

# Upper Liberal Studies Course Descriptions

## Arts & Humanities

Course Code	Course Title	Description
LHUM1304	Evolution of Mind	Is the mind distinct from the body? Do only humans have minds? Is there such thing as a 'collective mind'? What can studies of the brain tell us about the mind and its evolution? Can the evolution of the mind be studied by inquiring into the origins of language and technology? This course responds to such questions by examining the concepts of 'mind', 'body', 'soul' and 'life'. Then, after reviewing Darwin's theory of human evolution, students will investigate the evolutionary interplay between the mind, language, technology, society, art, science, morality and religion. We will end by reconsidering notions of agency, intelligence and personhood in light of post-colonial and feminist thought. Students can expect to learn from a wide variety of disciplines in the humanities and evolutionary sciences, with the goal of understanding the complexity of the concept of mind and the challenges facing questions of its evolution.
LHUM1305	GOTHIC AND HORROR CULTURE: THE NEED FOR FEAR	Ghosts, vampires, monsters, haunted houses, and possessed children: why do humans need to scare themselves in so many "gothic" ways? One answer is that the Gothic provides a useful metaphor for the anxieties and traumas of the human condition (Groom, 2012). In other words, scary situations on the page and screen work effectively to provide insight into the anxieties in our daily lives as well as in the life of our culture in various periods. For example, we can read a movie like Carrie as a reaction to the "threat" of 1960s women's liberation, and Poltergeist as a reaction to the rampant capitalism of the 1980s. Reading literature and watching movies thus helps us understand the society we live in and normalizes the changes that take place within it. We'll look at some of these changes by investigating classic Gothic concerns such as doubleness/repression; haunted houses and their ghosts; monsters from vampires to werewolves; children, women and horror; and cultural melancholy. To do so we'll use texts from the past like Edgar A. Poe's "William Wilson", Robert L. Stevenson's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, as well as contemporary narratives like Angela Carter's The Bloody Chamber.
LHUM1306	GLOBAL CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL LITERATURE	This course introduces students to literature and thought from several major traditions across the globe, spanning roughly the 4th- through the 14th-centuries. The main theme of the course is a cross-cultural comparison of how the emotional lives of individuals are expressed, communicated and shared in and through language. This will require introducing students to basic religious, political and cultural contexts of each area of the world. The course balances an appreciation for each literary tradition on its own terms with an understanding of how religious ideas, moral values, role-models, histories, and fantasies spread across cultures via the oral and written word. Along the way, students

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		will be introduced to various literary forms, such as the allegory, the poem, and the frame-tale narrative, along with the reflections of writers from around the world on the nature and purpose of literature.
LHUM1307	UNDERSTANDING THE MIDDLE EAST	The Middle East often makes the headlines. The phrase “Middle East” appears on various media in relation to topics ranging from the politics of oil to the price of gas, terrorism, war, women's rights, Islam, or the trials and triumphs of democracy. Meanwhile, there is generally little understanding of the region beyond its representation in headlines or in pop culture. Covering the history of the region from the advent of Islam to the present day, this course provides a basic historical understanding of this diverse and complex region and the global influences which have shaped, and continue to shape, what is known as the “Middle East” today. Through a survey of the region's history, culture, and involvement in international politics, participants will gain a better understanding of this intricate and fascinating region and its vital place within the global community.
LHUM1308	Points Beyond: The World of Travel Writing	From factual article to personal narrative, travel writing allows us to “journey” to different lands and gain new understandings of people, places, and ideas. In this upper-level, interdisciplinary course, students examine the different forms and purposes of travel writing as well as its personal and cultural significance. They read commercial articles to understand the business of travel writing. They also read travel essays and fiction and watch a travel film, exploring both artistic expression and questions of identity, morality, freedom, and human bonds. Critical theories on travel and travel writing, amongst others, allow a deeper understanding of the genre.
LHUM1320	HISTORY OF CANADIAN BUSINESS	This course examines the history of Canadian Business. History provides a framework to help us solve current problems; it gives us context for many of our current issues, as well as similar problems that have occurred a several in the past. Understanding what has occurred in the past can help us make better decisions for our future. This is a blended course in the history of Canadian business: part of the instructional material is online, and part is through classroom discussion. The course is both a practical and theoretical course. Topics covered include the parameters of studies in history, the origins of many aspects of business, and how we can use these to solve current problems, the greatest being sustainability, inequality, and economic development. The course covers individual topics in Canadian business rather than being a timeline of the development of Canadian business.

## Science & Technology

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LSCI1301	TROUBLED WATERS: OUR FUTURE AND THE GLOBAL OCEAN	The global ocean is our life-support system. Covering nearly three-quarters of Earth's surface, the oceans produce half of the oxygen in our atmosphere. The oceans regulate temperature and climate, and govern nutrient and chemical cycles that sustain all living things, including you. The oceans, however, are in distress. Our tendency to endlessly pollute and harvest seafood unsustainably is causing fundamental changes throughout the ocean system that will result in dire consequences unless our habits change substantially. Students investigate what is happening to our oceans and the potential ecological collapse resulting from human-influenced changes in ocean temperature, oxygen, acidity, and biodiversity. The course includes readings, videos, and class discussion about how we affect the ocean and how ocean change will affect not only us but life in general. Students learn the importance of scientific study of the world's ocean and apply analysis and critical thinking to issues learned in class and their own research.
LSCI1304	STORY OF FOOD:GROW OF MOD MEA	Unlike nature's other eaters, humans have developed enormous control over their food chains. Through the use of various technologies, such as agriculture, synthetic fertilizers, and food processing, we have profoundly modified our food chains and, as a result, created entirely new eating possibilities for ourselves. Today our food is abundant and comes from all over the world. Much of what is consumed in the modern world is heavily processed, making it easy to store, quick to prepare, and convenient to eat. This industrialization of food production has given rise to a new type of consumer – the industrial eater. What implications does eating industrially have for our health and for the health of our environment? In this course, students investigate changes in human food chains from the hunter-gatherers to present-day industrialized agriculture and learn about the impacts of modern food production on people, ecosystems, and biodiversity. The critical role of biodiversity within and beyond human food chains is emphasized. Students analyze and think critically about issues explored in class and through independent research.
LSCI1305	What Are You Doing Here? Our Human Journey	This course is about you; it's about how you got here and where you are heading. You are a modern human, a Homo sapiens, and you are on an epic journey – a journey that began with your ancient ancestors some 300,000 years ago. As they roamed the planet, your predecessors invented things, they expanded their territory and changed the environment to suit their needs, they even interacted with other human species that are now extinct. How did all this happen? In this course, you will explore human evolution through lectures and discussion, interactive resources, and selected readings of scientists who inspired and propelled scientific thought in anthropology, ecology, and genetics. You will analyze data and think critically about big questions in human evolution, which are explored in class and through independent research.

## Social Sciences

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LSSC1310	The Bedrooms of the Nation: Queerness and State Regulation	This course examines contemporary Canadian scholarship in the field of queer theory. Through readings, lecture, discussion, presentation and video, we explore the ways that the Canadian state has been formed through and by the regulation of acceptable bodies and sexualities and the exclusion and disciplining of unacceptable bodies. Students query the shifting relationship between queerness and citizenship, asking questions such as: how does the Canadian state construct, categorize and regulate sexuality and race through policy and legislation? Which bodies are considered worthy of inclusion in Canada and which bodies have been excluded and/or punished? What strategies have various groups used to address their exclusion and/or contest state regulation?
LSSC1319	GLOBAL JUSTICE	The onset of globalization has coincided with the emergence of a variety of calls for “global justice”, reform and alternative forms of globalization. The desire for global justice and alternative globalizations emerges from economic, cultural, ecological and political trends. This course is interdisciplinary in nature, combining perspectives from history, sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, philosophy and civil society to explore the meanings of global justice and alternative globalization, their central policy proposals, institutional structures and the new forms of social experience that are producing the desire for greater transnational and international equality. The course focuses on the intersection between appeals for economic redistribution, cultural recognition, environmental sustainability, and political representation. (Prerequisite: One lower-level Liberal Studies course)