# xJ-term 2024 Learning Perspective (LP) Courses
# Courses Appropriate for 1st Year Students

## Learning Perspective Courses

All Augustana students are required to complete at least one course in each of the six Learning Perspective areas in order to graduate. Learning Perspective courses offered this J-term are listed below. Courses with a Study Away component are highlighted in gray.

Perspective on the Arts (PA) Courses

- **Art History ARHI-270 Art History in Context (4 credits)**. (PA) Focuses on a specific art-historical topic, and students learn to interpret works of art in context while engaging in discussions around that theme from a broader historical perspective. The class will take field trips to regional museums such as the Figge Art Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Iowa's Museum of Art and will study works in the Augustana Teaching Museum of Art on campus. May be taken more than once as topics change. Please note: this course will have field trips that may extend beyond class time. Fee $40.
- **Art ART 124 Design: Three Dimensional (4 credits).** (PA) The theory and language of three-dimensional design and its application to artistic communication, with an emphasis on contemporary practice. Projects emphasize understanding intellectual aspects of three-dimensional form, working processes and techniques in a variety of media. $60.00 Lab fee
- **Communication Studies COMM-230 Communication, Politics, and Citizenship (4 Credits).** (PL) Addresses issues of communication effects and ethics as they impinge on citizens of a free society, with a focus on political discourse in the public sphere. Features rhetorical tactics, communication strategies and argument patterns in political campaigns, public policy, and the media.
- **Creative Writing ENCW-204 Screenwriting (4 Credits)**. (PA) Practice in writing screenplays with an introduction to narrative structure. Emphasis will be on generating, critiquing and revising student work, but students will also study contemporary scripts and films.
- **Film FILM 270 Documentary Filmmaking (4 credits).** (PA) Informed on various storytelling modes and forms that are commonly utilized in documentary filmmaking, students put that knowledge into practice through the planning, production, and editing of complete, short- subject documentaries that tell compelling stories. The basics of video pre-production, production, and post-production process, documents, and technology are explored as they relate to the genre of documentary short film.
- **French Studies FRST 248 World Cinema in French (4 credits).** (PA, G) Intensive study of a variety of films from the French-speaking world (France, Quebec, Haiti, Senegal, Morocco, Belgium, etc.). Course situates the films in their historical and cultural contexts, and explores questions of globalization, migration, multiculturalism, and

reception. Students acquire skills in film analysis and comparative cinema. Course taught in English and open to the general public. Can be taken for credit towards French major.

- **Graphic Design GRD 170 Process & Materials (4 credits)** (PA) This course provides an experimental studio environment focused on rapid iterative making. We explore a variety of media and consider how these ways of working are applied in a range of design practices from Advertising to Video Graphics. $40 lab fee.
- **Music MUSC-101 Introduction to Music (4 credits).** (PA) Exploration of the fundamental elements, various forms and styles of music. Includes listening to and thinking about music in various cultural and historical contexts and the live concert experience. Does not apply to major in Music.
- **Music MUSC-107 Music in Worldwide Perspective (4 credits).** (PA,G) Music in Worldwide Perspective. Introduction to ethnomusicology and survey of indigenous music of the various regions of the world. Does not apply to major in music.
- **Music MUSC-131 Music in Film (4 credits).** (PA) This class immerses you in the history, people, and creative processes behind the music heard in movies. It traces the path from the not-so-silent era at the birth of film all the way to the high-tech world of making music for today's big-budget blockbusters. The course goes behind the scenes with composers, directors, and musicians to learn about the art and craft of film music. The course includes extensive film viewing and basic analysis of music in film along with basic creative activities in adding music to film. Please note: In this course you may be exposed to films featuring adult themes, language, and visual depictions of nudity, sexual situations, violence including sexual violence, and drug use.
- **Music MUSC-133-01 Video Game Music (4 credits).** (PA) An introduction to the history and function of musical sound in video games.
- **Theatre Arts THEA-240 Acting I (4 credits).** (PA) Introduction to the acting process through study of its basic principles and development of fundamental performance skills. Studio work includes improvisational exercises, scene study and various performance projects. Emphasis on the use of creative imagination in the context of performance.

Perspective on Human Values and Existence (PH) Courses

- **Chinese Studies CHST-240/340 Intro Chinese Culture (4 Credits).** (PH, G) An overview of Chinese culture, with emphasis on various aspects within Chinese society, including religions, literature, art, language and philosophy. Readings are supplemented by audiovisual material, discussion and projects. Taught in English. May not take CHST-240 if CHST-340 has already been taken.
- **Communication Studies COMM-260 Communication and Culture (4 credits).** (PH,G) Examines how communication helps create culture and how culture constrains communication, reasoning, and morality; introduces similarities and differences in understanding self and other in cultural contexts.
- **Japanese Studies JPST-250 Culture & Society (4 credits).** (PH,G) This course will introduce students to Japanese culture and society while traveling in Japan on J-term. The topics and reading materials closely relate to each destination and include literature,

history, religion, social systems, and current issues. Students will deepen their understanding of Japanese culture and society by having classroom study combined with firsthand experience, observation, and interaction with people living in Japan. Taught in English. No prerequisite.

- **Music MUSC-231 Deep Listening (4 credits).** (PH) In this course we will explore sound meditation using the Deep Listening practice developed by composer Pauline Oliveros. We will investigate sound as a technique to transcend the limits of discursive reason, language, and our culture's hyper-visual orientation. The class will also study the ways sound has been used in contemplative disciplines and metaphysical speculations in various cultures. We will also see how some contemporary composers have been influenced by these ideas and how this has influenced their musical techniques and expressive goals. This is an experiential course: students will engage in daily Deep Listening exercises which will include focused listening, simple vocalizations, body movements, and journaling.
- **Philosophy PHIL-120 Puzzles and Paradoxes (4 Credits).** (PH) An introductory survey of well-known paradoxes that arise in the philosophical study of logic, ethics, theology, metaphysics, epistemology, and decision theory. Also explored are paradoxes from other disciplines, such as psychology, physics, statistics, and economics. Through these paradoxes, the concepts of reason and rationality are examined.
- **Philosophy PHIL-122 Meaning of Life (4 credits).** (PH) An exploration of philosophical efforts to answer the question posed by Socrates in Plato's Republic: how should one live? We will investigate the roles of happiness, morality, and meaning in a well-lived human life, as well as the significance of death for us mortal creatures. Readings will range from classical thinkers such as Plato and Epicurus, to recent work by philosophers such as Robert Nozick and Susan Wolf.
- **Philosophy PHIL-124 Kinds of Minds (4 Credits)**. (PH) This course surveys recent developments in the philosophy of animal minds. Students will be introduced to the basic methods of philosophy through an investigation of non-human animal mental lives. Topics will include animal consciousness, pain, reasoning, language, and sociality. Many of these topics will connect to broader questions about animal rights and reflections about human nature.
- **Political Science POLS-107 Contemporary Political Ideas (4 credits).** (PH,D) Politics is ultimately the struggle over ideas. This course aims to pay close attention to this struggle by seeking to understand how these ideas (from classic liberalism to neoliberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism, etc.) have influenced how we are living our social, political, cultural and economic lives today. This course will ask the following questions: How have our interpretations of liberalism shifted overtime? What does it mean to conserve politically, culturally, or economically? What is the proper balance between freedom, equality, and democracy? How do we see these ideas playing out in the politics of our day? The course focuses on primary texts from a variety of political traditions in an attempt to answer these questions.
- **Religion RELG-285 Islam: An Introduction (4 credits)** (PH, G) A scholarly critical examination of Islam's scriptures, rituals, history, and contemporary issues. (Does not meet the Reasoned Examination of Faith, or REF, requirement.)

Perspective on Literature & Texts (PL) Courses

- **Classics CLAS-250 Classics and Film (4 credits).** (PL, G) Greek and Roman antiquity have captured the Western imagination for over 3,000 years. In this course, students will be asked to consider how filmmakers draw on classical myths, legends, and history to create stories that appeal to modern audiences, considering how, where, and why ancient stories are represented, reframed, or distorted in cinema and how these modern narratives can serve as a lens through which to examine the values and ideologies of our own society.
- **Communication Studies COMM-210-A Presidential Rhetoric (4 credits).** (PL) This course investigates the genre of presidential rhetoric in different contexts and what it means to be constituted as citizens through that rhetoric.
- **English ENGL-235 Science Fiction and Fantasy (4 Credits)**. (PL) An introduction to the alternative worlds of myth, fantasy, utopia and dystopia. Students will develop the close-reading skills and vocabulary of the discipline as they explore deeper meaning, ambiguity, and complexity in classic and contemporary works of fantasy and science fiction.
- **English ENGL 250 Shakespeare and Film (4 credits).** (PL) An introduction to Shakespeare's tragedies and comedies. Reading the plays and watching popular mass-market film versions, students will learn to appreciate Shakespeare's ability to combine complex ideas with compelling entertainment. Special attention paid to Shakespeare's historical moment. In order to make time for film-watching during January, students will read a book over break. Since proof of this reading will be due when the course begins, be certain to contact the professor or respond to his emails before Winter Break for details.
- **English ENGL-268 American Writers in Paris (4 credits).** (PL) Taught in Paris, this immersive J-Term class on the cultural moment of modernism explores the intersections between modern literature, art, music, and politics. This course will travel to Paris J-Term 2023-24.
- **Spanish Studies SPST-250 Women Spanish Civil War (4 credits).** (PL, G) This course focuses on the analysis of best-selling novels of historical fiction about the Spanish Civil War written by Spanish women. Despite the Spanish government's granting of amnesty to abusers of human rights and its enforcement of a culture of silence since the late 1970s, the trauma of this period is still fresh in the minds of many Spaniards today. Course examines how women writers remember, forget, reimagine, and reconfigure this painful history. Special attention will be paid to the social constructions of gender and sexuality and the unique experiences of women in this period. Course is intended for students with little to no background in Spanish history and literature. No knowledge of Spanish is required. All texts will be read in English translation. Does not count toward the major/minor in Spanish.
- **Spanish Studies SPST-251 Latino/a Culture in US (4 credits)** (PL) Exploration of major themes and issues around Latino/a cultural production including fiction, memoirs, essays, films, and music. This course will consider interaction between individuals and

social groups as they reflect on and give meaning to the concept of Latinidad in the United States. Does not count toward the major/minor in Spanish.

Perspective on the Natural World (PN) Courses

- **Biology BIOL-100B Science & Pseudoscience (4 credits).** (PN) Are vaccines safe? Is evolution real? We are surrounded by claims about what is safe and healthful, about how nature works, and about extraordinary things. How reliable are these claims? In this class you will research and present a case study on the controversial scientific or pseudoscientific topic of your choice. This class is intended for non-science majors, and has no prerequisites. Seniors by permission only.
- **Biology BIOL-100C Insects and Society (4 credits)** (PN) Insects are the little creatures that run the world. In this course we will study the many ways in which insects impact human lives. The strange world of insects provides an exciting lens to examine the mechanisms of evolution. In addition to the study of the insect's natural history and its implication on our lives, we will use our study of insects to broadly examine how science informs decision making in terms of risk assessment. Students will examine how the use of insecticides and GMOs are assessed and regulated leading to an understanding of how scientists help make decisions that broadly impact society. This course students will read and discuss material ranging from news articles and pop culture to peer-reviewed scientific articles. In addition classroom time students will spend time in the lab immersed in hands-on learning that will incorporate the Augustana Insect Museum collections and live insect cultures.
- **Chemistry CHEM-111 Busting Myths (4 credits).** (PN) CHEM-111 introduces students to experimental design and how to communicate experimental findings to the community. In this course, students will confirm or disprove, through experimentation, a host of societal perceptions, urban legends, and/or viral videos. Experimental results will be presented to the community using digital media. Laboratory work will be a major component of the course. Does not count toward a chemistry or biochemistry major.
- **Chemistry CHEM-117 Chemistry in the Environment (4 credits).** (PN) An introductory course covering general chemistry topics as they relate to the environment. Throughout the course you will improve your scientific literacy by studying topics including atmospheric chemistry, water quality, reaction rates, and energy sources. The course has no prerequisites and may not be taken for credit after successful completion of CHEM 132. Does not count toward a Chemistry or Biochemistry major.
- **Chemistry CHEM-215 Intro to Molecular Nutrition (4 credits).** (PN) CHEM-215 examines molecular structures and chemical reactions as they relate to the digestion, absorption and utilization of nutrients. Consequences of nutrient deficiency and excess, as well as their roles in human disease and prevention are included. Applied topics will also be addressed. The course is tailored to provide needed conceptual background for students majoring in public health, for those having interest in health policy, and those with an interest in their own health and nutrition. Although the course has no prerequisites, completion of at least one high school or college level course in chemistry is recommended. The course is intended primarily for first and second year students.

Upper level students may register upon instructor approval. Does not count toward a chemistry or biochemistry major.

- **Geography GEOG-106 Landscape Dynamics (4 credits).** (PN) An introduction to the forces that shape Earth's landforms, landscapes, and water resources and the benefits and hazards that our dynamic planet poses to human society. This course uses theoretical principles and field experiences to analyze and understand the character, behavior, and evolution of landforms and considers the responses of these systems to human disturbance. Topics include a study of tectonic forces, erosion and deposition by water, wind, and ice, and humans as agents of change. J-Term: Includes one two hour lab per weekend and a five-day field experience Jan 18-23-2024. The course includes a field trip fee.
- **Geology GEOL-101 Physical and Environmental Geology (4 credits).** (PN) Introduction to the science of the Earth and our environment through topics of Earth materials and cycles, natural resources, tectonic processes, hydrologic systems, volcanoes, earthquakes, paleoclimatology, and geologic time. Additional themes include anthropogenic impacts on our environment, environmental hazards and environmental justice. Includes a weekly 2-hour lab that integrates experiential exercises, computer applications, collections of the Fryxell Geology Museum, and local field trips. Gateway course to the geology major. **Requisites: T**ake GEOL-101l - Must be taken at the same time as this course.
- **Geology GEOL-123 Caribbean Geology (4 credits).** (PN) An introduction to the science of geology through study of the processes required for the formation of an island. A week of on-campus Socratic discussions of topics such as deep time, plate tectonics, magma and volcano formation, biochemical and climatic controls on reef-building and destruction, erosion, and other rock cycle processes followed by two weeks of observation and testing of those concepts on the south central Caribbean island of Bonaire (Netherlands Lesser Antilles). Passing a basic swim/float test and having a valid passport are required. Gateway course to the geology major.
- **Physics PHYS-121 Elementary Physics (4 Credits).** (PN) A quantitative treatment of mechanics, electricity, heat, liquids, gases, and atomic, nuclear, and elementary particle physics. This class meets during January term. Daily class meetings consist of multiple short lecture/discussion sections interspersed with group problem solving activities and hands-on laboratory exercises. Nightly required readings are reinforced by warm-up exercises. There are quizzes at the end of each week and a summative final exam.

Perspective on the Past (PP) Courses

- **Math MATH-150 History of Math (4 Credits).** (PP) This course will focus on the lives and works of diverse mathematicians throughout history. Topics will include some subset of ancient mathematicians (e.g., Pythagoras), European mathematicians (e.g., Alan Turing), South Asian mathematicians (e.g., Brahmagupta), women mathematicians (e.g., Ada Lovelace), and modern day mathematicians (e.g., Terence Tao). Students will be able to explore the lives and potential obstacles of these mathematicians, as well as their mathematical work and its applications to modern day mathematics. The course has no prerequisites, so anyone with an interest in mathematics is welcome.

- **German Studies GRST-252/352 East and West Germany (4 Credits).** (PP) Traces the division of post-war Germany into East and West and provides an overview of the social, political, and economic differences between the two states, including the continued division more than thirty years after unification. Includes fiction, non-fiction, memoirs, and documentary and feature film. Credit may not be earned for both GRST-252 and 352. Taught in English.
- **History HIST-205 The French Revolution (4 credits).** (PP,G) This J-Term course will intensively examine the French Revolution of 1789, with special attention to the problem of legitimizing authority amid rapid changes of regimes, from absolute monarchy through constitutional monarchy to the republican Reign of Terror and beyond.
- **History HIST-235 Reel History (4 credits).** (PP) Examines how the past is represented in feature length movies, while providing students with the basic tools needed for film analysis. Students will become familiar with the language used to analyze films, while better understanding how film techniques and genre conventions change how the public understands historical events. Students will view films in and out of class, compare films from different eras, and research the historical context for important films of their choice. By the end of the term, students should be able to produce historically-informed, sophisticated film criticism. The particular historical topic under study will vary by instructor.
- **Music MUSC-132 Music & Activism (4 credits).** (PP) What do rock, gospel, country, heavy metal, jazz, hip-hop, rap, alternative, indie and every other possible type of music have in common? Activism. Social Consciousness. Justice. Change. Throughout history popular music and activism have joined forces to support a variety of social and political movements. Music and Activism: The Role of the Protest Song throughout History is an interdisciplinary course that emphasizes the relationships between society, music, songwriters, performers, and listeners. By exploring history through its sonic landscapes, specifically protest songs, this course will trace mainstream and radical responses to key movements in history with special emphasis on the tumultuous social, economic, and political challenges of the 20th century. Through text, audio, and video sources this course will focus on the role that protest songs play in activism, social justice, and change.
- **Music MUSC-134 Wagner's Ring Cycle (4 Credits)** (PP) Wagner's massive tetralogy, Der Ring des Nibelungen stands as one of the greatest artworks ever created in Western society. The breadth and scope of this work is more far reaching than any other work and its influence on past and future generations is undiminished. More than simply a mere work of art, this nineteenth-century epoch stands as testament to the genius of one man and countless others who have delved into its deeper meanings. This course will serve as an introduction to this work and hopefully inspire further exploration into this subject.
- **Music MUSC-232 Ashes to Immortality (4 Credits).** (PP) During the Holocaust, European fascists attempted to exterminate the Jewish people and their culture. Even before WWII, the Nazis banned so-called Degenerate Art (painting, music, literature) and used the arts as a propaganda tool. But for the Jews, the arts were a connection to their past, sustenance to feed creative hunger, and a salve to soothe spiritual wounds. We will

explore the historical origins of anti-Semitism, the Jewish contribution to the arts in central Europe, and how the arts helped save a culture. Ultimately, we'll seek to discover the centrality of the arts in our time and culture.

- **Religion RELG-287 Religion & Philosophy of India (4 Credits).** (PP, G) An introduction to religions and philosophies originating in the Indian subcontinent, including traditions such as Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism and a study of texts, devotional practices, and more modern developments such as the impact of colonialism and Gandhi's political activism. (Does not satisfy the Reasoned Examination of Faith, or REF, requirement.)

Perspective on Individuals and Society (PS) Courses

- **Communication Studies COMM-240 Advertising and Consumers (4 credits).** (PS) COMM 240 traces the evolution of the persuasive strategies, effects and messages in commercial discourse, from its origins in colonial America to today, with special emphasis on portrayals of race, class, family and gender in contemporary America. Course assignments will incorporate instruction on media content analysis and textual analysis as research methods.
- **Economic ECON-225 Health Economics (4 credits).** (PS) The tools and perspectives of economic analysis applied to the healthcare industry. Emphasis is on the changing nature of the industry and alternative methods of structuring and financing it.
- **Kinesiology KIN-270 Japanese Sport & Culture (4 credits)** (PS, G) This course will introduce students to the sporting culture and history of Japan while traveling to Japan during J-term. While our focus will be on physical culture, sport, and the active body, we will also engage in cultural activities and field trips to develop a greater understanding of broader Japanese culture. Through a combination of classroom study, guided experiences, and observation, students will develop a deeper understanding of Japanese culture. The topics and reading materials closely relate to each destination and include history, religion, social system, ritual, and contemporary issues. Finally, being in a different culture provides an opportunity for us to reflect on our own culture - examining the things we often accept as "normal" in our day to day lives. Taught in English. No prerequisite.
- **Linguistics LING-201 Language Myths (4 credits).** (PS, D) Everybody has acquired at least one language and, consequently, has ideas about the nature of language, yet many popular notions about language are not shared by linguists who study it objectively. In this course, we explore common misconceptions about language and analyze how these myths shape the social, cultural, and political landscapes in two contexts: the world in general and the United States in particular. Specific issues in the U.S. context include Spanglish and Black English.
- **Multimedia Journalism and Mass Communication MJMC-225 Strategic Communication (4 credits).** (PS) Strategic communication (journalism and mass communication-related concepts used in marketing, public relations, social media, crisis communication, and advertising for the purpose of influencing behavior) is everywhere,

yet if done right the consuming masses hardly notice the machinations. This course helps students identify strategic communication that occurs in their world, discover how it affects them and others, furthers their understanding through collaborative, creative role play, and asks them to consider the ethical implications of this booming profession.

- **Political Science POLS-101-01 American Government National (4 Credits).** (PS) A study of constitutional principles and their implementation to create a functioning national government. Development of basic institutions--presidency, Congress, courts, bureaucracy. Analysis of Political Behavior -- political parties, campaigns, and interest groups. Examples from public policy are used to show the institutions and groups in action.
- **Public Health PUBH-180 Health Disparities (4 credits).** (PS,D) An introduction to the impacts of health disparities on child development, behavioral choices, and adult health status in the United States. The course focus may shift to include race/ethnicity, geography, SES, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, migration status, age, religion and spirituality depending on current issues in health at the time it is offered.
- **Sociology Anthropology SOAN-102 Intro to Anthropology (4 Credits).** (PS, G) A general introduction to society and culture, diverse cultural systems and groups of people from around the globe, and a holistic examination of the many parts of culture. Students will learn the tools, methods and key concepts anthropologists use to study humanity.
- **Sociology Anthropology SOAN-231 Culture Through Film (4 credits).** (PS,G) This course uses film to explore other cultures and some of the common issues people face globally. The primary focus is on documentary and ethnographic films, but will also consider commercial and narrative films. The course examines both Western and non-Western societies, cross-cultural encounters, and Western and non-Western film traditions. Students will explore topics like representation, point of view, bias, and ethnocentrism in film narratives and framing.