

SPRING 2024 FYEX ONE CREDIT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

1st Quarter

FYEX-103-01 Social Justice in Graphic Design 9:00 T Instructor: Jon Benjamin

In this course students will learn about the history of several social justice movements and how graphic design played a supportive role. Students will also learn the fundamentals of graphic design and apply those principles to the creation of a social justice themed poster and social media graphic.

FYEX-103-02 Comics & 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-103-04 Cultural Experimentation 1:00 MW Instructor: Crystal Brown

This course will introduce students to curatorial practices explored in the art gallery. Students will develop critical thinking skills by experimenting with the display and functionality of the visual art experience. Students will have the opportunity to curate and install their own art exhibition around a theme of their choice.

FYEX-103-07 Wesleyan History 11:00 TTH Instructor: Paula McGrew

Students will discover the rich heritage of the school that they have chosen, and will explore how cultural forces have made a difference throughout the time since the founding in 1890. We will see the stories of the people, buildings, and academics of WVWC come to life. We will use the WVWC archives and several online resources.

FYEX-104-01 Harry Potter and Society 1:00 MW Instructor: Erin DiStefano

Harry Potter and Society' is an engaging quarter-long FYEX course designed to delve into the profound impact of the Harry Potter series on contemporary society. Each week, students will explore a different facet of this cultural phenomenon, beginning with an introduction to its societal significance. Topics include the business and marketing aspects of Harry Potter, its role in education, the art of its storytelling, the psychology of its characters, the historical and real-world influences on the series, its exploration of social issues, and its enduring legacy. Through critical analysis and thoughtful discussion, students will gain a deep understanding of how literature, particularly fantasy fiction, can shape and reflect the values and challenges of our world today.

FYEX-104-02 The Quiet Zone 12:00 TTH Instructor: Katherine Antolini

Welcome to the Quiet Zone: Buckhannon, WV rests on the edge of a federally designated area known as the National Radio Quiet Zone. This 13,000 square-mile quiet zone protects the work of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, WV, and requires all residents within the area to live with limited electronic devices and WiFi connectivity. Journalist Stephen Kursczy describes Green Bank as a "town suspended in silence." This course explores the unique experiences of the communities residing within the National Radio Quiet Zone, and local West Virginia history, through the reading of Kursczy's book, *The Quiet Zone*, based on his popular study of the region between 2017 and 2020.

FYEX-104-06 African Diaspora in WV: Craft, Music, Dance & Literature 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 2024.

FYEX-105-01 In High Spirits 11:00 MW Instructor: Katherine Antolini

This course follows the rise of the spiritualist movement and its popularity within 19th-century American society. It explores factors, both religious and secular, that led people to seek answers through spiritualists claiming to be "conduits of communication" between Heaven and Earth. The exploration of spiritualism includes the reading of *Lily Dale: The Town that Talks to the Dead (2003)*, by reporter Christine Wicker who chronicled her experiences while investigating one of the oldest spiritualist communities in America and how it challenged her views of self, relationships with others, and the world around her.

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

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-107-02 Humorous Media & Social Change 4:30 M Instructor: Nancy Bressler

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.

FYEX-107-01 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-103-03 Social Justice in Documentary Film 9:00 T Instructor: Jon Benjamin

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-103-02 Comics & 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-103-04/05 Cultural Experimentation 1:00 MW Instructor: Crystal Brown

This course will introduce students to curatorial practices explored in the art gallery. Students will develop critical thinking skills by experimenting with the display and functionality of the visual art experience. Students will have the opportunity to curate and install their own art exhibition around a theme of their choice.

FYEX-103-08 Wesleyan History 11:00 TTH Instructor: Paula McGrew

Students will discover the rich heritage of the school that they have chosen, and will explore how cultural forces have made a difference throughout the time since the founding in 1890. We will see the stories of the people, buildings, and academics of WVWC come to life. We will use the WVWC archives and several online resources.

FYEX-104-03 Harry Potter and Society 1:00 MW Instructor: Erin DiStefano

'Harry Potter and Society' is an engaging quarter-long FYEX course designed to delve into the profound impact of the Harry Potter series on contemporary society. Each week, students will explore a different facet of this cultural phenomenon, beginning with an introduction to its societal significance. Topics include the business and marketing aspects of Harry Potter, its role in education, the art of its storytelling, the psychology of its characters, the historical and real-world influences on the series, its exploration of social issues, and its enduring legacy. Through critical analysis and thoughtful discussion, students will gain a deep understanding of how literature, particularly fantasy fiction, can shape and reflect the values and challenges of our world today.

FYEX-104-04 Understanding the Heart of Appalachia 12:00 TTH Instructor: Katherine 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-104-07 African Diaspora in WV: Craft, Music, Dance & Literature Instructors: Jessica Scott, Laurie Goux

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FYEX-105-03 Mountaineering in the Modern Age 1:00 T Instructor: Travis Zimmerman

In this outdoor experience based course (you will get your hands dirty!), students will explore traditional Appalachian survival skills while reflecting on their relationship to modern technology and economic institutions. Using a social science framework, students will learn hands-on outdoor skills while they explore topics such as the ethics of hunting, their spiritual connection to their food sources, environmental sustainability, and their consumption habits.

FYEX-106-02 (Hon) Biology Board Game 2:00 M Instructors: Joseph Niederhauser

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-106-03 Generative Art 1:00 TTH Instructor: Robert Howsare

Students will use coding to program and create interactive artworks. Laptop is required.

FYEX-107-06 Humorous Media & Social Change 4:30 M Instructor: Nancy Bressler

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.

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FYEX-107-04 Movement and Awareness 10:00 MW Instructor: Thomas Schoffler

In this physically active, hands-on class, We'll explore stretching, yoga and calisthenics as well as breathing and mindfulness techniques to help students develop their own personal practice. Students will apply the principles of Alexander Technique to daily life such as walking, sitting and standing; as well as to the specific demands of more specialized activities like athletics or artistic performance. Finally, they will reflect on how connecting their mental, physical and emotional "selves" might provide a greater sense of unity and "presence" in the community.

FYEX-107-05 (Honors) Movement and Awareness 11:00 MW Instructor: Thomas Schoffler

In this physically active, hands-on class, We'll explore stretching, yoga and calisthenics as well as breathing and mindfulness techniques to help students develop their own personal practice. Students will apply the principles of Alexander Technique to daily life such as walking, sitting and standing; as well as to the specific demands of more specialized activities like athletics or artistic performance. Finally, they will reflect on how connecting their mental, physical and emotional "selves" might provide a greater sense of unity and "presence" in the community.