

SS: Social Sciences

SS 131 — General Psychology

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Principles of psychology and their application to general behavior are presented. Stresses the scientific method in understanding learning, perception, motivation, emotion, personality development, and the social influences on human behavior. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 141 — Macroeconomics

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

The course discusses energy markets and especially the economic history, extraction and consumption of the fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas). We also discuss energy and environmental policies such as the Cap-and-trade, cap-and-share systems, net-metering or a carbon tax. We will also provide examples of alternative and more sustainable energy policies from other countries.

SS 151 — Introduction to World Affairs

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Examines the contemporary world including changes in Europe, Russia, and the developing world. Explores timely international issues such as nuclear arms, the breakdown of the Soviet Union, and the Israeli-Arab dispute. (G4: Social Sciences; G9: Other World Civilizations).

SS 171 — Introductory Sociology

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Study of patterned social behavior and the interrelationships between individual life experience and the social structure that helps to shape it. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 200 — Personal Finance

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course introduces terminology, concepts, and practices of personal finance: the financial planning process, consumer loans, home ownership, saving for retirement, time value of money, interest compounding, inflation, risk diversification, behavioral finance, mutual funds, bonds, and stocks. Tools to evaluate financial decisions at different stages of life are provided. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 231 — Personality

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Emphasizes normal personality development as viewed from a variety of perspectives, including social, educational, biological, and psychodynamic factors. Students apply these psychological principles to problems of everyday living and gain an understanding of both normal and deviant reactions to life events. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 131.

SS 232 — Developmental Psychology

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Studies the development of psychological, emotional, social, and biological processes from prenatal stage and birth to maturity. Emphasis is on critical stages in development as well as application of psychological principles to everyday situations. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 131.

SS 237 — Industrial Psychology

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Applies psychological principles to issues in the workplace. Personnel selection, training, leadership, motivation, job satisfaction, performance appraisal, and stress are explored to provide future leaders, managers, and technical specialists with information and skills to enhance their interpersonal and organizational effectiveness. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 131 or approval of chairperson.

SS 242 — Microeconomics

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Examines the principles underlying the behavior of business firms, resource owners, and consumers within a system of price-making markets. Emphasis is on pricing, resource allocation, cost analysis, price determination under market structures ranging from competition to monopoly, and a functional approach to the distribution of income. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 141.

SS 243 — History of Economic Thought

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course traces the rise of major economic philosophies from pre-Quesnay through Smith, Ricardo, Marx, Keynes and beyond. Emphasis is placed on the evolution of broad-scale models of social reality, and their relation to the times in which economists lived. Students trace the contributions of prominent philosophers within the context of the changing views of economic science, and evaluate the applicability of these views for understanding today's world. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 244 — Fashion Economics

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students study economic theories and concepts focused on fashion and the fashion industry. Topics include market structure, supply-and-demand analysis, consumer behavior, market competition, historical developments, international environment, and regulation. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 141 and SS 242.

SS 251 — American Government and Politics

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Examines the organization and operation of the American political system, including analysis of present national policies and problems. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 272 — Sex Roles, Marriage, and Family in Transition

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Sociological study of sex roles and relationships in modern society. Analysis of traditional marriage and family systems, new alternatives, and future trends. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 273 — The Study of Social Problems: Prostitution, Drugs, and Other Issues

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Studies social problems in contemporary society, emphasizing interrelationships between social systems, social change, and individual lives. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 275 — Sociology of Race and Ethnic Relations

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

An overview of the major concepts and theories defining the nature of race and ethnic relations, prejudice, and discrimination. Strategies for reducing prejudice and discrimination and promoting intergroup harmony are addressed. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 277 — Cultural Expressions of Non-Western Dress and Fashion

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course introduces students to the sociocultural meanings of ethnic dress. Students examine case studies from non-Western cultures to understand how dress reflects the values and beliefs of traditional cultures, and how ethnic dress has become integrated into today's fashions. (G9: Other World Civilizations).

SS 278 — Latinos in the United States: A Sociological Perspective

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course provides an understanding of the socioeconomic, political, and cultural impact of Latinos in the United States. Students explore sociological issues including race, ethnicity, urbanization, gender, immigration, and social mobility that have helped shape Latino culture and values. Comparisons with other ethnic/racial groups in the United States, as well as the differences within the Latino community itself, are addressed.

SS 299 — Independent Study in the Social Sciences

1-3 credit

Prerequisite(s): a minimum 3.5 GPA and approval of instructor, chairperson, and dean for Liberal Arts.

SS 300 — Sociology of Everyday Life

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course provides students with a sociological understanding of everyday life from a micro-level analysis. Using theoretical perspectives such as symbolic interaction, labeling, and social constructionism, students will examine how social interaction creates and sustains the everyday social worlds people live in, ranging from an airport departure hall to social media sites. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 171.

SS 301 — Luxury: A Socio-cultural Perspective

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course introduces students to a sociological analysis of the idea and the practice of “luxury” from Western and non-Western perspectives, and they also learn how luxury, as a social arrangement that is related to high culture, is produced, reproduced, and maintained by various institutions around the world.

Prerequisite(s): SS 171.

SS 302 — Economics of Energy and Fossil Fuels

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

The course discusses energy markets and especially the economic history, extraction and consumption of the fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas). We also discuss energy and environmental policies such as the Cap-and-trade, cap-and-share systems, net-metering or a carbon tax. We will also provide examples of alternative and more sustainable energy policies from other countries. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 141.

SS 303 — LGBTQ in Society: A Global Perspective

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course introduces students to the field of LGBTQ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer) Studies, focusing on the sociological dimension of the study of this population both in the West and globally. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 171.

SS 334 — The Psychology of Color

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Examines the importance of color and its influences on behavior. Topics include the biological and perceptual characteristics of color, fundamental color research, societal and cultural influences on the meanings and uses of color, adaptations of color in both natural and manmade environments, and the interaction between personality and color. Special attention is given to the application of color in both industry and everyday life. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 131 or approval of chairperson.

SS 335 — Abnormal Psychology

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course is designed to help students understand the symptoms, causes, and treatment of psychological disorders and the contemporary issues facing mental health practitioners and researchers. Issues related to abnormal psychology are presented from theoretical research and clinical perspectives. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 131.

SS 336 — Psychology for Sustainability

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students explore the psychological relationship between humans and their natural and built environments to gain insight into environmental problems and generate solutions. Topics include conscious and unconscious influences on human behavior, social norms and influence, the role of contingencies, the neurotoxic effects of pollution, and the psychology of environmental stress. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 337 — Crime in the Global, Digital Society - Honors

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students are familiarized with critical and contemporary sociological theories of crime. They will apply these theories to global and local empirical case studies and examine how the nature, extent, causes and control of crime and criminal offending should be understood within interrelated local, transnational, and global societal contexts. Qualification for Presidential Scholars Program or 3.5 GPA with approval of Dean of Liberal Arts. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 338 — Happiness & Human Flourishing - Honors

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students explore the psychological aspects of a fulfilling and flourishing life by critically reviewing and analyzing scientific work drawn from the field of positive psychology. Topics include happiness and positive affect, well-being, empathy, friendship, love, achievement, creativity, mindfulness, spirituality, and humor. Qualification for Presidential Scholars Program or 3.5 GPA with approval of Dean of Liberal Arts. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 339 — Introduction to Development Economics - Honors

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course introduces students to development economics and investigates why some countries are poorer than others and what economic policies help countries achieve growth.

Prerequisite(s): SS 141 and SS 151.

SS 340 — The Psychology of Gender, Perception and Self-Expression

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Through critical engagement with psychological theories of gender and cognition, this course challenges students to think how gender affects our sense of self, how we communicate that self, and how others perceive us. It encourages students to imagine new possibilities for how we embody our identity and interact based on fashion.

Prerequisite(s): SS 131.

SS 341 — Women and Global Politics

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course will examine how gender intersects in, and shapes, international relations through an examination of issues in international conflict and in the international political economy. The course will focus on the global women's movement as a considerable player in international politics, incorporating the experiences of women as well as feminist analyses. (G9: Other World Civilizations).

SS 343 — Labor Economics

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Examines labor economics and labor institutions' role in the U.S. economy. Major subjects include the changing labor force and its composition, labor markets, labor unionism, collective bargaining, labor legislation, and government regulation. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 345 — Fundamentals of Finance for Fashion Industries

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course focuses on the basic principles and concepts of international finance relevant to the fashion-related industries. Topics include the world financial system and institutions, and financial instruments and their use from a practical standpoint. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 141 and SS 242.

SS 352 — Contemporary Western Europe

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Introduction to the Western European countries and societies and their relations with each other and with the rest of the world. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 353 — Latin America Today

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Introduction to modern Latin American states and societies with surveys of their economies, politics, and cultures. Also explores inter-American and international relations. (G4: Social Sciences; G9: Other World Civilizations).

SS 354 — Comparative Political Systems

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Study of political systems with a global perspective; compares and contrasts contemporary political ideologies, institutions, and processes from democracies to authoritarian regimes, advanced industrialized economies to developing countries. (G4: Social Sciences; G9: Other World Civilizations).

SS 355 — Contemporary African Politics

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

An introduction to modern African political, cultural, and social institutions. The first part of the course focuses on examining Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa. The second part concentrates on issues that transcend borders: political instability and civil wars, the AIDS epidemic and other health crises, population growth, economic development and poverty, and environmental degradation. The significance of U.S.-African relations is also studied. (G9: Other World Civilizations).

SS 356 — Asia in Motion: National, International, and Transnational Relations

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Examines the complexity, diversity, and dynamics of East Asian and Southeast Asian politics. The course analyzes Asia and its moves toward modernity in terms of politics, economics, and culture. Topics include modernization, post-World War II political settings, and post-Cold War regional integration. (G9: Other World Civilizations).

SS 374 — Cross-Cultural Studies

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course provides conceptual and practical knowledge of the societies and cultures, economies, histories, and institutions of non-Western societies. Special attention is paid to the distinctive features of Japan and India. Students are introduced to the range and significance of cultural differences and will be prepared to adapt to these cultural differences as they move into international arenas. (G4: Social Science; G9: Other World Civilizations)

Prerequisite(s): two introductory Social Sciences courses (SS 131, SS 141, SS 151, or SS 171) or approval of chairperson.

SS 376 — Clothing and Society

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Examines the development of dress, adornment, and appearance as a nonverbal mode of communication and explores the meaning of clothing in modern American society. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): two introductory Social Sciences courses (SS 131, SS 141, SS 151, or SS 171) or approval of chairperson.

SS 378 — Asian Global Popular Culture

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students examine the global production, consumption, and reproduction of popular culture products in Asian countries, such as Korea, Japan, and India. Cultural products such as films, television sitcoms, pop music, comic books, and animation from South and East Asian societies are examined from local and global perspectives, and analyzed using social scientific tools and methodologies. (G4: Social Science; G9: Other World Civilizations).

SS 379 — Sociology of the Digital Era

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course explores the impact of digital information and communication technologies (ICT's) in everyday life. Students examine how digital ICT's have transformed social relations, social structures, identity formation processes, and cultural, political, and economic practices. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 171.

SS 385 — Social Psychology

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Human behaviors such as aggression, prejudice, attraction, attitude formation, conformity, helping, and group processes are examined with particular emphasis on their current applications. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): SS 131.

SS 386 — Youth Subculture, Identity, and Fashion: A Sociological Perspective

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course explores youth subcultures, in relation to gender, race and class identity. Students are introduced to various case studies of youth subcultures around the world, including Goth, Punk, and Lolita, and analyze how their values, norms, attitudes and beliefs are reflected on their styles. (G4: Social Sciences; G9: Other World Civilizations)

Prerequisite(s): SS 171.

SS 391 — Economic Ideas - Past and Present - Honors Program

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Traces the rise of major economic philosophies from before Quesnay through Smith, Ricardo, Marx, Keynes, and beyond. The evolution of broad-scale models of social reality and their relationships to the times in which economists lived are emphasized. (G4: Social Sciences).

SS 392 — Psychopathology and Modern Life (Honors)

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Students learn the symptoms, causes, and treatment of psychological disorders and the contemporary issues facing mental health researchers and practitioners. Psychopathology is presented as both a scientific and a clinical endeavor that gives students the clearest understanding of the field. Information from the text and lectures is based on current research, findings, and different theoretical approaches. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): qualification for Presidential Scholars Program, or 3.5 GPA with approval of dean for Liberal Arts.

SS 393 — Politics in the Middle East (Honors)

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

The most significant issues in Middle Eastern politics are presented in three parts: an examination of the ethnic, geopolitical, and religious composition of the Middle East; an exploration of issues of conflict, including the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Persian Gulf War; and a study of the nature of economic and military cooperation among countries in the Middle East and with other countries. Topics analyzed include economic development, moves toward democratization, and regional alliances. (G4: Social Sciences; G9: Other World Civilizations)

Prerequisite(s): qualification for Presidential Scholars Program, or 3.5 GPA with approval of dean for Liberal Arts.

SS 394 — Global Financial Markets (Honors)

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course discusses the general principles and main concepts of international finance. Topics such as the world financial system and institutions, global financial instruments, and interruptions in the international financial markets (i.e. the financial crisis of 2008, the East Asian financial crisis) are addressed. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): qualification for Presidential Scholars Program, or 3.5 GPA with approval of dean for Liberal Arts.

SS 395 — International Conflict in the 21st Century (Honors)

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course examines the nature of international conflict in the 21st century. Students analyze how international conflicts have occurred through time while examining the question of why people and states take particular types of actions. Students review case studies that demonstrate examples of post-cold war conflict including terrorism, civil war, and international intervention. (G4: Social Sciences; G9: Other World Civilizations)

Prerequisite(s): qualification for Presidential Scholars Program, or 3.5 GPA with approval of dean for Liberal Arts.

SS 396 — Social Experiments: Answering the Questions of Social Psychology (Honors)

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Classic and contemporary experiments in social behavior are reviewed, and methodological procedures in social psychology research emphasized. Student teams design and conduct appropriate, controlled experiments on topics relating to social psychology, including attitude and stereotypical conformity, aggression, or helping behavior. (G4: Social Sciences)

Prerequisite(s): qualification for Presidential Scholars Program or 3.5 GPA with approval for dean of Liberal Arts.

SS 397 — Religion and Global Politics (Honors Course)

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

This course is designed to guide students to understand and reflect on how religion influences global politics. Students discuss the role religion plays in driving contemporary political events in multiple, multifaceted and mysterious ways. (G7: Humanities).

SS 442 — ENVIRONMENTAL ECON & POLICY

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

The foundations of environmental and natural resource economics are examined. Current economic approaches to the valuation of environmental issues, including economic incentive policies, internalization of environmental costs, public policy, and related multilateral trade issues, are discussed. Students analyze property rights as well as uses and restrictions of the global commons.

SS 443 — International Economics

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Reviews the origins of modern international economic theory and discusses present patterns of trade and finance, including the balance of payments and its economic effects, exchange rates, international commodity agreements, and tariff policies. Includes an analysis of the relationship between international economics and current U.S. economic problems. (G4: Social Sciences)
Prerequisite(s): SS 141 and SS 242.

SS 444 — Presidential Scholars Senior Seminar

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

The Presidential Scholars Senior Seminar provides students an opportunity to explore topics of their choosing in a culminating academic project. Students will narrow topics, develop research questions, employ research methods, and produce a thesis/creative project with an accompanying presentation of their findings. Qualification for Presidential Scholars program or 3.5 GPA Dean of Liberal Arts.

SS 445 — Money and Banking

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

Reviews the monetary and banking system of the United States, with emphasis on its structure and regulation. The theoretical framework of the monetary system and its relation to monetary policy are also studied. (G4: Social Sciences)
Prerequisite(s): SS 242.

SS 446 — Economies of Latin America

3 credits; 3 lecture hours

The course reviews modern international economic theory and its application to the Latin American economies. Major topics include trade theory and regulation, industrial policies, regional trading agreements, and the role of multinational enterprises and financial issues. Students examine theoretical concepts within the context of the historical and current economic experiences of Latin America. (G4: Social Sciences; G9: Other World Civilizations)
Prerequisite(s): SS 141 and SS 242.

SS 499 — Independent Study in the Social Sciences

1-3 credit

Prerequisite(s): a minimum 3.5 GPA and approval of instructor, chairperson, and dean for Liberal Arts.