General Course Descriptions for First-Year Students

Students usually take four 4-hour courses (16 credit hours) each semester. In your first semester, you will take a First-Year Seminar and either a composition course or public speaking, unless you have college credit for Composition II or Public Speaking. We will add the composition or speaking that works well with your overall schedule. Then you will have two courses from this list. Please list your course choices in the order of your preference. Unlike many other colleges, we do not expect you to complete your general education requirements first. We want you to take something that really interests you in your first semester. Let us know what looks interesting to you!

Enrollment in math or science courses is dependent upon math placement. Enrollment in language courses is dependent upon language placement results. Please take the placement tests as soon as possible. Competitive debate, music lessons, and music ensembles can be added as additional hours. Unless otherwise noted, the courses listed here are four credit hours each.

We create a tentative schedule for you to start your conversation with your registration advisor. It is just a starting point.

**Acting (TH 222)**
An introductory workshop experience for actors, designed to foster a basic competence in the uses of the voice, body, and imagination for dramatic performance.

**Biological Investigation (BI 110)**
This course is an introduction to the nature of biological inquiry. Major concepts of biological science and modes of experimentation are introduced through an exploration of a variety of topics selected by the instructor. This course is designed for first- and second-year students interested in pursuing a major or minor in biology or biochemistry, and is required for all subsequent biology courses. Three class hours and one two-hour laboratory period per week. Offered every semester.

**Calculus I, II, III (Based on placement score or previous college credit)**
This is the basic calculus sequence with applications and covers: functions; limits; derivatives; integrals; conics; calculus of transcendental functions; sequences and series: vector valued functions; partial derivatives; curves and surfaces in space; and multiple integrals. Please take the math placement test.

**Class Guitar (Acoustic) (2 hours) (MU 128)**
This is a general survey course introducing the guitar to the beginner. The course will cover tablature as well as note reading and will provide a very basic introduction to a variety of styles. By the end of the semester students will be able to play easy solos and ensemble pieces, as well as provide accompaniment for easy songs in typical guitar keys.

**Class Piano (2 hours) (MU 119)**
This is a group course for students with little or no keyboard experience. The course is designed to develop basic functional keyboard and musicianship skills which includes technique, sight reading, harmonization, theory, and some basic general music history.

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Class Voice (2 hours) (MU 109)
This is a group course for students with little or no keyboard experience. The course is designed to develop basic functional keyboard and musicianship skills which includes technique, sight reading, harmonization, theory, and some basic general music history.

Competitive Debate & Forensics (1 hour) (CO 252)
Analysis and evaluation of the facts.

Concert Choir (1 hour) (MU 106)
Three hours of weekly rehearsal, several performances both on and off campus throughout the year, including a Spring Concert Tour with other music ensembles to major metropolitan areas. A variety of music is performed, including great masterworks from all periods of music history.

Contemporary Issues in China (IN 197)
Issues in Contemporary China: Education, Business, and Society
Everything about China is big: it's population, it's economy, it's history and culture. The decisions made by China affect its neighbors in Asia and countries around the world, in Africa, Latin America, and Europe. This class will provide a basic introduction to China's history and culture before exploring some of the most important issues facing China (and the rest of the world) today.

Creative Writing (EN 207)
A workshop for students interested in exploring the various forms of creative writing including fiction, creative nonfiction, and/or poetry. Students and instructor work closely together to evaluate the individual and class writing projects in an informal setting.

Culture & Society in Francophone Cinema (IN 250)
Culture and Society in Francophone Cinema to be taught in English will provide students with better understanding of society, culture and civilization of the Francophone world. Class discussion, films analysis, readings and assignments will allow students to ask and answer questions about the history, socio-economics, culture, politics, gender, war, survival, and other compelling issues that affect Francophone countries in different parts of the world.

Emerging Issues in Agriculture and Natural Resources (AG111)
This course examines a framework to address the emerging issues and trends in the agriculture and natural resources sectors that have the potential to significantly influence the future direction of the U.S. and Global food and fiber industry. It describes how agricultural leaders and policy makers can address emerging issues and trends, build the necessary leadership competence to respond to these issues and trends, and develop into a more accountable leader who can deal effectively with the needs of the U.S. and Global societies.

Family Relationships Across the Life Course (SO 224)
This course covers various forms of the family in their historical and societal settings. Interpretation of the nature and meaning of marriage and family by the application of sociological theory and research is of special focus. Prerequisite: SO 101.

Foundations of Physical Education (EP 211)
This is a study of various concepts of physical education with emphasis on history, present and future programs.
French (French)
Students learn basic sentence structures and vocabulary in French and are introduced to the cultures of the people who speak the language. They also acquire the language skills and cultural knowledge to travel on their own to the countries where the target language is spoken. Final course level is based on placement score. Please take the placement test if you've taken French in high school but anyone is welcome to start taking French. Just list this in your choices.

Gender and Social Justice (GW 110)
Sexual assault. The gender pay gap. Female genital mutilation. Police brutality. Workplace discrimination. Economic inequality. These are just some of the examples of global social injustice that this course examines. Students will be introduced to feminist theories that help them better understand the causes of social injustice and possible solutions. This will include how feminist theories intersect with concepts of race, class, nationality, the environment, sexuality, etc. There will be a particular focus on putting theory into practice by doing activism work for social justice in students’ own communities.

General Chemistry (CH 110)
Chemistry is the study of the material world. It is essential to the understanding of a wide range of scientific disciplines and is applicable to diverse career interests. Intended primarily for students majoring in the natural sciences, this course introduces the principles of chemistry. Major themes include the microscopic structure of matter and the role of energy, stability, and entropy as drivers of chemical change. Topics include: atomic structure, periodicity, chemical bonding, molecular structure and geometry, inorganic reaction classes, stoichiometry, thermochemistry, kinetic theory of gases and liquids, and intermolecular forces. Laboratory work will provide practice in basic measurements, liquid handling, experimental design, application of scientific method, and data processing and interpretation. Three class hours and one three-hour laboratory period per week. Co-requisite MA 133 (or placement into a higher level mathematics course). CH110 is a pre-requisite to all chemistry courses above the 100-level. Offered every semester.

German (German)
Students learn basic sentence structures and vocabulary in German and are introduced to the cultures of the people who speak the language. They also acquire the language skills and cultural knowledge to travel on their own to the countries where the target language is spoken. Final course level based on placement score. Please take the placement test if you’ve taken German in high school but anyone is welcome to start taking German. Just list German in your choice preferences.

High Adventure (history majors) (1 hour) (HI 200)
This seminar introduces new and prospective History majors to the art of doing history, asking historical questions, and employing research methods. Readings and discussions will better equip students to succeed in 200- and 300-level history courses, and will provide a strong foundation on which to prepare for their work on the capstone essay. The course is open to all interested students, but declared majors will have priority for registration and minors are encouraged to participate. HI 200 is required for all History majors.
**Introduction to Business Administration (MG 100)**
Are you interested in becoming a business major but are unsure about what area of business might be right for you? Introduction to Business will expose you to the core sectors that make a business function including Management, Marketing, Accounting, Economics, and Finance. More importantly, you will study the relationships between these sectors to help decide which area might be the right fit for you. While this course does not count toward any of the specific business majors, it does count for the entrepreneurship and business minors. It also counts toward general education requirements. This survey course will help you establish a usable business vocabulary through the study of individual companies to see how they operate in the 21st-century global economy.

**Introduction to Computer Science (CS 160)**
An introduction to the fundamental concepts of computer science. This includes I/O, control structures, arrays, structured programming techniques, and object oriented programming. This course, along with CS 170 taken the second semester, is the basis for the rest of the computer science curriculum. A programming language will be introduced.

**Introduction to Criminal Justice (CJ 160)**
This course examines the development and administration of criminal law and agencies (police, prosecutors, courts). There is an emphasis on criminal proceedings and their justification.

**Introduction to Education (ED 101)**
This beginning level education course offers students philosophical, historical, and current views of teaching and education and encourages students to think more deeply about what teaching is, what teachers do, and whether teaching is an appropriate career choice for them. Through readings, class discussions, educational research, and **field work in a K-12 classroom**, students will reflect upon and articulate their own beliefs and values about teaching, learning, and schooling. No prerequisite.

**Introduction to Gender and Women Studies (GW 101)**
This course asks fundamental question such as: What is gender? What is sex? How do cultures construct gender and gender differences? How do gender, race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality interrelate in our society? The course encourages students to find links between their own lives and issues raised by scholars in the field. Readings, discussions and lectures cover material ranging from the humanities to the social sciences.

**Introduction to International Studies (IN 160)**
An interdisciplinary course that examines humanitarian, economic, political, social, cultural, and ecological issues from a global perspective. Highlight contributions that history, geography, anthropology, political science, economics, and other disciplines make to the field of International Studies.

**Introduction to Music and Music Theory (MU 111)**
An introductory study of melody, harmony, counterpoint, and part-writing fundamental to Western music, including a discussion of musical examples from different periods. Concurrent ear training, composing, and keyboard training. Entry level course for music majors and minors. Open to other interested students.
Introduction to Psychology (PS 101)
A general introduction to psychology. A required prerequisite for all courses in psychology.

Introduction to Sociology (SO 101)
This course is an introduction to the study of society, including the basic concepts of society, culture and personality, and their relationship to one another.

Introduction to the Bible (RE 101)
This course explores the contents, historical contexts, themes, development, and transmission of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and New Testament. Readings will be selected portions of most biblical books, in a translation that offers explanatory notes and other helps. Class sessions will focus in great part on trying to understand these writings in their original situations, and how people ever since have used and interpreted them. No previous knowledge of the Bible is assumed.

Introduction to Web Design (CS 197)
An introduction to the fundamental concepts of web design. In this course, students would evaluate the design of web pages, learn the basic web design using HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) and CSS (Cascading Style Sheets). The course does not require any prior knowledge of programming background.

Japan: History and Religion (HI 223)
This course is intended to assist you in understanding Japan in the context of its history and major religious traditions. It will cover the sweep of Japan’s story from its beginnings to the 21st century. Traditions treated will include ancient beliefs and practices, Buddhism, Shinto, Confucianism, Daoism, and modern political ideologies such as State Shinto. Readings will include texts by Japanese and non-Japanese alike. No previous knowledge of Japan is assumed.

Japanese Language (Japanese)
This is the first semester of the first-year study of Japanese language. It introduces students to the Japanese language and culture focusing on conversation that deals with life situations. It also provides students with the language skills and cultural knowledge to travel on their own to Japan. Two phonetic writing systems (hiragana and katakana) are introduced.

Jazz Ensemble (1 hour) (MU 104)
Jazz Ensemble.

Math (Based on placement score)
Please place me in the math course that matches my math placement score and future goals. I am planning to pursue a major in biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, health sciences or physics. [Please take the math placement test if you have not done so already.]
Multi-cultural Issues in Education (ED 203)
This course addresses two primary goals: 1) to learn what important issues are most relevant to the instruction of diverse learners and how best to acquire proficiency in those areas and 2) to examine and develop the teaching techniques and skills regarding instruction, assessment, and adaptations necessary to teach diverse learners. To this end, the course focuses on topics such as the impact of recent law and policy changes on diverse learners, issues relevant to the personal, cultural, and community assets and challenges immigrant and refugee children and their families bring to the classroom and school, the process of acquiring a second language and the impact of that process on students' academic and social well-being, definitions of second-language acquisition, language difference and disability, and accommodations and modifications for students with special education needs or those in the process of second-language acquisition, and those who are advanced, gifted/talented learners. Additionally, the course will focus on differentiated instructional strategies to improve the achievement of diverse learners in specific content areas.

Music Lessons (1 hour) (Music Lessons)
Applied individual music lessons. There is an extra fee for non-music majors/minors.

Narrative in Fiction & Film (EN 236)
Everything Is Not Awesome: Satire on the Job
Have you ever had a job that made you feel like you were an insect, in a bad role-playing game, or had spent the day staring at a brick (or Lego) wall? Ever had to wear a uniform and use a voice at work that wasn’t you or, even worse, that became you? This course will explore the often funny and fantastic stories that we tell to find meaning in the meaningless work which Anthropologist David Graeber claims is expanding in our economy. We will read short fiction by Franz Kafka, Antonio Di Benedetto, George Saunders, Halle Butler, and Sayaka Murata. Movies will include The Last Laugh, Office Space, The Lego Movie, Zama, and Sorry to Bother You.

Principles of Accounting (AC 231)
Study and application of fundamental principles of financial accounting with emphasis on the accounting cycle. The concepts, principles and procedures involved in the determination and valuation of assets, liabilities, owner's equity, revenue and expenses are detailed. (Prerequisite of high school or college credit for accounting.)

Principles of Economics (EC 105)
This course is a one-semester combination of both micro- and macro-economics. In this course, students are introduced to analysis of supply and demand, national income theory, the banking system, monetary policy and the corresponding usage for economic stabilization, theory of the consumer, theory of the firm, and other selected micro-economic topics.

This is the introductory course for all business areas of study.
Principles of Engineering (PY143)
Principles of Engineering is an introductory course for students interested in the Pathways to Engineering program. It consists of lecture portions and original case-study projects. Lectures will focus on Engineering disciplines, Engineering Calculations, Engineering approaches to problem solving, Engineering data collection and analysis. Methods of electronic data acquisition and experiments related to a variety of engineering disciplines. Scientific documentation skills. History and Ethics of engineering will also be covered. Case-study will focus on basics of project design, problem-solving, data acquisition, data presentation and scientific documentation.

Psychology of the Exceptional Child (PS 209)
A detailed study of all areas of exceptionality, from the challenged to the challenging. Prerequisite: Psychology 101.

Public History (HI 277)
How is the past remembered? How do we get our ideas about history outside the traditional classroom? How do venues like museums shape how we understand past? Public history, or applied history, refers to history that you find in public spaces outside of the pages of academic journals and beyond college walls. We encounter examples of public history every day through exhibits, performances, walking tours, visits to historic sites, books, film, etc. This introductory course familiarizes students with examples of public history, with a focus on community engagement, unique hands on experiences, and service hours with community partners. Through course readings, activities, guest speakers, and site visits, students learn how the study of history may be applied in public fields. Potential community partners include the Findley Congressional Office Museum, the Khalaf Al Habtoor Archives at Illinois College, the Prairie Land Heritage Center, the Governor Duncan Mansion, and the Heritage Cultural Center Museum.

Religion & Film (RE 216)
Many people’s ideas about religion are shaped by how it is presented in film. This class will introduce the vocabulary of film analysis to students and then use it to study a variety of films. We will see that films often reflect the concerns of the time in which they were made, even if they claim to represent the life of Jesus or other biblical figures. Films to be studied include several Bible films (that is, films adapting stories from Bible), films that represent Jewish and/or Christian ideas, and films representing other religions. Films are one of the most complex art forms, but most people watch them passively. In this class we will learn to “read” them carefully, analyze them, and reflect upon them. While the content of the films will be biblical and religious, the skills learned in this class are applicable to any film-based medium.

Small Ensembles
Women’s Choir, Brass Ensemble or Percussion Ensemble

Social Statistics (SO 210)
This course introduces the student to the basics of social statistics-techniques which sociologists and other social scientists use to summarize numeric data obtained from censuses, surveys, and experiments. The topics include frequency distribution, central tendency, variability, probability theory, and estimation. The student will also learn how to test hypotheses for group differences in means (z test, t test) and for association between two variables (correlation, chi-square test). Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Social Stratification (SO 206)
A study of the major concepts, theories, controversies, and an examination of the past and present research pertaining to the various dimensions of social class are the focus of this course. Primary attention is given to the class structure of the United States. Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Spanish for Heritage Speakers (SP 210)
Is your home language Spanish? This course builds upon the language knowledge that students bring to the classroom and advances their proficiency of Spanish for multiple contexts, including professional use. Special attention is given to building vocabulary, acquiring and effectively using learning strategies, improving oral and written expressions, and strengthening composition skills in Spanish with particular consideration to grammar, and orthography. The course has a special emphasis on cultural topics about the Hispanic/Latino(a) community in the United States. This course is for heritage speakers only and is taught exclusively in Spanish.

Spanish Language (Spanish)
Students learn basic sentence structures and vocabulary in Spanish and are introduced to the cultures of the people who speak the language. They also acquire the language skills and cultural knowledge to travel on their own to the countries where the target language is spoken. Please take the placement test and let us know if you are interested in Spanish. Final course level is based on placement score and the number of years taken in high school.

Stagecraft (TH 231)
Students will acquire a hands-on knowledge of the methods, principles, and conventions of scenic production by way of both lab and lecture periods. As this is a prerequisite for advanced classes in technical theatre, basic skills and a working vocabulary in scenery and property construction, scene painting, lighting, and sound will be stressed. This is the first course in technical theatre.

Teaching Health and Physical Movement in Elementary School (EP 217)
This course explores elementary school physical education in relation to the total education of the child with emphasis on development.

The African American Experience I (HI 211)
This course examines the experiences of African Americans from 1619 to 1877/Reconstruction Era. This course presents African American history both as an integral part of American history, and as a unique subject of historical investigation.

Two-dimensional Aesthetics (AR 100)
2-D Design Studio is a course that introduces the core concepts of visual design theory — visual elements, principles of design and creative process. Strategies in visual design are explored through examples, exercises, critiques and creative projects. Release of student’s potential creative capacities is of primary concern. Additional fee may apply. No prerequisite.

US Federal Government (PO 101)
A survey of the principles, problems, structure, and functions of the United States federal government including the concept of democracy, the constitution, the federal system, civil and political rights, the party system, public opinion, pressure groups, governmental institutions, and public policies.
**US History to 1877 (HI 101)**
A survey of the social, economic, political, and constitutional development of the United States through the Reconstruction period.

**US History since 1877 (HI 102)**
A continuation of United States history looking at developments since Reconstruction.

**Visual Communication (AR 204)**
Basic graphic design techniques with an emphasis on color, typography, ideation, visual hierarchy, grid systems and basic layouts. These techniques will be applied to information design using research and analysis of discipline specific topics encountered in a liberal arts education. Students will gain a working knowledge of InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator. Additional fee may apply.

**Visual Perceptions through Drawing (AR 131)**
A drawing course introducing basic methods, media and concepts. Emphasizes drawing from observation with development of proportion, value, positive/negative space and shape, composition, line, edge development, volumetric analysis of form, light and perspective. Use of wide range of techniques, materials, and subject matter. Additional fee may apply. No pre-requisites.

**Wind Ensemble (1 hour) (MU 105)**
Three hours of weekly rehearsal, several performances both on and off campus throughout the year, including a Spring Concert Tour with other music ensembles to major metropolitan areas, and performances at selected athletic events. Repertoire performed includes sacred and secular concert music.

**World Civilization to 1500 (HI 111)**
A survey of the development of world civilizations from antiquity to approximately 1500 A.D. Readings will include many historical documents.

**World Politics (PO 150)**
An introduction to the study of international relations, focusing on the ways countries and international organizations interact with one another in the global arena. Includes a simulation of the United Nations General Assembly.

**World Religions (RE 190)**
This course offers a brief introduction to religion as human engagement with matters of ultimate concern, and surveys globally important religious traditions that have emerged from the Middle East (Judaism, Christianity, Islam), South Asia (Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh traditions), and East Asia (Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto). Readings will include some authored by adherents, some by scholars for a general readership. No previous knowledge of these religions is assumed.