

IDC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – FALL 2023

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IDC-101 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Catalog description

IDC-101: First-Year Seminar (3 credit hours)

First-Year Seminar courses are designed to engage students, at the very start of their university careers, in serious academic inquiry with an interdisciplinary focus. Within the content framework of investigating a significant topic or issue, the primary focus of the First-Year Seminar is to help students begin to achieve a set of skills/abilities required for success at the university level and beyond. The topics of First-Year Seminar are set by the individual instructors and reflect a wide-ranging set of interdisciplinary issues such as, but certainly not limited to, the environment, health care, globalization, and the arts. Students are required to practice both critical and creative approaches to the individual seminar topic and to develop essential university-level abilities in oral and written communication.

IDC-101-01 THE BEAST WITHIN AND WITHOUT

MW 4:30-5:45 pm Carol Stewart

In this course, students will consider our cultural relationships with animals, both wild and domesticated, and the types of institutions we have developed around them: rescue, rehabilitation, specialized training, education, conservation, agriculture, and population management. There is a significant academic challenge in learning to set aside our sentimental, “Oh, how cute!” response to animals in order to analyze what we have determined to be our responsibilities to them, and the social, financial, community and personal costs – to both humans and animals – that are coupled with those responsibilities. Students will define and critique concepts associated with different animal populations through direct engagement with local volunteer, non-profit, government, and business organizations.

IDC-101-02 LOUISVILLE PARKS

MW 1:30-2:45 pm Tim Darst

This course will explore community as both a social and ecological phenomenon. By restoring urban areas with more intention to incorporate and restore ecological communities, we may begin to view the city as a socio-ecological community, formed by its human residents and non-human organisms. In collaboration with our partner, the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy, we will interact with community members - human, animal, plant, and fungus alike. Students will forge personal relationships with these communities through direct experience and reflective assignments. The class will take regular field trips to become familiar with the different components of communities surrounding Louisville’s natural areas. Previous experience with outdoor activities is not necessary, but students should be open to learning how to comfortably spend one hour outdoors, walking up to two miles, with breaks, at a slow pace on uneven surfaces. This course also includes an in-class service-learning component that will involve park restoration work with the Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

IDC-101-03 CRIP CULTURES TALK BACK

TTh 12:15-1:30 pm Elizabeth Glass

*The film **Vital Signs: Crip Culture Talks Back** is one of the first and most influential films involving disabled people talking about themselves, using the words they want to use—such as *crip* and *disabled person* instead of *person with a disability*—to describe themselves. In the disability movement, disabled people take pride in*

their disabilities. The course will examine disability studies as an academic field and as a social movement in the United States today.

Students will examine how disabled people are viewed in the United States at the present time in terms of being a social movement, a minority community, and a group with its own field of study. The history of disability and disabled folks within the United States will also be examined as will how the U.S. culture views disabled people. Students will read and view a variety of literature and works written by people with disabilities and will produce academic papers as well as a culminating multimedia project about these various facets of disability.

IDC-101-04 FREEDOM'S SONG – CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE CHURCH

TTh 3:05-4:20 pm Mary Nebelsick

Voices of courage are raised in the cause of freedom. In this course we will explore these voices and the songs that inspired them. Infused with religious themes, these songs inspired civil rights leaders and religious leaders to champion the struggle for civil rights. Many leaders of the civil rights movement boast religious roots and religious themes are at the heart of much civil rights discourse. Grass roots movements for civil liberation have used insights from religious organizations to lift up their members and motivate them to action. Black and white clergy have joined together to promote the full participation of all U.S. citizens in our electoral system. This course will look at the early freedom songs, the pivotal role played by the Quaker movement, the leaders of the independent African American Churches, the prominent role played by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the relationship between Martin Luther King Jr., Thomas Merton, President Kennedy and President Johnson. We will end by exploring the current discussion about Civil Rights and how both Church and society are struggling to meet the demands of freedom.

IDC-101-05 APPALACHIAN DREAMS

TTh 9:25-10:40 am Elizabeth Glass

Appalachia is home to some of the country's richest writings, yet it is frequently overlooked when considering American literature. Appalachian writers are critical to American society but are often considered by people outside the region to be "stupid hillbillies." Contrary to that, Appalachia is home to some of the most vibrant, exciting writing in the country at this time. This course will explore, write about, and have a culminating multimedia project about Appalachian literature of the past 25 years.

IDC-101-06 HOLOCAUST: A STUDY OF HATE

TTh 12:15-1:30 pm Dan Penner

The Holocaust will be investigated in detail and substance. We will look at German culture and history and how it was a factor in its occurrence. We will see how conditions in early 20th century Germany, as well as impacting world events, were major factors in the establishment of an environment that allowed Hitler and the Nazi Party to take over the government. Anti-Semitism will be explained and explored. Hitler will be a major topic . . . why and how he was able to convince the German people to accept his ideas and follow a path of hate and destruction. The role of the world during the Holocaust, including the United States, will be addressed. Relevant to the Holocaust as well as events of today, we will examine the role of the bystander. The course will study, research and compare similar events of the past and present where man has been inhumane to man. We will look at hate and try to learn how we as individuals can help fight this cancer of society and pass the message of acceptance to others. There are other lessons one can learn from the study of the Holocaust relevant to events of today. The class may very well change one's way of thinking and how one treats others in a diverse society.

IDC-101-07 LIVING YOUR CALLING

TTh 3:05-4:20 pm Jud Hendrix

The course is designed to help first-year students reflect on the concept of “calling, meaning and purpose” and facilitate its exploration and expression within their own lives. The course will utilize the concept and structure of the mythological journey as expressed in the patterns and stages of the hero’s and heroine’s journey. Students will learn to analyze pop-culture (movies, TV shows, books, video games) and their own lives through the lens of a mythological journey. The course will end with students presenting on their own mythical journey.

IDC-101-08 THE BEAST WITHIN AND WITHOUT

TTh 3:05-4:20 pm Carol Stewart

In this course, students will consider our cultural relationships with animals, both wild and domesticated, and the types of institutions we have developed around them: rescue, rehabilitation, specialized training, education, conservation, agriculture, and population management. There is a significant academic challenge in learning to set aside our sentimental, “Oh, how cute!” response to animals in order to analyze what we have determined to be our responsibilities to them, and the social, financial, community and personal costs – to both humans and animals – that are coupled with those responsibilities. Students will define and critique concepts associated with different animal populations through direct engagement with local volunteer, non-profit, government, and business organizations.

IDC-101-09 DEEP ECOLOGY

MW 12:00-1:15 pm Beth Bell

This course will focus on current topics related to our shared environmental community. Students will explore ecological and environmental issues from scientific and spiritual perspectives, and include cultural, sociological, technical, and behavioral aspects of sustainable living. Two to three specific topics will be determined between instructor, student interests, and from Pope Francis’s Encyclical Letter, dated May 24, 2015. Students will listen to several voices on each topic, including scientists (i.e., geologists, climatologists, and wildlife biologists), environmental activists, community, and spiritual leaders, and/or politicians; identifying their passion, preparation, practice, and ultimately their credibility as a leader in their field. As a culminating experience for this course, we will partner with a local environmental organization for community exploration.

IDC-101-LC01 GALILEO SEMINAR (Galileo Learning Community students only)

MW 3:00-4:15 pm Staff

Course description forthcoming.

IDC-401 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Catalog Description

IDC-401: Senior Seminar (3 credit hours)

The Senior Seminar is the capstone experience in the general education of a Bellarmine student. It has as its primary focus the development of students' abilities to examine contemporary issues in a comprehensive and integrated way within a Catholic social justice perspective and a liberal arts and sciences context. Seniors from various disciplines come together in smaller groups with a faculty member to reflect on critical issues facing contemporary society, such as racism, economic and social justice, environmental concerns, national and international crises, and ethical issues arising from developments in science, medicine, and technology. Students are also expected to bring the knowledge and skills gained in their major fields of study and their other general education courses to the seminar as appropriate.

IDC-401-01 CONTROVERSIES IN U.S. SOCIETY

MW 12:00-1:15 pm Isaac McDaniel

The Senior Seminar is the culminating experience in the general education of a Bellarmine student. It has as its primary focus the development of students' abilities to examine contemporary issues in a comprehensive and integrated way within a Catholic perspective and a liberal arts and sciences context. Seniors from various disciplines come together in small groups with a faculty member to reflect on critical issues facing contemporary society, such as racism, economic and social justice, environmental concerns, national and international crises, and ethical issues arising from developments in science, medicine and technology. Students are also expected to bring the knowledge and skills gained in their major field of study and their other general education courses to the seminar as appropriate.

IDC-401-02 FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

T 6:00-8:45 pm Joe Cecil

This course will cover a basic introduction to financial empowerment and the different tactics associated with it: Financial education, financial coaching, etc. Students themselves will be receiving financial education around the topics of banking, budgeting, credit, etc. We will look at what local and national agencies provide what services. We will look at emerging trends and technologies, as well as study demographically who is seeking these services, and why? We will look at local, state, and federal policy towards the field. We will analyze what national-level empowerment efforts there are. We will also be looking at case studies of what other cities are doing. We will be looking at themes of inclusion, access, and community. We will look at what barriers exist to asset building. This course will have a Louisville-first focus but will also identify what is going on in the field nationally. Students completing this course will achieve their Level 1 certification in the Community Financial Empowerment Certification program offered through Louisville Metro Government.

IDC-401-03 JUSTICE: WHOSE AND HOW?

MW 1:30-2:55 pm Roy Fuller

The problem of discerning what is just is ancient. Central to both political and legal philosophy, it is essential to Christian social thinking. Our political lives are shaped according to the way we answer this question. Every pivotal Western and Eastern philosophical and religious thinker proposes a response to our problem. From the Old Testament prophets and poets until the protesters in Ferguson, we have weighed the means and meaning of justice. Recent Catholic social teaching has advocated the belief that we cannot build our communities and political life on charity and love alone. To have a healthy community just institutions are necessary.

The purpose of this course is to discover the basic resources which our beliefs and traditions offer us in addressing the problem of justice. In class we will discuss and study the history of the nature of justice from

the time of Plato and Aristotle until that of contemporary thinkers such as John Rawls and Charles Taylor. It will include, as well, a debate about the cultural and historical development of the concept of justice. The current debate on the possibility of the development of a common language about human rights and social ethics, despite a diversity of religious and cultural foundations, will be presented. Can Eastern and Western societies advocate for justice and human rights even though they do not share the same moral and religious foundations? Is a universal declaration of human rights possible in a world riven by religious and cultural fragmentation?

IDC-401-04 PEOPLE, POWER, & PLACE

W 6:00-8:45 pm

Michael Spalione

*Land simultaneously unites communities and divides societies thereby entwining people and power with place. A survey of some of the most pressing concerns of social ethics in the modern world – such as the Syrian refugee crisis, the United States’s deportation of immigrants, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, along with numerous issues of the environmental crisis – demonstrates the moral significance of the way humans interact with land. This inescapable connection between people, power, and place is reflected in Pope Francis’s encyclical letter *Laudato Si*: “[we] must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (p.35). Thus, this class will discuss the ecological and social ethics of land dealing with challenging questions such as the following: What ecological responsibilities do societies have in the use of natural resources? What are the political ethics of national borders? What are the inalienable rights of displaced persons seeking a homeland? How can local communities care for their immediate environment in an effective and sustainable ways?*

IDC-401-05 QUALITY OF LIFE

TTh 8:00-9:15 am

Lisa Catron

We need the basics of food, water, shelter, and clothing to survive. But is survival enough to make life worth living? Why do we strive to create improvements in our world and our lives? We hear the Quality of Life used in a variety of contexts: financial, medical, political, social, and spiritual. This course explores what is meant by Quality of Life.

Different disciplines require specific elements when discussing their definition of “Quality of Life.” Throughout the semester, we will explore these definitions and trace how they have evolved. This journey will encompass reading a variety of texts to see how “Quality of Life” has and is being used to make policies in the public realm and is used to make personal life choices. We will also explore the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching as they intersect and closely relate to quality of life. Students will strive to articulate their own personal definition of “Quality of Life” and in doing so discover how their definition has been shaped. The final project asks students to take course concepts and the knowledge they have gained in their courses and in internships/work to propose a solution their future profession can enact to improve an element of Quality of Life.

IDC-401-06 STORY & COMMUNITY

TTh 12:15-1:30 pm

Brian Weinberg

Story and Community will encourage graduating seniors to consider “story” as a positive force for change—both their own stories and the stories of others. How might storytelling and creative writing go hand-in-hand with social action? What are some of the most effective forms of storytelling? What are some of the ethical considerations when telling stories? We’ll take a close look at what kinds of important stories are being told, from the work of best-selling authors and popular podcasters to local work being published and broadcast on a grassroots level. Students can expect to explore their own stories and life-trajectories through progressive writing assignments and a supportive classroom dynamic. An optional service-learning component will allow interested students to work with Young Authors Greenhouse, a nonprofit that tutors kids in creative writing to encourage creativity and personal growth, focusing on under-resourced communities and schools.

IDC-401-07 THE BOOK OF NATURE**MW 3:00-4:15 pm****Cody Nygard**

Medieval scholars, philosophers, and theologians acknowledged that God had been made known through two books: the book of Scripture and the book of Nature. This course will focus on learning how to “read the book of Nature” through personal experience in the field and intellectual interaction with experts of environmental ethics. Classes will be held part-time in the classroom, where through readings and discussions, students will develop a personal working environmental ethic, and part-time outdoors, observing our environment and experiencing the flora and fauna of our local ecosystem. Readings will be dissected and interpreted through Catholic (and broader Christian) social teachings and theologies; field work will consist of learning how to observe, identify, and research elements of nature. Weaving together the philosophical and practical sides of environmental study is what makes this course unique. Topics to be surveyed include global warming, conservation and responsible land use, species extinction, fossil fuel extraction and use, sustainable living, human population and environmental impact, and others.

IDC-401-08 CONTROVERSIES IN U.S. SOCIETY (will open if needed)**TTh 1:40-2:55 pm****Isaac McDaniel**

The Senior Seminar is the culminating experience in the general education of a Bellarmine student. It has as its primary focus the development of students’ abilities to examine contemporary issues in a comprehensive and integrated way within a Catholic perspective and a liberal arts and sciences context. Seniors from various disciplines come together in small groups with a faculty member to reflect on critical issues facing contemporary society, such as racism, economic and social justice, environmental concerns, national and international crises, and ethical issues arising from developments in science, medicine and technology. Students are also expected to bring the knowledge and skills gained in their major field of study and their other general education courses to the seminar as appropriate.

IDC-401-09 INDIA**M 6:00-8:45 pm****Fr. John Pazhathuparambil**

Permission of the instructor required and includes an optional trip to India (12/10/23 – 12/22/23)

The religions/spiritualities, culture, education, and healthcare system of India provide a complex, modern setting for an examination of Catholic social teaching in action. Understanding the historical context of Indian society, we will examine how these contemporary issues are continuing to play out and explore the intersection of justice within that context.

As one of the ancient civilizations, India has great stories to share. It is a melting pot of cultures and religious beliefs, and practices. In many ways, India provides examples to the rest of the world for how such diversity can coexist peacefully and respectfully. This course will spend time exploring some of the critical environmental, political, cultural, religious, and healthcare issues that continue to arise within the country. Students will then learn to:

- *appreciate the diversity of Indian culture, and explore the justice issues this diversity presents.*
- *explain the impact of diverse religions in India and their influence on India’s culture.*
- *analyze the political, economic, education, and healthcare systems of India through Catholic Social Teaching lens and develop strategies to address inequities.*

IDC-401-ON THEATRE & PRISON**Online lecture****Carol Stewart**

For many, the individuals who populate our prisons are an avoided or entirely forgotten group of people. From moderate and maximum-security prisoners to those on death row, there are hundreds of men and women who are committed to using theatre and other art forms as a means of taking responsibility for their crimes.

Through this engagement, these individuals work toward self-understanding, self-expression, rehabilitation, and redemption.

As a means of considering the agency and humanity of the incarcerated and the transformative processes and experiences of these men and women, this course will look at the organizations and people who create theatrical experiences in prison. Through this lens, we will collectively challenge our ideas about the incarcerated: the nature of our cultural and personal relationship to them, how we feel they should live, and who we believe them to be. We will supplement our research on arts practices in prison with articles, documentaries, written and recorded commentary, and guest speakers who will expand our understanding of prison life in general and what it means to be incarcerated in the US.

This course will include at least one visit to the Luther Lockett Correctional Center in LaGrange, KY, to observe rehearsals of the Shakespeare Behind Bars and speak with the men about their experiences.