

## Liberal Arts Program

Dean of Liberal Arts: Mimi Hedges, M.F.A.

### Liberal Arts Faculty

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## Liberal Arts Classes

### **LBA 107/207:Composition I/Honors Composition I**

(3 hrs.)

(Required of all students.)

The first semester of a two-semester sequence, this course provides students with a wide range of opportunities to sharpen their reading, writing, research, reasoning, and digital media skills. At the same time, the course also encourages students to develop, in both writing and speaking, their own distinct and identifiable voice. The format of the course will include guest speakers, class discussions, small group presentations, individual presentations, formal and informal papers, writing exercises, and peer reviewing.

### **LBA 108/208: Composition and Research II / Honors Composition and Research II**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: LBA 107 or LBA 108.) (Required of all students.)

Students continue to sharpen their skills in critical reading, writing, researching, reasoning, and digital-film making with an additional focus on learning to make good use their speaking voices. Composition and Research II links closely with the other Liberal Arts course offered in the student's Learning Community, supporting and enriching the reading, research, and writing required in the linked course.

### **LBA 142: Social Science: Peacemaking in the Modern World**

(3 hrs.)

Using the resources of philosophical and religious ethics, students in this course examine theories of war, terrorism, justice, and peace, as well as principles of nonviolence and alternative methods of conflict resolution.

### **LBA 151: Cultural Studies: Seven Pleasures**

(3 hrs.)

This course provides an opportunity for students to study art as aesthetic experience across cultures and time. Specifically, the course explores seven basic ways of enjoying works of art: the pleasures of illusion, narrative, pattern, emotion, form, the unconscious and the intellect.

### **LBA 152: Literary Studies: Women's Folklife, Women's Culture**

(3 hrs.)

The study of folklore is extremely tied to culture and place. There are many genres of folklore; this course will focus on the genres of non-narrative verbal folklore (jokes, toasts, sermons, riddles, personal experience narratives), material culture (especially women's crafts and the decorative arts such as baskets, quilts, pottery, baskets, weaving, and painting, but also food ways), folk belief (superstition, weather-lore, folk wisdom, folk remedies), customs (traditions and rituals, such as birthdays), and performative (body) gestures (dances, greetings, games, ritual gestures). Mere identification and collection is only the beginning; one must then think about why the group in question continues to pass down the item of folklore. What purpose does it serve? Often this will lead to deeper conversations about power relations between adults and children, men and women, those in power and those who are not.

### **LBA 153: Cultural Studies: Women in Music**

(3 hrs.)

This course takes an historical, international perspective on the study of women's contributions to classical and popular music as composers and performers.

**LBA 154: Cultural Studies: World Music**  
(3 hrs.)

World Music is an interdisciplinary liberal arts course that unites the study of world cultures and music. By its very nature, music creates connections. To the individual performer or listener, music has the unique power to unite the body, heart, intellect and spirit in a single experience. Music connects performers with audiences. Music links individual members of an audience in a common experience. At the highest level, music is inextricably connected to the culture from which it springs. Our study of World Music will involve the examination of music drawn from a myriad of cultural traditions, with particular focus given to how music reflects the culture that brings it to life.

**LBA 155: Love Actually: Studies in International Film**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: LBA Cultural Studies)

In this class students explore how various types of love relationships are portrayed in the films of different countries. The course will look at parental love, friend love, sibling love, romantic love, etc. as well as how the filmmakers use the art and craft of filmmaking to express the relationships and the cultures in which they occur.

**LBA 156: Cultural Studies: Rock and Roll Music**

(3 hrs.)

This course offers students an introductory survey of the history of Rock & Roll music, from its initial Golden Age of the 1950's to the digital revolution of the late 1990s. Through class lecture, discussion, listening, writing and individual presentations, students will explore a wide range of Rock & Roll styles, musicians, works, and ideas, always with an eye to how this music reflects the cultural context of its time.

**LBA 157: Cultural Studies: The Culture of Colour**

(3 hrs.)

This course will use color as its investigative medium. Basic color theory and terminology will help us view scientific, psychological and symbolic studies of color. Rites of passage, major religions/spirituality and celebrations will help students investigate color and meaning in different cultures. Great works of art and the complexities of folk art will be used as examples.

**LBA 159: Cultural Studies: Introduction to Theatre**

(3 hrs.)

Through the study of theatre past and present, reading of plays, and attending on campus performances, students will develop an appreciation and understanding of how live performance such as theatre happens.

**LBA 172: Historical Studies: Unruly Women in America's Past**

(3 hrs.)

Students in this course study the history of women in the United States through the perspectives of women that challenged the norms of society through their actions, lifestyles, race, and gender, focusing in part on women in Missouri's history.

**LBA 173: Historical Studies: America 1960-1990: Domestic and Global Perspectives**

(3 hrs.)

Students in this class will study America's involvement in the world through the lenses of human rights, race, roles of women and gender, poverty, the environment, and globalization.

**LBA 174: Historical Studies: Major Issues in Recent History: a Global Perspective**

(3 hrs.)

Students will discuss readings covering the historical period from the end of the Cold War to the present. Study of historiography, mapping global aspects of events and reframing them in terms of gender and culture.

**LBA 175: Historical Studies: 20<sup>th</sup> Century U.S. -Global Perspective**

(3 hrs.)

Students in this course will study America's growth from the turn of the century through the 1980's. Particular focus will be given to immigration, roles of women, human rights, the Cold War and America's place in the world, acknowledging the influences of radicalism, conformity, liberalism, and conservatism. The importance of gender, race, and religion are investigated as broad topics that shaped America during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**LBA 176: Historical Studies: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe**

(3 hrs.)

This course will study Europe's involvement in the world through the lenses of human rights, race, roles of women and gender, poverty, the environment and globalization. Ranging from

European colonialism to Soviet communism, this course will focus on the impact of states and citizens of Europe upon the world.

**LBA 177: Historical Studies: Perspectives in History**

(3 hrs.)

Beginning with the European arrival and its consequences for American Indians, this course will introduce students to the meaning and significance of culture in the American past. The class will focus in particular the establishment and growth of a diverse collection of colonies and the process by which these colonies began to view themselves as "Americans". The significance of race, class, gender, and religion will also be examined.

**LBA 178: World History: Ten Days That Shook the World**

(3 hrs.)

This introductory history class explores ten different days from around the globe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century that shaped the world as we know it. They range from the sad episodes in human history inaugurated by the beginning of African subjugation to Europeans to the dawning of freedom in countries like India and South Africa.

**LBA 181: Social Sciences: Psychology of Creativity**

(3 hrs.)

This course provides the student with an introduction to the psychological foundations of creativity, including biological, social, familial, and cognitive factors. Basic psychological principles will be studied to expand the student's understanding of the creative process.

**LBA 186: (Introduction to) Anthropology**

(3 hrs.)

This is a survey course which may focus on one or more indigenous cultures. Study will include language, art, religion, literature/oral tradition, kinship, social organization and cultural change. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and analysis skills.

**LBA 187: Social Sciences: Psychology of Identity**

(3 hrs.)

This course is designed to explore the various aspects of identity theory including (but not limited to): racial/ethnic, sexual, gender, career and feminist. Additionally, the course will explore the development, intersections of multiple identities, and the overall impact of

identity on the developmental process. Students will be asked to explore their own identity development through various activities and assignments designed to make the course more applicable to their own experiences.

**LBA 188: Psychology & the Media**

(3 hrs.)

The course is designed to provide the liberal arts undergraduate with an introduction to basic psychological principles as studied in the context of the media. Examples of concepts studied will include social psychology, perception & influence, self-image, learning and behavior, decision models, and group process, among other concepts. Students will use critical thinking skills to examine the interaction between psychological principles and media portrayals of mental illness and the mental health professionals, as well as general human behavior.

**LBA 214: Honors - Literary Studies: Contemporary International Fiction**

(3 hrs.)

This course investigates the elements of fiction by reading six contemporary novels from around the world. Students will examine the historical, cultural, sociopolitical, and economic context of the literary readings and explore themes common to contemporary literature.

**LBA 218: Sophomore Seminar: Government and Economics**

(3 hrs.)

(LBA 218 OR LBA 219 Required of all students.)

This course focuses on the national and trans-national relationships between governments, especially the United States government, and economic systems, corporations, institutions, and agreements. As the first of the two Social Science Core Courses offered in the second year of the LBA program, this course helps students learn about some of the most powerful forces in the world at the same time as it gives them opportunities to sharpen their reading, writing, researching, reasoning, and speaking skills.

**LBA 219: Sophomore Seminar: Global Village**

(3 hrs.)

(LBA 218 OR LBA 219 Required of all students.)

This course will involve students in three broad topics: global resource management, global economics and global conflict and cooperation. The world is a surprisingly small place, and

most of our activities directly or indirectly connect us with people in distant lands. This course seeks to widen our horizons, to become aware of these global connections, to be able to act consciously and responsibly as global citizens.

**LBA 224: Literary Studies: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature**

(3 hrs.)

This course is designed to offer an introduction to contemporary literature centered around a theme. While special attention is given to work written in the past decade, selections will include influential and pioneering work from the middle of the 20th century. A portion of the selected work will be dedicated to international and women writers.

**LBA 225: Literary Studies: Short Stories from Around the World**

(3 hrs.)

This course is designed to offer an introduction to the contemporary short story and its various modes. While special attention is given to work written in the past decade, selections will include influential and pioneering work from the middle of the 20th century. A portion of the selected work will be dedicated to international and women writers.

**LBA 238: Literary Studies: Coming-of-Age Literature**

(3 hrs.)

This class focuses on coming-of-age narratives, a specific and well-documented genre of literature representing the transition between childhood and adulthood, an intense and memorable time filled with conflict: first love, lost love, rebellion against authority. Readings will include a variety of novels, short stories, essays, and scholarly and popular articles on developmental theory.

**LBA 248: Literary Studies: Educating Rita: Teachers/Plays**

(3 hrs.)

**LBA 250: Fundamentals of Speech**

(3 hrs.)

This course will introduce students to the basic skills of Public Speaking, including persuasive, informative, extemporaneous speeches and the utilization of presentation technology. Intrapersonal and interpersonal communication skills will be emphasized through analysis and evaluation as audience and speaker.

**LBA 252: Cultural Studies: The Jazz Experience**

(3 hrs.)

Jazz music is America's unique artistic contribution to the world. This course will investigate the history of jazz which is steeped in the singular experiences of African-Americans. It will explore the context in which jazz has developed and produced cultural and political realities. Students will become familiar with the major developments and eras of the jazz art form, as well as specific musical contributions of key individuals.

**LBA 253: Honors Cultural Studies: Seven Pleasures**

(3 hrs.)

(Open to Honors House Plan students only.)

This course provides an opportunity for students to study art as aesthetic experience across cultures and time. Specifically, the course explores seven basic ways of enjoying works of art: the pleasures of illusion, narrative, pattern, emotion, form, the unconscious and the intellect.

**LBA 258: Literary Studies: The Female Hero in Folktales from Around the World**

(3 hrs.)

The course will require students to read and actively participate in class dialogue and discussion of three anthologies of tales from around the world, as well as a critical work by Jungian analyst and storyteller, Clarissa Pinkola Estés. Students will write four short essays, including argument, comparison/contrast, research, and creative writing. They will also use writing informally in a series of in-class exercises as a tool for inquiry, discovery, learning, thinking, and communicating. Student's will also be selecting a country and researching a tale to prepare for an international storytelling fest we'll stage in class. Requires students to apply the steps and techniques used by professional storytellers to learn and tell the story for the class audience.

**LBA 340: Honors Social Science: Terrorism Perspectives on Acts of Violence**

(3 hrs.)

This course examines different types and characteristics of terrorism. Because of the negative, and often polarizing, connotation of the word, the course will begin by defining terrorism in a way that removes moral judgments attached to this unusual human behavior. Terrorism, as discussed in this course, refers to a purposeful act or threat of violence to create fear and/or compliant

behavior in a victim and/or audience. Next, the course will examine political terrorism, religious terrorism, and terrorism with other motives. The course will seek to answer whether social or physical environments attract certain people to join violent terrorist organizations.

**LBA 350: Global Ethics**

(3 hrs.)

(Required of all students.)

This course looks at a broad spectrum of international issues – from global climate change and sustainability, human rights to gender discrimination – in a context that considers both sides of the dilemma and seeks for an ethical way forward. The class uses concepts in economics, philosophy, political science, history, sociology and anthropology in its attempt to analyze global problems and decide how best to address the various ethical issues.