

Lower Liberal Studies Course Descriptions

Arts & Humanities

Course Code	Course Title	Description
LHUM1201	THE EVOLUTION OF FILMMAKING	This film studies course deals with the evolution of film in terms of its historical and cultural development, critical filmic analysis, and technical aspects of filmmaking. The course is divided into five parts, each of which examines a major time period in the development of film in a historical, social, cultural, critical, and technical context. ***TMU STUDENTS: This course is identical to IAC 190. ***
IAC190	THE EVOLUTION OF FILM-MAKING	***TMU STUDENTS, Please refer to the course outline for LHUM 1201, which is identical to this course.*** This film studies course deals with the evolution of film in terms of its historical and cultural development, critical filmic analysis, and technical aspects of filmmaking. The course is divided into five parts, each of which examines a major time period in the development of film in a historical, social, cultural, critical, and technical context.
LHUM1202	MONOTHEIS.RELG:JUDA,CHRIS.ISL	Religious beliefs, expressions, and practices have shaped and reflected how people have interpreted the key questions of existence and how people have marked key events in their lives. This course introduces the religious beliefs, expressions of religious experience, religious practices, and worldviews of the three major monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Background to the origin and development of each religion as well as an examination of contemporary issues linked to the religions are included. In contemporary society, the question of negotiating traditional interpretations with current situations has become one of the driving forces behind the study of religion. This course will offer students the opportunity to explore and analyze how key religious beliefs, expressions and practices from the major western monotheistic traditions influence current public thought. ***TMU STUDENTS: This course is identical to PHC 183. ***
PHC183	MONOTHEIS.RELG:JUD. CHRIS. ISL	***TMU STUDENTS, Please refer to the course outline for LHUM 1202, which is identical to this course.*** The practice of religion is widespread and unique to humans. It shapes and reflects people's deepest convictions about what is most important in life. This course explores the nature of religious experience and introduces the world views, ethics, practices and beliefs of each of the major western religions. Three monotheistic faiths are covered: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. A brief background of the origin and development of each religion is included. Additionally, the course explores contemporary issues relating to the relevance of religion to the personal and public arena. Students are given an opportunity through a research essay to explore and evaluate western religions not explicitly included in the course content.

Course Code	Course Title	Description
LHUM1203	THE PLEASURE OF INQUIRY: PHL	This course aims to develop your skills of inquiry and argumentation in a time of 'fake news' and de-stabilized truth by introducing you to the practice of philosophy and approaches to key philosophic questions in a lively, accessible way. It uses ordinary examples such as learning a martial art, detergents, dreaming, films like Matrix, making money, the rise of artificial intelligence, and everyday consciousness to inquire into ongoing questions regarding knowledge, justice, reality, God, and the human condition, and to consider provocative response to these questions. TMU Students: This course is identical to PHC180.
PHC180	THE PLEASURE OF INQUIRY: PHL	***TMU STUDENTS, Please refer to the course outline for LHUM 1203, which is identical to this course.*** This course aims to develop your skills of inquiry by introducing you to the practice of philosophy and basic approaches to key philosophic questions in a lively, accessible manner. The course uses current, everyday examples such as the Karate Kid, detergents, the Toronto Blessing, Matrix, and Woody Allen to raise and discuss philosophic problems regarding knowledge, reality, God, morality, and the human condition.
LHUM1216	THE ART OF THE SHORT STORY	Students are introduced to the rich world of story and its artistic expression in literature. Brief yet profound and supple, the short-story genre offers a unique perspective on human experience. Students read a variety of works by writers who are established and new, Canadian and international, ethnic majority and minority, contemporary and historical, female and male, in order to explore cultural differences as well as shared human experiences. They examine the stories' form and style (e.g., setting, plot, action, characterization, symbolism, and narration) to gain insight into content. The study of selected literary terms and critical theories, including theories specifically on the short story, allow students to develop a deeper understanding of the genre and the individual stories. ***TMU STUDENTS: This course is identical to EGC 182. ***
EGC182	THE ART OF THE SHORT STORY	***TMU STUDENTS, Please refer to the course outline for LHUM 1216, which is identical to this course.*** Students are introduced to the rich world of story and its artistic expression in literature. Brief yet profound and supple, the short-story genre offers a unique perspective on human experience. Students read a variety of works by writers who are established and new, Canadian and international, ethnic majority and minority, contemporary and historical, female and male, in order to explore cultural differences as well as shared human experiences. They examine the stories' form and style (e.g., setting, plot, action, characterization, symbolism, and narration) to gain insight into content. The study of selected literary terms and critical theories, including theories specifically on the short story, allow students to develop a deeper understanding of the genre and the individual stories.

Course Code	Course Title	Description
LHUM1226	GLOBAL WISDOM, HUMAN NATURE	<p>The ideas of the great thinkers in the ancient philosophical and literary traditions have remained an integral part of social, economic, cultural and political life across the world. Their philosophical and literary contribution has shaped their specific communities and have extended to shape our global society today. This course takes a cross-cultural historical look at some of the world's most influential philosophical and literary traditions and texts from traditions such as the ancient Greek, Chinese, Indian, Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Mayan and others. In each tradition the course will examine various original writings on the following questions: what is human nature? What is the nature of society? And what is the nature of the universe? Some of the texts and thinkers that we will review to answer the above questions are the Egyptian Hymn to the Aten, Plato's Symposium, Aristotle's Poetics, Confucius's Analects, Sun Tzu's The Art of War, the Bhagavad-Gita, the Buddha, the Epic of Gilgamesh, the Popul Vuh and others. ***TMU STUDENTS: This course is identical to PHC 192. ***</p>
PHC192	GLOBAL WISDOM, HUMAN NATURE	<p>***TMU STUDENTS, Please refer to the course outline for LHUM 1226, which is identical to this course.*** Great thinkers have existed around the world and across time. Their ideas have been an integral part of social, economic, cultural and political life both in the past and in today's global society. This course takes a cross-cultural historical look at some of the most influential philosophical traditions, comparing Western with Egyptian, Chinese, Persian, Indian, Arabic, and African thinkers. In each tradition the course will examine various thinkers' reflections on the following questions: How should we organize our social, economic, cultural and political life? What is the nature of peace and war? What is the ideal society and how should one live one's life? The thinkers that we will primarily study to answer the above questions are Greek philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, Chinese philosophers Confucius and Lao Tzu, the Indian sage Buddha, the Persian prophet Zoroaster, the African St. Augustine, and the Arab philosophers Avicenna and Averroes.</p>
LHUM1228	RE: THINKING GENDER	<p>Re: Thinking Gender critically examines the various and often contradictory ways we think and talk about gender in contemporary North American contexts. How do popular discourses shape the ways we experience, embody and "know" our genders? How – and by whom and to what ends – is our knowledge about gender constructed? To explore these questions, students analyze a range of historical and contemporary political, religious, scientific, medical and pop culture constructions of gender and investigate how conceptions of gender have been and continue to be used to structure and regulate key aspects of our social world. How are bodies that defy or deviate from established norms punished? Throughout this exploration of gender and power, students deepen their understanding of the intersections of gender, race, class, (dis)ability, sexuality and culture by reflecting on their personal experiences. They also learn about past and present examples of resistance and transformation by studying the work of scholars, artists and activists including Kimberlé Crenshaw, Chelsea Vowel, Richard Fung and Laverne Cox. How might attending to these voices shift the ways we think about and live genders in the future? ***TMU STUDENTS: This course is identical to SOC 185. ***</p>

Course Code	Course Title	Description
SYC200	RE: THINKING GENDER	<p>***TMU STUDENTS, Please refer to the course outline for LHUM 1228, which is identical to this course.*** Re: Thinking Gender critically examines the various and often contradictory ways we think and talk about gender in contemporary North American contexts. How do popular discourses shape the ways we experience, embody and "know" our genders? How – and by whom and to what ends – is our knowledge about gender constructed? To explore these questions, students analyze a range of historical and contemporary political, religious, scientific, medical and pop culture constructions of gender and investigate how conceptions of gender have been and continue to be used to structure and regulate key aspects of our social world. How are bodies that defy or deviate from established norms punished? Throughout this exploration of gender and power, students deepen their understanding of the intersections of gender, race, class, (dis)ability, sexuality and culture by reflecting on their personal experiences. They also learn about past and present examples of resistance and transformation by studying the work of scholars, artists and activists including Kimberlé Crenshaw, Chelsea Vowel, Richard Fung and Laverne Cox. How might attending to these voices shift the ways we think about and live genders in the future?</p>
LHUM1233	FIND TRUTH IN ERA OF FAKE NEWS	<p>How do we know if news, video or photos are fake or real? Do we have the time and knowledge to check? Do we want to check? Why should we care? Manufactured and so-called fake news posted on social media have become part of a dangerous new reality. Information spread through social networks is often accepted over traditional more reliable fact-checked news. These manipulations have become powerful tools for politicians, conspiracy theorists, corporations and ordinary people. The effects can be felt in many fields such as science, the environment, politics and culture. This online course will explore the impact of fake news on traditional fact-checked news media and, in turn, its influence on society. Media from a variety of sources will be evaluated for reliability and validity. Students will learn how to deconstruct media in order to distinguish what is fact vs what is fiction.</p>

Science & Technology

Course Code	Course Title	Description
LSCI1204	PRESERVING THE PLANET	A personal computer running 24 hours per day adds about two tonnes of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere each year. When you consider the explosion of computer ownership alone, you can appreciate the growing impact people have on our planet. Preserving the Planet is a natural science course emphasizing awareness, conservation, and sustainability of ecological systems. This course will provide students with an understanding of the major principles in the biological and physical sciences. Students will also learn how technology and schools of thought can have both negative and positive impacts on biodiversity. With this information, students will gain an understanding of problems and solutions to maintaining natural systems. Students will learn the role of scientific inquiry in ecological studies and apply analysis and critical thinking to issues learned in class and their own research. ***TMU STUDENTS: This course is identical to IAC 192. ***
IAC192	PRESERVING THE PLANET	***TMU STUDENTS, Please refer to the course outline for LSCI 1204, which is identical to this course.*** A personal computer running 24 hours per day adds about two tonnes of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere each year. When you consider the explosion of computer ownership alone, you can appreciate the growing impact people have on our planet. Preserving the Planet is a natural science course emphasizing awareness, conservation, and sustainability of ecological systems. This course will provide students with an understanding of the major principles in the biological and physical sciences. Students will also learn how technology and schools of thought can have both negative and positive impacts on biodiversity. With this information, students will gain an understanding of problems and solutions to maintaining natural systems. Students will learn the role of scientific inquiry in ecological studies and apply analysis and critical thinking to issues learned in class and their own research.
LSCI1205	WHAT'S BUG.US?MIC.MOL AND MED.	This course examines some of the most pressing issues that influence human and public health through an exploration of disease transmission and related social, economic, cultural, and environmental factors and their impacts. Students learn the links between human activities (individual and societal level), environmental factors, and the incidence of infectious diseases on humans, animals, and plants with an emphasis on issues that are locally relevant to Canada. A wide range of concepts from several disciplines (i.e., ecology, epidemiology, human medicine, among others) will be covered to illustrate that disease development and transmission result from a complex interplay between host, pathogen, and environment as illustrated by outbreaks in the past, e.g., smallpox epidemics, and more recently, SARS-Covid-2 pandemic. Some of the current topics in ecology of infectious diseases and environmental toxicology that this course explores include diversity of pathogens, antibiotic resistance to bacterial diseases, emergent and re-emergent infectious diseases, as well as how chemicals and pathogens interact to weaken the immune system, reduce vaccine efficacy, and increase pathogen virulence. This course will promote scientific literacy by increasing the ability of students to read and understand science in the news, to discuss current health and ecological issues and to make responsible decisions as citizens.

Social Sciences

Course Code	Course Title	Description
LSSC1202	WORKING IN THE 21ST CENTURY	The 21st Century has seen revolutionary changes in the world of work. Increasing precarity, the growth of artificial intelligence in the workplace and the creation of the gig economy have all contributed to a working environment that has little in common with that experienced by previous generations. This interdisciplinary social science course will explore the history of work in Canada, and the workplace as it now exists, in order to understand how work has evolved and changed and how society is grappling with the issues revealed by these new workplace challenges.***TMU STUDENTS: This course is identical to SYC 180. ***
SYC180	WORKING IN THE 21ST CENTURY	***TMU STUDENTS, Please refer to the course outline for LSSC 1202, which is identical to this course.*** What is happening at work and why? How has work changed over time and what will it look like in the future? How do I secure my future in the midst of economic and job market changes? What roles do government, unions and corporations play in work and production, service economies? Given what we usually hear from media sources, the answers to these questions may surprise you. This interdisciplinary social science course examines the history and future of work, the changing economy, and the role of both unions and management involved in constructing and analyzing current changes.
LSSC1203	INTRO. TO CANADIAN POLITICS	How does politics affect your life and future? Is there a Canadian national identity? This course introduces students to major debates and questions in Canadian politics and society, and the more enduring problems underlying these issues. The aim of the course is to foster the student's capacity to develop their own interpretation of Canadian politics and society. ***TMU STUDENTS: This course is identical to POC 180. ***
POC180	INTRO. TO CANADIAN POLITICS	***TMU STUDENTS, Please refer to the course outline for LSSC 1203, which is identical to this course.*** How does politics affect your life and future? Is there a Canadian national identity? This course introduces students to major debates and questions in Canadian politics and society, and the more enduring problems underlying these issues. The aim of the course is to foster the student's capacity to develop their own interpretation of Canadian politics and society.
LSSC1204	SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY	This course introduces you to the language, practice, and basic problems of sociological inquiry, and an overview of our modern society and the changes it is undergoing, with an emphasis on Canadian society. Topics we will address as we explore the puzzles of our social world include the complexity of social interactions, the rapidly changing workplace, the prevalence of poverty and social inequality, family life in transition, the nature of current education, whether there may be a shared Canadian culture, and if a post-modern form of society is emerging. Students will be required to do sociological research studies that investigate our current society.

Course Code	Course Title	Description
LSSC1209	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	Why does the presence of others influence the way we behave and think? How do stereotypes develop? Does the way we behave change the way we think? This course provides an overview of research and theory in social psychology examining social influences on an individual's cognition, emotions and behaviour. Topics include social thinking (the self, social beliefs and attitudes), social influence (persuasion, conformity, group influence), and interpersonal relations (aggression, altruism, prejudice). Students will analyze predominant theories and research in the field of social psychology and their applications.
LSSC1216	URBAN ISSUES and SOLUTIONS	Toronto, like many large urban centers worldwide, finds itself at a crossroads: how does it respond to the urgency of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and global pandemics while ensuring its citizens equal access to essential resources like energy, mobility, and health? This course presents a unique opportunity for students to learn from City Hall senior leaders as subject matter experts. Students discuss pressing urban issues and planning, think critically about the future of the City, and look at integrated and innovative solutions.
LSSC1220	RACE & RACISM IN AMER.& CARIBB	<p>Racism and the categories of race are pervasive phenomena that occur across the world. Many scholars have argued that the very idea of “race” – the notion that human beings can be divided into groups such as “whites”, “blacks”, “indians”, etc. – was first invented in the Americas. But what are races? Does it mean the same thing to be “white”, “black” or “Asian” in Canada as it does in Brazil or Jamaica? If colour is rooted in assumptions about biology in parts of Canada, does the same hold for the Caribbean? Is race simply a delusion, a cover for political and economic domination? Can we aspire to eliminate the idea of race altogether or is its hold too pervasive, its appeal to the mind too great? This course looks at various stages in the development of racial categories in the Americas and the Caribbean. Our readings include theoretical, ethnographic and literary works, but also our own experiences, the popular media and the language we speak and hear around us.</p> <p>***TMU STUDENTS: This course is identical to SYC 184. ***</p>
SYC184	RACE & RACISM IN AMER.& CARIBB	<p>***TMU STUDENTS, Please refer to the course outline for LSSC 1220, which is identical to this course.***</p> <p>Racism and the categories of race are pervasive phenomena that occur across the world. Many scholars have argued that the very idea of “race” – the notion that human beings can be divided into groups such as “whites”, “blacks”, “indians”, etc. – was first invented in the Americas. But what are races? Does it mean the same thing to be “white”, “black” or “Asian” in Canada as it does in Brazil or Jamaica? If colour is rooted in assumptions about biology in parts of Canada, does the same hold for the Caribbean? Is race simply a delusion, a cover for political and economic domination? Can we aspire to eliminate the idea of race altogether or is its hold too pervasive, its appeal to the mind too great? This course looks at various stages in the development of racial categories in the Americas and the Caribbean. Our readings include theoretical, ethnographic and literary works, but also our own experiences, the popular media and the language we speak and hear around us.</p>

Indigenous Studies

Course Code	Course Title	Description
LSSC1206	INDIG. EDU IN CANADIAN CONTEXT	<p>This course offers an overview of Indigenous Peoples and Education in Canada. The course looks at education in an historical and present-day context, including ways in which Indigenous communities educated their children prior to European contact. It examines the Canadian state's policies on education of Indigenous peoples and explores education in Indigenous communities today. Specifically, the course provides an understanding of residential schools and their impact on the lives of Indigenous peoples, families and diverse communities. Additionally, students will look at the various ways in which Indigenous people continue to challenge and resist colonial education and reclaim education for themselves and their communities. The main aim of Indigenous Education in the Canadian Context is to provide students with a framework for understanding the historical and contemporary issues surrounding Indigenous Education in Canada. It is hoped that through this course students will gain critical insights into the lives and educational attainment of Indigenous peoples. ***TMU STUDENTS: This course is identical to IAC 193. ***</p>
IAC193	INDIG. EDU IN CANADIAN CONTEXT	<p>***TMU STUDENTS, Please refer to the course outline for LSSC 1206, which is identical to this course.*** This course offers an overview of Indigenous Peoples and Education in Canada. The course looks at education in an historical and present-day context, including ways in which Indigenous communities educated their children prior to European contact. It examines the Canadian state's policies on education of Indigenous peoples and explores education in Indigenous communities today. Specifically, the course provides an understanding of residential schools and their impact on the lives of Indigenous peoples, families and diverse communities. Additionally, students will look at the various ways in which Indigenous people continue to challenge and resist colonial education and reclaim education for themselves and their communities. The main aim of Indigenous Education in the Canadian Context is to provide students with a framework for understanding the historical and contemporary issues surrounding Indigenous Education in Canada. It is hoped that through this course students will gain critical insights into the lives and educational attainment of Indigenous peoples.</p>