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

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-cultural 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.

**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 a 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 CrossCultural Engagement core requirement. S. VanderBie. 8:30 a.m. to noon.