

## EPS 300 (Educated Perspective Seminar) Course Descriptions

### Spring 2012 Course Offerings

#### **EPS 300: Culture and Literature of the Great Plains (Brummels)**

The early 21st Century has renewed our focus on what it means to be an American, but regional identity (or lack thereof) significantly influences our personal identities: how do we see ourselves and how do we present ourselves to others. Though Nebraskans too often think their home as a vacant place on the edge of the map with little but the vicissitudes of a college football program to give it shape, the state and its region have a characteristic history and literature that can define its citizens and provide an agenda for the future.

#### **EPS 300: Capitalism and Morality (Cupp)**

This course questions the assumption that capitalism is ethically sound. We shall study the nature of capitalism as well as prominent normative theories of ethics and justice. We shall then look at various ethical issues in capitalism as it is practiced in the United States, including economic distribution, the nature of corporations, corporate auditing, the responsibility of business to consumers and the environment, and the ethics of advertising. Rather than trying to settle these controversies, we will focus on learning and using the methods philosophers use in trying to settle them.

#### **EPS 300: Critical Thinking Concepts and Skills (Nelson)**

The course is designed to help students achieve deep and significant learning skills for use in all disciplines. By examining controversial and provocative questions students will consider how we think, why we think, and how we can change the type of thinking we participate in through quality thinking and intellectual growth. From the book- "Critical thinking is the disciplined art of ensuring that you use the best thinking you are capable of in any set of circumstances." (Paul & Elder, 2001).

#### **EPS 300: Environmental Ethics (Slaymaker)**

Environmental Ethics philosophically inspects religious, economic, political, and health issues that impact us and our planet as a result of human generated waste and pollution. Environmental Ethics is also concerned with allied issues such as race, class, gender and globalization. Environmental Ethics deals with our relationships with nature which have been mainly degrading and destructive. Environmental Ethics is an interdisciplinary course that encourages thinking across cultural, historical, and knowledge boundaries.

#### **EPS 300: Global Health: Right, Responsibility and Privilege (Engebretsen)**

Health is a fundamental human RIGHT - however, the RESPONSIBILITY for securing health is a dynamic interaction between individual action and behavior, environment, culture, public policy and socio-economic status of global communities. Furthermore, there is great local and global disparity between health status, revealing an element of PRIVILEGE to health and health resources. The ultimate goals of this course are to understand the roles of knowledge, access and culture in determining personal and global health; and to build your capacity to "Think Globally and Act Locally" toward personal, community and global health.

#### **EPS 300: Lessons from the Holocaust (Dinsmore)**

What lessons can we learn from the events of the past? A critical examination of the reality and tragedy of the Holocaust may enlighten us as we reflect and analyze the actions of the perpetrators, collaborators, victims, bystanders, rescuers, liberators and survivors. Consulting the evidence of the witnesses and other primary sources will help in distinguishing between fact and fiction. Multiple academic perspectives (economics, psychology, sociology, art, music, literature, education, criminology, mass communications)

are crucial to a holistic approach to understanding. The lessons learned will result in a personal civic action plan that will be related to the reduction of the causes of the Holocaust.

**EPS 300: Literary Ghosts and Vampires (Gubbels)**

In this course students will read several texts by authors representing a variety of ethnic backgrounds who write about ghosts, vampires, incarnations, conjurers, and other “shapeshifters” in order to understand the appeal of the uncanny, of spectrality, and of haunting in various forms.

**EPS 300: Technology and Society (Renzelman, Vander Weil, Worner)**

This course focuses on the nature of modern technology and how technological developments have affected human culture and individuals in society. The content concentrates on Electronic media and Energy and their interaction with society. Issues of both local and national interest are included. Students will develop and refine their own ideas and opinions through readings, lectures, discussion, videos, debates and writing assignments.