

SPRING 2023 FYEX COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

1st Quarter

FYEX-103-01 Soundtrack to the Revolution – Honors 10:00 M/W Instructor: Molly Clever

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-103-02 Posters for the People 1:00 TTH Instructor: Robert Howsare

This course will explore the role of printmaking throughout history with a focus on political art, such as political posters and zines.

FYEX-103-03 Deconstructing Elvis 12:00 TTH Instructor: Tamara Bailey

Elvis Presley may be one of America's greatest cultural icons. Although he is best known for his music, other facets of his life deserve exploring. This class will investigate the implications of his lower-class upbringing in the South. We will consider how his environment influenced his music, military service, politics, and overarching themes in America such as race relations, generational divide, and pop culture. We will conduct our investigation through biography, fiction, film, and music. The class will conclude with students developing the ultimate Elvis playlist and creating a tasting menu full of his favorite entrees.

FYEX-104-01 Understanding Heart of Coal Country 12:00 TTH Instructor: Katharine Antolini

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-104-03 The Politics of the Walking Dead 12:00 TTH Instructor: Coty Martin

In this course we will examine introductory-level concepts of Political Science by looking at them through the scenario of a zombie apocalypse. We begin by learning a about the zombie genre, then move into our discussion of The Walking Dead comic and television series, and finally wrap up by looking at World War Z as a what-if case via a Wesleyan zombie apocalypse simulation. Along the way we consider some of the big areas of study in Political Science: International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Public Policy.

FYEX-104-04 Special Topics in Children's Appalachian Literature 1:00 MW Instructor Erin DiStefano

From picture books to YA novels, get an overview of Children's Literature in Appalachia and how it reflects both positive and negative views of Appalachian history, culture, and socioeconomics. This course will also explore the cultural implications, societal views, and diverse perspectives of Children's Literature in Appalachia.

FYEX-104-05 African Diaspora in WV: Craft, Music, Dance & Literature 1:00 MW Instructors: Jessica Scott/Laurie Goux

In West Virginia, there is a rich culture of arts created by generations of Appalachians of African descent. This course is an exploration of those arts. Through craft, dance, music, and literature, we will discuss the historical, social, and political expression of the part of the African diaspora in Appalachia situated in Upshur County and West Virginia. Students in this course will have the opportunity to contribute to a regional exhibit that will travel to campus in the Spring of 2023.

FYEX-105-01 Spiritual Autobiographies 2:00 MW Instructor: Susan Rice

How does religion contribute to shaping life? How do individual life experiences shape one's religion and spirit? Autobiographies answer these questions and tell stories of inner life as spiritual quest. We will explore a sampling of spiritual autobiographies across diverse religions and cultures. You will have the opportunity for journaling and writing your own spiritual autobiography.

FYEX-105-02 Ethical Issues in Computing 3:00 MW Instructor: Don Tobin

This course introduces the various ethical issues the modern connected world has brought forth. Topics that may be covered include privacy rights, intellectual property rights, free speech, anonymity, employee monitoring, censorship, political freedom, hacking, and other aspects of computing being so involved in our modern lives.

FYEX-105-03 Religion, Art & Material Culture 11:00 MW Instructor: Debra Murphy

Why do some American Christians place plastic fish on their car bumpers? Why does Islam forbid images of Muhammad? Why is some of the world's most famous religious art just called "art," and why is much devotional art so bad? And who gets to decide anyway? This course explores a range of issues at the intersection of religion, art, and material culture. Throughout the course students will develop an understanding that, while beliefs and doctrines have their place, the world's religious traditions cannot be fully known or appreciated apart from the objects and images that both reflect and create a coherent religious worldview.

FYEX-106-01 Biology Board Game 2:00 M Instructors: Joseph Niederhauser & Matthew Reid

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-106-02 Understanding Substance Use Disorders 1:00 MW Instructor: Bruce Anthony

West Virginia has the highest drug addiction rates of all the states in the US. Death rates from overdose have exceeded 100,000 individuals in 2021. For many of us, the impact effects both family and friends. This course is an introduction to basic substance use disorders. The course is designed to give students interested in substance abuse, an introductory understanding of how they affect the central nervous system and how they are currently treated. We will explore an overview of drug addiction and social ramifications, the neurobiology and cellular mechanistic effects in the central nervous system (CNS), and the impact recovery has on the CNS.

FYEX-107-01 Therapeutic Benefits of Yoga & Meditation 10:00 WF Instructor: Theresa Poling

This course will explore basic asanas of yoga as well as the essential components of meditation. We will explore basic anatomy and physiology with regards to yoga practice, and immerse ourselves in the 8 limbs of yoga. We will study Sanskrit and examine our chakras. This course will meet the personal and societal well-being lens requirements through journaling, scholarly research, and an evaluation of the scientific process.

FYEX-107-02 Beyond the Binary 12:00 MW Instructor: Jessica Scott

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 lgbtqi+ acronym, or how you yourself might identify in terms of gender and sexuality, this is the course for you! (Cross listed as GNST-150)

2nd Quarter

FYEX-103-04 Soundtrack to the Revolution 10:00 M/W Instructor: Molly Clever

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-103-05 Comics and Graphic Novels 1:00 TTH Instructor: Robert Howsare

This course will explore the role of narrative and sequential storytelling through comics, graphic novels, and manga. Students will be introduced to a sampling of graphic novel themes with a focus on image-text relationships.

FYEX-104-02 Married in the White House: President's and their First Ladies 12:00 TTH Instructor: Katharine Antolini

This course explores how presidential administrations are not only shaped by the man sitting in the White House's Oval Office but also by the woman standing at his side. By discussing aspects of presidential administrations and presidential marriages, the course reveals the complementary and challenging relationships between 19th and 20th century US Presidents and their First Ladies, revealing how such powerful couples defined America's political and social history.

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FYEX-107-05 Introduction to Career Skills 9:30 T Instructor: Justin Bowers

This course encompasses the first module of the Career Skills Leadership Certificate program and introduces students to the basic areas, resources, and applications of career development for the sake of personal growth and effectiveness in vocational settings. The content of this course centers on "Starting a Career". Students will engage in a variety of career advancing skills including, but not limited to, resume and cover letter development, effective interview skills, professionalism, and financial literacy. Class modules combine active learning exercises such as research, writing, role-playing, shadowing, and more.