

Knight 102 Course Descriptions for Spring 2025

Knight 102: Liberal Arts and Sciences in Society

Knight Life II offers the opportunity to delve deeply into a topic while continuing to develop skills built in KNGT I such as critical thinking, critical reading, information fluency, and reflective learning. Bellarmine's KNGT II is a Writing Intensive course, building from English 101, and it serves as Bellarmine's First-Year Seminar. Concepts of Human Dignity will be central to content, under one of 5 central topics in which students may enroll: Meeting Basic Needs: Poverty and Privilege · Racial Justice · Environmental Sustainability · Ethics and Technology · Wellness

MEETING BASIC NEEDS: POVERTY AND PRIVILEGE

American Family

Instructor: Catron

Section 03 T/Th 12:15-1:30

The course aims at exploring how American families are represented in various mediums--from novels, movies, and television. We will explore how region, ethnic heritage, and time period mold families in the United States and how particular mediums both reflect and shape our views of family. Taking a cultural studies approach, we will work towards defining the modern American Family. We will read literary texts including Norman Maclean's *A River Runs Through It*, Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*, Rudolfo Anaya's *Bless me, Ultima*, and Octavia Butler's *Kindred*. We will also supplement these literary texts with readings from scholarly texts and popular periodicals.

Social Justice: Addressing the Gaps between Privilege and Poverty

Instructor: Pavlov

Section 13 T/Th 6:00-7:15

This course explores how social structures, privilege, and systematic inequalities impact access to basic needs such as food, water, housing, and education. Students will analyze how race, gender, class, and power shape the distribution of resources in society

Honors Speeches, Songs, and Politics

Course is restricted to Honors Students

Instructor: Remington

Section 102H-04 T/Th 9:25- 10:40

This IDC course will focus on how famous speeches, lyrics, and other writings have impacted American politics. Using original source materials, students will discuss the interrelationship between these important works and the surrounding political environment at the time.

Honors Liberal Arts and Sciences in Society: US Constitution

Course is restricted to Honors Students

Instructor: Hoffman

KNGT-102H-01 TTh 1:40 - 2:55 PM

This course will be an Honors-level introduction to the U.S. Constitution. American politics is fundamentally constitutional politics, yet too many U.S. citizens do not have a firm grasp of the text, history, and principles of the U.S. Constitution. This course will use the Constitution as a lens to understand the structure of our government and the nature of our rights. What is the purpose of government? What are the proper powers and role of government? What rights do you have as citizens and as persons? We will examine all these questions in this course. Students will be told a dynamic story about the people and events that have shaped the document that governs us all and will also debate and discuss how our fundamental freedoms – speech, religion, press, assembly, petition, gun ownership, privacy, criminal justice, and the powers and limits of government can only be understood through an examination of the meaning of the Constitution. What is the meaning of the U.S. Constitution? This course will raise that question and then examine the conflict between different constitutional traditions. Through close textual analysis of the Constitution and constitutional interpretation, viewing documentaries and panel discussions of experts, engaging in debates and discussions with other students, and finally writing their own original analysis of a constitutional issue or controversy, students will fully engage with the deeper meaning of American constitutional politics.

Honors Liberal Arts and Sciences in Society: Louisville as Text
Course is restricted to Honors Students

Instructor: Bingham

Section KNGT-102H-02 M 3:00-6:00 PM

Modeled on a program of the National Honors Collegiate Council, this class invites students into the local community through immersive explorations of the culture, geography, and power relations of place. Participants learn actively by directly accessing Bellarmine's own host community, using the city itself as their main text. Many class meetings will unfold off campus. Students collaboratively collect field data and reflect on the evolving built environment and its culture—the ways we as humans experience and shape places. Privilege and poverty, and efforts to meet the needs of citizens equitably will be considered. Each student's culminating project will be guided by their personal responses and questions. Louisville as Text participants learn to recognize the threads that tie them to the larger human fabric and build skills to more fully understand the places they may find themselves in the years ahead.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC JUSTICE

Holocaust: A Study of Hate

Instructor: Penner

Section 04 T/Th 12:15-1:30

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.

From Blues Women to #HotGirls: Black Women's Music Over Time

Instructor: Barber

Section 15 MW 4:30 – 5:45

This course explores the powerful contributions of Black women in music, from the soulful expressions of early blues legends like Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith to the modern-day cultural impact of artists like Megan Thee Stallion and Beyoncé. Students will examine how Black women have used music to navigate and challenge issues of race, gender, and identity across generations. Through the study of blues, jazz, R&B, hip-hop, pop, and more, this course will highlight the resilience, creativity, and social influence of Black women in shaping music and culture over time. Students should expect a collaborative learning environment with a heavy emphasis on discussion and analysis.

Honors Global Social Justice

Course is restricted to Honors Students

Instructor: Wallitsch

Section 102H-03 MW 12:00-1:15

This course is an academic inquiry into global issues of social justice vis-à-vis themes derived from literature with a global perspective. In the context of cultures of the world, specific topics discussed in the course include community, values, gender, race, religion, and class. Through in-class simulations, students will discover their own, often hidden, cultural values thus creating a platform for the critical analysis of global cultural themes related to social justice. Books, journal articles, documentaries, small-group discussions, and whole-class discussions, are used to gain a better understanding of the selected topics. Students will be expected to develop well-supported critical arguments for short essays and writing assignments throughout the semester and will be responsible for leading a class discussion on a global issue or individual relevant to the course.

History of Race in Education

Recommended for Compassio Learning Community but open to all students

Instructor: Adams

Section LC01 T/Th 9:25-10:40

This course surveys the role of education in the history of African Americans. The course will explore the efforts of African Americans to secure educational opportunities since the colonial period, with special emphasis on contemporary curricular and political issues confronting African Americans and other persons of color. With the current legislation on Affirmative Action Policy, we will have some emphasis on the evolution of the policy related to access to higher education and the socio-political factors that have contributed to the Supreme Court's decision to rescind it.

As learning outcomes, students must demonstrate the ability to communicate an understanding of:

1. The evolution and changing role of education as a social institution, with special emphasis on the United States;
2. The history of education and its relationship with race in the United States, with special emphasis on the chronology, events, controversies and currents of thought related to the education of African Americans;
3. Contemporary educational issues pertaining to African Americans; and
4. The historical and social constructions of race as they pertain to the major focus of the course.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Exploring Community

Instructor: Darst

Section 10 MW 1:30-2:45

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.

The Worth of Parks

Instructor: Schroeder

Section 12 MW 3:00-4:15pm

What is the value of outdoor spaces and wild places? How do we determine what we gain or lose by protecting land for now and future generations? Whether it was the local neighborhood park that you went to often growing up, or the state or national park that you experienced on a trip, this class will take a closer look at the complexities, impact, and choices of land conservation at the local, regional, and national level. Additionally, there will be discussion on how these decisions connect with the communities that they exist within. The class will have potential opportunity for field trips during the semester.

Deep Ecology

Restricted to students in the Terra, Explore, or Eureka Learning Communities

Instructor: Bell

Section LC02 T/Th 4:30-5:45

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.

ETHICS AND TECHNOLOGY

Moral Questions and Emerging Technology

Instructor: Simpson

Section 05 T/Th 1:40-2:55

This course explores the intersection of moral questions and emerging technology. Students will examine how new digital technologies shape society/culture and raise new ethical questions. They will study a range of topics, including privacy and surveillance, digital influence on politics, artificial intelligence and autonomous systems, digital rights, and technology in warfare.

AI, Humanity, and the Future

Instructor: Elias

Section 06 T 4:30-5:45 with an additional 75 minutes asynchronous material each week

Section 07 Th 4:30-5:45 with an additional 75 minutes asynchronous material each week

Artificial intelligence (AI) is one of the most empowering technologies ever developed. It's also one of the most potentially dangerous. On the fine line between the two stands you: a human being whose choices determine our tomorrows. This course will focus on AI literacy (how to use it), ethics (when and whether to use it), and the future (where it may take us, for better or worse).

Technology in the 21st Century

Instructor: Wade

Section 11 MW 4:30-5:45

A course on the military use of drones and technology, students embark on an in-depth exploration of how unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and cutting-edge technologies are transforming modern warfare. The curriculum delves into the technical aspects of drone design and operation, including flight mechanics, surveillance capabilities, and payload integration. It also covers the strategic implications of drone deployment, analyzing case studies of recent conflicts to understand the impact on tactics, ethics, and international law. Through hands-on projects and simulations, students gain practical experience in mission planning and drone control, while also engaging in critical discussions about privacy concerns, autonomous weapons, and the future of military technology. This interdisciplinary course equips students with a comprehensive understanding of both the technological innovations and the broader implications of drones in the defense sector.

WELLNESS

Money Matters: Achieving Financial Wellness in College and Beyond

Instructor: Shelby Bosi-Linton

Section 16 –MW 12:00 – 1:15

This course focuses on the principles of financial wellness, one of the eight dimensions of wellness. Students will explore personal finance topics including budgeting, saving, credit, debt management, and long-term financial planning. Through group projects, research, and presentations, students will learn practical skills for making sound financial decisions while fostering overall wellness. The course encourages critical thinking about financial systems and the impact of socio-economic factors on financial health. This is not a business class, but does prepare you to have practical skills to develop healthy financial habits as a young adult.

Bodies Political and Eternal

Instructor: Spalione

Section 01 T/TH 8:00 – 9:15

This course explores the multifaceted nature of the human body, examining it from personal, political, and spiritual perspectives. We will delve into practices of self-care and body positivity, recognizing the importance of physical and mental well-being. Additionally, we will examine the concept of body politics, exploring how societal norms, cultural expectations, and power structures shape our understanding and experiences of bodies. Finally, the course will introduce the religious concept of resurrection, exploring its significance in various belief systems and its implications for understandings of morality, mortality, and afterlife.

By the end of this course, students will have a deeper understanding of the body as a complex intersection of biological, social, and spiritual factors. They will be equipped with tools for self-care, critical thinking about body politics, and informed engagement with religious perspectives on mortality, morality, and afterlife.

Impact of Trauma on Society

Instructor: Sinski

Section 02 T/Th 9:25-10:40

The impact of Trauma on Society examines how social and cultural factors contribute to the experience of trauma and its impact on individuals and communities. It also considers how societal forces shape the development and perception of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The course explores how specific incidences of trauma shapes the developing self and alters social development, causes physiological changes in brain and body and interrupts the learning process. Students will explore current research on trauma and its impact on brain development as well as applications in the learning setting.

Wellness

Instructor: Murphy

Section 08 MWF 10:00-10:50

This course will be focused on 4 of the 8 dimensions of Wellness. The 4 dimensions that will be touched on in this class are physical, social, emotional and financial. Physical Wellness defined as making informed decisions about physical activity, nutrition, and sleep to cultivate a healthy lifestyle. Social Wellness defined as developing the capacity for intimacy, meaningful relationships, and a well-developed support system. Emotional Wellness defined as coping with

healthy strategies that foster personal resilience, satisfying relationships, and optimism. Financial Wellness defined as utilizing good fiscal management habits and developing skills to make informed financial decisions. These topics will be explored through a group project, group presentation, and a paper. By the end of this class a successful student should be able to define and distinguish between these 4 dimensions of wellness.

Peer Health and Leadership

Restricted to students in the Galileo Learning Community

Instructor Werner

Section LC03 T/Th 8:00-9:15

This course combines engaging in-person workshops and interactive discussions to equip students with essential skills in peer health education and leadership. Students will explore key wellness topics and build competencies in communication, critical thinking, and cultural understanding. Through collaborative learning and reflection, students will enhance their ability to lead health initiatives, solve complex problems, and foster inclusive, supportive environments. This course not only promotes personal growth but also prepares students to positively impact the well-being of their peers and community. At the end of the course, students will be able to complete an optional online certification to become a Certified Peer Educator through NASPA (Professional Higher Education organization).

Global Health

Restricted to students in the Galileo Learning Community.

Instructor: Tomlinson

LC06 MW 3:00-4:15

This course will provide an overview of global health disease challenges, and the factors that can affect these issues including demographic changes, conflict, human rights abuses, migration, travel, food production and distribution, water resources, and market forces and economic factors. Students will become familiar with the role of governmental and non-governmental organizations in identifying, understanding, and addressing global health issues.

Growth Mindset

Instructor: Robinson

Section LC04 M 6:00-9:00

In this course students will learn what it means to have a growth mindset and how they can leverage growth mindset beliefs to enhance their personal and professional lives.

The Legacy Bones

Instructor: Hume

Section 08: MW 12:00 – 1:15, Monday meet in person, Wednesday meetings are on Teams

This is a very special, one-time-only course offering! You know those human skeletons you see hanging around gross anatomy labs and professor's offices—ever wonder whose bones they are? Did that person consent to be used for scientific research or display? Does their family know where they are? When and how will they get buried? Sets of “legacy bones” (human bones passed down to anatomy professors over generations) exist in colleges all over the county, and

the American Anatomists Association is requesting that they be interred (buried) or otherwise disposed of.

Dr. David Porta, professor of gross anatomy, has several bones which need to be cared for, memorialized, and respectfully interred by his retirement at the end of spring 2024. In this class, students will take the lead investigating the bones and understanding the ethical, scientific, historical, and cultural implications around sets of bones like this, and finally, learning how to ritualize and memorialize the human lives once's associated with them. The class culminates in a ritual and respectful interment. Dr. Hume will be the primary faculty and Dr. Porta will consult.