KNIGHT 401 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SPRING 2027

Catalog Description

KNGT 401: Merici Senior Seminar (3 credit hours)

The Merici Community Engaged Seminar is the culminating experience in the Core. It provides an interdisciplinary setting for students to utilize their knowledge from the core and their major to explore a current issue relevant in society. Through collaboration with students from other majors and relevant community partners, students will explore an issue to create a meaningful, multifaceted, and multidisciplinary analysis and proposal in response. This collaborative and integrative experience provides students with the opportunity to recognize the multidimensionality of real-life problems.

COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMS

KNGT 401-02, TTH 9:25-10:40AM

Instructor: Readus

Ever wonder how impactful programs that change lives and inspire communities are actually created? This course pulls back the curtain to show you exactly how the sausage is made when it comes to building effective, game-changing community programs.

Whether you're a budding social entrepreneur or just passionate about creating real-world impact, you'll learn to take an idea and turn it into a program that inspires action and drives results. We'll cover it all—how to craft a mission and vision that people rally behind, engage key stakeholders, design systems to measure success, and build strategies to recruit and retain participants. Plus, you'll gain insider knowledge on using data and program evaluation to ensure your ideas deliver meaningful, measurable outcomes.

This isn't just theory—it's your chance to tackle real-world challenges, work with peers who share your passion for social change, and develop the skills to lead in any community-driven space. If you're ready to think big, learn how programs are built from the ground up, and make your mark as a social innovator. This course is your blueprint for success. This course will include a community engagement component.

LEARNING THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

KNGT 401-03, M 4-7PM

Instructor: Ryan

This class will involve spending hands-on time at the Brooklawn Foster Facility. Brooklawn provides therapeutic foster care services for foster children who live there between temporary and permanent foster placements. Class participants will spend time with the residents of the facility, facilitating activities, and organizing programs. In addition, they will learn from and assist the Brooklawn staff. When not on site, class-time will be spent better understanding the Kentucky foster care system and the role of volunteerism in community engaged work.

POP MUSIC AS MEDIA

KNGT 401-04, MW 12-1:15PM

Instructor: Barnett

While we associate music with live performance, we more commonly interact with it as sound media. This course will focus on music as media, linking media technologies with musical eras. We'll focus on the relationship between sound technologies, musical genres, and cultural contexts.

This Merici Community seminar includes a community engagement component designed to connect course concepts with real-world practice. Students are required to complete a minimum of 8 hours of community engagement as part of this course.

JUSTICE: WHOSE AND HOW?

KNGT 401-05, MW 1:30-2:45PM

Instructor: 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? This course will include a community engagement component.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

KNGT 401-06, T 6-8:45PM

Instructor: 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. This course will include a community engagement component.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

KNGT 401-07, W 6-8:45PM

Instructor: Williams

This course provides students with hands-on experience working alongside community partners to address real-world challenges and opportunities. Through collaboration with local nonprofit organizations, businesses, and community groups, students will explore the principles of community engagement, asset-based partnership building, and reciprocal collaboration. Students will develop skills in communication, project planning, relationship management, and civic leadership while contributing to meaningful community initiatives. Emphasis is placed on ethical engagement, cultural responsiveness, reflection, and the creation of mutually beneficial partnerships that support both student learning and community impact.

THEATER AND PRISON

KNGT 401-08, Online Asynchronous

KNGT 401-09, Online Asynchronous

Instructor: 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 Luckett Correctional Center in LaGrange, KY, to observe rehearsals of the Shakespeare Behind Bars and speak with the men about their experiences. This course will include a community engagement component.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS IN ELEMETARY MATHEMATICS AND LITERACY

KNGT 401-10, W 1:30-2:45PM, Hybrid Course

Instructor: Colen

This interdisciplinary course partners students from a variety of majors with local elementary schools to strengthen K–5 mathematics and literacy skills through hands-on community engagement, including afterschool programs, book buddies, and Mathematical Game Days.

HONORS 401H-01 ARTS ACROSS GENERATIONS

401H-01, Online Asynchronous (In person meetings 1/14, 2/25, 4/15 from 6-8:45PM)
Students will also be required to attend arts events with their CE partners (schedule TBA)
Course fee: $100

Instructor: Ross

This interdisciplinary Honors seminar explores the role of the arts in healthy aging, personal well-being, and fostering meaningful connections across generations. Students will examine research on the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social benefits of artistic engagement throughout the lifespan, as well as the challenges and opportunities of intergenerational communication. Particular attention will be given to how the arts can enhance quality of life for older adults, challenge age-related stereotypes, and create opportunities for dialogue and mutual understanding across generations. Through partnerships with older adults, students will participate in shared artistic and cultural experiences that put these ideas into practice.

Combining academic inquiry, experiential learning, and critical reflection, the course examines how artistic engagement and intergenerational relationships can reduce social
isolation, strengthen communication, and contribute to more connected communities.