

LIBERAL ARTS SEMINAR

Origins: Where People and Things Come From

Course no: INTR 102-01
Classroom: LA 562

Spring Semester 2009
Class hrs: Wed 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Professor: Roland Blanchette
Office no: LA 450
Office ph: 508-588-9100 x 1706
Office hrs: MWF 9:00-10:00 am Brockton
 TuTh 10:00-11:00 am Canton
rblanchette@massasoit.mass.edu

Professor: Tim Trask
Office no: FA 343
Office ph: 508-588-9100 x 1980
Office hrs: M 1:00; W 4:00 pm
 TuTh 8:30 am
ttrask@massasoit.mass.edu

Catalogue Description: *Liberal Arts Seminar* is an interdisciplinary course taught by a team of two professors from different disciplines, assisted by several guest lecturers. Students will explore developments in science, technology, art, and society that impact contemporary culture. Students will be required to participate in research and classroom presentations.

Prerequisite: English Composition II.

About *Liberal Arts Seminar*: *Liberal Arts Seminar* was first proposed as a course for the Honors Program. *Liberal Arts Seminar* is interdisciplinary in nature and has been team taught for several years by Professor Trask from the English Department and Professor Blanchette from the Social Science Department. We encourage any student to take this course provided that he or she has completed English Comp II. This course will satisfy a requirement for a Humanities elective, a Social Science elective, a Liberal Arts elective, or a General elective here at Massasoit. If you have questions about its transferability, come talk to us and we will be glad to assist you.

Teaching Objectives: As a result of taking this course, a student should be stronger in the following areas:

- 1) Understanding the development of the broad interconnections that are expected of every literate person.
- 2) Seeing relationships between science, religion, technology, and the arts.
- 3) Participating actively in an interdisciplinary educational process through reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- 4) Seeing oneself as part of history.
- 5) Creating relationships among other academic subjects.
- 6) Using the library and other sources for research.
- 7) Thinking about the past and the future.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in the classroom are encouraged to contact the Disability Counselor, Stan Oliver, x1464, or Learning Disability Services Counselor, Andrea Henry, x1805, as soon as possible in order to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Work for the Course

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes. We will follow the Attendance policy printed in the College catalogue. Your participation is crucial for this to be a quality course; therefore, we remind you that part of the "work" for the course requires showing up ready, eager, and prepared for class.

Reading: Although there is no textbook for this course, there will be handouts and assigned readings. Some of the assigned readings will be for the class as a whole and some for individual research assignments. All reading must be completed for the class, so that you are ready to be an informed listener and an active participant.

E-mail: There will be an e-mail discussion group centered on our topic that will include approximately 100 participants from the college and local communities. We want you to be part of that discussion. You will be encouraged (but not required) to post messages to the group. Reading messages from others is required and we will explain this in detail during the first week of class.

Examinations: There are no examinations or quizzes in this course.

Writing Assignments: These assignments will be explained in detail during class. The assignments shall be typed, double-spaced, and fastened with one staple in the upper left-hand corner (no covers). The assignments are due on the dates assigned. Late assignments will be penalized.

- 1. Research Topics.** You will be asked to research and prepare to report on one piece of a larger whole. There will be several of these relatively brief assignments.
- 2. Personal essays.** You will be asked to write essays about our work in the course explaining its relevancy you and your experience.
- 3. Semester report.** You are required to research and report on one event or issue from the course material. This will be a significant research assignment. (5-10 pages.)

Grades: Grades are based on the following distribution:

Participation	35%	94-100 = A	77-79 = C+
Research Topics	20%	90-93 = A-	73-76 = C
Personal Essays	20%	87-89 = B+	70-72 = C-
Semester Report	25%	83-86 = B	67-69 = D+
		80-82 = B-	60-66 = D
			-59 = F

Course Outline

Note: This is a tentative outline of the subjects that will be covered in this course. Dates may be adjusted as the course progresses. The assignments are tentative and subject to adjustment depending on the needs of the class. We will schedule field trips (at least one) as the material and class needs suggest.

Week 1 Jan 21

Introduction.
Building a list of topics.

Week 2 Jan 28

Refining the list to manageable.

Week 3 Feb 4

Guest interviews.

Week 4 Feb 11

Students choose semester projects

Week 5 Feb 18

Field Trip

Week 6 Feb 25

Personal Essay #1 due

Week 7 Mar 4

Semester Report topic due.

Week 8 Mar 11

Bibliography due.

Week 9 Mar 18

No classes (Spring Break)

Week 10 Mar 25

Roundtable Discussion

Week 11 Apr 1

Seminar project notes due.

Week 12 Apr 8

Personal Essay #2 due

Week 13 Apr 15

Week 14 Apr 22

Drafts of Final Projects due.

Week 15 Apr 29

Final presentations

Week 16 May 6

Final presentations.