BAYLOR INTERDISCIPLINARY CORE (BIC)

BIC 1112 Examen Life (1)
Co-requisite(s): BIC 1313, BIC 1314
Pre-requisite(s): Students must be accepted into the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core Program to enroll in BIC 1112
New Student Experience course explores interconnected aspects of human flourishing and invites first-year students to reflect critically upon their lives as a part of a global community of which the university is a microcosm. Students engage theories of human development and wellness to encourage greater intellectual, physical, emotional, social, and spiritual awareness. The course will introduce students to the goals, structure, and rational of the BIC, as well to the academic life of the university. Students will be encouraged to reflect on the enduring value of a liberal arts education and how best to pursue one.

BIC 1313 World of Rhetoric I (3)
Co-requisite(s): BIC 1112, BIC 1314
Pre-requisite(s): Students must be accepted into the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core Program to enroll in BIC 1313
Focuses on the scientific revolution and continuing advances in the sciences, and on revolutionary ideas in other areas of human experience--political, religious, social, artistic, and economic. The course will explore efforts of the modern mind to respond creatively to the tensions created by these changes, including the tension between religious and naturalistic world views, the tension between the vast extension of knowledge and the increasing recognition of its limits, the tension between individuality and community, and the tension between the experience of fragmentation and the quest for wholeness.

BIC 1314 World Cultures I: Roots of Culture (3)
Co-requisite(s): BIC 1112, BIC 1313
Pre-requisite(s): Students must be accepted into the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core Program to enroll
Embraces the period from the dawn of civilizations to 500 A.D. The course is arranged chronologically and seeks to widen views of our own culture by studying selected early civilizations and their values. Original sources will be selected from such cultures as the prehistoric, Mesopotamian, Chinese, Hebrew, Greek, early Christian, and Roman. By reading and studying original texts and objects from these cultures, students will be exposed to widely differing views of what it means to be human. They will also have the opportunity to refine critical writing and speaking skills. The course will provide students with the broad cultural and historical context in which they may examine their own identities.

BIC 1323 World of Rhetoric II: Rhetoric in Context (3)
Co-requisite(s): BIC 1324
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 1313
Focuses on the continued development of critical reading, thinking, and writing skills by building on the instruction and content of BIC 1313, “The World of Rhetoric I: Writing and Speaking.” Throughout the course students will engage in the reciprocal process of reading, responding to, and analyzing the rhetorical strategies and arguments presented by a variety of significant authors from different time periods. Major assignments will require increasingly complex writing tasks, from presenting a factual summary of a single essay through preparing a multiple-source research project.

BIC 1324 World Cultures II: Religion and Culture (3)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 1323
A study organized around several major themes including the medieval world and its ideals, both in the West and East, and the new technological, scientific, and social forces that emerged to challenge these ideals. The first theme explores the medieval unity and its expressions in selected works of art, music, and literature. The second relates to the rise of mercantilism and urbanism, and especially to key discoveries in science. World geography will provide a key component of the course. The development or refinement of critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills will be fundamental goals.

BIC 2330 World Cultures III: The Modern World (3)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 1112, BIC 1314
Focuses on the period from the dawn of civilizations to 500 A.D. The course is arranged chronologically and seeks to widen views of our own culture by studying selected early civilizations and their values. Original sources will be selected from such cultures as the prehistoric, Mesopotamian, Chinese, Hebrew, Greek, early Christian, and Roman. By reading and studying original texts and objects from these cultures, students will be exposed to widely differing views of what it means to be human. They will also have the opportunity to refine critical writing and speaking skills. The course will provide students with the broad cultural and historical context in which they may examine their own identities.
BIC 2344 World Cultures IV: The United States in the World (3)
Co-requisite(s): BIC 2340
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 2334
Concentrates on the United States and on its experience within the broader global framework. The focus will be the historical development of the nation, including its origins, its regional traditions, its spread westward, its movement into global markets in the twentieth century, and its cultural pluralism. Emphasis will also be placed upon the elements that have made for community in the United States and upon the linkages of United States historical and cultural development with the broader global themes portrayed in World Cultures III.

BIC 2437 The Natural World I: Primary Ideas in Science (4)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 1323 and 1324
The first course of a two-semester sequence encompassing lecture and laboratory experiences that emphasize the foundations of natural science, science as a way of knowing, and the uses of science. Historical influences on the development of science and the interrelationship between science and culture will be explored. Lecture and laboratory material in The Natural World will be integrated. Laboratories will involve hands-on, discovery-based learning which will lead the student to make connections between observation and interpretation of natural phenomena through critical thinking and will seek to provide students with an understanding of the scientific method, hypothesis formulation and testing, collection of data, analysis of data, and interpretation of data in the context of hypotheses.

BIC 2447 The Natural World II: Global Science Issues (4)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 2437
A continuation of The Natural World I.

BIC 3358 Examined Life II: Biblical Heritage and Contemporary Ethical Issues (3)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 2340 and 2344
In-depth study of selected texts from the Old and New Testaments and examination of the approaches and resources used today and throughout Christian history in such study. Biblical perspectives on such ethical issues as human rights, environmental concerns and resource allocation will be examined to provide a bridge between the literary/cultural settings of the Bible and contemporary human experience and decision making.

BIC 4374 World Cultures V: Differing Visions and Realities (3)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 3358
Explores differing visions and realities in a selected sample of non-Western cultures. The initial interdisciplinary study will reveal themes that transcend cultural differences. Students will then investigate the expression of these themes in a culture fundamentally different from their own.

BIC 4389 Examined Life III Capstone: Special Topics (3)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 3358
Synthesizes learning in two or more disciplines, or in some way connects modes or areas of learning not normally connected. This capstone course represents the culmination both of the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core experience and of the undergraduate experience. By integrating learning, and application, this course will bridge the gap between undergraduate life and life after graduation, leading students to form connections between their lives in the university and their lives in the wider community. The course will include significant written and oral projects. Religion majors and minors must repeat course once under a different topic.