

CORE STUDIES (CORE)

See CORE 101 sections (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/core-general-studies/#core101sectionstext>) for descriptions of the last 4 weeks of the semester and the instructor's 1/3 specialized content. CORE 101 is a prerequisite to any CORE 300 AIS course.

CORE 101. First Year Seminar: Enduring Questions. (4 Credits)

This course introduces students to practices of integrative thinking by engaging challenging, theologically significant enduring questions in a seminar-style course organized around a theme tied to the faculty member's specialty. The course will have three interrelated components: foundations for addressing the value and purpose of liberal arts education, focused study of the abiding liberal arts question "What is the good life?" and exploration of a related perennial question chosen by the instructor. All components of each seminar will emphasize integrative intellectual practice and model the integration of faith and learning in the liberal arts context. Please note these descriptions are for the last 4 weeks of the course and do not describe the focus for 2/3 of the semester and the first 12 weeks of the course.

CORE 301. AIS: Human Trafficking: Causes, Consequences and Responses. (4 Credits)

This course examines the causes and consequences of human trafficking from diverse disciplinary perspectives, including political science, economics, history, theology and psychology. The course covers the definitions and historical development of sex and labor trafficking and critically reflects on diverse efforts to reduce trafficking in human beings, including Christian responses to slavery over time.

General Education: SHAR

CORE 302. AIS: Political Science Fiction. (4 Credits)

This course takes up important works of science fiction to engage on important themes in moral and political theory and the interrelation of philosophical reflection, imaginative literature, and theological commitment.

Tags: LE

General Education: SHAR

CORE 303. AIS: Making the Modern Middle East. (4 Credits)

This course explores modern Middle East history from the final decades of the Ottoman Empire to the formation of modern Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel. Special attention will be given to the cultural impact of imperialism and contemporary political and social trends in the region. Other course themes include Western involvement in the Middle East, the growth of Islamic reform movements and Arab nationalism, Zionism, competing visions of womanhood in Islam and Judaism, and religious fundamentalisms. Our goal will be to understand how Christians should engage the Middle East in cultural and scholarly encounters. (cannot satisfy HP secondary tag in transition gen ed).

Tags: GP, HP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 304. AIS: Christian Environmental Stewardship. (4 Credits)

Students will examine the biblical mandate for creation care and develop a personal response to the call for stewardship of land and creature. This course will provide students with a basic understanding of ecosystem biology and provide the framework for which students can understand the need for resources and the impact of resource extraction on human health, while providing a biblical and theological lens for developing an appropriate response.

Tags: SIP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 305. AIS: Spiritual Formation in Young Adulthood. (4 Credits)

Explores the development of faith during the years of emerging adulthood (18-29), focusing on the connections between Christian spiritual formation and the psychological and sociological dimensions of this life stage. Emphasizes the formation of faith within the context of emerging adult identity, worldview, vocation, morality, sexuality, and church participation.

Tags: SI

General Education: SHAR

CORE 306. AIS: Drugs, Society, and Religion. (4 Credits)

This course examines the psychological effects and neurobiological mechanisms of action of psychoactive drugs. Drugs are used in the treatment of psychopathological disorders, recreational substances of abuse, and in some cultures for religious rituals. This course is designed to provide undergraduate students interested in the mechanisms of action of drugs on the brain, how they are understood in different societies, and how they have historically been used for recreational and religious purposes.

Tags: SIP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 307. AIS: Cosmology. (4 Credits)

Cosmology refers to the scientific study of the large scale properties and history of the physical universe as a whole. Utilizing the methods of science, it seeks to understand the origin, evolution and ultimate fate of the universe. Cosmology also refers to philosophical inquiry into the history and general structure of the universe, especially with respect to questions of origin, fundamental elements, causality, laws and agency. Drawing upon these disciplines, this course aims toward formulating a fully informed, deeply integrated understanding of the world in which we live, move, and have our being. (cannot satisfy PI secondary tag in transition gen ed).

Tags: PI, SIP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 308. AIS: Engaging Arts in the City. (4 Credits)

A multi-arts experience and analysis course in Chicago (or other city) comprised of a series of site visits to art events/performances/organizations chosen for their embodied, authentic responses to life. Site visits may include professional or educational productions that have musical, theatrical, dance, visual arts, or any kind of collaborative arts focus. Through seminar presentations, discussions, and final projects, students will learn how to decode what inspires an artwork's creation, and how to listen and respond to cultural and art modality otherness.

Tags: VPA

General Education: SHAR

CORE 309. AIS: Native Jesus: The Art & Literature of Native America. (4 Credits)

This course examines art and literature of Native North American communities, both ancient and modern, with a view to how such communities relate to the Christian tradition. How is Christianity rejected, appropriated, or transformed through Native American literature and art? What has Cahokia to do with Jerusalem? Following a historical overview, the course is organized geographically, covering all the major areas of native culture on this continent (South, East, West, & North) culminating with our own region of the Midwest. Native artistic responses to modernity are also considered. Multiple area site-visits and meetings with Native Americans will enhance student investigations. (cannot satisfy LE secondary tag in transition gen ed).

Tags: LE, VPAV

General Education: SHAR

CORE 311. AIS: The Good in the Great Plagues. (4 Credits)

An interdisciplinary consideration of major infectious disease epidemics throughout history. This course is a survey and analysis of the impact of epidemic diseases and their potential beneficial outcomes. The diseases discussed will include leprosy, several pandemics of plague, tuberculosis and AIDS, among others. The biological basis for the diseases will be presented along with the historical and social context for each. An emphasis will be placed on the intersection of scientific and theological perspectives on the impact that major infectious diseases have had.

Tags: SIP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 312. AIS: Colonialism and Redemption. (4 Credits)

Colonialism and Redemption is an interdisciplinary course designed to explore the Native American experience through the lens of anthropology, history, and theology. Starting with Indigenous settlement of North America and concluding with present day life on the Pine Ridge Reservation, the location of Wounded Knee, the course will explore the history and perspectives of the Native inhabitants of "Turtle Island" from the pre-contact to the present day.

Tags: DUS, SI

General Education: SHAR

CORE 313. AIS: Sport, Faith, and Social Change. (4 Credits)

Sport and athletes have often been agents of social change, at times challenging norms and assumptions concerning identity, personhood, gender, race, and sexuality. In this class, we will examine how sport and moments in sport history has served as a public stage to perform dramas of social change leading to larger movement activities that impacted culture. Students will apply theories and explore research of mediated sports events to understand their impact and gain perspectives on how sports may be exploited to enact social change. This class will examine sport in three dimensions: as an artifact of our society and mediated history; as an arena where social, cultural, and political issues are contested; and as a vehicle for spiritual reflection and growth. We will examine how we can encounter the Holy in the midst of sports and its impact on developing a critical assessment of one's values.

Tags: SI

General Education: SHAR

CORE 314. AIS: Economy & Society. (4 Credits)

Economic sociology has sought to understand the beliefs, norms and institutions that shape and drive the global economy. Markets, organizations, and individual economic actors cannot be understood outside of their social and cultural context. In interacting with texts primarily by sociologists and economists, in addition to historians, anthropologists, and political scientists, this class aims to use a broader social scientific approach to understand the relationship between economy and society, and the ways in which social networks, norms and institutions matter in economic transactions.

Tags: SI

General Education: SHAR

CORE 315. AIS: Social Network Analysis. (4 Credits)

This advanced integrative seminar is designed to give students the basic tools to ascertain if particular missionaries, based on their primary documents, were engaged in a "holistic" Gospel or one that conflated non-spiritual enterprises. Basic Greek tools, historical methodologies, and social network analysis (NodeXL) will be utilized in this course.

Tags: SI

General Education: SHAR

CORE 316. AIS: Sport Psychology. (4 Credits)

A survey of the theory, research, and applications of psychology pertaining to sports. This course will prepare students to: 1) discuss and understand the psychological factors that influence involvement and performance in sports, 2) apply psychological research and theories to one's own sports involvement as a participant (e.g. teacher, coach, athlete, etc.). The course will examine psychological variables that can hinder or enhance athletic performance, which may include attention, arousal, motivation, relationships, mental imagery, gender and diversity issues, eating disorders, and substance abuse. PSYC 101 suggested.

Tags: SI

General Education: SHAR

CORE 317. AIS: Media Revolutions from Gutenberg to Google. (4 Credits)

From Gutenberg to Google, communication technologies have changed how people work, live, think, interact, and collaborate. They have bound humans together in unprecedented ways, opening up new individual possibilities but also unleashing disruptive collective energies. Together we will explore how "new media" - from the first printed books of the fifteenth century to the networked computing devices of the twenty-first century - have shaped the modern world. This is an interdisciplinary course. We will learn about theories and methods different disciplines use to study the media and will develop critical tools for understanding our own ongoing digital and information revolution. This course cannot meet the Legacy Gen Ed Studies in Society (History) Cluster.

Tags: HP, SI

General Education: SHAR

CORE 318. AIS: Faith, Reason, and Politics in Islam. (4 Credits)

This course examines the development of Islamic political philosophy from its origins under Muhammed to its central role in twenty-first century politics throughout the world. This course cannot meet the Legacy Gen Ed Studies in Faith and Reason (Philosophy) Cluster.

Tags: GP, PI

CORE 319. AIS: Epic and Philosophy: From Achilles to Ahab. (4 Credits)

Students will engage with two monumental literary texts—the Iliad and Moby Dick—by using the tools of both the disciplines of literature and philosophy. Students will also read selections from the western philosophical canon (thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Camus, Kierkegaard, and MacIntyre) that will be placed in conversation with these literary texts. These readings, and the discussions that accompany them, will center around certain perennial questions, especially those having to do with ethics and the good life: e.g., what (and who) is good and just and how do we know? Through a series of writing assignments that require the close-reading of literature and analysis of philosophical arguments, students will compare and examine their own understanding of these perennial questions from the perspective of their own faith. Finally, they will write a term paper that synthesizes their learning from both sorts of readings and that requires them to do further research. This course cannot meet the Legacy Gen Ed Studies in Faith and Reason (Philosophy) Cluster

Tags: LE, PI

General Education: SHAR

CORE 321. AIS: 'Holla If Ya Hear Me': Engaging Hip-Hop Culture. (4 Credits)

Since its emergence in NYC during the 1970s, rap music has grown in the global phenomenon. Approaching hip-hop culture from an interdisciplinary perspective, this course will examine the origins, themes, and social impact of rap music as an outgrowth of hip hop culture. This course will prepare students to critically engage and evaluate popular forms of cultural expression with academic rigor and biblical principles.

Tags: DUS, VPAM

General Education: SHAR

CORE 322. AIS: What is Money Good For? - A Comparative Global Investigation. (4 Credits)

What is money good for? Why do some people have so much and others so little? Can a person deserve prosperity? How should we spend our money? How do our purchases shape who we are? Why should we give, and how? If you wrestle with these questions, you are not alone. People across the world find ways to answer these questions, and their diverse answers are likely to surprise, confound, convict, and also inspire us. In this course we consider a wide spectrum of responses to moral questions about money from the United States and around the world. We read works by Christians, anthropologists, and other theorists in order to craft more nuanced Christian responses to these questions. Along the way, we gain perspectives on cultural diversity and the causes of economic inequalities both within the United States and around the world.

Tags: DUS, GP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 323. AIS: Humanitarian Disasters and Recovery. (4 Credits)

Exploration of scientific and social understanding of humanitarian disasters including the causes of natural and human-caused disasters, approaches to prediction and mitigation, impacts on communities and societies, approaches to recovery and care, resilience, theological implications and the role of faith-based responders.

Tags: SI, SIP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 324. AIS: Black Bodies in Literature and Theology. (4 Credits)

This course invites students to enter into an important conversation about race and the body, sin and redemption. Literature and theology are disciplines uniquely equipped to help us learn the viscerality of race and racism, the stories of particular people - people created in the image of God and redeemed by a savior who made the particulars of the visceral body his own. Through reading and discussion of literature and theology, we will explore the possibilities for redemption and healing in a way that acknowledges sin and looks for healing. This seminar invites students to explore texts that focus on black bodies, particularly in the contemporary United States, while calling its members to critical thinking, Christian interdisciplinarity, and empathy.

Tags: DUS, LE

General Education: SHAR

CORE 325. AIS: Nature, Environment, and Society. (4 Credits)

An interdisciplinary exploration of contemporary environmental issues and problems. The understanding of the natural world will support the analysis of the role of society in creating, perpetuating and addressing these challenges. The role of personal and cultural responsibility for stewarding the natural environment will be emphasized. Field and classroom investigations will focus on the Black Hills context. Course fee \$50

Tags: SIP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 326. AIS: Classics of Christian Devotion. (4 Credits)

This course examines the human longing for a relationship with God. Competing with this deep desire is the complexity of external and internal barriers. The best of Christian writers have recognized that this yearning for God must integrate both the interpretative and affective dimensions of awareness. Built on the foundation of differing methods of interpretation, this course is structured around the literary genres of narrative, visionary discourse, hymns, prayers, sermons, letters, autobiography, aphorisms and novels that both inform and transform the cultivation of intimacy with God. These classic texts are from both the Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions. Since many contemporary Evangelicals are unfamiliar with their own spiritual heritage, this course compares and contrasts Evangelical spiritual texts with pre-eighteenth-century Roman Catholic and Protestant literature.

Tags: LE

General Education: SHAR

CORE 327. AIS: Propaganda and Image in Everyday Life. (4 Credits)

Propaganda techniques have saturated everyday life. By studying primary sources from ancient and modern authors, and applying the lessons of 20th century propaganda campaigns to today's public persuasion, students will critically engage distinctions between propaganda and ethical communication, between truth and image, and between the artificial and the real. This course cannot meet the Legacy Gen Ed Studies in Faith and Reason (Philosophy) Cluster.

Tags: PI

General Education: SHAR

CORE 328. AIS: Mary, Mother of God. (4 Credits)

This course is a tour through twenty centuries of perspectives on the Virgin Mary, with a focus on how those perspectives emerge and are propagated both through theological texts and the visual and performing arts. Students will be required to evaluate which aspects of the Marian tradition can be appropriated (and developed), and what aspects should be criticized or rejected. Student projects will examine historical theological documents, sources from the visual and performing arts, and feminist concerns with an eye toward how the Marian tradition can enrich the contemporary church. This course cannot meet the Legacy Gen Ed Studies in Society (History) Cluster.

Tags: HP, VPAV

General Education: SHAR

CORE 329. AIS: Neurobiology and Spiritual Formation. (4 Credits)

Engages students in considering the nexus between the anatomy and physiology of the brain and the spiritual formation of human persons from a Christian worldview. Students will be required to examine how each of these disciplines informs the other, to learn a variety of epistemologies from different disciplines and apply them to this area, to intelligently critique research and applications, and to integrate neurobiological research with spiritual practices and formation of human persons.

Tags: SIP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 331. AIS: Ugaritic Language and Literature. (4 Credits)

This course is intended to introduce students to the language, history, and literature from the ancient 'city-state' of Ugarit. Language competency in Hebrew recommended. This course cannot meet the Legacy Gen Ed Studies in Society (History) Cluster.

Tags: HP, LE

General Education: SHAR

CORE 332. AIS: Women Writing Theology. (4 Credits)

This course explores works of literary and theological merit by women investigating ideas about God, the self, and society. Drawing on writings of women from different eras, cultures, and backgrounds, the course encourages students to dialogue with fiction and non-fiction writings, including novels, poetry, life writings, and systematic theologies, by women to understand better how women have communicated theological ideas through a wide range of literary and theological forms.

Tags: LE

General Education: SHAR

CORE 333. AIS: Country Behind the Curtain: Public Institutions & Private Life in the German Democratic Rep. (4 Credits)

During its 40-year history, the German Democratic Republic (GDR), aka East Germany, was divided from its western counterpart by ideologies, alliances and institutions - and, after 1961, by a fortified border that came to symbolize the Cold War. Through interaction with post-1989 oral histories, prose and poetry from East German authors, and pre- and post-unification films, students in this AIS will explore the fundamental paradoxes between public institutions and private life in the GDR, wrestling with the central irony that private convictions and aspirations became a key factor in its dissolution.

Tags: HP, LE

General Education: SHAR

CORE 334. AIS: Race, Theology, and Place in Chicago. (4 Credits)

A theological investigation into Christianity and racial segregation in Chicago. This course explores the importance of geographical location for racial reconciliation, developing a vision for church unity rooted in place.

Tags: DUS

General Education: SHAR

CORE 335. AIS: The Holocaust and Contemporary Jewish Experience. (4 Credits)

Written and oral analysis of depictions of the Holocaust in various national literary and cinematic media and of contemporary Jewish authors in German-speaking countries; exploration of issues facing contemporary Jews in German-speaking Europe. Includes research paper.

Tags: GP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 336. AIS: Energy for the Future. (4 Credits)

An examination of the science, history, and social impacts of energy generation and use in the U.S. and global contexts; Christian perspectives on personal and societal decision-making regarding future energy generation and use.

Tags: SIP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 337. AIS: Justice, Law and Society. (4 Credits)

This course investigates traditions of thought on the nature of justice and law in society. It introduces students to general theories of jurisprudence and explores histories of legal traditions that are rooted in the ancient worlds of the Near East, Greece, and Israel and how they have influenced and differ from modern American contexts.

Tags: HP, PI

General Education: SHAR

CORE 338. AIS: The Physics of Sound. (4 Credits)

Basic concepts of sound and acoustics, including the following: vibrations, waves, instrument design, fundamentals and overtones, musical scales, harmony, noise, physical and physiological production, detection of sound waves, acoustical properties of materials and enclosures. Discussion and investigation of sound in the human context of psychology, physiology, neuroscience, and aesthetics, as well as how some areas of investigation of sound, such as human perception, are yet to be fully understood.

Tags: SP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 339. AIS: Remembering Africa's Oral Past. (4 Credits)

This course equips students to both appreciate and analyze how intergenerational communities on the African continent have preserved knowledge of their pasts through sophisticated and emotive musical traditions. The course's focus on musical and other oral sources empowers students to access the historical knowledge of communities which chose to invest their intellectual energy in song and poetry rather than written text, while also equipping students to appreciate how beautiful and intellectually complex music and poetry flowed from the particular historical experiences of composers and performers in Africa. This course cannot meet the Legacy Gen Ed Studies in Society (History) Cluster.

Tags: HP, VPAM

General Education: SHAR

CORE 341. Can Stress Promote Flourishing? The Effects of Stress on Brain and Behavior. (4 Credits)

The overall goal of this course is to help students understand how stress can promote flourishing. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the basics of brain function and how the brain manages the response to stressors, how stressors affect several aspects of behavior, and how to protect the brain from the negative effects of stressors. In addition, two underlying themes will emerge throughout the course, including a discussion on the nature of persons and the concept of both control and agency for the proper understanding of stress.

Tags: SIP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 342. AIS: Dante's Commedia as Poetry, Philosophy, and Theology. (4 Credits)

This course examines Dante's *Commedia* as an "encyclopedia" poem, a term that the Dante scholar Guisepppe Mazzotta has used to characterize the poem's educational ambitions. This is a poem with a deep intellectual program; it takes on many of the great philosophical and theological questions of its own time, and ours, too. What is the nature of the soul? What is just punishment? What is the highest good? Yet it does this not within the context of a philosophical treatise but an imaginative journey through the regions of the afterlife, taken by the poet himself. Our aim in this course is to analyze the poem in all of its overlapping dimensions - as a great poem of ideas, as a spiritual evaluation and testimony (a confession?), as a travelogue that doubles as a series of philosophical dialogues, as a mosaic of unforgettable images. This course cannot meet the Legacy Gen Ed Studies in Faith and Reason (Philosophy) Cluster.

Tags: LE, PI

General Education: SHAR

CORE 343. AIS: Creation Care: Values and Virtues. (4 Credits)

An interdisciplinary consideration of philosophical thinking in the context of worldviews toward environmental issues and our relation to creation. The course will address historical and contemporary environmental issues in conjunction with values held in human-creation relationships historically and socially. Values held in Christian and non-Christian views and practices regarding the created world will be examined in light of the virtues that influence our awareness and responsive actions. Christian values and virtues in the context of Christian character will be considered relative to creation care. These considerations will cultivate academic and spiritual maturity by considering one's relationship to our Creator and creation. The course will also address theological underpinnings as they relate to the intersection of Christian faith and how one lives their life in light of a call to care for God's creation. BIOL 241 recommended. This course cannot meet the Legacy Gen Ed Studies in Faith and Reason (Philosophy) Cluster.

Tags: PI, SIP

General Education: SHAR

CORE 344. AIS: Gender and Global Health. (4 Credits)

An interdisciplinary approach to using a gender lens to understand the global patterns of health and disease. While focusing on gendered inequalities, students in this course will describe and analyze how ecology, social class, and race interact with gender and impact the global burden of disease. Students will also consider how our Christian call to love our neighbor impacts our response to the disparities seen in the global burden of disease.

Tags: GP, SIP

General Education: SHAR