

## Course Descriptions Fall 2011

### □ **FFL 101- Foundations for Learning** 1 credit

This course is designed to help students become engaged members of the Bryant University academic community. The course encourages students to claim their education through a focus on the process of learning how to learn and cultivating the habits of mind for lifelong achievement and success. By linking critical and creative thinking with writing and discussion, students are asked to reflect on their past, present, and futures in an effort to develop their own perspectives on learning and success. One goal of Foundations for Learning is to assist students in realizing their academic preparedness and honing their academic strengths in various subject areas.

### □ **COM204 - Honors: The Process of Communication** 3credits

This course provides students with an in-depth introduction to the fundamental philosophies underlying the field of Communication. It is a sophisticated, seminar-structured class designed for students who have declared Communication as a major or minor and for those considering pursuing a degree in Communication. As an honors course, this class takes a deeper, more detailed look at communication as a process and at a number of important concepts (areas of study) in the discipline. Likewise, course expectations of student performance and output are high. Prerequisite: Honors Program.

### □ **GLOB241/POLS241 – Introduction to Global Politics** 3 credits

This course is an introduction to the field of global politics, also known as international relations. It focuses on a variety of interconnected topics, including the development of the nation-state system and political interactions among countries over issues of war and peace, human rights, and economic and environmental policies. We also explore the evolution and work of international government - the United Nations – international institutions such as the World Bank, and non-governmental international organizations such as environmental and human rights groups.

□ **HIS252 – Europe: 1500 to 1815** 3 credits This course provides a study of the political, intellectual, and social history of early modern Europe from 1500 to 1815, with emphasis on the institution of monarchy and on the reigns of famous kings and queens. Attention will also be given to the major transformations of the age including the scientific, English, and French Revolutions and their effects.

□ **HIS261 – History of the U.S. to 1877** 3 credits A basic survey and introduction to the field of American history, this course conveys the political, cultural and economic development of the United States through Reconstruction. It provides an understanding of the foundation of the "American way of life".

□ **HIS262 – History of the U.S. Since 1865** 3 credits A history of the American experience from the end of Reconstruction to the present, this course focuses on the urban-industrial age, the rise of the United States to world leadership, and the important changes that have occurred in the American way of life during the past century.

□ **HIS263 – American Women's History** 3 credits In this course students survey American women's history from colonial times to the present. The course shows how the major social, political, and economic developments in American history have affected women in the past. Students examine the lives of "ordinary" women, as well as those of leading women thinkers and activists.

### □ **HIS 263 – Honors: American Women's History** 3credits

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political, and economic developments in American history have affected women in the past. Students examine the lives of "ordinary"

women, as well as those of leading women thinkers and activists. Prerequisite: Honors program.

□ **HIS270 – World History to 1500** 3 credits This introductory survey course traces the development of humanity and society from the dawn of history to 1500, and provides insight into the wide spectrum of ideas, institutions, and life practices that different peoples and cultures around the world have created. Various representations of "civilization" and "community" are considered.

□ **HIS272 - Introduction to Latin American History** 3 credits This course is a basic survey of Latin American history from before the European invasions to the recent past. The course emphasizes both the diversity of the Latin American experience across time and space and the persistence of certain historical continuities in the region: intense political and cultural conflict, deep social and economic inequality, and longstanding domination by externally based imperial and neo-imperial powers. These themes are engaged in part through analysis of a variety of documentary evidence, much of it first-person narrative produced by Latin American historical actors. Readings encourage students, working as historians, to consider the relationship between individuals and larger historical processes, as well as issues of perspective and method.

### □ **HIS273 History in the World Today** 3 credits

The course requires students to formulate and support coherent arguments about complex historical problems in class discussions, essay exams, and writing projects. It strengthens students' global perspective by encouraging historical analysis of selected current world events and the U.S. relationship to/involvement in those events. By introducing students to historical methods and theory it enables them to understand more deeply one of the key disciplines associated with the humanities.

### □ **LCS242/GLOB242 – Introduction to Global Anthropology**

3 credits This course studies the consequences of globalization for human beings as they come to understand and value themselves, their relations to others, and their "place in the world." Students discuss a number of challenges to traditional concepts of "culture" important to understanding an anthropological approach to the concept of globalization. "Globalization," the movement of information, goods, services, capital and people throughout the global space, will be approached from a variety of perspectives, including discussion of global migration and diaspora, as well as consideration of globalization of media.

### □ **LCS250/WGS250 Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**

3 credits This course is an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the experiences, concerns, social and historical conditions of women. By focusing on both contemporary and historical women's issues, students in this class will examine the perspectives, experiences, and representations of women. Students will also explore the construction of gender and the ways in which gender intersects with class, race, age, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. The primary goals of this course are to help students to think critically about women's lives and to help them understand how social institutions have shaped the lives of both women and men.

□ **LCS260 – Introduction to Philosophy** 3 credits Basic philosophical problems, distinctions, and arguments in a number of philosophical disciplines: ethics, metaphysics, theory of knowledge, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, and aesthetics. What is the basis of our knowledge about the external world? What are the foundations of morality? Do human beings have free will or are their actions determined by their psychological and material make-up? Is there such a thing as beauty, and what could it be?

❑ **LCS270 – Introduction to Cultural Studies** *3 credits* Cultural Studies is an interdisciplinary field that inquires into the meaning and significance of “culture.” It asks, what is culture and how has it changed over time? What is the relation of culture to society? What is the relevance of culture to our everyday lives, to nation and politics? Cultural Studies undertakes to reveal the ways that ordinary people participate in and create culture, often without even knowing it. This course explores the field of Cultural Studies while focusing upon popular culture both in the United States and abroad.

❑ **LCS280 - Introduction to World Music** *3 credits*  
In this course, students learn about music as an expressive art form. Part of the course is dedicated to "hearing" music, where students build a vocabulary of terms for describing music and expanding their ability to appreciate a diverse body of sounds. Learning terms, such as timbre, melody, harmony, as well as indigenous vocabularies, and listening to musical examples are central components of this course. In addition to hearing music, students also study the cultures of music, which includes understanding different conceptions of aesthetics, traditions, values, politics, and other areas of society that inform the composition and performance of music. Through listening to and learning about music in many parts of the world, students will better appreciate diverse ways of hearing sound and expressing culture.

❑ **ML CH – Chinese** *4 credits*  
The Chinese Language and culture program at Bryant offers students courses at the elementary and intermediate level. The program is structured to provide the students with the broadest possible range of exposure both to contemporary language usage and to the social and cultural worlds in which native-speakers of Chinese live. This course includes a laboratory component offered at 4 semester hours. If you have not already completed the on-line survey and placement exam, you must attend the placement exam session during Orientation to register for the course.

❑ **ML FR – French** *3-4 credits*  
The French Language and culture program at Bryant offers courses at the elementary, intermediate and advanced levels. The program is structured to provide the students with the broadest possible range of exposure both to contemporary language usage and to the social and cultural worlds in which native-speakers of French live. The elementary and intermediate courses include a laboratory component offered at 4 credits. Advanced courses do not have a laboratory component and are offered at 3 credits. If you have not already completed the on-line survey and placement exam, you must attend the placement exam session during Orientation to register for the course.

❑ **ML IT – Italian** *4 credits*  
This course is designed for students who have no more than two years of high school background knowledge of the Italian language. It is open to students who wish to be actively immersed in Italian language and have never been exposed to Italian before. The primary focus of this course is to develop elementary-level communication skills and cultural awareness. This course includes a laboratory component and is offered at the elementary level. If you have not already completed the on-line survey and placement exam, you must attend the placement exam session during Orientation to register for the course.

❑ **ML SP – Spanish** *3-4 credits*  
The Spanish Language and culture program at Bryant offers courses at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels. The program is structured to provide the students with the broadest possible range of exposure both to contemporary language usage and to the social

and cultural worlds in which native-speakers of Spanish live. The elementary and intermediate courses include a laboratory component offered at 4 semester hours. Advanced courses do not have a laboratory component and are offered at 3 semester hours. If you have not already completed the on-line survey and placement exam, you must attend the placement exam session during Orientation to register for the course.

❑ **POLS256 – Government and Society in America** *3 credits*  
An introduction to the units and activities of the U.S. political process, this course stresses the effect of the U.S. government on citizens, business-people and taxpayers. The course focuses on the presidency, Congress, the judiciary, the bureaucracy, and other units and concludes with a consideration of issues affecting these units.

❑ **PSY260 – Introduction to Psychology** *3 credits*  
This course will address the major principles, theories and research methods used to understand mental processing and behavior. An extensive survey of topics on human behavior across a variety of contexts will be made.

❑ **SCI 285 Special Topics in Science and Technology: Principles of Environmental Science** *3 credits*  
This course provides students with a broad overview of the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the environment and to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made. Integrated laboratory and/or field exercises will demonstrate the principles, processes, techniques, and technologies of environmental problems and solutions.

❑ **SCI 287 Meteorology** *3 credits*  
Meteorology is the study of our atmosphere, its structure, composition and origin as well as its dual roles as protector and devastator of the Earth. The study of humidity, cloud formation, precipitation, winds, air masses, cyclones, thunderstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes will lead to weather forecasting. Such environmentally important issues as global warming and the ozone hole will be analyzed from several viewpoints. This course may be taken with a laboratory to fulfill the laboratory requirement.

❑ **SCI L287 Meteorology Lab** *1 credit*  
This course deals with some of the aspects of observational and theoretical meteorology. Students will gain an appreciation of the weather, achieve an understanding of the main factors which influence weather and climate, and gain a hands-on understanding of the methods used in meteorology. Data analysis techniques will be covered, and the use of technology in the gathering and interpretation of meteorological issues will be covered. Prerequisite/Corequisite: This course may only be taken concurrently with the lecture course or in a subsequent semester to the lecture course; fulfills the laboratory requirement.

❑ **SOC250SL – Community Engagement and Service Learning** *3 credits*  
This course prepares students for service learning by introducing them to key tools for community engagement, including skills and strategies for working with community partners and critical reflection for deeper understanding and personal growth. Framed within the perspective of sociology, the course includes a service learning field experience and complements any area of University study.

❑ **SOC251 – Principles of Sociology** *3 credits*  
Students survey and appraise the basic concepts, including theory and method, social processes and structure, culture, groups, socialization, inequality, and social institutions.