

Course Descriptions

Arts and Social Sciences Stream

The following are descriptions of the courses available to ESP students in the Arts and Social Science stream for the 2025-2026 academic year. Please read the descriptions carefully before selecting your course preferences on your **Course Selection Form**. Please note: All courses are subject to cancellation and/or change.

- All ESP students must register for one credit in a first-year seminar (see Section A below).
 - First-year ESP students should rank their FYSM choices.
 - Second-year ESP students will choose an unsupported free elective from the Class Schedule in Carleton Central.
- All ESP students registered in the Arts and Social Science stream must choose two credits from the list of Elective Courses (see Section B below).

Each elective course has a corresponding ESP workshop that will appear on your schedule as ESPW 1000.

Half-credit courses are marked with an asterisk (*) and are worth 0.5 credits and run during either the Fall or Winter semester. Full-credit courses are worth 1.0 credits and run during the entire Fall/Winter session.

If you see a course with more than one section available, look at the *Class and Workshop Schedule* (on the ESP website) to see when each section is offered. Sometimes the same course is offered at different times, often (but not always) with different professors teaching each section (see Psychology for example).

A note about choosing courses: We have provided links (where possible) to the Elective Course outlines in Section B, below. These outlines tell you how you will be evaluated in that class. We recommend you look at the outlines (where possible) and use that information to help make your choice, according to your interests and strengths.

Section A: First Year Seminars

All First Year Seminars are titled: "Selected Topics in the Study of Academic Discourse" but have different selected topics

Global Issues In Our Interconnected World

FYSM 1900 A (1.0 Credit) Fall/Win

Instructor: Rosie Kerr

Ever wonder about the state of the world? If you are interested in international issues this seminar is for you! We will explore global issues affecting all of our lives and dig into the history that led to where we are today. The course will cover: colonization, slavery, industrialization, agriculture modernization, structural adjustment, free trade and globalization. We will explore current issues affected by this history through the lens of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). This approach will allow us to look at aspirational collective goals and tackle aspects of issues such as inequality, power, knowledge, food, water, climate change and biodiversity. In class, we will engage in many activities and discussions together where students will be invited to ask questions, share perspectives with each other, consider multiple perspectives on an issue and reflect on their learnings. There will be several short writing assignments, a presentation about an issue you are passionate about and a literature review to dig deeper into multiple perspectives on an issue of your choice. This course will develop your writing skills, critical thinking and systems thinking to prepare for any course you will take in your university career.

Death to Procrastination: The Psychology of Motivation and Academic Success

FYSM 1900 B / FYSM 1900 D/ FYSM 1900 J (1.0 Credit) Fall/Win

Instructor: Allan Blunt

You have the brains. You have the potential. It is down to me to teach you some theories and techniques that can help you maximize that potential. It is my strong belief that every student who enters my class has the right stuff. But something messes things up for many of them — PROCRASTINATION. I have been studying procrastination for 30 years, and I can tell you this for sure, procrastination is a tricky beast. It is tied into and affects so many things like motivation, self-control, emotions, time management, stress, anxiety, distractions, goal setting, self-identity, learning, and academic success. It is a beast and you need to attack it head-on because university is procrastination's playground. Another thing that can mess things up for many students are ineffective learning/study methods. Therefore, we are going to look at some powerful research and theory related to learning and memory, with the aim of helping you develop more effective study/learning methods that have been demonstrated to boost grades, in many cases substantially. So, that's the course in a nutshell — it is a psychology course about motivation, learning, academic success and killing

procrastination (or at least taming it). My final words — if you can solve your procrastination puzzle and put in some decent effort then everything else should fall into place, and university will become YOUR playground. Good Luck!

Privilege, Power and Difference: Social Problems in Canada
FYSM 1900 C / FYSM 1900 H (1.0 Credit) Fall/Win
Instructor: Beth Hughes

This course will develop your understanding of Canada as a society by examining the connections between privilege, power and difference. What are the key social problems? What is social injustice? What groups benefit and what groups are oppressed by social injustice? What structures perpetuate social injustice? How can we become more informed and challenge ideas? Most importantly, how can we create social change?

The goal of this course will be to provide you with the skills and tools necessary to critically analyze oppressive social structures that reinforce harmful narratives and assumptions. Our first class will be truly “lit and fire,” because it examines how slang and language change with new social ideas. Other topics covered include identity, racism, consent, crime, addiction, poverty, racialization, health, addictions, education, the environment, globalization and others that interest you. Lastly, you get to choose a social issue of your choice, and you will analyze the power of individual action and social movements to communicate and create meaningful change.

Our class will go step-by-step, taking a thoughtful and planned approach to how all these ideas fit together. There will be fun and joy in expressing your ideas along the way. These engaging ideas will provide you with many opportunities to understand and develop strong academic skills that will serve you well at university and in future employment:

- reading, writing, revising,
- critical thinking and how to position an argument,
- researching and reading,
- time management, including procrastination,
- early career exploration, and so much more.

The following quotation will guide our work together this year. “Canada is a great country, one of the hopes of the world. We can be a better one—a country of greater equality, justice, and opportunity. We can build a prosperous economy and a society that shares its benefits more fairly” (Jack Layton, 2011).

Welcome to Carleton university and ESP!

Fantasies, Fears, and Fandom: A Critical Guide to Popular Culture
FYSM 1900 F / FYSM 1900 G (1.0 Credit) Fall/Win
Instructor: Susan Burhoe

Popular culture is everywhere – from the shows we binge, the games we play, and the music we love to the ads, memes, and celebrity gossip that flood our feeds. But what does it all mean? In this course, we’ll explore how 20th- and 21st-century popular culture both reflects and shapes how we see the world, ourselves and others. From Hollywood fantasies to video game panics, pop culture is more than entertainment; it’s a powerful lens through which we understand society.

You’ll be introduced to key concepts in cultural theory and learn how to “read” cultural “texts” like music videos, ads, memes, TV shows, and brand names. We’ll examine themes of identity, power, and resistance through the lenses of race, gender, class, sexuality, and dis/ability. Why are we so fascinated by celebrities? How does advertising shape our sense of self? What does *The Last of Us* tell us about cultural anxieties?

We’ll also dig into broader debates about representation. Who gets seen and heard in popular culture—and who doesn’t? Whose stories dominate, and whose are left out?

Expect lively discussions, engaging media clips (from TV and film to internet culture), and collaborative activities. Assignments include short reflections, an exam, and a project where you’ll analyze a pop culture topic of your choice in an essay, video, or podcast. Along the way, you’ll also build key academic skills to support your success in university.

Note: this course precludes additional credit for CIED 1001; it is reserved for students who have not taken CIED 1001 previously.

The Price of Home: The Social Life of Debt, Housing, & Homeownership

FYSM 1900 I (1.0 Credit) Fall/Win

Instructor: Eric Hitsman

Why do so many Canadians willingly take on massive debt to buy a home? What gives something value, and why is repaying debt often seen as a moral obligation? From an anthropological ethnographic lens, this course examines the cultural and historical dimensions of economic life by focusing on the social world of debt, housing, and home ownership. From ancient systems of reciprocity and obligation to modern mortgage markets and housing crises, we will explore how economic practices are deeply embedded in social values, political institutions, and historical transformations. Drawing on core anthropological theories of exchange, kinship, materiality, and power, we will analyze how ideas of home and debt are constructed and contested throughout various cultural contexts.

Across cultures and throughout history, debt-based economies have profoundly shaped where and how people live. We will investigate housing as both a material necessity and a cultural ideal, asking how domestic life has been organized across different societies and time periods. Topics include household structures in ancient civilizations, cross-cultural perspectives on housing rights, and contemporary debates around affordability and access—particularly in the context of the Canadian housing crisis.

This course aims to help you think critically about the intersections of economy, power, and place—and to rethink familiar ideas about debt, value, and what it means to call a place “home.” Through writing and critical discussion, this course will help you develop the analytical and communication skills essential for success across your university career.

Section B: Elective Courses (2.0 Credits)

All elective courses listed below will be accompanied by a two hour/week **ESP Workshop** (this will appear on your schedule as ESPW 1000). Please see the **Class and Workshop Schedule** for day and time information; and read the **Student Guide** for a description of workshops.

Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology (Fall)

***ANTH 1001 A [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Matthew Hawkins

What does it mean to be human? Anthropologists have approached this question by using the ethnographic method to understand the diverse ways people create shared worlds of meaning. In this course, students will learn how culture shapes experience, and how ethnography describes this process.

- An example course outline from Winter 2025 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures two hours per week and discussions one hour per week.

**Students who select ANTH 1001 A in the Fall term must select ANTH 1002 B in the Winter term.*

Introduction to Issues in Anthropology (Winter)

***ANTH 1002 B [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Liz Vicencio Diaz

This course introduces students to anthropology through in-depth consideration of selected issues facing contemporary cultures and societies. Selected issue(s) will reflect the expertise of the instructor and could include current debates related to race, gender, development, politics, economics, religion, technology, health and the environment.

- An example course outline from Winter 2025 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures two hours per week and discussions one hour per week.

**Students who select ANTH 1002 B in the Winter term must select ANTH 1001 A in the Fall term.*

Cognitive Science: Mysteries of the Mind (Fall)

***CGSC 1001 B [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Jim Davies

Challenges faced in understanding the mind, and some of the approaches cognitive science has brought to bear on them. Topics may include the nature of knowledge, how we learn, the extent to which human thinking is rational, biases in thinking, and evolutionary influences on cognition.

- An example of a course outline from Winter 2024 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures three hours a week.

**Students who select CGSC 1001 B in the Fall term must select PHIL 1301 B or PSYC 1001 J in the Winter term*

Foundations: Media History (Fall)***COMS 1001 A [0.5 credit]****Prof. Liam Young**

An exploration of past and present media, patterns of change, and key approaches to their study.

- Information on the course can be found on the Journalism & Communication department website:
<https://carleton.ca/sjc/communication/undergraduate-studies/courses/>
- Lecture three hours a week

**Students who select COMS 1001 A in the Fall term must select COMS 1002 A in the Winter term.*

Foundations: Contemporary Communication and Media (Winter)***COMS 1002 A [0.5 credit]****Prof. Ira Wagman**

An exploration of communication and media in relation to contemporary political, technological and cultural issues, with a focus on Canada.

- Information on the course can be found on the Journalism & Communication department website:
<https://carleton.ca/sjc/communication/undergraduate-studies/courses/>
- Lecture three hours a week.

**Students who select COMS 1002 A in the Winter term must select COMS 1001 A in the Fall term.*

Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice (Fall)***CRCJ 1000 A [0.5 credit]****Prof. TBA**

Overview of the field, including the foundational approaches of criminology and criminal justice, crime as an object of study; criminal law and criminality in Canada; (neo) classical, aetiological and social reaction perspectives; alternative criminologies.

- An example of a course outline from Fall 2024 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lecture three hours a week.

**Students who select CRCJ 1000 A in the Fall term must select LAWS 1002 B in the Winter term*

Introduction to Environmental and Climate Change Studies (Fall)***ENST 1000 A [0.5 credit]****Prof. David Hugill**

A critical introduction to the scholarly field of environmental studies, with an emphasis on society-environment entanglements. It is designed to engage with environmental and climate change issues. Possible themes include population, scarcity, institutions, commons, risks, hazards, markets, political economy, and the social construction of nature.

- An example of a course outline from Fall 2024 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures two hours per week and tutorials one hour per week.

**Students who select ENST 1000 A in the Fall term must select ENST 1020 B in the Winter term*

Environmental Studies: People, Places, and Environments (Winter)***ENST 1020 B [0.5 credit]****Prof. TBA**

Introduction to human geography. Examination of relationships between people, communities, society and the natural environment at local to global scales. Population change, cultural patterns, and historical, economic, political and environmental forces, including climate change, that shape human activity and experiences from place to place.

- An example of a course outline from Winter 2025 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures two hours a week and tutorial one hour a week.

**Students who select ENST 1020 B in the Winter term must select ENST 1000 A in the Fall term*

History of the Internet (Fall)***HIST 1900 A [0.5 credit]****Prof. Shawn Graham**

A lecture course on a special topic, theme, or period. Topic varies from year to year.

- More information on the course can be found [here](#).
- Lectures three hours a week.

**Students who select HIST 1900 A in the Fall term must select HIST 1702 A in the Winter term*

History of the Global South, 1850 to the present (Winter)

***HIST 1702 A [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Hussam Ahmed

This course follows the global community from the mid-nineteenth century to the present exploring how global connections, movements and trends have shaped our world. Emphasis on the non-western world.

- More information about this course can be found [here](#).
- Lectures two hours per week and discussions one hour per week.

**Students who select HIST 1901 A in the Winter term must select HIST 1900 A in the Fall term*

Introduction to Human Rights & Social Justice (Fall)

***HRSJ 1101 A [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Dan Irving

Human rights and social justice from an interdisciplinary perspective. Topics include the foundations of rights, roots of inequality and oppression, Indigenous rights, structural violence based on race, gender, sexuality and ableism, State and corporate power, economic exploitation, the environment and rights, warfare, torture, and social movements.

- Information on the course can be found here: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/courses/HRSJ/>
- Lectures two hours per week and discussions one hour per week.

**Students who select HRSJ 1101 A in the Fall term must select HRSJ 1102 A in the Winter term*

Critical Issues in Social Justice Activism (Winter)

***HRSJ 1102 A [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Shazia Sadaf

A critical study of social justice approaches and concepts to examine political and social struggles, resistance, and activism in historical and contemporary contexts. Emphasis is placed on the connection between social justice approaches and human rights as tools in activist work.

- Information on the course can be found here: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/courses/HRSJ/>
- Lectures two hours per week and discussions one hour per week.

**Students who select HRSJ 1102 A in the Winter term must select HRSJ 1101 A in the Fall term*

Introduction to Legal Studies I (Fall)

***LAWS 1001 A [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Vincent Kazmierski

Introduction to legal studies: concepts, sources, nature and functions of law; historical, cultural and constitutional foundations of Canadian legal system; common and civil law traditions; statutory interpretation; precedent; legal institutions; frameworks for analyzing formal and informal conceptions of law and its role in society.

- An example of a course outline from Winter 2025 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures two hours per week and discussions one hour per week.

**Students who select LAWS 1001 A in the Fall term must select LAWS 1002 B in the Winter term*

Introduction to Legal Studies II (Winter)

***LAWS 1002 B [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Jane Dickson

Introduction to legal rules and theoretical approaches for critically understanding the creation, interpretation and enforcement of those rules; the role of judges, juries, lawyers, and lay persons; adjudication and alternative dispute resolution; relationship of law with social change and justice; challenges of access to justice.

- An example of a course outline from Winter 2025 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures two hours per week and discussions one hour per week.

**Students who select LAWS 1002 B in the Winter term must select LAWS 1001 A or CRCJ 1000 B in the Fall term.*

Neuroscience of Mental Health, and Psychiatric Disease (Fall)

***NEUR 1202 A [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Kim Helleman

Clinical symptoms of psychiatric disease, including biological, developmental, experiential and environmental factors that contribute to disease. Topics may include depressive and anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, autism, ADHD, anorexia, narcolepsy, and substance use disorders.

- Information on the course can be found here: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/courses/NEUR/>
- Lectures three hours a week

**Students who select NEUR 1202 A in the Fall term must select NEUR 1203 A in the Winter term*

Neuroscience of Mental Health, and Neurological Diseases (Winter)

***NEUR 1203 A [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Matthew Holahan

Clinical symptoms of neurological disease, including biological, developmental, experiential and environmental factors that contribute to disease. Topics may include stroke, multiple sclerosis, migraine, seizure disorder, Parkinson's disease, ALS, chronic pain, Alzheimer's disease and concussion.

- Information on the course can be found here: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/courses/NEUR/>
- Lectures three hours a week

**Students who select NEUR 1203 A in the Winter term must select NEUR 1202 A in the Fall term.*

Mind, World and Knowledge (Winter)

***PHIL 1301 B [0.5 credit]**

Prof. David Matheson

Introduction to a variety of philosophical works, including contemporary, on such topics as: the nature of being, the mental, the external, consciousness, perception, experience, meaning, truth, the nature of knowledge, scientific understanding, and how language and thought represent the world.

- An example of a course outline from Winter 2024 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures three hours a week.

**Students who select PHIL 1301 B in the Winter term must select CGSC 1001 B in the Fall term.*

Politics in the World (Fall)

***PSCI 1200 A [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Aaron Ettinger

Compares politics in selected states and world regions, including political institutions and cultures, development, public policy making, and gender. Global issues and international relations among states, international organizations, and other actors. Basic research and academic writing skills.

- An example of a course outline from Fall 2024 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures two hours a week, tutorials one hour a week.

**Students who select PSCI 1200 A in the Fall term must select PSCI 1100 B in the Winter term.*

Democracy in Theory and Practice (Winter)

***PSCI 1100 B [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Achim Hurrelmann

Introduction to modern political ideas such as liberty, equality, the rule of law, representation, participation (including gender aspects), the impact of these ideas on political and policy making institutions in Canada; other countries may be examined. Basic research and academic writing skills.

- An example of a course outline from Fall 2024 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures two hours a week, tutorials one hour a week.

**Students who select PSCI 1100 B in the Winter term must select PSCI 1200 A in the Fall term.*

Introduction to Psychology I (Fall)

***PSYC 1001 [0.5 credit]**

Section C & D: Prof. Christopher Motz Section F: Prof. Matthew Sorley Section J: Prof. John Weekes

A survey of topics associated with psychology's role as a natural science, including neuroscience, cognition, and learning.

- An example of a course outline from Fall 2022 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this course outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures three hours a week.

**Students who select PSYC 1001 C in the Fall term must select PSYC 1002 C in the Winter term.*

**Students who select PSYC 1001 D in the Fall term must select PSYC 1002 E in the Winter term.*

**Students who select PSYC 1001 F in the Fall term must select PSYC 1002 H in the Winter term.*

***PSYC 1001 J is offered in the **Winter**. Students who select PSYC 1001 J in the Winter term must select CGSC 1001 B in the Fall term.*

Introduction to Psychology II (Winter)

***PSYC 1002 [0.5 credits]**

Section C & E: Prof. Christopher Motz Section H: Prof. Peter Aubin

A survey of topics associated with psychology's role as a social science, including social psychology, personality, clinical psychology, and mental health.

- An example of a course outline from Winter 2025 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this course outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures/discussions three hours a week.

**Students who select PSYC 1002 C in the Winter term must select PSYC 1001 C in the Fall term.*

**Students who select PSYC 1002 E in the Winter term must select PSYC 1001 D in the Fall term.*

**Students who select PSYC 1002 H in the Winter term must select PSYC 1001 F in the Fall term.*

Introduction to Sociology I (Fall)

***SOCI 1001 A [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Tonya Davidson

Introduction to the discipline of sociology; theory, methods, history; key thinkers, concepts and disciplinary subfields in sociology; issues and problems in contemporary society. Emphasis on the everyday world of lived experience and social relations. Topics may include class, gender, sexuality, racialization, culture, social interaction.

- An example of a course outline from Fall 2024 can be found [here](#).
 - Please note that this course outline is subject to change for the current academic year
- Lectures/discussions three hours a week.

**Students who select SOCI 1001 A in the Fall term must select SOCI 1002 B in the Winter term.*

Introduction to Sociology II (Winter)

***SOCI 1002 B [0.5 credit]**

Prof. Suzanne Kennedy

This course will further explore and expand upon the key thinkers, concepts and disciplinary subfields in sociology. The focus of analysis will shift from the everyday world to social institutions and structural processes. Topics may include globalization, education, media, health, social movements, colonialism, and urbanization.

- An example of a course outline from Winter 2024 can be found [here](#).
- Lectures/discussions three hours a week.

**Students who select SOCI 1002 B in the Winter term must select SOCI 1001 A in the Fall term.*