

Interim 2021 CCE options

IDIS W35 “Managing Diversity and Inclusion” taught by Maria Lam

Why do we shy away from engagement or hospitality toward others who are very different from us in our working place? Would we like to love our neighbor as ourselves and yet we do not know we have offended our neighbor because of many implicit rules and assumptions? Would you like to use our differences to be the catalyst for creative breakthroughs and organization effectiveness? Would you like to implement an inclusive organization culture for Christ’s kingdom on the earth? For example, managing a diversified, equitable, and inclusive workforce will be crucial to achieving health equity in the United States. Implementing an inclusive organization culture is also related to the life and death issue. This course is designed to help students improve their ability to work effectively in diverse and cross-cultural organizational settings. It also offers students the opportunity to develop their critical thinking on topics such as identity, relationships across differences, discrimination and bias, equality, and equity in organizations and how they relate to organizational issues of power, privilege, opportunity, trust, compassion, inclusion, creativity and innovation, and effectiveness. It also helps students to discover how to be Christ’s renewal agents when they know how to change an organization’s leadership, organization systems and practices to maximize the potential advantages of a diverse work force and value diversity as an asset for organizations’ learning and adaptive change. Class sessions will be experiential and discussion-based. Students are graded by quizzes of readings, tests, reflection papers, case analyses, and group projects. 3 credit hour course, fulfills Calvin’s CCE requirement. M. Lam. 8:30 a.m. to noon.

IDIS W37 “Chinese Medicine and Chinese Culture” taught by Anding Shen

Half of this course focuses on Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and the other half focuses on Chinese culture. TCM with its practice in acupuncture and herbal remedies is becoming more and more recognized and popular in western societies including the US and Europe. With a holistic approach, TCM focuses more on improving the body’s natural ways of healing rather than combating germs directly. Therefore it is very effective in dealing with chronic conditions such as migraine, asthma, depression and infertility. It has also been used to complement the use of western medicine (for example alleviating the side effects of Chemotherapy). Knowledge about and familiarity with TCM has increasing values for future healthcare professionals. In this course the students learn the theory and practice of TCM. Students will also learn about Chinese history, philosophy and culture in this class. As China becomes more and more influential on the global stage, understanding of Chinese values and culture is increasingly important. Through instructions by native Chinese instructors, as well as field trips to Chinese restaurant, stores, church and Chicago Chinatown, students will have first-hand experience of Chinese culture. The course consists of lectures, discussions, presentations, independent projects and field trips. An all-day field trip on Jan 16 2021 is required. This course will fulfill the CCE core requirement. No prerequisites. Fee: \$200 to cover field trips, class materials and guest speaker fees. A. Shen. 2:00 to 5:00.

IDIS 290 “Members of One Another: The Cultural Self and Others” taught by Alisa Tigchelaar

As its title implies, this CCE course relies on the belief that we learn about ourselves as human beings through shared experiences with people from diverse backgrounds and of diverse perspectives and persuasions. We take as our point of departure David Smith’s *Learning from the Stranger: Christian Faith and Cultural Diversity*. Smith applies biblical mandates to engage with and learn from culturally diverse neighbors as cultural beings ourselves to a transnational context, reminding us that local and global cultural awareness are interconnected and inform one another. From within this frame, all students are invited to lend their multi-cultured voices to the class. We will relate what we learn from Smith to the context in which we all now live. The US application is deliberately broad, touching on groups such as recent immigrants, historical minorities, older Americans and persons with disabilities, to give all class members an opportunity to gain awareness about and interact with human beings around several lines of cultural difference. As we learn together about various aspects of diversity (and, from

there, commonality), class members will be encouraged to share their own individual sense of participation in or belonging to the United States cultural majority broadly speaking, or their identification with different cultural minorities or other home countries, or both. Requirements include class attendance at all six sessions, daily class participation, one worship service, two January Series events, regular brief response work, and a final reflection paper. This course is designated CCE-integral, 0 or 1-credit hours, pass/fail.

IDIS 290 “Worship and Culture Worldwide” taught by CICW staff Kai Ton Chau

Meet people from 5 continents. Learn about how theology comes to life in worship practices in a variety of cultural contexts. Learn how worship practices are a "means of grace" by which the Holy Spirit forms us as disciples of Jesus Christ. Explore tools for promoting cross-cultural understanding. Anticipate the joy of worship with people from all tribes and tongues in the fullness of God's coming kingdom. Counts for Calvin's Cross-Cultural Engagement core requirement. 0-1 credit hours. Mondays to Fridays, 11:00 am--11:50 am for synchronous online learners. **A separate section is open for asynchronous learners.** Note: This course also requires students to attend several worship services and sessions at the 2021 [Worship Symposium](#) held concurrently with Interim (registration is free but required). Many of the assigned sessions are recorded; students can watch at their own pace.

IDIS 290 “Emotional Resilience for Justice Seekers” taught by Dr. Christina Edmonson

This course explores the role of emotional health in the life of faithful leader and justice seeker. Based on the fields of psychology (positive and neuropsychology), theology (Christocentric view of service and sacrifice, Kingian Non-violent activism theory), leadership studies (economics, politics and sociology), students will learn the nuts and bolts of psychological and spiritual well-being as a prerequisite for enduring justice seeking leadership. The course includes cross-cultural engagement through learning directly from diverse cultural leadership styles and cultural self-examination and awareness and fulfills Calvin's Cross-Cultural Engagement requirement. Course assignments include an interview with a justice-seeking leader, the creation of a five-minute TED Talk and a final paper. 0-1 credit hours. Hybrid asynchronous and synchronous discussion: you choose two of four times for discussion weekly. Times include Wednesday and Friday 10am and 6pm (EST), January 6-January 22.

DCM - Interim 2021 CCE options

IDIS 150 02 “World Christianity in Local Perspective” taught by Retief Muller

With our world reeling from Covid 19 and its consequences, issues like globalization and the ideal of an interconnected world are once more under scrutiny. There is nothing like a pandemic to scare people into isolationist thinking. All of this makes the study of World Christianity all the more pertinent, both as potential antidote against xenophobia and as a reality check about what it means to have a Christian identity. We will consider World Christianity from the perspective of movement across borders by looking at historical case-studies focusing specifically on pilgrim, missionary, and migrant narratives over time and across geographical regions. The course will show that Christianity has always been a religion of movement across borders of various kinds, e.g. linguistic, cultural, conceptual, and of course physical borders. In addition to reading texts and learning via other types of media about these aspects of World Christianity in historical and contemporary perspective, we will consider the theological implication of developing a pilgrim identity as part of one's Christian mindset. Finally, an integral part of this course would be to emphasize that nowadays one does not have to travel far in order to encounter World Christianity. It is already in our midst. Time will be set aside to encounter local migrant and ethnically diverse churches in the Grand Rapids area. Such visits aimed at encountering the global within the local will stimulate students' understanding of the rich Christian diversity on our doorstep. Students will be assessed via a reflective diary assignment based on the church visits, an essay on the pilgrim character in and of World Christianity, and a presentation, either to be delivered in class or posted online, depending on the numbers of

students enrolled. This course fulfills the Cross-Cultural Engagement core requirement. R. Muller. 8:30 am to noon.

IDIS 150 09 DCM: “Disability, Community and Inclusion” taught by Kevin Timpe

This particular section of DCM will explore the history, nature, unique culture, and social dynamics of disability. Two interconnected foci of the course will be (i) how individuals with disabilities have been regularly and systematically excluded from their communities, and (ii) how the inclusion of individuals in a community is good for the community itself. The course will thus involve critical reflection on what our practices reflect about our default understanding of community and how we should revise what community ought to be like. This course is open to all students who wish to explore society's and their own perspectives and responses to individuals who live with disabilities. Course requirements include readings, discussions, lectures, media. This course fulfills the Cross-Cultural Engagement core requirement. K. Timpe. 8:30 a.m. to noon

IDIS 150 24 “Finding Refuge” taught by Sara VanderBie

There were 79.5 million people displaced from their homes at the end of 2019, according to UNHCR, the UN’s Refugee Agency. Among that number, there are 26 million refugees, people forced to leave their home countries because of threat to their lives. In response to what is both a global and local reality, this course will offer space to consider what it means to serve and welcome refugees. In this course, you will listen to the stories of people forced from their homes; learn more about the historical and political events that force people to leave their homes; increase understanding of the organizations and processes with which refugees engage; consider what it means for you and your community to welcome refugees as neighbors. This learning will be shaped by reflection on our identity as people who need refuge, the Bible’s mention of sojourners, hospitable conversational practices, as well as interviews with & panels of experts – both refugees and welcomers. Evaluation for the class is based on engagement in class activities & discussions, reflective writing, and a researched presentation. This course fulfills the Cross Cultural Engagement core requirement. S. VanderBie. 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Spring 2021 CCE options

IDIS 290 “Black Lives Matter” taught by Eric Washington

Black Lives Matter is a Cross-Cultural Experience course that engages the writing of Black writers historically and in contemporary times. In reading and discussing these texts, we will discuss the value and meaning of Black Life.

IDIS 290 “Minority Voices in Science” taught by Dave Warners and Kelly DuBois

This seminar course will engage students in discussions, readings, and other activities to explore the lived experience of being a student from a non-majority culture at Calvin College. Topics of personal identity, white privilege, historical racism, affirmative action, and minority representation in the sciences, etc., will be covered. Students will be encouraged to process their specific experiences as minority students in the sciences at Calvin, and also help to generate ideas for how to strengthen and enliven our campus community. This course fulfills the CCE requirement. Wednesdays 12:00-1:30, 0-1 credit hours, **by application only (contact course instructors).**

IDIS 290 “Income Tax Assistance” taught by David Cook

(0 or 1 credit) SP. The focus of this course is the provision of free income tax preparation assistance to qualifying individual taxpayers. The course is integrated with the VITA program, a national program sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service. Three training sessions take place during interim preparing students to assist clients of a local faith-based non-profit organization associated with diverse lower-income populations. Students will volunteer at least two hours each week from February 1 through April 15. Students seeking CCE credit will

participate in discussions on communities of faith and culture, submit weekly journal reports, and complete a reflective paper. CCE core credit is by application. Prerequisites: Sophomore status or above, ACCT 203 or ACCT 204 or permission of instructor.

IDIS 290 “Interfaith Scriptural Reasoning: Reading and Understanding Each Others’ Scriptures” taught by Frans van Liere

Scriptural reasoning is an interfaith practice, developed by David Ford and Peter Ochs, in which Christians, Jews, and Muslims, meet in a mutually hospitable environment to study their sacred scriptures together, in order to deepen the understanding of their own faith tradition and that of others. In this course, Calvin students join with Jewish and Muslim students from around the world, to explore select readings from their respective sacred traditions, and see how these traditions help believers to make sense of contemporary issues. Students will participate in **4 sessions of Scriptural Reasoning (see below)** organized by the Al Amana Center in Oman, and follow a half-semester, 1-credit-hour course to serve as an introduction to the faith traditions of Judaism and Islam, and as a reflection on the SR sessions. Also available at “zero” credit hours. This course fulfills the Cross-Cultural Engagement requirement at Calvin. **Important note: Although both sections of this course meet on Monday afternoons, the Scriptural Reasoning sessions will take place on four consecutive Tuesdays yet to be determined, from 10-11:30am. Students should ideally have this time slot open during their half semester. An alternative time slot will be arranged for students who can’t make Tuesdays, but they will also be in the morning to accommodate international dialogue partners.**

IDIS 290 Intergroup Dialog – *Caste*

This course is an Intergroup Dialog exploration of the book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson. Participants will read through this groundbreaking new book together in small groups facilitated by members of Calvin's Grassroots Living-Learning community, using discussion questions and activities generated by the floor's faculty mentors. The focus of these classes is on both the **content** of the book and the **process** of discussing it with a diverse group of peers. These courses work towards the goals of the Grassroots floor, and extend that opportunity to the wider Calvin community:

1. To develop awareness of issues related to race and racism in the North American context, in particular in the areas of history, culture, economics and politics.
2. To develop awareness and maturity in regards to our own racial identity and cultural awareness.
3. To improve our communication skills and intercultural skills to build relation bridges and resolve conflict.

This course will count for Calvin’s Cross-Cultural Engagement requirement and will be offered the second half of the spring semester 2021, 4:30-5:20 pm on Mondays. 0-1 credit hours.

CMS-251-B “Christian Community Development” taught by Todd Cioffi

This course will explore the best practices of urban ministry in America by examining the principles of Christian community development. These principles are taken from the Christian Community Development Association, which is a loose affiliation of churches, non-profit ministries, and individuals who work in urban communities or other areas of need throughout the United States. This course will include a variety of readings, several reading reflections, online activities and Zoom meetings with CCD ministries, and a final project based on the online and Zoom community engagement. This course will fulfill CCE. Professor Todd Cioffi. Meets on Mondays, 2:30-3:20pm. 1 credit hour (not available for 0 credit hours).

English-314-A “British Literature of the Early 19th Century” taught by Jennifer Holberg

The later 18th and early 19th centuries were a time of incredible change. As one scholar has noted, these years were “an era of immense cultural transformation that ushered in powerful frameworks which continue to shape the way we think about literature, identity, gender, invention, and much more.” This is the time of revolutions: the American, French, Haitian, Industrial, Imaginative. It’s a time that question the rights of people, whether they were enslaved or paupers or women. It’s a time when philosophical, cultural, and literary traditions are being challenged and overturned. Romanticism is one of the major markers in literary history—literature was never the same afterwards. Indeed, we are very much still shaped by the ideas and texts written over 200 years ago. Traditionally, this literary period has focused on examining the poetry of Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, and Keats (with a few women writers increasingly added since the 1980s), especially in the context of the French Revolution. This class will re-center that traditional take by moving the literature into a trans-Atlantic context (fitting given Britain’s colonial presence in this period), expanding the “rights” language of the French Revolution into earlier (and ongoing discourses) around slavery/abolition in the American Revolution (and its compromises on slavery)/after as well as around the Caribbean slave revolts and revolutions, most notably the Haitian Revolution. The course will also expand the genres beyond Romantic poetry and will place the traditional literature that has dominated literary studies into a place where it is a conversation partner, not the only conversation. This course is CCE-optional (arranged with prof), 3-credits, MWF 2:30-3:20pm. Spring, 2021.

Fall 2020 CCE options

HIST 235 “India and its World” taught by Doug Howard

This course surveys the political, economic, and cultural history of South Asia, including what are today the nations of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. This region saw the emergence of one of the earliest of human civilizations, which has been in continuous development from ancient times. This course sets this history of India within the context of world history. The main theme is the central role played by India, first, in the emergence and development of the “Afro-Eurasian Oecumene” (Marshall Hodgson’s phrase) during the agrarian age, and subsequently, in the global world system that has replaced the Afro-Eurasian oecumene in modern times. Interwoven with this theme is another. Emphasizing India as a place where several major world religious traditions were born or evolved, the course studies what India and its world have to offer for intercultural understanding and interfaith relations. This course fulfills the CCE requirement.

IDIS 290 “Black Lives Matter” taught by Eric Washington

Black Lives Matter is a Cross-Cultural Experience course that engages the writing of Black writers historically and in contemporary times. In reading and discussing these texts, we will discuss the value and meaning of Black Life.

IDIS 290 “Muslim Neighbors and Christian Hospitality” taught by Frans van Liere and Penny Dykstra-Pruim

Build knowledge and awareness of our Muslim Neighbors through exploring Islam as a religion, elements of Islamic cultures, worship practices, and our local Muslim communities. Learning about cultural identities and Christian hospitality lays a groundwork for approaching this learning opportunity. Expectations include engagement with selected chapters or short texts, guest speakers, in-class discussions, a visit to a mosque, and direct engagement with some of our Muslim neighbors. This course is designated CCE-integral. 1-credit. Pass/fail

