

What Cluster is right for you?
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Fall 2009 Cluster Descriptions

A and B. Political Science/History, “U.S. History and Politics in the Modern Era (2 sections)

Professor Nicole Krassas combines her course, Introduction to American Government and Politics (Tier 1: Social Sciences) with Professor Anna Kirchmann’s course, The Recent American Experience (Tier 1: Historical Perspectives). The two courses will introduce students to American history and politics from 1877 to the present. Recommended for History and/or Political Science majors, but can be taken by almost any incoming first-year student. These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

C. Accounting/Mathematics, “Accounting and Logical Reasoning”

Professor Salvatrice Keating joins forces with faculty of the Accounting Department, to give students an introduction to accounting, business math, and math applications in political science. Math 135 (Math for Liberal Arts) satisfies the Tier 1 Mathematics requirement. Principles of Accounting is a core requirement for business majors. **This cluster is available for Business, Accounting, and/or Business Information Systems majors only.** This cluster is only available to majors who have placed in an LAC level Math (T1M). These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

D-1. and D-2. Environmental Earth Science/Visual Arts, “Art Rocks”

Professor Drew Hyatt unites with Visual Arts Professor Andy Jones for their popular cluster. Art Rocks introduces students to principles in ART 100 (Studio Art) and EES 104 (Geology) in support of continued study in these areas. As well, in part through FYR 174 classes, we will explore the intersection between these disciplines to develop a sense of the value in applying broad perspectives to understand and appreciate the environment in which we live. The FYR class also introduces valuable skills for transitioning to university life. This cluster is recommended for Environmental Earth Science and Visual Arts majors, but can be taken by almost any incoming first-year student. Note: This course includes a mandatory laboratory that is equivalent to the stand alone laboratory EES 112. This cluster satisfies the Tier 1 NS-Natural Science and the Tier 1 A-Arts in Context requirement.

E and F. Psychology/Political Science, “Political Psychology” (2 sections)

This cluster combines General Psychology, (an introductory course in the Psychology major) taught by Professor Melanie Evans with American Governmental Politics, (an introductory course in the Political Science major) taught by Professor William Salka. The cluster introduces students to courses in psychology and political science. At the same time, it also focuses on political psychology, which seeks to explain how and why individuals acquire their political views. This cluster satisfies one elective or major requirement and one Tier 1 requirement. This cluster is recommended for Political Science and/ or Psychology majors, but can be taken by almost any incoming student. These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

G. Economics/Physical Sciences, “Energy, Economics and the Environment”

Professor Jennifer Brown combines her course, ECO 210 (Economics and the Environment) with Professor Timothy Swanson’s course, PHY 102 (Energy and the Scientific Method). PHY 102 is an integrated lab

lecture designed for non-science majors in which the scientific method is studied as it is applied to the investigation of energy and its uses. In connection to Professor Brown's course, students will also discuss related issues and their effects on the economy. These classes satisfy Tier 1 requirements in Social Sciences and Natural Sciences. These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

H-1 and H-2. English/Honors, "Honors: Expository Writing"

Professor Barbara Little Liu's combines her course, Honors: Expository Writing, with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities) to introduce students to the University, the Honors Program, and the kinds of writing they will be doing in both. Honors 200 meets the Tier 1 College Writing requirement. **This cluster is only available for students in the Honors Program.**

I. and J. Biology/Biochemistry, "Orientation to Biology"

BIO 120 (Organismal Biology) with Lab taught by Professor Ross Koning and Professor M. Clancy. BIO 120 asks students to consider basic problems and diverse solutions for the problems faced by all living organisms and is combined with the FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities). This cluster is available for Biology and/or Biochemistry majors only. **Note: This cluster is only available to majors who have placed in LAC level Math (T1M).**

K. and L. Biology/Biochemistry, "Orientation to Biology"

BIO 130 (Ecology with Lab) taught by Professor Adam Lambert and Professor J. Idjadi. This course is an introduction to the study of interactions between species and their physical environment. The course will examine the factors that determine distribution and relative abundance of species, organization of communities, and ecosystem dynamics. Topics will be presented within an evolutionary framework, drawing on connections to human experience, as well as other sub-disciplines of biology. Laboratory exercises will include essential theories and techniques in the field. **Note: This cluster is only available to majors who have placed in LAC level Math (T1M).** These courses are clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

M. Performing Arts, "Introduction to Music History"

Professor Jeff Calissi's MUS 120 (Introduction to Music History) will introduce students to the study of music of the Western world. This course satisfies the Tier 1H-Historical Perspectives requirement and is combined with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities). Recommended for Performing Arts majors, but can be taken by almost any incoming first-year student.

N. and O. Visual Arts, "Explorations in Visual Culture"

ART 140 (Explorations in Visual Culture) is taught by Professor Anne Dawson. This course introduces the basic concepts and characteristics of the visual arts by studying examples of art from various cultures and historical periods. We will explore formal components, subject matter, social/historical context, the artist's intentions, and other concepts in order to understand how visual art communicates. The relationship of the visual arts to other art forms, such as dance, music, and theatre, may also be discussed. It is assumed that you have had no (or minimal) background in the fine arts. This course will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities). This course satisfies the Tier 1A-Arts in Context requirement.

P. and Q. English, “Drama”

ENG 226 (Drama) taught by Professor Miriam Chirico is a study of various kinds of drama, with an emphasis on action, theme, and character. Major plays by dramatists of the classical, Renaissance, and modern periods will be considered from a cultural and historic perspective. Emphasis on careful reading of events, details, and competing points of view. This course satisfies Tier 1LT-Literature and Thought requirement. Recommended for English majors, but can be taken by almost any incoming first-year student.. This course will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

R. Sociology/Economics, “Society, Economy and Food”

An introduction to the study of modern American society and economy from the sociological and macroeconomic perspectives. Social and economic structures, culture, change, relations, and behavior of individuals in a social context are analyzed using different sociological and economic theories. A case study of the production, distribution, consumption, and culture of food is used to illustrate important societal and economic changes in America. This cluster satisfies one elective or major requirement and one Tier 1SS-Social Science requirement. The cluster is recommended for Business, Economics and/or Sociology majors, but can be taken by almost any incoming first-year student. These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

S. Sociology, “Social Behavior”

SOC 100 (Sociology) taught by Professor Dennis Canterbury introduces students to sociological concepts and their application to the analysis of social behavior with an emphasis on socialization of the individual groups, social interaction, social structure, and social change. This cluster satisfies the Tier 1SS-Social Science requirement. This course is recommended for Sociology majors, but can be taken by almost any incoming first-year student. This course will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

T1 and T2. Psychology/Physical Sciences, “Chemistry of Life”

PSY 100 (General Psychology) taught by Professor Luis Cordon is paired with CHE 205 (Chemistry of Life w/ Lab) taught by Professor John Toedt. With laboratory exercises that require observation, experimentation, and analyses, the two courses will offer students a broad introduction to the methods, findings, and theories of scientific psychology and introduce students to the role chemistry plays in our everyday lives. This cluster satisfies the Tier 1 requirements in Social Sciences (T1SS) and Natural Sciences (T1NS). Recommended for Psychology majors, but can be taken by almost any incoming first-year student. These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

U. Education/Mathematics, “Education Counts”

EDU 110 (Education) taught by Professor Daniel Thompson, is paired with MAT 139 (Number Systems) taught by Professor Pete Johnson. EDU 110 is designed for teacher candidates interested in learning and teaching in NK-12 schools as future educators, parents and concerned citizens. Through a weekly seminar of study and self-reflection and a weekly three-hour clinical experience in local schools, teacher candidates will actively investigate primary through secondary classrooms and the dynamics and complex relationships of individuals and their communities concerning schools. This cluster satisfies the Tier 1SS-Social Science and Tier 1M-Mathematics requirements. This cluster is only available to students who have placed at the MAT 130, 135, 139 or 243 level. These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities)

V. and W. History/Political Science, “Modern U.S. History & International Relations in a Globalized World”

This cluster integrates two courses, Recent American History, 1877—Present (HIS 121) and International Relations (PSC 140). Since the events of September 11, 2001, the necessity of understanding both American History and International Relations in a globalized international context has grown increasingly important. What links the courses in this cluster is our focus on international affairs and diplomacy as well as our investigation of the United States as one of many actors in an increasingly complex and globalized international system. Students interested in International Studies are encouraged to select this cluster. Students will be required to watch films, attend public lectures, and participate in a United Nations field trip. This satisfies the Tier 1SS-Social Science and Tier 1H-Historical Perspective. These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

Y. Education/Mathematics, “Education Counts”

EDU 110 (Contemporary Issues Education) taught by Professor David Stoloff, is paired with MAT 139 (Number Systems) taught by Professor Therese Hart. EDU 110 is designed for teacher candidates interested in learning and teaching in NK-12 schools as future educators, parents and concerned citizens. Through a weekly seminar of study and self-reflection and a weekly three-hour clinical experience in local schools, teacher candidates will actively investigate primary through secondary classrooms and the dynamics and complex relationships of individuals and their communities concerning schools. This cluster satisfies the Tier 1SS-Social Science and Tier 1M-Mathematics requirements. This cluster is only available to students who have placed at the MAT 130, 135, 139 or 243 level. These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

Z. Mathematics/Computer Science, “Problem Solving in the Real World”

Professor Sarah Tasneem combines her course, Introduction to Computing and Problem Solving (CSC110) with Professor Kim Ward’s course, Precalculus Mathematics (Tier 1 Mathematics). This cluster will support first year students preparation for math/science/engineering and is only available to students who have placed in an LAC level Math. This cluster is recommended to some mathematics and computer science majors, but can be taken by almost any incoming first-year student. These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities) which will help a student develop college survival skills.

A-A. Political Science/Environmental Earth Science, “Parks and Politics”

PSC 140 (International Relations) taught by Professor Jay Cobble Dick is paired with EES 106 (Geology of Natural Parks) taught by Professor Peter Drzewiecki. PSC 140 introduces students to political science and international relations. Using the conflict-resolution approach students will analyze the major influences shaping nation- state relations. Students in EES 106 will study geological processes, history and development of selected natural parks. This cluster satisfies the Tier 1 requirements in Social Sciences (T1SS) and Natural Sciences (T1NS). Recommended for Political Science majors and Environmental Earth Science majors, but can be taken by almost any first-year student. These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

B-B. Communication, “Communicating”

COM 100 (Intro Mass Communication) taught by Professor Olugbenga Ayeni is paired with COM 101 (Interpersonal Communication) taught by Professor John Hale. This cluster will introduce students to the history, structure, and technology of the mass communication industries and the relation of those industries to contemporary society, communication theory, the nature of the mass audience, and the concept of information

society. COM 100 satisfies the Tier 1 requirement for Social Science. **This cluster is available for Communication majors only.** These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

C-C. English, “Writing & the World of English Studies “

ENG 100 College Composition taught by Dr. Elena Tapia links with Dr. Ken McNeil’s ENG 202 Introduction to English Studies. In composition, students will write in several genres to communicate ideas clearly to their intended audiences. Assignments involve using various kinds of evidence to support judgments. Students will need to locate, evaluate, synthesize, and document various kinds of information gleaned from research. Throughout the course, students will be analyzing texts and concepts as well as the strengths and weaknesses of their own writing. In ENG 202, students learn about the various sub-fields in English studies --literature, cultural studies, composition/rhetoric, linguistics, creative writing. Students will become engaged in the major issues, debates, and controversies that drive English study in the 21st Century. **This cluster is available to English majors and students thinking about being English majors only.** ENG 100 satisfies the Tier 1W-College Writing requirement. ENG 202 is a required gateway course for English majors. These courses will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).

D-D. Performing Arts, “Introduction to Music History”

MUS 120 is taught by Professor Robert Lemons. Designed to improve students' ability as perceptive listeners through the study of music of the Western world. This course satisfies the Tier 1H-Historical Perspective requirement. This course will be clustered with FYR 174 (Resources, Research and Responsibilities).