Critically Thinking about the Media and Our World

This course will introduce you to the methods and skills necessary when critically evaluating messages, especially those found in the modern media. You will study the process of reasonable, reflective, responsible thinking; will evaluate arguments and evidence from a wide variety of sources; will develop, refine, and defend reasonable positions; and will apply those skills when assessing the content of today’s media including: books, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, the Internet, and others. In addition, you will examine issues found in the modern media and present their findings to the class.

The Politics of Government

What are the economic challenges facing today's college students and their future after graduation? How is our country addressing poverty in both strong and problematic ways? This course will investigate many issues we are facing as Americans and emerging professionals, including housing, government programs and tax policy, health care, child care, and the value of higher education. We will also explore issues facing veterans as the military implements

Images of a Continent, Old and New: Exploring African Cultures

Are you interested in traveling abroad, international issues, being part of global thinking? This course explores U.S. and global impacts of African diverse cultures and history in some of the most unexpected and everyday areas. You will critically examine issues and impacts of African writing and literature, music, agriculture, politics, religion, medicine, education, and life. You will learn more about American and world cultures as you read and examine little-known influences from Africa.
Climate Change in our Changing World

The weather and climate impact all of us in our daily lives from how much we bundle up on a cold winter day to where we plan on taking warm tropic vacations. Climate change is a complex issue that brings out many different reactions from people. In this course we will cover the scientific basics of climate change, popular opinions of climate change and how climate change will impact our own lives. Students will be expected to be respectful of all opinions, while being able separate fact from opinion. There will be assigned readings over selected topics and a semester research project.

Everyday Science and Science Every Day

Science surrounds us - it takes place not just in beakers and bottles but in our everyday lives. In a good portion of this course we will select topics you are interested in, which could range from cooking or nutrition to the importance of plants being green to the continuing mystery, ‘What, really, is the Higgs Boson?’ You will learn skills every contemporary mind needs: effective communication, critical thinking, writing and presentation. Through readings, discussion, and an individual research project, you will finish the semester with a fundamental set of tools that will promote success in whatever path you take.

Nonverbal Communication: Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Whether in college or beyond, nonverbal communication is a part of your everyday life and can be a key to personal success. Throughout this course, you will learn to critically analyze various aspects of nonverbal communication and interaction styles between people. If you’re interested in communication, psychology, sociology, business, marketing, education, criminal justice, or anything that involves presentations and communication with others, this course is for you! Discover motives, emotions and thought patterns of those around you through observation, real-life examples, and other texts such as articles and television. The course will conclude with a final research paper and presentation delving further into nonverbal communication.

From the Soil to the Table: the Culture, Anthropology, and Politics of Food

Food is our life source. Its nutrition keeps our bodies working. Its flavor pleases our taste buds, and sometimes, food even warms our souls. Whether you think about it or not, food plays a big part in our lives. From the everyday decisions of what to eat, to the stories and histories food can tell and carry, to the global issues surrounding food ethics today, we could all benefit from thinking and talking about food more. Through readings, discussion, and a research project, we will explore those conversations and more, looking closely at food culture, food anthropology and food politics.