

## General Education Elective Course Descriptions

### **DSN2001 History of Design (BIT1006A)**

Visual communications and graphic design have played a key role in the evolution of communication through a number of historical and social art movements. Graphic design has had a major impact on civilizations over the ages. Students explore graphic design's many influences, including the invention of writing and alphabets, the origins of printing and typography, Victorian, Art Nouveau, Modern Art and Post Modern design, to the present day computer revolution and its influence on the many forms of contemporary visual communication that surround us every day.

### **GEN1001 Ethics: What's the Big Deal? (BIT1006B)**

Some would say that "there's a hole in the moral ozone and it's getting bigger." Students clarify their own moral values and understand how these values impact the course of their lives. Students practise using tools and decision-making models designed to deal with personal and professional ethical dilemmas.

### **GEN1957 Science Fiction (BIT1006C)**

Science fiction is both a genre of popular entertainment and a mode of social commentary. Learners explore the formal conventions and the history of the genre, consume and analyze a representative range of science fiction, and strive to heighten their critical appreciation of the role and place of science fiction in society. Learners also have an opportunity to create their own piece of science fiction.

### **GEN2000 Film and Multiculturalism (BIT1006D)**

Official policy in Canada since 1971, multiculturalism remains controversial in many sectors of Canadian life. Through viewing and reflecting on a series of films, learners enhance their understanding of multiculturalism, as well as the values and representations of multiculturalism, both positive and negative, that the films present. Among the issues covered are immigration, refugees, ethnic enclaves, the "Quebec question," indigenous relations, racism and ethnic violence.

### **MVM8800 The Impact of the Car on North American Culture (BIT1006E)**

Learners explore the social, economic, political and environmental impact of the automobile on North American lives. Studying the history of the automobile, from its introduction to the present day, allows learners to track the changes it has introduced to manufacturing, lifestyles, design principles, transportation systems, the environment and labour-management negotiation and economic organization.

### **GED5005 Greek Mythology (BIT1006F)**

Students explore intriguing characters, important places and famous myths of Classical Greece. By examining a variety of popular myths, students discover how the Ancient Greeks crafted narratives of gods, goddesses, monsters, and heroic figures to make sense of their lives and the world around them. Using examples from art, science, and industry, students examine how these epic stories from oral tradition have endured and continue to influence contemporary society.

### **HIS0001 Saints and Heroes: Shining a Spotlight on the 'Dark Ages,' Europe A.D. 410-1096 (BIT1006G)**

When the mighty Roman Empire began to collapse, it was attacked from all directions by barbarian armies. The resulting turmoil caused Europe to sink into a period of social and political upheaval known as the Dark Ages. However, during these troubled times, extraordinary warriors and missionaries emerged whose profound influence has played a vital role in shaping what has become our modern world. Students examine the social, political, intellectual, and economic history of this era and explore its enduring impact on modern western society.

### **RAD2001 Popular Culture (BIT1006H)**

One dictionary definition of popular culture is the "totality of socially transmitted behaviour patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought." This definition allows us great freedom and scope. Students examine recent North American popular culture including trends, fads, styles, theories and the cult of the new. By exploring our perceptions of culture and the trivialization of society, students begin to appreciate how the media has relentlessly helped to shape today's values. Through online research, assigned readings, and participation in self-directed learning, students critique popular culture's place in North American society, concentrating on their decade of choice.

### **SOC2003 Understanding Human Sexuality (BIT1006I)**

Students study human sexuality through an interdisciplinary approach. Students gain a basic understanding of human sexuality through an investigation of history, culture, physiology, sexual development, sexual behaviours, sexually transmitted diseases, attitudes, sex, deviance and sexual relationships.

### **FIN2300 Introduction to Personal Finance (BIT1006J)**

The ability to establish and maintain one's own financial health is a lifelong skill that benefits everyone. Students examine the topics of credit and debt, home ownership and mortgages, the savings challenge, government savings vehicles, fixed income and equity investments, mutual funds, financial planning, retirement strategies and insurance. Students evaluate the role of financial service providers in developing and implementing financial plans.