

Popular Media GE Track

This track is designed to give students the critical and analytical skills to understand and critique a wide array of popular media forms and modes of expression. Through a diverse general-elective portfolio that includes courses in games, film and television, music, design, interactive media, animation, and internet/web, this track helps students develop a solid foundation in media literacy and an understanding of popular media and its implications for culture and society.

List of Courses by GE Foundation Area

Click on a Foundation Area or scroll below to see list of courses and descriptions.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - LITERARY AND CULTURAL ANALYSIS (7 COURSES)

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - PHILOSOPHICAL AND LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS (1 COURSE)

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS ANALYSIS (8 COURSES)

SOCIETY AND CULTURE - HISTORICAL ANALYSIS (0 COURSES)

SOCIETY AND CULTURE - SOCIAL ANALYSIS (8 COURSES)

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY - LIFE SCIENCE (0 COURSES)

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - LITERARY AND CULTURAL ANALYSIS (7 COURSES)

COMPARTIVE LITERATURE 1E – Social Media and Storytelling: Comparing Cultures. Lecture, two hours; discussion, two hours. Enforced requisite: satisfaction of Entry-Level Writing requirement. Study of social media as platform for storytelling, with core focus on three distinct cultures: U.S., China, and Russia. History, form, and various functions of social media. Examination of how we tell stories about ourselves and how we interpret digital narratives we see, hear, or read from organizations near and far. Analysis of networked narratives encountered online. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ENGLISH 91D – Introduction to Graphic Fiction. Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour (when scheduled). Requisite: satisfaction of Entry-Level Writing requirement. Introduction to popularity and important cultural work of comic books and graphic novels. Emphasis on how text and image combine to create meaning, including problem of appropriateness of comics for serious cultural topics. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ENGLISH M50 – Introduction to Visual Culture. (Same as Film and Television M50.) Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour; laboratory, two hours. Enforced requisite: satisfaction of Entry-Level Writing requirement. Study of how visual media, including

advertising, still and moving images, and narrative films, influence contemporary aesthetics, politics, and knowledge. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ENGLISH 100 – Ways of Reading Race. Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour (when scheduled). Prerequisite: English Composition 3. Introduction to interdisciplinary study of race and ethnicity, with primary focus on literature. Through examination of institutions that form understanding of race—citizenship, nationalism, class, gender, and labor—interrogation of how we come to think of ourselves and others as having race, and effects of such racialized thinking. Course is not about any particular racial or ethnic group, but highlights creation of ethnic categories and their effects on cultural production. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY 40 – Music and Religion. Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour. Survey of nature, role, and power of music in religious rituals around world, covering music and ritual of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, as well as religious traditions of Native Americans and syncretic religious practices in Americas such as African American gospel music, Brazilian Candomblé, Cuban Santería, and Haitian vodoun. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

FILM AND TELEVISION 4 – Introduction to Art and Technique of Filmmaking. (Formerly numbered 122B.) Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour. Students acquire understanding of practical and aesthetic challenges undertaken by artists and professionals in making of motion pictures and television. Examination of film as both art and industry: storytelling, sound and visual design, casting and performance, editing, finance, advertising, and distribution. Exploration of American and world cinema from filmmaker's perspective. Honing of analytical skills and development of critical vocabulary for study of filmmaking as technical, artistic, and cultural phenomenon. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

GERMANIC LANGUAGES 114 – Fairy Tales and Fantastic. Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Taught in English. History and reception of folklore collections in Europe, with particular attention to ideology and influence of Grimms' tales. Interpretation of selected tales and their transformations and appropriation in literature, film, advertising, and pedagogy. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - PHILOSOPHICAL AND LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS (1 COURSE)

LINGUISTICS 40W – Language and Gender: Introduction to Gender and Stereotypes. (Formerly numbered Applied Linguistics 40W.) Lecture, four hours; discussion, two hours. Enforced prerequisite: English Composition 3. Prior knowledge of foreign languages not required. Introduction to language from sociological perspective of gender. Use of research and examples in English and other languages to explore nature of male and female genderlects and gendered language, as reflected in lexicon,

language behavior, phonetics and intonation, and language acquisition and linguistic change. Satisfies Writing II requirement. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES - VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS ANALYSIS (8 COURSES)

ENGLISH M50 – Introduction to Visual Culture. (Same as Film and Television M50) Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour; laboratory, two hours. Enforced requisite: satisfaction of Entry-Level Writing requirement. Study of how visual media, including advertising, still and moving images, and narrative films, influence contemporary aesthetics, politics, and knowledge. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY 5 – Music Around World. Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour; outside study, 10 hours. Overview of world's musical traditions by selecting one or two case studies from each of nine musical world regions: Pacific, East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and U.S. and Canada. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.\

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY 30 – Music and Media. Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour. Exploration of ways music is mediated to people by industry, technologies, and corporations. Survey of leading theorists of media and exploration of case studies. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY 40 – Music and Religion. Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour. Survey of nature, role, and power of music in religious rituals around world, covering music and ritual of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, as well as religious traditions of Native Americans and syncretic religious practices in Americas such as African American gospel music, Brazilian Candomblé, Cuban Santería, and Haitian vodoun. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY 108B – Music of Latin America: Latin South America. Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour. Course M108A is not requisite to 108B. Survey of traditional and contemporary musical culture. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY 136A – Music of Africa. Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour; outside study, 10 hours. Introduction to music of Africa through general discussion of select topics such as continent and its peoples, function, musician, instruments, musical structure and related arts, and contemporary music. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

FILM, TELEVISION and DIGITAL MEDIA 4 – Introduction to Art and Technique of Filmmaking. (Formerly numbered 122B.) Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour. Students acquire understanding of practical and aesthetic challenges undertaken by artists and professionals in making of motion pictures and television. Examination of film as both art and industry: storytelling, sound and visual design, casting and performance,

editing, finance, advertising, and distribution. Exploration of American and world cinema from filmmaker's perspective. Honing of analytical skills and development of critical vocabulary for study of filmmaking as technical, artistic, and cultural phenomenon. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

FOOD STUDIES 35 – Visual Representations of Food from Antiquity to

Present. Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Examination of food imagery in visual art from antiquity to present. Introduction to many major movements in Western art history, with primary focus on historical and sociological implications that can be derived from close analysis of visual representations of food, kitchens, markets, and agriculture over centuries. Topics of investigation include diets of ancient Romans as evidenced by floor mosaics and wall paintings of Pompeii; religious symbolism of food during Middle Ages; opulence of Renaissance banquets; common food of common folk; significance of still life paintings; what paintings can tell us about trade; turn-of-century tables; food and eroticism; economics, packaging, and advertising; and food presentation and plating as art form. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

JAPANESE 75 – Anime. Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Discussion and analysis of seminal works of Japanese animation, or anime, created from 1980s to present. Engagement with works in variety of styles, and that deal with broad range of themes. Reading and discussion of recent scholarship on anime produced by scholars working in diverse modes, from philosophical to anthropological. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

SOCIETY AND CULTURE - HISTORICAL ANALYSIS (0 COURSES)

No courses for this GE Foundation area in this track

SOCIETY AND CULTURE - SOCIAL ANALYSIS (8 COURSES)

COMPARTIVE LITERATURE 1E – Social Media and Storytelling: Comparing

Cultures. Lecture, two hours; discussion, two hours. Enforced requisite: satisfaction of Entry-Level Writing requirement. Study of social media as platform for storytelling, with core focus on three distinct cultures: U.S., China, and Russia. History, form, and various functions of social media. Examination of how we tell stories about ourselves and how we interpret digital narratives we see, hear, or read from organizations near and far. Analysis of networked narratives encountered online. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

DESIGN MEDIA ARTS 8 – Media Histories. Lecture, three hours; outside study, 12 hours. Synthetic overview of optical media and aesthetic movements covering past two centuries: photography and industrialization/Romanticism (1850 to 1900), cinema and

modernism (1900 to 1950), television and postmodernism (1950 to 2000), and digital media and unimodernism (2000 to 2050). How such movements can inform generative work and how understanding these media becomes essential in emerging era of digital humanities. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ENGLISH 100 – Ways of Reading Race. Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour (when scheduled). Requisite: English Composition 3. Introduction to interdisciplinary study of race and ethnicity, with primary focus on literature. Through examination of institutions that form understanding of race—citizenship, nationalism, class, gender, and labor—interrogation of how we come to think of ourselves and others as having race, and effects of such racialized thinking. Course is not about any particular racial or ethnic group, but highlights creation of ethnic categories and their effects on cultural production. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY 30 – Music and Media. Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour. Exploration of ways music is mediated to people by industry, technologies, and corporations. Survey of leading theorists of media and exploration of case studies. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

INFORMATION STUDIES 20 – Digital Cultures and Societies. Lecture, 5 hours. Designed for undergraduate students. Examination of social and cultural contexts of global spread of digital networks and systems. Exploration of ethical, infrastructural, and political questions raised at intersection of technologies and cultures. Topics include social media revolutions, indigenous and non-Western uses of technology, cross-cultural design, digital media literacies, and more. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

INFORMATION STUDIES 30 – Internet and Society. Lecture, five hours. Designed for undergraduate students. Examination of information technology in society, including Internet, World Wide Web, search engines (e.g., Google, Yahoo, Lycos), retrieval systems, electronic publishing, and distribution of media, including newspapers, books, and music. Exploration of many of these technologies, social, cultural, and political context in which they exist, and how social relationships are changing. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

LINGUISTICS 40W – Language and Gender: Introduction to Gender and Stereotypes. (Formerly numbered Applied Linguistics 40W) Lecture, four hours; discussion, two hours. Enforced requisite: English Composition 3. Prior knowledge of foreign languages not required. Introduction to language from sociological perspective of gender. Use of research and examples in English and other languages to explore nature of male and female genderlects and gendered language, as reflected in lexicon, language behavior, phonetics and intonation, and language acquisition and linguistic change. Satisfies Writing II requirement. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

JAPANESE 75 – Anime. Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Discussion and analysis of seminal works of Japanese animation, or anime, created from 1980s to present. Engagement with works in variety of styles, and that deal with broad range of themes. Reading and discussion of recent scholarship on anime produced by scholars working in diverse modes, from philosophical to anthropological. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY - LIFE SCIENCE (0 COURSES)

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