

Sonoma State University
Napa/Solano Liberal Studies Program
Fall 2021 Course Descriptions

CHEM 301: Racism, Sexism and Bias in Science

This course will examine structural racism and sexism in science and medicine in America through readings, Ted-Talks, podcasts and case studies. Students will look at data concerning trends of representation in science and data on how science is accessed by various groups in the US. The data will form the basis for discussions about how current practices and structure that are in place in the US create inequitable access to careers in science and medicine and how this creates disparities for women and people of color in terms of health, wealth and access. Student teams will generate ideas to suggest sustainable change that could create an inclusive and equitable scientific community, technological and medical culture that are inclusive. These conclusions will be grounded in data communicated via a final assignment.

AMCS 350: Ethics, Values & Multiculturalism

This course examines theories and discourses of race, ethnicity, and multiculturalism and their impact on American thought and practice. Students will explore questions of ethics and values that shape the U.S. as a multicultural society and learn about conceptual tools they can apply in thinking critically about these issues in the various contexts they live in. This course can be taught in on-line or hybrid modes during the summer and/or intersession only.

EDUC 417: School and Society*

A critical examination of current issues in today's schools and future directions in education through the perspectives of history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, and the politics of education. Content includes: trends, movements, and issues of the development of our present-day school systems and current educational practice; development of an individual philosophy of education through examination and evaluation of educational philosophies from early Greek through modern/post-modern thought; analysis of American society and its effect on the functioning of schools; the role of explicit and implicit cultural assumptions in educational contexts; and the influence of federal, state, and local governing agencies, the knowledge industry, and special-interest groups on education.

*This course is one of two prerequisites for the SSU Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Program

HIST 468: Blacks in American History

A study of African culture, social philosophy and political influences in the United States from the pre-Colonial period through the present day. Major emphasis will be placed on black political philosophies and strategies during the periods of Reconstruction, WWI and WWII, the civil revolts of the 1960s, and the contemporary period of political activism.