VALUES AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

VA 125  Mexico: Politics, Culture, and Society  4R-0L-4C  F [2001-02], W [2002-03]  Pre: None

Discusses the political, cultural and social values of Mexico. Emphasizes synchretism, the convergence of Mesoamericans, Europeans and Africans, and their contributions to the nation’s growth and development.

VA 134  Popular Literature  4R-0L-4C  Arranged  Pre: None

Considers contemporary issues in works written specifically for mass consumption such as detective stories, fantasy fiction, Westerns, and best sellers.

VA 231  Introduction to Non-Fiction  4R-0L-4C  F [2001-02]  Pre: None

Guides students in reading, appreciating, and analyzing contemporary non-fiction works, such as essays. Focuses on understanding the purposes of such works—which may include informing, entertaining, and persuading—and the issues raised.

VA 291  Geography of Europe  4R-0L-4C  W [2001-02]  Pre: None

Introduces the culture, landscape, and peoples of Europe through discussion, maps, regional analysis, and visual presentations. Includes social issues and contemporary problems facing the Europeans, from Russia to Ireland and all points between.

VA 302  Philosophy of Religion  4R-0L-4C  F [2001-02]  Pre: None

Examines the basic philosophical problems found in religion. Deals specifically with the nature of religion, the nature and existence of God, faith, religious language, and the religious life.

VA 303  Business and Engineering Ethics  4R-0L-4C  F [2001-02], W [2002-03]  Pre: None

Considers the ethical problems faced by professionals in the business world. Deals with the engineering codes of ethics and the issues of advertising, conflicts of interest, and social and professional responsibility.

VA 304  Medical Ethics  4R-0L-4C  W [2001-02]  Pre: None

Examines ethical issues in medicine from the perspectives of the professional, the consumer, and society. Emphasizes the patient-physician relationship, questions of life and death, the impacts of technology, and biomedical research.

VA 305  Philosophy and Politics of Technology  4R-0L-4C  S [2002-03]  Pre: None

Examines philosophical and political aspects of technology and its relationship to the body, work, power, the environment, knowledge, time, and space. Discusses theories of technology and specific technologies such as the computer, automobile, television, and genetic engineering.

VA 306  Environmental Philosophy  4R-0L-4C  W [2001-02]  Pre: None
Explores human relations to natural and built environments and considers differing views of environmental ethics. Examines ideas of nature, the status of animals and ecosystems, the significance of place, the arguments for transforming or respecting the natural world, and the debates involving overpopulation, pollution, and wilderness preservation.

VA 321 United States since 1939 4R-0L-4C F [2002-03] Pre: None

Covers the presidencies from Franklin D. Roosevelt through William J. Clinton. Analyzes such issues as the cold war, the city, the economy, movements for social reform, the effects of prosperity, continuing poverty, and the information revolution.

VA 325 Revolutionary Movements in Latin America 4R-0L-4C F [2002-03] Pre: None

Examines the twentieth century Mexican, Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions, the insurgent movements they have sponsored, and United States policy toward them. Emphasizes Cold War issues, guerrilla organizations and theories, counterinsurgency and liberation theology.

VA 328 Nuclear Weapons and the Modern World 4R-0L-4C W Pre: None

Studies the scientific discoveries leading to the nuclear age, the decisions to build and use the atomic bomb, and the implications for Japan and the postwar world. Analyzes the advent of thermonuclear weapons, nuclear proliferation, and the effects of both on the global community.

VA 336 Ethics in Human Communication 4R-0L-4C W [2002-03] Pre: None

Examines the interconnection between ethics and rhetoric by studying such topics as (1) persuasion versus propaganda, (2) manipulation and distortion through language, (3) manifestations of prejudice (racism and sexism), (4) language of intimidation and oppression, (5) dehumanizing communication, (6) political and commercial doublespeak, and (7) the content and effectiveness of professional codes for ethical communication.

VA 337 Twentieth-Century American Novel 4R-0L-4C S Pre: None

Studies such American writers as Fitzgerald, Steinbeck, Wright, Salinger, Heller, Kesey, and Alice Walker. Examines the themes and issues addressed in different decades and from different perspectives.

VA 352 Financial Markets and Institutions 4R-0L-4C Arranged Pre: SL 151

Examines the nature and functions of financial markets and institutions. Analyzes the determination of interest rates and the processing of information. Considers the relationship between the financial system and the macroeconomy.

VA 353 Industrial Organization 4R-0L-4C F [2000-01] Pre: SL 151

Examines the market structure, conduct and performance framework and its application to American industries. Discusses issues of antitrust policy and regulation of public utilities and other industries.

VA 373 Gender Issues 4R-0L-4C S Pre: None
Examines male-female differences in behavior, personality, emotion, and cognition. Examines how men and women differ as they pursue the goals of life and the degree to which these differences are innate or learned.

**VA 382 Anthropology of Religion 4R-0L-4C W Pre: None**

Examines various concepts and practices pertaining to the supernatural, focusing primarily on indigenous religions around the world. Discusses the relationships of religious beliefs, values, and practices with social organization, economic behavior, subsistence systems, and technology.

**VA 391 Contemporary Europe: Empire to Union 4R-0L-4C F [2002-03] Pre: None**

Surveys the changes and dynamics confronting Europe in the 20th Century. The dissolution of empires and communism to the expanding European Union will be examined with maps, theories and concepts from political geography. Ethics and values related to territoriality and place will be examined.

**VA 411 Technology in German Culture 4R-0L-4C F Pre: None**

Studies and analyzes the background, the issues, and the perceptions of science and technology in German culture in a particular cultural arena. Same as GE 413.

**VA 413 Contemporary Germany 4R-0L-4C S Pre: None**

Introduces historical, political, and cultural issues in German society from 1945 to the present. Compares German to European developments. Same as GE 413.

**VA 431 Images of the Businessperson in American Literature 4R-0L-4C F [2002-03] Pre: None**

Studies the changing persona of the businessperson from the captain of industry to the man in the gray flannel suit in literature. Includes emerging concepts of women in the workforce.

**VA 434 The Bible as Literature 4R-0L-4C F [2002-03] Pre: None**

Examines the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament as literary texts. Emphasizes the variety of genres employed in biblical literature and introduces students to different approaches appropriate to literary interpretation.

**VA 435 Seminar in Literature 4R-0L-4C Arranged Pre: None**

Studies selected topics (e.g., Tragedy) or periods (e.g., Romantic) or authors (e.g., Mark Twain) or genres (e.g., Satire). Stresses research and critical writing. Designed primarily for students electing the area minor in Language and Literature.

**VA 436 Reinterpretation of Literary Themes 4R-0L-4C W [2002-03] Pre: None**

Examines pieces of literature which rework the themes, characters and/or plots of other works. Such pairings as Beowulf/Grendel and Hamlet/Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead show how different authors from different times and cultures reinterpret earlier works in their own way.
VA 452  Environmental Economics  4R-0L-4C  Arranged  Pre: SL 151

Analyzes the consequences of pollution and discusses possible solutions to reduce pollution. Introduces analytical tools used in environmental planning. Performs benefit-cost analyses of regulations dealing with air, water, and solid waste pollution.

VA 453  The Entrepreneur  4R-0L-4C  F,S [2001-02]  Pre: SL 151

Describes the role of the entrepreneur in the economy as a whole and in small and large firms. Uses economic analysis to study entrepreneurship and to develop business plans. Includes applications to a simulated entrepreneurial effort by the students.

VA 454  Financial Economics  4R-0L-4C  W [2002-03]  Pre: SL 151

Provides an introduction to managerial finance. Examines the valuation of assets, the cost of capital, capital structure, working capital management, planning and budgeting, and long-term financing.

VA 466  Seminar on Politics and Values  4R-0L-4C  F,S [2001-02]  Pre: None

Examines key questions of political values through an exploration of classical and contemporary political thought. These ideas are then applied to current public policy issues to help clarify positions on basic issues of political philosophy.

VA 498  Technology Management and Forecasting  4R-0L-4C  F  Pre: Junior class standing or consent of instructor

Examines elements of managing the growth and operation of technological systems. Discusses technology forecasting tools including expert methods, quantitative trend analysis, simulation and gaming. Techniques for enhancing creativity, managing multi-disciplinary projects, and impact assessment techniques are considered. Computer-based forecasting tools are applied. Same as ME 414.