



# FALL 2008

## GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM COURSE OFFERINGS

The General Education Program provides "core courses" in *World Civilizations*, *American Pluralism*, and *Great Discoveries in Science* to all students enrolled at the University at Buffalo.

General Education focuses on a broad array of skills, knowledge, and issues that the University's faculty considers being particularly important for all college graduates. The program is intended to help students prepare for success and fulfillment in a continually changing world. General Education complements the departmental major. The major provides depth of study in a particular area of specialization and prepares students for particular careers or for advanced study.



**University at Buffalo** *The State University of New York*

*College of Arts & Sciences • General Education Program*  
708 Clemens Hall  
<http://gened.buffalo.edu>

# About General Education Courses...

**World Civilizations.** The World Civilizations course is about the people, forces and ideas which have shaped the way people have experienced (and still do experience) the world. The perspective of this course is global; its focus is on the origins and development, geographical context and interactions of world culture.

World Civilizations courses are designed and intended to serve a fundamental purpose of university education – to broaden one's view and extend one's comprehension of the variety of cultural experiences which surround us. These courses serve this purpose by "instilling a greatly expanded sense of time and space, of values, history and geography." This is accomplished by challenging the students to investigate, analyze, interpret and, ultimately, to integrate their unique cultural heritage with the diversity which surrounds us.

-- Professor Thomas Barry, *World Civilizations Instructor*

***It is highly recommended that World Civ I be taken prior to World Civ II.***

**American Pluralism.** The American Pluralism course examines the multicultural, multi-ethnic nature of American society. It introduces students to five important areas of American experience and culture: race, gender, ethnicity, class and religious sectarianism. Writings by and about Americans of color, women, and people from diverse ethnic, class and religious groups provide background and context for discussions of contemporary issues.

A diverse faculty selected from many of the University's departments teaches American Pluralism. Students learn from a variety of contemporary and historical sources, including literature, art, journalism, research articles, guest lecturers, films, and the experiences of their classmates.

**Great Discoveries in Science.** UGC 302 or UGC 303, "Great Discoveries in Science", focus on selected great discoveries of science, presenting a particular body of scientific facts and concepts and connecting them with the process of science, related history and philosophy, and the interdependence of science and technology. The courses emphasize the central ideas that set the framework for a discipline and its "great discoveries." The examples are selected from diverse fields to provide a breadth that complements the depth offered in the prerequisite introductory-level science course.



## WORLD CIVILIZATIONS I UGC 111

UGC 111 B  
Tues & Thurs 2:00-2:50 pm

Professor John Dewald  
History Department

This course examines a handful of societies, spread across the globe, as they developed between about 700 BCE and about 1400. Covering more than 2,000 years, the course is necessarily selective; it examines moments in these societies' development, rather than attempting a complete overview of them. We will approach these societies primarily through studying their literatures. The course will give close attention to eight major works, all of them to be purchased in the bookstore. On the other hand, there will be no textbook in the course. Basic information and background to the assigned readings will be presented in lectures. Regular attendance at both lectures and discussion sections will thus be necessary for passing the course.

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UGC 111 C  
Mon & Wed 11:00-11:50 am

Professor Thomas Barry  
Classics Department

This section is designed to create an awareness of the world's history as a coherent and meaningful process of which we are all a part. To this end, we shall study the most important political, economic, social, and religious occurrences which illuminate the universal history of this sphere. Thus, the first goal of the course is to instill a greatly expanded sense of time and space, of history and geography. Even more, the students will confront the very diverse ways by which cultures express their values, form their basic assumptions, and relate to other societies. Yet we shall also investigate underlying communities of values which we share, the identity of which is often hidden by surface appearance. In this way, we shall meet the second goal of the course: to demonstrate the ways world history is a common experience of shared values. Students will analyze and interpret original source documents and materials, especially works of art where values are best concentrated, in order to participate directly in the struggle to understand world civilization through its own evidence.

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UGC 111 E  
Tues & Thurs 9:30-10:20 am

Professor Timothy Boyd  
Classics Department

My focus in UGC 111 is upon attempting to understand how various strands which make up history, including technology, economics, geography, military, religion, and sexuality, among many, are woven together in so many different and in so many similar ways from the ancient Egyptians to the Middle Ages. Along the way, we will examine everything from developments in architecture to what gives women power within a society, even a society which appears, on the surface, to be completely male-dominated. Requirements will include weekly recitations, quizzes in lectures and recitations, and four hour exams with both objective and essay components.

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UGC 111 G  
Tues & Thurs 2:00-2:50 pm

Professor Victoria Razak  
American Studies Department

World Civilizations presents a brief but broad account of the history of humans, which begins with a group of sparse and disconnected communities responding creatively to their natural environments. Over time, these small communities experienced increasingly intensive stages of contact, cultural diffusion, and amalgamation. The study of world history engages five broad themes: society and economy, law and government, patterns of belief, science and technology, and arts and culture. All these topics will be addressed, but since this class is taught from an anthropological perspective, it is deliberately tilted toward

social and cultural topics, rather than the detailed battles of captains and kings. We open at a time when humans have discovered how to domesticate plants and animals; we then explore the development of social stratification, the growth of the city and state, politics, and the development of institutions and legal systems, slavery and foreign invasions, the rise of Empires and widespread cultural domination. Other topics include ancient technologies, the development of medicine and magic, sex, marriage and the varied place of women across time and culture, art and architecture, ancient tourism, supernatural belief systems, rites of passage, and much more. We will look at fascinating historical figures from a range of cultures - some inspiring, some highly creative, some malevolent. Understanding the past puts us, and the present, into a larger context, enabling us to see the common challenges and problems that connect us with our ancient ancestors. Knowing where we have come from helps us move forward with informed purpose.

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UGC 111 H  
Tues & Thurs, 1:00-1:50 pm

Professor Warren Barbour  
Anthropology Department

This course will cover the human career from 7 million years ago to the beginning of the age of western exploration around 1550 ca. Emphasis in lectures will be on those aspects of cultures and civilizations that entice the student to think about the construction and current expression of our society and its global context.

This “World Civilization” section will have two main foci. First will be the learning of the broad sweep of history and pre-history covered by your textbook. Importance will be placed on the rise and fall of cultures and civilizations, with the goal of having the student understand the dynamic, fluid nature of the world's past societies.

The second focus will be to understand the course material from an anthropological and archaeological perspective. This will be presented in lecture through lectures, powerpoint presentations and video. It is important for the student to know that the lectures in this class will not be rehashes of the chapters assigned from the textbook. The lectures will expand an idea from the textbook, or focus on a controversy in theory or interpretation of a point brought up in the textbook.

Civilizations share many characteristics but differ in others that makes for intriguing puzzles and comparisons. Students will be able to explore these issues in a ten page paper specifically comparing a focused aspect [economy, religion, etc.] of two civilizations.

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UGC 111 J  
Tues & Thurs, 11:00-11:50 am

Professor William Baumer  
Philosophy Department

The development and interactions of societies from the dawn of recorded history through 1550 AD are surveyed in this approach to World Civilization I. The course considers the changes and interplay of societies' major components: agriculture, arts and crafts, technologies and sciences, economic systems, social and political structures, religious and philosophical beliefs. The impacts of these components and of various societies on one another and the consequences for the shape and state of present societies and the world in the 21st century are the foci of this overview.

The course includes lectures, recitation discussions, texts and readings. Grades are based on three exams, a research essay, and recitation discussion performance; attendance is required.

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UGC 111 K  
Tues & Thurs 5:00-5:50 pm

Professor James Lawler  
Philosophy Department

Many states and influential movements today are energetically renewing their allegiance to non-Western traditions. There is a renewal of Confucianism in the Far East, of Hinduism in India, and of Islam in the Middle East and elsewhere. Orthodox Christianity in Russia is in a period of revival. Even the animistic spirituality of the tribal societies of Africa and North America, as well as traditions such as that of the ancient

Mayans in Mexico is an object of contemporary significance. Buddhism is a rallying point among Tibetan exiles, but it is also an increasingly powerful spiritual movement in Western countries. Fundamentalist Christianity, too, has become a dynamic force, especially in the United States.

To understand the contemporary world, it is more necessary today than ever before in history to comprehend the great civilizations of the past. This course will provide general historical overviews stressing the various styles of the great civilizations and major structural changes. Study of the socio-economic and political histories will be combined with readings in classic texts of the great religions and philosophies of the East and the West, the North and the South.

There will be short weekly quizzes, one comprehensive final exam, and one short paper. Students will keep a journal, and will be able to participate in e-mail discussions of topics relevant to the course.

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UGC 111 L Professor Al Price  
Mon & Wed 10:00-10:50 am Architectutre & Urban Planning

This is Part I of a two-course sequence that utilizes the city—its people, its activity patterns, its physicality (that is, its space and form)—as the object of analysis in seeking to understand human cultures. In our language, the words “city,” “citizenship,” “civic,” “civil,” and “civilization” share the same Latin root. The course will attempt to trace changes in the physical pattern of permanent human settlements from their earliest known sites up to 1500 CE, emphasizing the connections between built form and the historic social, economic, political, and cultural forces which shaped it and gave it meaning. Formal lectures will be heavily illustrated with slides, with special attention given to examples of formal city planning, urban architecture, and civil engineering.

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UGC 111 M Professor Timothy Boyd  
Tues & Thurs 12:00-12:50 pm Classics Department

My focus in UGC 111 is upon attempting to understand how various strands which make up history, including technology, economics, geography, military, religion, and sexuality, among many, are woven together in so many different and in so many similar ways from the ancient Egyptians to the Middle Ages. Along the way, we will examine everything from developments in architecture to what gives women power within a society, even a society which appears, on the surface, to be completely male-dominated. Requirements will include weekly recitations, quizzes in lectures and recitations, and four hour exams with both objective and essay components.

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UGC 111 R Professor Ramya Sreenivasan  
Mon & Wed 1:00-1:50 pm History Department

This course introduces students to the development of world civilizations from prehistory to about 1500, and concerns the people, forces, and ideas that shaped how individuals experienced (and still experience) the world. We will focus on the origins and developments of states, economies and cultures in different parts of the world, and the emergence of the world’s major religions. The course will emphasize the common threads in the emergence of early human societies, and then explore how and why their paths diverged.

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UGC 111 S Professor Henry Sussman  
Mon & Wed, 12:00-12:50 pm Comparative Literature

A description is not available at this time. Please check the website at: <http://gened.buffalo.edu>. This document will be updated daily.

UGC 111 T  
Tues & Thurs, 3:30-4:20 pm

Professor Theresa Runstedtler  
American Studies Department

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to Ancient Civilizations around the world and to give students an appreciation of the extraordinary diversity of the human experience. We will examine the values, traditions, and ideas of cultures around the world in a comparative way. The emphasis will be on understanding different societies in a thoughtful and critical manner.



## WORLD CIVILIZATIONS II UGC 112

UGC 112 A  
Tues & Thurs 9:30-10:50

Professor Andrew Wise  
Political Science Department

Course Description: The UB Undergraduate Catalog states that this course “concerns the peoples, forces and ideas that have shaped the way individuals have experienced (and still do experience) the world. The course’s perspective is global and focuses on the origins and development, geographical context, and interactions of world cultures. All sections of the course share common goals. Different sections emphasize different themes and perspectives.”

In this section, we will focus on two key themes of modern world history:

1) the ways in which global connections have developed; and 2) the ways in which different peoples at different times have resisted homogenization, instead seeking to preserve their distinct cultural traditions.

Required Reading: 1) Robert Tignor, et al., *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*. 2) Kevin Reilly, *Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader. Volume Two: Since 1400* (2nd edition).

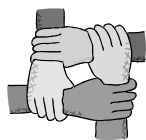
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UGC 112 B  
Wed & Fri 2:00 – 2:50 pm

Professor Sasha Pack  
History Department

This course outlines the major events and trends that have shaped the modern world since roughly 1500. Major topics will include the rise of the modern empires, the advance of globalization, the process of emancipation of the individual, the development of nationalism and the modern state system, and the major wars and genocides of the twentieth century.

Students will be required to write three 2-page papers on particular reading assignments. There will also be a midterm paper (4-5 pages) and a final paper (5-6 pages). Attendance and participation in the discussion section is required.



## AMERICAN PLURALISM UGC 211

UGC 211 CAJ  
Tues & Thurs, 2:00-3:20 pm

Professor Jesse Carter  
African-American Studies

A more complete description is not available at the time of printing. Please visit our website, <http://gened.buffalo.edu> for updated descriptions.

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UGC 211 CAR  
Tues & Thurs 2:00-3:20 pm

Professor Wesley Carter  
African American Studies

At no time in our nation's history has it been more important to understand the man next door or the nation in the furthest hemisphere. The world is growing smaller every day. We have only to turn on our TVs and there is France, South Africa, Iraq: all very much in the news. But we will never understand the individuals in those "foreign" hemispheres if no attempt is ever made to understand the individuals in our own society. What we do with the people next door, if they happen to be of another color or religion, will largely determine our response to others like them in our parts of the world. Through this course, you will be given the opportunity not only to examine your levels of tolerance and understanding, but also to acknowledge the prejudices, biases, and related misconceptions that you may have about a variety of ethnic groups. The future is in your hands, but it comes with ever increasing responsibility to fashion that future for the securing of rights and freedoms for all.

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UGC 211 CAW  
Tues & Thurs 5:00-6:20 pm

Professor Wesley Carter  
African American Studies

At no time in our nation's history has it been more important to understand the man next door or the nation in the furthest hemisphere. The world is growing smaller every day. We have only to turn on our TVs and there is France, South Africa, Iraq: all very much in the news. But we will never understand the individuals in those "foreign" hemispheres if no attempt is ever made to understand the individuals in our own society. What we do with the people next door, if they happen to be of another color or religion, will largely determine our response to others like them in our parts of the world. Through this course, you will be given the opportunity not only to examine your levels of tolerance and understanding, but also to acknowledge the prejudices, biases, and related misconceptions that you may have about a variety of ethnic groups. The future is in your hands, but it comes with ever increasing responsibility to fashion that future for the securing of rights and freedoms for all.

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UGC 211 GRA  
Mon, Wed & Fri 9:00-9:50am

Professor Cynthia Wu  
American Studies Department

### American Pluralism: School Cultures

The institution of education—like any other—is never value-neutral; as such, it reflects an uneven distribution of power and privilege along lines of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and ability status. Taking this understanding as a point of departure, let's think about how students who are disenfranchised in some way make sense of their place within school cultures. How is being a "good student" defined? When is being a good student threatening to one's sense of self and identity? How do these students negotiate the tricky waters of their own cultural differences within the often-homogenizing effects of schooling? This

course places into historical context narratives that address—among other things—indigenous Americans in nineteenth-century boarding schools, various social minorities during the industrial revolution, Asian populations in Hawai'i in the late twentieth century, and increasing class stratification within and among racial groups in the present day.

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UGC 211 GRA

Staff

Mon, Wed & Fri 11:00-11:50am

American Studies Department

A more complete description is not available at the time of printing. Please visit our website, <http://gened.buffalo.edu> for updated descriptions.

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UGC 211 KAS

Professor Yasuko Kase

Tues & Thurs 11:00-12:20 pm

Asian Studies Program

The course “American Pluralism” examines how the crisscrossing of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and class shapes American society and history from perspectives of Asian Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities. Using literary texts, articles, and visual media, we will survey various aspects of our life in the U.S such as family, communities, education, media, and the law. In our study, we will pay attention to racial and ethnic frontiers where the boundaries of race and ethnicity make contact, separate, and, merge. The racial and ethnic contact zone is also a gendered and sexualized space where desire, violence, and coalition are generated. How have racial and ethnic frontiers been regulated, extended, and redefined in U.S. society? How have the boundaries been constructed, transgressed, and reaffirmed? How have racial and ethnic minorities negotiated the boundaries? The topics of focus will include: Interracial and interethnic conflict and coalition, immigration laws, U.S. racial formation and people of mixed racial and ethnic heritage, cultural nationalism and sexuality, heterosexism and family, stereotypes and body images, affirmative action, the racialized body and aesthetic values, and transnational adoption of children.

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UGC 211 KOD

Professor Debra Kolodczak

Tues & Thurs 3:30-4:50 pm

American Studies Department

American Pluralism is a course designed to explore themes and social history in areas identified as race, class, gender, ethnicity and religion. Each student in this section is responsible for preparing a written summary (3 to 5 pages long) on one of the reading assignments and presenting an oral report. Time permitting, class discussions will follow the oral presentations. Additionally, each student is responsible for completing a ten page final essay (on an additional text), two in-class examinations, and active participation during class and on-line. In this section students who seek to gain computer-based skills may, as an alternative to certain written assignments, qualify for digital imaging assignments that center on collecting and interpreting images in the public domain pertaining to course themes and social history.

This course has two required textbooks. The required reading assignments average out to about a chapter per class. Additional reading assignments are selected from the course bibliography, available on UBLearn. Textbook readings are “common” to the entire class while additional reading assignments are portioned out to individual students to read and report on. Although not responsible for all additional readings, all students are responsible for ALL material covered during class discussions. Class attendance/participation is, therefore, mandatory and will directly impact the grade you receive for this course. This section utilizes UBLearn Blackboard as a means to extend class participation, as a repository for written assignments; and as a focal point for our web-based research.

UGC 211 KOL  
Tues & Thurs 12:30-1:50 pm

Professor Debra Kolodczak  
American Studies Department

See UGC 211 KOD above.

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UGC 211 WIN  
Tues & Thurs 9:30-10:50 am

Professor Kari Winter  
American Studies Department

In 1776 the American Declaration of Independence articulated the founding ideal of the United States: "All men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." This course will explore the paradox between that revolutionary ideal and outbreaks of totalitarianism in American history. After examining historical, literary, and film representations of three of the most infamous eras of social terror in the United States, we will conclude the semester by examining the current era from a variety of perspectives.

#### I. Religion, Gender, and Economics in Salem

In 1692 the fears caused by racial warfare and religious theology produced an outbreak of witch craft hysteria in Salem Village and Essex County, Massachusetts that led to accusations against and imprisonment of almost 150 people. Three women, one man, and several babies died in custody; 14 women and 5 men were hanged; and one man was pressed to death. This unit will explore the notions of gender, race, and religion as well as controversies over property and inheritance that helped to produce the Salem crisis.

#### II. Racial Terror in New York

In 1741 Daniel Horsmanden, an ambitious judge in Manhattan, accused blacks of conspiring with Catholic priests to burn down the city. More than one hundred black men and women were accused, imprisoned, and tortured. Thirty blacks and four whites were executed. After exploring the events in New York in detail, this unit will analyze the United States Constitution and other significant legislation.

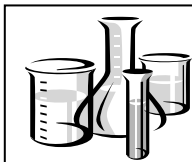
#### III. Class Warfare and The "Red Scare"

This unit will focus on the class-, race-, and gender-based politics of fear employed by rightwing politicians in their fight against "communists and communist sympathizers" from the 1920s through the 1950s.

#### IV. The Current Politics of Fear

This unit will analyze the current combination of religious, economic, and political forces that seek to promote their agendas by galvanizing fear based on notions of religion, gender, sexuality, race, class, and nationality.

Throughout the semester we will pay particular attention to the ways artists, intellectuals, and everyday folk have fought for freedom, justice and democracy during America's most totalitarian periods.



## GREAT DISCOVERIES IN SCIENCE

UGC 302 DOM  
Tues & Thurs 1:00-2:20 pm

Professor Darlene M Dombroski  
Microbiology And Immunology

### **Great Discoveries in Science: Microworld**

This course will examine important issues in human health and disease focusing on microbiology and immunology. We will delve into what is a "good" bacteria vs a "bad" bacteria and what causes a "good" bacteria to go "bad" - (Possibly hanging around with bad bacterial influences?) The lecture topics will focus on the current issues of the day - SARS, Mad Cow Disease, anthrax, bioterrorism, overusage of antibiotics etc. Also we will discuss such pertinent topics or urban legends such as - what is the most dangerous item in your kitchen; hidden hazards associated with summer barbecues; who is in the hot tub with you?; and when you hear "Singing in the Rain" at a local grocery store - is that stream of water really safe for the vegetables? There will be guest lecturers from the Microbiology and Immunology department and also from the local hospitals. The presentations will be informal with student participation encouraged. The topics presented will change dependent upon the current events. Contributing to the course grade will be attendance, class participation, and a short presentation by each student of a noteworthy (microbiology/immunology) news item.



## COGNATE COURSES

### Approved Equivalent Courses for American Pluralism

U.S. History I and II: U.S. history from Native American settlement to the end of the Civil War.

\*See the History Department for a specific course description.

SOC 211 – Sociology of Diversity  
Tues & Thurs 9:30-10:40 am

Professor Michael Farell  
Department of Sociology

This course serves as a sociological introduction to diversity in American society. The basis and social implications of difference will be explored, with particular reference to issues of race, ethnicity, religion, class, and gender

DMS 213 – Immigration & Film  
Tues & Thurs 3:00 – 4:50 pm

Staff  
Media Studies Department

\*See the Media Studies Department for a specific course description.

AAS 261  
Tues & Thurs 9:30 – 10:50 am

Professor Keith Griffler  
African American Studies Department

\*See the African American Studies Department for a specific course description.