changed so much, yet relies on the same principles that were applied before recorded time.

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

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 Lord of the Rings or one of the Harry Potter books to the film version in relation to one aspect of the works under study.

Children's Literature (GNED 1214)

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.

Making Monsters (GNED 1222)

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.

Funny Bone: The Canadian Comedy Identify (GNED 1227)

Jim Carrey, Mike Myers, Martin Short - Canada has a reputation for producing strong comedic talent, but a comedy industry that has largely been unexplored. By navigating through the tangled, disconnected path that is the comedian's career, this course will examine the development, use, and value of comedy as communication to cultivate a unique appreciation of the art.

Political Science (GNED 1302)

This course provides an introduction to the democratic system of governing people in Canada. It includes a description of the organization of the three levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal. The interaction of each government level, democratic electoral systems and legislative processes are also discussed. The course includes the responsibilities of each level of government, the daily problems and issues facing Canadian citizens and the impact on law enforcement by public opinion, the media and special interest groups.

Canadian Government (GNED 1304)

This introduction to Canadian Government provides a factual overview of all three levels of government in Canada. Although historical and institutional principles must be addressed, attention will be given to the broader economic, political and social contexts within which the government operates. Guest speakers from municipal, provincial and federal governments will provide a practical insight into government operations.

Principles of Justice (GNED 1306)

This course will introduce students to question and consider the fundamental principles of justice in Canada. Students will gain an understanding of the Canadian Legal System, Dispute Resolution, Contract Law, Business Torts, Property Law, Employment Law, Intellectual Property Law, as well as the key distinctions between Civil and Criminal Law. Students will examine legal and ethical thinking in a practical manner through case scenarios. This course is delivered entirely online and requires students to be actively reading and responding to course postings every week over the entire term.

Wrongfully Convicted: A Look at the Canadian Criminal Justice System (GNED 1307)

Can you imagine being convicted and serving time in prison for a crime you did not commit? Students in this online introductory course will use a variety of wrongfully convicted case scenarios to obtain a basic level understanding of the Canadian criminal justice system. Students will examine the roles and functions of each component of the system - police, courts, and corrections in relation to the system as a whole. They will analyze the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the system and will apply the function of law in a practical manner through case scenarios and/or case analyses. Students will also explore related contemporary issues, including public/private relationships in the law enforcement context, public involvement in criminal justice processes, restorative justice, and programs designed to reduce crime and rehabilitate offenders. Students will be evaluated using a combination of mind maps, in process (discussions and debates) participation, work sheets and related quizzes, a court assignment and a case study.

Canadian Law (GNED 1308)

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.

In Prison: Canadian Incarceration (GNED 1314)

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.

Human Rights: A Radical Idea (GNED 1317)

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.

National Security: International Terrorism (GNED 1318)

This course will expose the learner to the history, psychology, methodologies and motivations of the use of violence to achieve political and other objectives. The student will be exposed to an operational and strategic analysis of this social science phenomenon. Government anti and counter terrorism strategies and concepts will be presented as well as identifying terrorist groups, studying terrorist tactics and identifying the second and third order effects of terrorism.

Social Innovation: Becoming a Changemaker (GNED 1320)

Social innovation refers to new ideas, strategies or interventions that resolve existing social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges in more effective and sustainable ways than before. This course will explore the emergence of social innovation and examine the novel ways that some of the world's most pressing problems are being addressed. Students will gain an overview of what social innovations are, how they function and how they can be developed. Key concepts, theories, frameworks, and emerging trends for creating, developing, supporting, and enabling social innovation in Canada and abroad will be discussed. Students will have an opportunity to identify a social problem of interest and develop innovative solutions to this problem, and will gain the knowledge needed to become successful changemakers in their own communities.

From Snoop Dog to South Park: Perspectives on Censorship and Free Speech – (GNED 1321)

This course is a multidisciplinary exploration of censorship, both historically and in society today. Students will begin with establishing a foundational understanding of censorship and its historical context and proceed to examine censorship and free speech in modern society from a variety of perspectives, including social, cultural, religious, political, philosophical, and legal. This course will explore controversial topics related to censorship and free speech in the arts, media, literature and science. Students will be encouraged to become informed, reflect, and participate in respectful dialogue on this important social issue.

Real Fake News – (GNED 1322)

Were you ever fooled by a photo? Messed up by a meme? Hoodwinked by a headline? In other words, have you ever thought that fake news or information was absolutely true – and were embarrassed to find out you'd been tricked? If so, don't feel bad – you're not alone. In a world where the outcome of an election can be swayed by false news, it's clear that more and more people are having trouble telling the difference between truth and fiction. This course will take you on a fun, enlightening journey through the crazy world of information – false & true, opinion & fact, neutral & sponsored - and give you the tools you need to be a well-informed citizen in our democracy. You won't be fooled again!

Civil Rights Movement: From the Deep South to the Arctic North – (GNED 1323)

Despite the progress made in the last five decades, the world is still divided along racial lines. This is apparent not only in our media but it exists within the hallways of our schools, our neighbourhoods, our legal system, etc. This course will explore the successes and failures of the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's in both the United States and Canada, as well as strategies to apply these lessons to today's race related social justice concerns. This course will be one hour in class and two hours online and utilize the flipped classroom method.

Contemporary Canadian Social Issues – (GNED 1401)

Students will analyze current social issues that challenge the values, beliefs and morals of contemporary society as well as their own. The topics range from smoking to euthanasia and from the impersonal to the personal.

A Short History of the World (GNED 1403)

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.

Sociology, Introduction to (GNED 1407)

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.

Social Media and Society (GNED 1411)

In a few short years, social media has profoundly changed the global communication landscape. With the advent of social media tools such Facebook, YouTube, Wikipedia, and Twitter, more and more people are connecting and collaborating online, and creating and distributing content in ways we have never seen before. This course will provide a summary of the major developments in social media and will examine how social media is changing media, business, government, the economy, development, and education in fundamental ways. Students will be introduced to a variety of social media environments and will gain hands-on experience with many of the leading social media applications. This course requires active participation of students and a willingness to immerse in social media practices.

World Religions (GNED 1412)

Why is the concept of religion a source of comfort for some and a source of conflict for others? Why do humans have “religion”? How did the concept of religion begin? How and why did religions develop and diversify? What are the current trends in religions of the world today? What does the future hold for humans and the concept of religion? How does having “no religion” fit into this discussion?

Current Affairs (GNED 1413)

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.

Games, History of (GNED 1418)

In this general education course, students are introduced to the historical evolution and impact of video games. This class explores the origins and evolution of games, as well as the key historical figures that have been so influential to this industry. It also explores the impact video games have had on society as they become more firmly entrenched in our lives and our culture.

Marketing and Consumer Behaviour (GNED 1423)

This course is designed to provide advertising students with an understanding of marketing principles and practices. In addition the course will examine consumer behaviour, i.e. why individuals acquire and consume goods and services.

Cultural Diversity in Canada (GNED 1426)

Students will critically identify and examine issues in diversity. Specifically, students will focus on topics pertaining to inequality in various social settings, including but not limited to race, gender, ethnicity, class and sexual orientation. Incorporating social/legal explanations of diversity, students will develop a clear understanding of the impacted groups and possible strategies for community empowerment.

Women's Studies, Introduction to (GNED 1427)

This course will provide students with an introduction to the study of women, feminism and the theories of oppression and privilege that exist in our society, particularly with respect to gender, sexuality, race, class and sexual orientation. Topics will include the history of the women's movement in North America, gender socialization, sexuality and intimacy, body image, and health and reproduction with an emphasis on the social institutions of the family, health care, the legal system, work and the economy, and the media.

Black Studies, Introduction to (GNED 1429)

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.

Canada and the World (GNED 1430)

The course will examine the connections and interactions between Canada and the rest of the globe from a historical perspective. Beginning with a look at our evolution to independence and the influence of Britain and America on our society, we will explore how Canada formed its current identity. Students will examine how Canada exerts itself around the world, from peacekeeping to climate change, oil exports and our relationship with the developing world.

Deviance (GNED 1435)

Deviance is the study of actions and behaviours that violate social and legal rules and expectations. In this course we will explore and analyze a variety of theories to explain deviance and how deviant behaviour is classified. As a community of learners we will investigate interpersonal violence, self-destructive deviance, diverse lifestyles, substance use and abuse, and inequality in deviance. Through this investigation students will gain greater insight into diverse forms of deviance including family and school violence, suicide, mental disorders, alcoholism, serial murders, and sexual deviance.

Hip Hop: History, Culture and Society (GNED 1438)

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.

Hockey: The First Century (GNED 1439)

Students will study the evolution of ice hockey through topics such as the early years of ice hockey, the National Hockey League (NHL), international hockey, women's hockey, amateur hockey, hockey "immortality" and the off-ice business of hockey. Students will be evaluated by in-class and on-line discussion, a researched written reflection, a photo assignment, a group presentation, and a summative paper.

Feminine Beauty: In the Eye of the Beholder (GNED 1440)

Beauty is subjective and can be defined and influenced by a variety of different social and cultural factors. This course will explore beauty ideals across different cultures and time spans. How these changing beauty ideals influence the development of human relationships will also be examined.

Food for Thought (GNED 1441)

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.

Humanity's Destiny (GNED 1448)

We all think about the future. Many of us have dreams for ourselves and our children. In an age when much can change in one lifetime, we may wonder: Where are we going? In this course, students look ahead within the context of the 21st century and beyond, exploring challenges, dilemmas, and opportunities. Using projection technologies and drawing on examples from human history, contemporary futurists, and their own lives, students give concrete thought to their future and how their actions might affect future generations. Evaluations consist of contemporary and creative assignments that include a personal life plan, a written reflection on the enduring drivers of human progress, a dynamic summative project in a medium of their choice in which students imagine the world of the near future, as well as discussions, blogs, and live-answer quizzes. This course is also part of Durham College's "global class".

Women across Cultures: A Global Perspective (GNED 1449)

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.

Global Class, The (GNED 1462)

This forward- looking course, which has grown out of two popular Durham College electives, Short History of the World and Humanity's Destiny, concentrates on our shared human adventure on Earth. The Global Class explores our story, the human story, at a time of accelerating interdependence. Every other week in an online worldwide classroom, the course instructor (the "host" of The Global Class) and his students in Oshawa welcome a guest speaker from one part of the world along with classes from two other countries for a live intercultural exchange in which students have the opportunity to meet a provocative contemporary thinker and learn what their peers elsewhere have to say about a topic that affects them both globally and locally. The Global Class asks you to think about your place in today's world in which we are at once pushed by forces of globalization and pulled by local tradition. A website designed and managed by students is another feature of The Global Class. Students are evaluated according to reflective multimedia assignments that allow them to explore the course content in terms of their own goals, and quizzes they themselves design help them prepare for the classes with the participants in other parts of the world. You will find yourself challenged and inspired in this course. If you would like to learn more, the instructor has given a talk about it, which you can view on YouTube at TEDx Global Class.

Youth and Social Regulation (GNED 1465)

This course will explore how the bodies, minds, behaviors and social worlds of youth are regulated in society. This will include the regulation of youth through formal systems – such as the criminal justice system (as both victims and offenders) – and informal systems (subcultures and social spaces). Conversely, this course will also explore how youth themselves have played a role in shaping and regulating society, through social movements and activism. Students will be challenged to get active, by mobilizing for change within their communities toward a cause of their choice (mobilizing in person or through social media, and reporting back to the class). Through this course, students will gain an understanding of social and cultural themes in the regulation of youth, and will develop an awareness of how social regulation has helped shape their place in contemporary culture and society.

Organized Crime (GNED 1466)

This course will provide students with an understanding of organized crime, its structure and practices. Organizations including motorcycle gangs, Italian and Russian mafia and street gangs 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 and in-depth discussion; students will gain an understanding of theories used to explain the phenomenon of organized crime and will learn to think critically about some of the largely debated areas of organized crime.

Community: The Bringing Together (GNED 1470)

Do you live in a neighborhood or a community? Is there a difference between the two? Does community go beyond geographic boundaries? How can I make a difference in my community? These questions and more will be explored in this dynamic general education elective course. This course takes a broad approach to understand what it means to be a member of a community with an emphasis on identifying the personal, social, and cultural underpinnings of various communities. Students will learn about the benefits of being a member of a community and the challenges in taking a leadership role in developing a sustainable community. A main component of the course encourages students to participate in a community building activity; either by initiating a new community activity in their community or assist in supporting an existing community activity. Students will be required to participate in weekly online activities with a culminating activity that can either be completed individually or in pairs. This course is best suited for students that are self-motivated, have excellent time management skills, and are passionate about making a difference in the world around them. The course will be taught in an experiential and reflective manner respecting the uniqueness of each student's past experience, current field of study, and personal interests in the subject material.

Geography Matters: Connecting People and Places in our Globalized World (GNED 1471)

We all know that the world is going global, but what if you are struggling to keep things straight in a world inhabited by close to 8 billion people spread over 200 countries. Add in the environment, climate, and culture and the whole thing becomes completely overwhelming. You start to wonder, how can you expect to work and make decisions in this complex global world. This course goes beyond locating things on maps to understand the interconnectedness of people, places, and environments. Increase your knowledge of what is occurring globally, how it got there, and how it is all connected. Join in and increase your geo-literacy level. (This course is delivered on-line.)

Special Topics In Sociology (GNED 1472)

The basic premise of sociology is that human existence is social existence. It is a diverse field, and Issues in Sociology will provide students with an understanding of sociology's unique perspectives, key concepts, and modes of exploring the social world. As well, Issues in Sociology will explore topics such as the interaction of people with each other and with various social groups, the environment and social change, gender issues, and health care and medicine. Concepts that will be explored include poverty, homelessness, issues affecting First Nations in Canada, population control, the environment and the impact of social media. Students will be evaluated using a combination of tests, assignments, term project and discussion board postings.

First Nations, Métis & Inuit (GNED 1473)

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.

Poca-Honest: Indigenous Peoples in Popular Culture (GNED1475)

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.

Environmental Protection and Global Wellness (GNED 1501)

Learn more about the prominent environmental issues of our time. This course will focus on timely issues in the environmental field that present varying degrees of risk to the health of humans, ecosystems and our planet. It will be a look beyond the media headlines at the policies, politics and basic science of our most interesting environmental challenges. Topics will include climate change, arctic ecosystems, water conservation and water quality, endocrine disrupting substances (gender benders), renewable energy, resource depletion, the dilemma of pesticide use and natural toxins. The course will begin with a brief look at the responsibilities of the federal, provincial and municipal governments as they relate to environmental matters. Then, each issue will be considered in the Canadian and global context.

Science, Issues and Ethics in (GNED 1503)

This course examines the nature of science and some of the technologies that have been developed using the scientific process. Every new technology affects society in some way usually bringing hope as well as potential problems for the future. By studying technologies from a historical perspective to the present and into the future, students will be challenged to identify and analyze controversial issues associated with these developments. Topics include technologies relating to information and communication, biology and health (e.g. organ transplants, reproductive interventions, biotechnology and genetic engineering) and energy. Through discussions, research and presentations, students will acquire a basic understanding of ethics, critical thinking and decision-making as they relate to developments in science and technology.

Digital Learner, The (GNED 1508)

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.

Astronomy: Exploring the Night Sky! (GNED 1509)

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.

Explore Paranormal and Pseudoscience (GNED 1512)

Students will learn to separate fact from fiction within topics such as astrology, ESP, telepathy, past-life regression, haunted houses, near-death experiences, superstitions, witchcraft, medical pseudoscience, and UFOlogy. What do you believe? Students will examine these paranormal and pseudoscience topics while learning about skepticism, reasons for belief, pseudoscience red flags, critical thinking, and how to evaluate evidence. Evaluation includes online quizzes, and assignment and discussion activities created with "two-minute" digital tools. Two-minute tools are free, work on any device, and take two minutes to learn (two-minute tutorial videos are provided). Examples include padlet.com, Google Apps for Education, word clouds, visual quotes, sway.com, infographic posters, and mind maps. Student work will be posted on class websites for sharing and formative assessment, and some learning objects will be collaboratively created by the class.

Global Warming (GNED 1513)

There are those who deny global warming and there are those who support global warming. Students in this course will examine the current debate surrounding this generation's most pressing environmental issue. Students will begin by investigating the causes of both natural and human-influenced climate change, from historical temperature trends to our modern fossil-fuel-driven society. Through local and global case studies, students will then explore the potential short-term and long-term consequences of global warming to vulnerable species, ecosystems, agriculture, and human societies in both developing and developed nations. Students will analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the possible solutions proposed by global warming believers and skeptics, including alternative and renewable energy strategies, national and international treaties, technological innovation, and lifestyle changes. Students will be evaluated using a variety of methods, including debates, presentations, online journals, discussions and tests.

World Mysteries (GNED 1515)

Students will learn to separate fact from fiction within topics such as Stonehenge, the Shroud of Turin, the ancient pyramids, the crystal skulls, the Mayan Ruins, the legend of Atlantis, the Bermuda Triangle, Oak Island, crop circles, and Easter Island. Select real-life unsolved criminal mysteries will also be examined including Jack the Ripper, Jimmy Hoffa, and the assassination of JFK. What do you believe? Students will examine these mystery topics while learning about skepticism, reasons for belief, pseudoscience red flags, critical thinking, and how to evaluate evidence. Evaluation includes online quizzes, and assignment and discussion activities created with “two-minute” digital tools. Two-minute tools are free, work on any device, and take two minutes to learn (two-minute tutorial videos are provided). Examples include padlet.com, Google Apps for Education, word clouds, visual quotes, sway.com, infographic posters, and mind maps. Student work will be posted on class websites for sharing and formative assessment, and some learning objects will be collaboratively created by the class.

Big History: Story of the Universe (GNED 1520)

Bang!!! Our universe is born! The early elements of the universe mingle together in a cosmic soup of extreme energy, the force of gravity eventually pulling them together into stars and galaxies. Near many of these stars, rocky and gassy spheroids take shape and begin to dance and whirl around them – the planets! On at least one of these planets, single-celled life arises, gradually evolving into beautifully diverse and complex life-forms. One of these life-forms (us!) begins to learn at a staggering speed, and comes to dominate much of the planet. How did we discover these astounding facts about the universe? What role do human beings play in this story? What is our future as a species? And how does knowing this story change how we think about humanity? To fully answer these questions, we must turn to Big History – an all-encompassing approach to learning about human and natural history from the Big Bang to the present. In this fully online course, students will be evaluated using a combination of tests, weekly discussions and activities, an investigative assignment into some of the key concepts of Big History, and a larger independent project asking students to become an expert in one area of Big History. Become a Big Historian! The universe awaits!

Greening Your Life: Becoming an Environmental Citizen (GNED 1521)

This course introduces students to basic, non-scientific environmental lifestyle changes that can help them improve their own lives and the environment around them. Students will learn about ways they can alter their lifestyle to lessen their impact on the Earth and live more harmoniously with the natural world. Students will learn through a variety of activities including written/video lectures, online readings, reflective exercises and interactive web-based activities. As an online course students will be expected to have access to a computer and the Internet and will be expected to complete some online research.

Mass Extinction: The End of (Almost) Everything on Earth (GNED 1523)

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". (This course is delivered on-line.)

Science of Weather, The (GNED 1525)

All it takes is applying a little physics and chemistry to the Earth's atmosphere to understand weather and climate. In this course we explore the science behind weather to understand how and why it changes. We use straightforward, real-life examples to simplify scientific principles and skip the complex calculations. If you have ever been curious about the weather here is your opportunity to figure it out. (This course is delivered on-line.)

Water: The Weirdest Liquid (GNED 1526)

Water is the most unusual liquid in the world and it is found everywhere. It covers 70% of the world; 2/3 of your body is composed of water. It's even found in outer space. It is, however, increasingly difficult to find clean water for large parts of the world. While many people have no access to clean water, corporations in North America make a profit from this precious resource. Students will examine topics ranging from the unusual chemical properties of water to climate change, and the politics and ethics of water ownership. Students will also have an opportunity to illustrate their knowledge and understanding by completing various online in-class activities as well quizzes, assignments and group work.

Artificial Intelligence (GNED 1527)

This course will explore the idea of artificial intelligence from three different perspectives: scientific, philosophical, and cultural. The scientific perspective will provide insight as to how artificial intelligence technologies work, the current limitations and supposed future potential. The philosophical perspective will allow us to discuss whether it is a good or bad, essential or dangerous, and what the future could hold. The cultural angle will help us explore how society views artificial intelligence and whether these views are accurate. Toward the end of the course deeper topics will be introduced including how artificial intelligence compares to human intelligence, the singularity and futurism.

Digital Citizenship – (GNED 1531)

As members of a digital society, we spend our lives surrounded by computers, mobile devices, and smart phones which allow us anytime, anywhere access to news, information, friends and entertainment. With all of this technology, do we ever stop to ask, “Am I using this technology appropriately?” This course will explore the human, cultural, and societal issues related to digital technology and will examine the norms of appropriate, responsible behaviour with regard to technology use. It will also examine the impact of the digital world on concepts of identity and how we shape our public persona by our digital presence. It will include topics based on the nine elements of Digital Citizenship including digital access, digital commerce, digital communication, digital literacy, digital etiquette, digital law, digital rights & responsibilities, digital health & wellness, and digital security.

Skullduggery: Inside Your Brain (GNED 1532)

Through recent advances in brain imaging, our understanding of the human brain has exploded in the past decade. In this course we will explore the physical layout and function of the brain and sensory systems, how we affect the brain through drugs, diseases of the brain and their treatment through history, and how our new understanding is leading to exciting treatments for brain and sensory disorders. This course will require students to review recent reports of brain research (from popular science sources), summarize their findings, and learn from other students’ postings to develop a deeper understanding of both the fragility and plasticity of the human brain.