

FYEX 103-107 Course Descriptions

Spring 2026

FYEX 103 Floating World of Ukiyo-e Prints

This course introduces students to the narratives and colorful imagery depicted in Japanese woodblock prints. Students will explore the influence of Ukiyo-e prints on modern art ranging from Impressionist paintings to contemporary graphic novels.

FYEX 103 Intro to Game Design

This course will introduce students to the process, theory, history of game design as well as current trends in gaming. Students will also learn the basics of coding using Lua to create their own video game in Roblox.

FYEX 103 Graphic Design for Social Justice

In this course students will learn how to analyze documentary films that address social justice issues including: sexism, ableism and racism. Students will also learn how to create a short documentary film.

FYEX 103 Soundtrack of the Revolution

This course examines how social and political dissent are artistically expressed through music. Students will explore American social movements of the 20th and 21st centuries within the areas of racial, gender, sexuality, and economic justice by examining popular protest songs.

FYEX 104 Banned Books: Exploring Freedom through Literature

This course explores how book bans limit access to important and diverse stories that help us understand different cultures, histories, and viewpoints. Students will investigate how power and privilege shape censorship and its effects on marginalized communities locally and globally. Through reading banned children's books and other texts, students will sharpen their skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking while learning to connect literature to larger social and political issues that affect our world.

FYEX 104 Understanding the Heart of Appalachia

The coal industry is emblematic of Appalachia. Poor whites struggling to make a living digging coal from the depths of the earth is at the heart of regional stereotypes. This interdisciplinary and collaboratively taught course will search beyond the popular stereotypes and delve into the history of the coal industry within the region and its socioeconomic and environmental legacy. Throughout the course, faculty from multiple departments will explore the topic of coal and Appalachia from the perspective of their disciplines as a means to introduce students to a multifaceted approach to regional studies.

FYEX 104 Blood and Guts: A History of Surgery

This course offers a glimpse at the evolution of surgery through readings, documentaries, and medical dramas. We will address how medicine intersects with surgical practice and identify ethical issues that occur during the experimentation.

FYEX 105 Faith and Doubt at the Movies

This course uses the medium of film to explore questions of faith and doubt. Students will develop a basic film literacy (the ability to recognize and interpret a movie's visual composition, sound elements, and narrative structures), while also examining doubt and faith as enduring realities of our being human.

FYEX 106 Test Taking Strategies

This one credit hour course introduces students to an overview of the field of nursing and various career opportunities and professionalism. Topics presented include, but are not limited to, history and evolution of nursing, education and licensure requirements, career path options, requirements for Clinical Exchange, and nursing responsibilities. Students will also focus on what is health and illness, related risk factors, and holistic patient care and will be introduced to nursing care equipment, skills, and simulation. Students will also be introduced to stress management and coping skills for student nurses, test taking, and study strategies.

FYEX 106 Current Ecology: Perspectives, Paleoecology, and Pablo Escobar's Hippos

Did humans really bring back dire wolves? Should we? This course will look at relevant news stories, fringe ecological projects, and case studies from history to explore human impacts and perspectives on our planet's natural biodiversity. We'll talk about folks who want to undo the extinctions at the end of the last Ice Age, invasive species, mistaken goals, and terrible land stewardship practices of the past, before asking whether we really know better.

FYEX 106 Board Game Biology

Games imitate life. In this class, we will explore the science of life imbued in board games. Specifically, we will explore the biology behind the popular board game Wingspan! While building an aviary to attract birds, we will examine biological topics such as habitat, diet, nesting, behaviors, and naming of birds. This course will introduce you to the experimental inquiry lens as you take a deep dive into the biology of a birding board game.

FYEX 106 How to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse through Books, TV, and Science

This 8-week course explores the intersection of fiction, science, and ethics, using the concept of a zombie apocalypse as a lens to examine real-world issues. Students will analyze popular media portrayals of zombie outbreaks, investigate the science behind contagion and societal collapse, and critically evaluate governmental and social responses to crises.

FYEX 107 Are You Prepared to Save a Life?

In this course, students will apply standard health care practices to develop the basic knowledge and skills necessary to save lives in health care emergencies. Health care emergencies covered will include sudden cardiac arrest and narcotic overdose. Students will learn skills including the appropriate uses of CPR/AED and Narcan training, as well as the trends in community and public health that affect the occurrence of these health care emergencies. Certifications will be available upon the successful completion of the course.

FYEX 107 Beyond the Binary

In this class, we will ask how useful the gender binary is in the 21st century. As gender expands beyond fifty options on Facebook and people include their pronouns in their bios, we ask how much two mutually exclusive categories can really tell us about human identity and experience. If you've ever wanted to know more about pronoun usage, non-binary identity, how many letters are actually in the lgbtqa+ acronym, or how you yourself might identify in terms of gender and sexuality, this is the course for you!

FYEX 107 Humorous Media and Social Change

Humor is a cultural entity, representative of the dominant ideologies within a culture. In this course, we will analyze the representation of humorous media content to examine how it affects our perceptions of others and current social issues. Through the observation of types of humor, such as parody, satire, satirical news, sitcom, stand-up, and sketch comedy, we will discuss what makes us laugh while watching movies and television shows, as well as how the genre might be used to advocate for social change.