

General Education Course Descriptions – Spring 2015

White = Foundation = F

Green = Quantitative Sciences = QS

Blue = Social Sciences = SS

Yellow = Arts & Humanities = AH

List of General Education Offerings by Field for spring 2015

Quantitative Sciences (GE-QS)	Social Sciences (GE-SS)	Arts & Humanities (GE-AH)
ENVS 101 – Intro to Environmental Sciences	ECON 101 – Intro to Economics *	CHSS 111 – Intro to Ethics
SPH 101 – Basics of Healthy Lifestyle	CHSS 181 – Intro to Sociology	CHSS 130 – Intro to Art History
CSE 162 – Intro to Bioscience, and its impact on research, business, and society	LAW 110 – Intro to the Armenian Justice System	LING 105 – Intro to the Structure of English **
CSE 175 – Relativity	LAW 201 – Armenian Constitution***	ENGL 120 – American Literature I **
CSE 181 – Creativity and Technological Innovation	POLS 103 – Intro to Armenian Government	ENGL 125 – Intro to Acting Techniques **
ENVS 202 – Environmental Projects	POLS 281 – Development Policy***	CHSS 211 – Great Books*** [cross-listed with SS]
CSE 262 – Quantitative Biology***	CHSS 211 – Great Books*** [cross-listed with AH]	CHSS 251 – Topics in Cinema*** [cross-listed with SS]
	CHSS 251 – Topics in Cinema*** [cross-listed with SS]	ENGL 141 – Persuasive Writing**
		COMM 238 – Media & Society**
		LING 200 – Intro to Discourse Analysis**

* not open to Business majors as an elective

** majors given priority for registration; non-majors may enroll space permitting

*** upper-division courses – These courses can be used to form/cap a cluster

	College	Course code & number	Title	Description	Semester/Who takes
1	CHSS	ENGL 102	Freshman English 2	<p>Building upon the skills and concepts introduced in FE1, this course aims to further develop students' communication skills while exploring themes set forth in the AUA mission such as citizenship, leadership, community building, sustainable development, and service to society. Students will examine how authors construct arguments and communicate persuasively through analyzing a variety of texts of different periods and genres. Students will also advance their communication and teamwork skills through class discussions, collaborative projects, and writing assignments. The course includes weekly readings and assignments, a research-based group presentation, and a persuasive essay, in which students will investigate an important need in Armenia. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>Prerequisite: ENG 101 Freshman English 1</p> <p>GE-F Required for ALL freshman students</p>	Spring ALL freshman students
2	CHSS	CHSS 104	Armenian Language & Literature II	<p>This course involves close reading of influential works by Armenian writers in their historical, cultural and comparative context. The course examines the linguistic and cultural value of epic, short story, and spiritual literature through which students will gain an understanding of the interrelationship between literature and various aspects of Armenia's history and development. Students are required to draw upon literary theories and influences in their final project and presentation, which may be either an original work or a sustained essay on an influential literary work. This course is designed for students with an Advanced to advanced background of the Armenian language. Although the course will be conducted in Eastern Armenian, it will expose students to literary works in both Western and Eastern Armenian. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-F Required for ALL sophomore students</p>	Spring Open to and required for sophomores

3	ACE	ENVS 101	Introduction to Environment al Sciences	<p>The course is designed for students to gain an understanding of basic environmental science principles, including an introduction to the structure and functioning of ecosystems and their physical and bio-chemical cycles. The course will emphasize the importance of these processes for human health as well as human impact on these processes. As a science course, the course will teach students to use the methods of scientific inquiry to raise questions about the global systems, their impact on humans, and human impact on them. Specific topics to be covered include but are not limited to biodiversity, quantity and quality of water, land, and air resources, environmental conservation, human population trends and dynamic, food and industrial production, and waste and toxicity. Topics will be supplemented by Armenia and Caucasus-specific cases. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-QS ALL</p>	Fall & Spring Open to ALL
4	ACE	ENVS 202	Environment al Projects	<p>This upper division course is designed for undergraduate students to gain a deeper understanding and competence in environmental project design, implementation, and evaluation. The projects can be in technology, science, conservation, management, restoration, promotion/marketing, education, and other related topics. The course, however, emphasizes data collection and analysis for assessing the success and impact of project ideas. The students will design and complete a project for the course. The types of environmental projects will vary depending on student and faculty agreement. The projects may be related to the following broad topics: Clean technologies; IT, satellite, remote sensing solutions in environmental protection; alternative transport, clean transport; renewable-energy generation or energy efficiency; sustainable water use, solid waste management, sustainable agriculture and food production; mining pollution prevention/ management; forest protection/management/restoration; watershed protection/management/restoration; air-quality protection/management/restoration; and flora or fauna monitoring/ conservation/restoration. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-QS ALL upper division</p> <p>This course can be used to form a cluster with one of the following: ENVS 101, SHP 101, CSE 162</p>	Spring Open to ALL

5	SPH	SPH101	Basics of Healthy Lifestyle	<p>The course provides an overview of concepts and issues related to mental, social, and physical dimensions of health with a focus on healthy behaviors and lifestyle. The course emphasizes preventive health practices which reduce risk factors associated with disease. The course enables students to analyze the relationship between healthy lifestyle and health and builds knowledge and skills to recognize and cope with health problems that they may face during their college years and later in life. Main topics include behavior change, mental health, stress and stress management, nutrition, addictions, physical exercise, and sexual behavior and STIs. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-QS ALL</p>	Spring Open to ALL
6	CSE	CSE 162	Introduction to Bioscience and its impact on research, business, and society	<p>This course introduces students to important concepts, techniques and applications of bioscience, and explores its impact on research, business and society. Students will study basic concepts of molecular and cellular biology, biochemistry, molecular genetics, computational biology and biotechnology. Some important applications of molecular and cellular biology in medicine and industry - such as molecular diagnostics of diseases, stem cell and transplantation, drug design and genetically modified foods - will be introduced. Students will also discuss the political, ethical, and legal issues accompanying these topics and their current and future impact on society. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-QS ALL</p>	Spring Open to ALL
7	CSE	CSE 175	Discovering Physics - Relativity	<p>The course explains Einstein's Theory of Relativity without requiring a science background. The explanation of the theory demands no prior knowledge of mathematics or physics beyond an ability to do simple arithmetic. The first portion of the course introduces some of the main concepts of the theory and discusses experimental tests by using no more than arithmetic and simple geometry. Further progress requires algebra and more advanced mathematical techniques. The concepts are explained in a way accessible to beginners, i.e. those without a background in physics. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-QS ALL</p>	Spring Open to ALL

8	CSE	CSE 181	Creativity and Technological Innovation	<p>This course introduces students to creativity and its elements, the creative mind and thinking, techniques, concepts and applications leading to technological innovations. Lectures will provide examples of creative thinking and technological innovations from real life creators and technology innovators whose work is well known. Students will work in groups. Each group will create a technological project attempting to solve a real life need based on the knowledge gained and discussed during the semester. Students will be introduced to various problem-solving techniques. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to think creatively and they will be familiar with the process of technological innovation and invention. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-QS ALL</p>	Spring Open to ALL
9	CSE	CSE 262	Quantitative Biology	<p>Biology has long been considered a descriptive science with few components in research methods. Since the discovery of the DNA structure and advances in genetics and biotechnology, biology has evolved into an exact and quantitative science. Today, biology uses tools adapted from statistics, mathematics, big data management systems and high performance computing. This course presents state-of-the-art computational biology, provides hands-on experience with tools and approaches for scientific computing in biology, and discusses current and upcoming challenges of transforming biological data into biological knowledge. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE QS upper division This course can be used to form a cluster with one of the following: MATH 101, SPH 101, ENVS 101, ENVS 102, CSE 162, CSE 171, CHSS 183</p>	Spring Upper Division
10	CHSS	CHSS 130	Introduction to Art History	<p>This course is an introduction to the elements of art: texture, form, shape, color, line and tone/style, proportion, perspective (and for film and mobiles, time/rhythm) as aspects of an artifact, art as it is produced, and art as it is perceived. It is also a survey in both geographic and time dimensions of art as an expression of human creativity, focusing on painting, sculpture, architecture, photography and film, while making relevant connections to other aspects of culture: music, dance, ritual, literature, religion, technology, politics, commerce (advertising), and design. This course will introduce students to the language of art, increasing recognition and understanding of references in popular culture, on clothing, and in film and other media. Visits to museums and excursions will be included in the learning activities. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-AH ALL</p>	Spring Open to ALL

11	CHSS	CHSS 111	Introduction to Ethics	<p>This course introduces students to major ethical theories: virtue ethics, deontology and utilitarianism. Students will use these frameworks to analyze ethical issues and develop their own positions to perennial problems. Special emphasis is placed on linking philosophical discussions to topics relevant to students as learners, workers, and citizens which may include numerous aspects of personal, social, professional and political life. Students will read carefully selected readings from classical and contemporary philosophers. Through rigorous in-class debates and discussions, students will be challenged to consider ethical dilemmas from different perspectives and weigh the strengths and shortcomings of various ethical theories. Home tasks will include readings and writing assignments. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-AH ALL</p>	Spring Open to ALL
12	CHSS	ENGL 120	American Literature I	<p>This survey course introduces students to American literature from the beginning of European contact to the present, focusing on major authors and different literary genres. It examines the historical influences on the evolution of this body of literature and the construction of a distinct and complex American identity. Through close reading, class discussion and their own research and writing, students will explore how themes such as gender, race, class, spirituality, economics, and the environment play a role in the formation and evolution of the American experience. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-AH for BAB and CS</p>	Spring Core E&C
13	CHSS	LING 105	Introduction to the Structure of English	<p>This course is a systematic introduction to the structure of the English language. Students will acquire knowledge of the morphology, syntax, and phonology of contemporary English. They will explore the interrelation of form, meaning, and use and apply linguistic knowledge in the analysis of their own and others' communication. Students are required to complete weekly reading assignments and home tasks in order to acquire knowledge of the concepts discussed in class. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-AH for BAB and CS</p>	Spring Core E&C

14	CHSS	ENGL 141	Persuasive Writing	<p>This course is designed to develop students' persuasive writing skills for use in a wide array of academic and professional contexts. Students will become familiar with the structural and rhetorical features of formulating and communicating arguments in a persuasive manner, taking into consideration such factors as audience, reasoning, evidence, and style. They will be encouraged to view writing as a process, involving planning, drafting, and revision for clarity and precision. Students are required to complete short readings and weekly writing assignments, which may include but are not limited to persuasive essays, letters, reviews, and proposals. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-AH for BAB and CS Pre-reqs: ENGL 101 and ENGL 102</p>	Spring Core E&C
15	CHSS	LING 200	Introduction to Discourse Analysis	<p>This course introduces students to the study of discourse through hands-on analysis of real language in use, taking into account the linguistic features and functions of spoken, written, and multi-modal communication as well as the social, cultural, and political contexts in which it occurs. We will explore how meaning is created and relationships are enacted within and across an array of genres and use this knowledge to interpret and construct texts within different social and professional contexts. Course work will include reading assignments, written analyses, and practical application. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-AH for BAB and CS Pre-reqs: LING 103 or LING 105</p>	Spring Core E&C
16	CHSS	COMM 238	Media & Society	<p>This course builds upon Introduction to Communications (COMM 104) and explores historical and contemporary issues in the interaction between media and society. Students will examine and develop critical perspectives on media and the interplay between media institutions, media content, and culture. The course will introduce major theories used in analyzing media and its effects, as well as examine the characteristics of individual media: newspapers, magazines, books, radio, television, film, the Internet, and social media. The core concepts of media ethics will also be discussed. Course work will include media and reading assignments, as well as collaborative media projects. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-AH for BAB and CS Pre-req: COMM 104</p>	Spring Core E&C

17	CHSS	ENGL 125	Introduction to Acting Techniques	<p>This course introduces students to the process of building a character and interacting on stage using movement, voice, and imagination. Throughout the course, students will explore techniques of improvisation and scene study, and develop the basic skills of the acting process. They will become familiar with the history and theory of the craft of acting, and apply relevant concepts and practices to critically analyze their own work and that of others. Coursework will include reading assignments, written critiques and reflections, and performance-based projects. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE- AH BAB and CS</p>	Spring Not for E&C
18	CHSS	CHSS 251	Topics in Cinema	<p>This course examines the cultural fault lines between generations arising from immigration – forced or voluntary. Building on what they have studied in other Gen Ed courses, students analyze films depicting ethnicity and culture as intrinsically intertwined and explore the linguistic, cultural and communication gaps between children of immigrants and their parents and/or grandparents. The course also grounds discussion and analysis in fiction and non-fiction writings that address cultural identity, assimilation / integration / alienation / acculturation, the role of memory in history, cultural roots and rhizomes, and the “poetics of relation.” Three hour of instructor-led instruction per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-AH/SS upper division This course can be used to form a cluster with one of the following: CHSS 151, LING 103, COMM 104, CHSS 110, CHSS 140, CHSS 141, CHSS 181, CHSS 182, CHSS 190, ENGL 121, ENGL 125, LAW 160</p>	Spring Upper Division
19	CHSS	CHSS 201	Great Books	<p>In this course, students will perform close reading of cornerstone texts of the Western tradition. There will also be discussions of the questions raised by the students, facilitated by the instructor. Student learning will be assessed based on writing a number of response papers, and one longer essay that students will also “defend.” The students will develop close reading and close listening skills, and learn how to work through complex, ambiguous, or contradictory philosophical problems both within one given text and across several texts. Chosen works include Plato, Machiavelli, and the Founding Fathers. This course does not presume any background in political theory or philosophy, but does expect students spend a lot of time on reading. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-AH/SS upper division This course can be used to form a cluster with one of the following: COMM 104, CHSS 110, CHSS 111, CHSS 112, CHSS 114, CHSS 140, CHSS 141, CHSS 151, CHSS 181, CHSS 182, CHSS 190</p>	Spring Upper Division

20	CBE	ECON 101	Introduction to Economics	<p>This course examines key concepts in both microeconomics and macroeconomics. The course explores individual consumer and industry behavior, supply and demand, market efficiency and equilibrium and the impact of government intervention. Students will also analyze the economy as a whole, especially issues related to output, unemployment, productivity, inflation, trade, economic growth and development. Students will use these basic concepts to weigh different perspectives on monetary and fiscal policy and evaluate economic claims used in articles and newspapers, political campaigns, and debates. Home tasks will include reading assignments and problem sets. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-SS not open to BAB majors</p>	Spring Not for BAB
21	CHSS	CHSS 181	Introduction to Sociology	<p>This course explores how societies function and change over time. Students will use sociological concepts and theories to analyze human behavior, social life, social policies, and social change, both in their individual lives, in their communities, and in the global community at large. Throughout the course, students will evaluate social issues and problems taking into account the dynamic relationship between individuals and society. Topics might include ethnic relations, sexism, and class bias. Home tasks will include readings and writing assignments. Three hours of instructor-led class time per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-SS ALL</p>	Spring Open to ALL
22	CHSS	LAW 110	Introduction to the Armenian Justice System	<p>This course explains the institutions and processes of the Armenian justice system as they affect the lives of citizens, businesses and government agencies, including general courts, specialized courts, criminal, civil and administrative processes. The course aims to equip students to understand their rights and remedies for violation of rights, as well as the role of various government bodies, courts, police, prosecutors, regulators, in the administration and establishment of justice in Armenian society. Instructor-led course will draw on case studies to examine a range of common situations students, citizens, and businesses face in everyday life. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE- SS ALL</p>	Spring Open to ALL

23	CHSS	POLS 103	Introduction to Armenian Government	<p>This course is a general introduction to the structure and functions of Armenian Government and its institutions, from historical, legal and comparative perspectives. The role of each branch of the government, the scope of its authority, checks and balances in the system, will be examined in light of constitutional design and on-going political processes, along with the relationship between the national, regional and local levels of government. Specific issues will include the state tax and budgeting process, fiscal accountability, law-making and regulation-making, civic participation in the process, and mechanisms for public oversight of government activities and protection of individual rights as well as the military, law enforcement, and security agency's special responsibilities and authority. The course aims to help students understand the role of government in the 21st century and the rights and responsibilities of 21st citizen in public and governmental affairs, in light of international best practices and Armenia's development. Three hours of instructor-led instruction per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-SS ALL</p>	Spring Open to ALL
24	CHSS	POLS 281	Development Policy	<p>This course is a survey of the literature on key determinants of development — 'Development' at the state-level and 'development' at the project level. We begin by considering some of the factors that drive state development, including economic growth, poverty reduction, social inequality, etc. We study different development models most popular in different periods of time, and then move on to the analysis of state policies in health and education, population and migration, and the linkages between investments in human capital and economic growth. The course then moves on to other key topics in international development including accountability and good governance, conditionalities, monitoring and evaluation of results, etc. The course concludes with a discussion on the scope and limitations of foreign aid and the institutions that implement aid policies. Three hours of instructor-led class per week. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-SS upper division</p> <p>This course can be used to form a cluster with one of the following: LAW 142, LAW 110, POLS 101, POLS 102, CHSS 181, ECON 101</p>	Spring Upper Division

25	CHSS	LAW 201	Armenian Constitution	<p>The course aims to present the evolution, structure and content of the Armenian Constitution in a historical and comparative perspective. Building on an understanding of the role and content of constitutions in modern governmental systems, the course will analyze the Armenian Constitution and its role in the legal system of Armenia, focusing on bases of the constitutional order, separation of powers, the system of checks and balances, supremacy of the constitution, constitutional rights and values, as well as the relationship between international law and the Constitution. A separate emphasize will be given to direct application of Constitutional provisions, including the protection of fundamental civil and human rights. The roles, powers and responsibilities of various constitutionally defined government structures: the President, the National Assembly, the Government, Judiciary and local self-government bodies. The constitutional amendment procedure will be analyzed from a historical and comparative perspective. Current trends in constitutional law and the amendment process will also be discussed. The course content will involve a topic devoted to the role and functions of the Constitutional Court, and its rulings in the evolving constitutional system of Armenia. This instructor-led course will include class presentations and discussions. (3 credits)</p> <p>GE-SS upper division This course can be used to form a cluster with one of the following: POLS 101, POLS 102, LAW 110, LAW 142</p>	Spring Upper Division
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COURSES THAT CLUSTER WITH UPPER-DIVISION COURSES

Subject and course code	Course title
CHSS 110	Intro to Philosophy
CHSS 111	Intro to Ethics
CHSS 112	Intro to Logic & Rhetoric
CHSS 114	Intro to Religion [cross-listed in SS]
CHSS 130	Intro to Art History
CHSS 151	Intro to French Language & Culture
CHSS 181	Intro to Sociology
CHSS 182	Intro to Clinical Psychology
CHSS 183	Statistics for Humanities and Social Sciences
CHSS 190	Armenian Culture & Heritage
COMM 104	Intro to Communications
CSE 162	Intro to Bioscience
CSE 171	Conceptual Physics
ECON 101	Intro to Economics
ENGL 121	English Literature 1
ENGL 125	Intro to Acting Techniques
ENVS 101	Intro to Environmental Sciences
ENVS 202	Environmental Projects
LAW 110	Intro to Armenian Justice System
LAW 142	Intro to Human Rights
LAW 160	Law & Justice in Popular Culture
LING 103	Intro to Language & Culture
MATH 101	Calculus 1
POLS 101	Intro to Political Science
POLS 102	Intro to US Government
SPH 101	Basics of Healthy Lifestyle

CURRENT COHESIVE CLUSTERS

QS clusters	AH clusters	SS clusters
Upper division course	Upper division course	Upper division course
CSE 262 – Quantitative Biology MATH 101, SPH 101, ENVS 101, CSE 162, CSE 171, CHSS 183	CHSS 211 - Great books COMM 104, CHSS 110, CHSS 111, CHSS 112, CHSS 114, CHSS 151, CHSS 190 [cross-listed in SS]	POLS 281 - Development Policy LAW 141, LAW 110, POLS 101, POLS 102, CHSS 181, ECON 101
ENVS 202 – Environmental Projects MATH 101, SPH 101, ENVS 101, CSE 162, CSE 171, CHSS 183	CHSS 251 – Topics in Cinema CHSS 151, CHSS 181, CHSS 182, CHSS 190, LING 103, COMM 104, CHSS 110, CHSS 130, CHSS 140, CHSS 141, ENGL 121, LAW 160 [cross-listed in SS]	LAW 201 – Armenian Constitution POLS 101, POLS 102, LAW 110, LAW 142
		CHSS 211 - Great books COMM 104, CHSS 110, CHSS 111, CHSS 112, CHSS 114, CHSS 151, CHSS 190 [cross-listed in AH]
		CHSS 251 – Topics in Cinema CHSS 151, CHSS 181, CHSS 182, CHSS 190, LING 103, COMM 104, CHSS 110, CHSS 130, CHSS 140, CHSS 141, ENGL 121, ENGL 125, LAW 160 [cross-listed in AH]