

General Education Tier One:

Course Descriptions

Individuals & Societies

- [XXX 150A](#)
- [XXX 150B](#)
- [XXX 150C](#)

Traditions & Cultures

- [XXX 160A](#)
- [XXX 160B](#)
- [XXX 160C](#)
- [XXX 160D](#)

Natural Sciences

- [XXX 170A](#)
- [XXX 170B](#)
- [XXX 170C](#)

Individuals & Societies

XXX 150A – Mind, Self and Language (3 units)
Check the [Schedule of Classes](#) for current offerings.

Course Numbers & Titles:

Offering
Department:
Agricultural
Education

AED 150A1 – Learn to Teach to Learn

This course is designed to assist learners acquire and develop knowledge and strategies than enhance academic and personal development and help becoming an effective college-level adult learner and presenter. Particular emphasis will be placed on both learning and instructional skills such as critical thinking, developing personal and educational goals, improving comprehension, applying organizational techniques, making use of evaluation, fostering career planning and leadership, and recognizing and responding to different learning, teaching, and instructional styles.

ANTH 150A1 – Race, Ethnicity and the American Dream

Do Americans talk about race all the time or not enough? How is the idea of race woven into the fabric of our nation? How does it shape our daily life and our sense of self? How does it structure inequality in our society? This class explores race and ethnicity in the U.S. today. Approved as: General Education Gender, Race, Class, Ethnicity, or Non-Western Area Studies. *Approved as: General Education Diversity Emphasis*

Anthropology

ART 150A1 – Children's Art and Visual Culture

In this course, students will investigate how children use symbolic language to make meaning through analysis of children's art and visual culture. The course emphasizes children's art and visual culture making as social and linguistic practices with intellectual and psychological significance. Beginning with an historic analysis of the history and discovery of children's art, students will use original children's artworks and primary sources to examine why and how children make art and visual culture. The course will conclude with analysis of contemporary children's art and visual culture in global cultural contexts.

Art

GER 150A1 – Becoming Multilingual: Learning Two or More Languages

This course explores the human ability to acquire and maintain two, three, or more languages over a lifetime (i.e., the ability to become multilingual). It examines the factors that contribute to successful language learning and maintenance and that counteract language forgetting and loss. It discusses ways (methods, approaches, and strategies) through which languages can be taught in child- and adulthood, in family and school settings, and demonstrates the importance of multilingual and multicultural skills in a variety of professions. At the end of the course, participants will have gained insights that will help them make informed decisions with respect to their own language learning and use while in college, in their professional careers, and in their (future) families.

German
Studies

HWRS 150A1 – The Art and Science of Decision

Focusing on both theoretical and practical aspects, this course examines the underlying concepts of decision making. Special emphasis will be placed on easily accessible topics that students can discuss initially from their own experience and then re-examine after learning new concepts. MATLAB will be introduced painlessly to give students a platform to test decision scenarios and develop decision games.

Hydrology &
Atmospheric
Sciences

LING 150A1 – Language in the World

All human communities have language - and our language is central to our lives. We use language not only to communicate with each other, we use to in our dreams, in our art, and some have even argued that language is the stuff of thought itself. This course introduces concepts and methods in linguistics - the scientific study of language - along with important concepts and tools from psychology, anthropology, biology, computation, and philosophy. Students learn to understand their own everyday language behavior and that of others as regular, creative, productive and rule-governed. Students develop understanding and appreciation of the complexity, intricacy and beauty of human language by learning about real languages - including spoken and signed languages, thriving and endangered languages, local and remote languages -and consider whether non-human animal communication systems might, or might not, be thought of as 'languages'. Students learn about language in the brain, and the complex interplay of 'nature' and 'nurture' in language acquisition and development, understand the normal and healthy roles that multilingualism play in human development and in society, recognize the rich and diverse linguistic heritage of Arizona, the US and the world, analyze their own

Linguistics

innovative language use and linguistic repertoires, and practice applying the tools of the linguist to the languages they see and hear every day, as well as those they've never before experienced.

MIS 150A1 – Decision Making and Problem Solving for Daily Life

To investigate the factors affecting decision making and problem solving in daily life: how to be better prepared to tackle daily problems, how to identify creative solutions, and how to make higher quality decisions.

**Management
Information
Systems**

PAH 150A1 – Video Game Sights, Sounds and Stories

This course introduces and helps students to practice a set of critical skills developed specifically for understanding the socio-cultural impacts of video games. Over the course of the semester we will: 1) survey the history of video games and their industry, paying particular attention to how developers - and the technologies they deploy - shape the game medium; 2) unpack game sights, sounds, and stories, with an analytical eye toward their formal and ideological qualities; and 3) collaboratively examine video games as sites of cultural exchange, that is, as teaching and learning tools, playful companions, and complex social and physical stimuli.

**Public and
Applied
Humanities**

PAH 150A2 – Weird Stuff: How to Think About the Paranormal, the Supernatural, and Other Mysterious Things

Few claims seem to arouse more interest, evoke more emotion, and create more confusion than those dealing with the paranormal, the supernatural, or the mysterious. "Weird stuff", as it is often called; astrology, ghosts, fairies, ESP, psychokinesis, UFO abductions, channeling, dowsing, near-death experiences, prophetic dreams, demon possession, time travel, and parapsychology, among others clearly defies conventional wisdom and understanding, yet belief in them is a widespread component of human culture, often exerting a profound effect on people's lives. Why are such unusual beliefs part of the human experience for so many? Why do some people find such phenomena to be compelling, while others reject them outright? How do we decide which claims are credible? What distinguishes rational from irrational claims? This course is designed to help students answer such questions, to understand why people believe weird stuff, and through that process become more empathetic and independent thinkers and learners.

**Public and
Applied
Humanities**

PAH 150A3 – The Great Outdoors: Improving Health, Wellness, and Creativity by Living Life Outside

From physicians to neuroscientists to poets, people around the world have long written about how even brief immersion in nature can improve the human condition. This course will explore these writings and what they have to tell us about understanding human experience and our interface with the natural world. Using applied humanities approaches and a variety of texts, our goal will be to develop real-world applications of insight, perspective, critical understanding, discernment, and creativity about the place and importance of nature in human experience. Over the course of the semester we will: (1) read and critically analyze writing by and about people who have found creative and innovative approaches to express and/or measure how immersion in nature makes humans healthier; (2) engage in reflective projects that open pathways to developing one's own creativity and imagination for personal and community applications of nature immersion; and (3) design an applied project focused on assessing how ideas for nature immersion might be implemented in real-world settings. Students will use project management and planning methods to write a project description, carry out an initial pilot version of the project, report on steps they have accomplished, and write a critical analysis of their project.

**Public and
Applied
Humanities**

PHIL 150A1 – Who Am I? People & Our Place In The Universe

This course addresses questions about human persons and their relationship to the universe at large. What can we know? Indeed, can we know anything at all? What is the relationship between the mental aspects of our lives and our physical, bodily aspect? Could I still be me if I lost all my memories and all my character traits? What is free will? Does anyone ever have free will? This class will not teach you the "right" answers to these questions. But it will teach you the different answers that can be given, and how best to go about arguing for them.

Philosophy

POL 150A1 – The Politics of Difference

This course examines the politics (understood broadly as differential access to material and symbolic resources) of difference (understood as institutionalized social hierarchies that oppress individuals.) We will focus on the hierarchies of ethnicity/race, class, gender and sexualities and how these interact to shape individual and collective experience.

**Political
Science**

PSY 150A1 – The Structure of Mind and Behavior

Only for students who have not taken PSYC/PSY 101 (Introduction to Psychology). An introduction to mind and behavior. Broad coverage of wide-ranging issues including how minds reflect social influence and how neural systems underlie thoughts and conscious awareness.

Psychology

XXX 150B - Social Interactions and Relationships (3 units)

Check the [Schedule of Classes](#) for current offerings.

Course Numbers & Titles:

**Offering
Department:**

AFAS 150B1 – Contemporary Afro Brazil

This course introduces students to the origins and emergence of Afro-Brazilians, peoples of African descent in Brazil, from an interdisciplinary perspective. Principle topics of discussion will be drawn from areas of history, philosophy, political economy, literature, the arts, religion, culture, and society. *Approved as: General Education Diversity Emphasis*

**Africana
Studies**

ANTH 150B1 – Many Ways of Being Human: Anthropological Perspective

This course introduces the student to anthropological perspectives on cultural diversity. The course focuses on gender, race, ethnicity and class through readings by and about peoples of the non-western world.

Anthropology

ART 150B1 – Engaging Visual Culture	Art
<p>In this course, we will engage with concepts and practices of visual culture (which includes art) as they relate to our daily lives and to our own productive and consumptive practices. These concepts and practices necessarily have private, public, and profound political and educational affects. Because of this, it is important to understand visual culture and how it works, in order to knowingly interact with it throughout our lives.</p>	
ART 150B2 – Asian Art and Visual Culture	Art
<p>This course will introduce students to Asian art and visual culture, focusing on the art and architecture of South, Southeast, and East Asia. Students will explore the artistic and cultural traditions of these areas, beginning in ancient times and continuing up to the 19th century, and they will gain a deeper understanding of Asian world-views, life styles, and related cultural practices and traditions. Students then are expected to apply this fundamental understanding to examining Asian arts, crafts, cultural practices, and aspects of popular culture that are ubiquitous and observable in current U. S. contexts.</p>	
EAS 150B1 – Language, love, life: Study abroad to and from Asia	East Asian Studies
<p>In the 21st century, East Asia and the rest of the world are more connected not only economically and politically, but also academically. This course focuses on the phenomenon of study abroad, both to and from East Asia. We begin by examining the trends and policies of study abroad related to East Asia. We then move to examine the culture shocks and social challenges study abroad students of face, and the linguistic and identity issues and benefits that study abroad may entail. We also focus on a variety of case stories (Chinese students overseas, international students in China, Japanese returnees, etc.), through which students will learn to critically analyze the phenomenon of study abroad.</p>	
EDP 150B1 – Current Issues in the Psychology of Gender	Educational Psychology
<p>An in depth exploration of societal and familial influences on gender development along with considerable self-exploration of individual conceptions of gender.</p>	
ENGL 150B1 – Lesbian and Gay Studies	English
<p>A study of issues related to sexual identity of individuals, communities, and whole societies. Special attention to norms and categories and to conceptual binaries such as Natural/Unnatural, Health/Illness, Knowledge/Ignorance, Public/Private, Same/Different, Hetero/Homo. The course is interdisciplinary with units drawn from sciences and arts as well as from the social studies.</p>	
ESOC 150B1 – Social Media and Ourselves	School of Information
<p>This course is designed as a gateway to understanding how social media sites influence and are impacted by our selves, as well as the role of social media in our relationships. This course with its focus on social media sites in particular, will examine the various implications and functions of social media in contemporary times. The study of new media takes place across disciplinary divides and from multiple theoretical perspectives. This course will thus explore social media research from across academic traditions. With a focus on both theory and practical applications, this course gives learners opportunities to think intellectually about how mobile technologies and being online impacts daily living, personal health, individual success, and interpersonal relationships.</p>	
FREN 150B1 – The Holocaust in France and Italy	French & Italian
<p>The course examines the origins, development, and implementation of discriminatory racial policies in France and Italy as well as their impact on Jewish citizens and refugees during World War II. <i>Approved as: General Education Diversity Emphasis. Also offered as ITAL 150B1.</i></p>	
FSHD 150B1 – Men, Fatherhood & Families: Biocultural Perspectives	Family Studies & Human Development
<p>This course provides a synthesis of our understanding of men in their role as fathers in families from biological and cultural perspectives. The biological perspective explores the evolutionary history and adaptive dimensions of human fatherhood, including comparisons with forms of parenting and family life in other primate species, male life history strategies, and the contributions of genetic, developmental, physiological and ecological factors to fatherhood. The cultural perspective examines the ways in which fatherhood, marriage, and families vary across cultures, in relation to differences in social traditions and practices, socio-political systems, and modes of subsistence. The synthesis of these two perspectives consists of understanding socio-cultural variability in human paternal behavior in the context of human evolutionary adaptations to past and ongoing social and ecological pressures. Through in-class group activities and homework assignments students will apply current theories and data concerning fatherhood to their own lives, and will pursue their implications for society at large.</p>	
FTV 150B1 – The Haunted Screen: Understanding the Horror Film	Theatre, Film & Television
<p>The horror film is often considered lowbrow and disreputable due to its frequent emphasis on simple shock effects and explicit violence. However, horror films can help us answer many important questions: what has scared us, throughout history? How do our individual backgrounds shape what scares us? What can similarities and differences among horror films from different parts of the world tell us about different cultures? How do filmmakers employ film style and narration to most effectively scare us? And why do we like to be scared in the first place? To help answer these questions, we will study a variety of horror films from different countries and time periods. <i>Approved as: General Education Diversity Emphasis</i></p>	
GEOG 150B1 – Your Place in the World: Geography and Global Issues	Geography & Regional Development
<p>This course introduces students to fundamental issues and concepts pertinent to the study of individuals and societies. In focusing on models and explanations of how things are interrelated in earth space. Students are given a clearer understanding of the economic, social, and political systems with which individuals live and operate.</p>	

GEOG 150B2 – Crime and the City

**Geography &
Regional
Development**

In this course you will examine crime and the city as mutually constitutive manifestations of identity and power. Throughout the semester we will focus on cultural criminological concepts and the making and marking of contemporary urban space. By looking at the locations and context in which community members and law enforcement interact, you will get a better understanding of the role space + place play in criminality and criminalization. This course will also provide you with a geographical lens through which to study contemporary and contentious social interactions as well as provide you with critical thinking skills, insight, and terminology needed to evaluate complex social phenomena concerning clashes over race, place, class, gender, and ultimately the right to the city.

The texts for this course also provide contemporary and up close ethnographic views of neighborhoods where human agents struggle over identity and community. This course relies on perspectives from the fields of cultural geography and critical criminology in addition to critical studies of race and contemporary US urban society.

Additional course concepts and topics include: cultural criminality, black and white spatial imaginaries, the under-policing/over-policing paradox, cities within the city, Chicano and Latino urbanism, gang injunctions and gentrification, transgression and contestation, community policing, civil gang injunctions, "all city" graffiti, broken windows theory, moral geographies, and the deeply superficial aspects of capital, style, and expression.

You will emerge from this course better able to identify, discuss, and defend your own informed position on the nuances and realities of contemporary crime, criminality, and criminalization. You will also come away with a better understanding of the composition of the city, its historical development and ideological structures, as well as a critical perspective of the formation of transgressive subcultures and processes of community and neighborhood change. You will also develop the language needed to critically read, interpret and understand scholarly texts, as well as become up to date on contemporary debates and thinking about criminality and the policing of urban space. This is a course designed for students of all interests, perspectives, backgrounds, experiences, majors, training, and years of study. The only preparation you need for this class is a willingness to stay engaged.

GER 150B1 – Becoming Transcultural: Maximizing Study Abroad

**German
Studies**

Through case studies on a wide variety of cross-cultural encounters, the complexities and potency of study abroad are analyzed using theories from applied linguistics, intercultural communication, and sociology. Students will learn how to apply these theories to their own international experiences/goals.

GWS 150B1 – Gender and Contemporary Society

**Gender &
Women's
Studies**

This course will encourage students to consider the ways in which gender influences issues of self-identity, social differences, and social status. It will provide students with an understanding of the connections between individuals and institutions such as mass media, the disciplines of science and medicine, and political and economic systems.

GWS 150B2 – Sex, Health and AIDS

**Gender &
Women's
Studies**

Recognizing that HIV/AIDS has irretrievably changed the lives of individuals and societies across the globe, this course sets out to explore this social and disease phenomenon from a number of perspectives. Most importantly, the course approaches the topic with the recognition that most areas of concern surrounding HIV and AIDS are controversial and under debate, including the origins of the virus, ways to change behavior and conditions of sexual exchange, the social and economic causes of HIV transmission, funding allocations for research, and foreign policy concerning AIDS testing and funding.

GWS 150B3 – WWW.GENDER.COM: Individuals and Information from Manuscript to Modem

**Gender &
Women's
Studies**

This course will encourage students to think about how information technologies shape self-identity, social difference, and social status; to theorize about how information technologies function politically to affect social systems, governments, and economies; and to form substantive opinions about the relationship between information and social identity based on a familiarity with a range of scholarly theories on the history and significance of such technological revolutions.

GWS 150B4 – LGBTQ Studies

**Gender &
Women's
Studies**

Introduction to the study of sexual identities, communities and politics as they relate to gender, race and class in different cultural contexts. Special attention is given to social justice perspectives. Course is interdisciplinary in its approach, using literature, history, arts, and social science.

GWS 150B5, Sport, Sex, Identity: Cultural and Institutional Issues in Sports

**Gender &
Women's
Studies**

This course is an exploration of the ways in which sports, as a reflection of society, are shaped by differences in social power, especially ideas about gender and race. Topics include access to and conduct of youth and high school sports; access to and outcomes of participation in collegiate and professional sports, institutions and occupations and achievement in sports.

How do sports reflect, reinforce, and challenge conventional ideas about health, bodies, sexuality, inequality, and identity? Explore new ideas about sports and related activities as they intersect with popular culture and science. Core topics include race, gender, sexuality, and national identity projects, and basic landmarks in the history of sport in the US. Secondary topics will vary but may include eating disorders/obesity, college sports finance and participation, injuries and risk, fitness crazes, sports participation and economic inequality, ability/disability, health disparities and physical activity, and related topics. *Approved as: General Education Diversity Emphasis*

HNRS 150B1 – Place and Context: Social Scientific Perspectives on Community

Honors

This highly interdisciplinary course explores multiple social-scientific perspectives on a specific geographic location -- for example, Tucson -- while also combining academic analysis with a community perspective. The course is divided into units, each of which takes up a different social-scientific lens through which to explore the topic: archaeology, history, political science, anthropology and geography are among those disciplines likely to be represented. A lecture from a UA professor is typically matched with an exemplary talk from a member of the community in order to provide not just an interdisciplinary view, but also analytical perspectives that are not necessarily purely academic. Students will be assigned reading for each unit, and will engage in active field work as well as critical writing in response to materials presented. Regular discussions with the course coordinators and instructor provide opportunities to make connections among the different learning experiences in the class.

HNRS 150B2 – Exploring Electronic Presence: From the Telegraph to Twitter

Honors

This course examines communication technologies and the history of electronic communication, and their relationship to the social sphere. We will examine the social impact of these technologies, especially how they disrupted established social relations, unsettling customary ways of dividing the private person and family from the more public setting of the community. At the same time, we will focus on the persistent cultural beliefs that have been linked with communications technologies. Throughout the semester we will be comparing and contrasting our contemporary experience of ubiquitous communication and computing with how electronic presence has been experienced and imagined in the past.

HUMS 150B1 – Mind-Altering Substances in the Ancient World

Humanities

This course will be an introduction to the many uses of psychotropic substances in the ancient world. We will explore the different roles that these mind-altering substances played within various religious and medical traditions and investigate the role of Cannabis, psychedelics and alcohol within the economic, social and political realms of antiquity. In order to do this, we will read portions of primary texts in translation and learn to interpret visual and material culture. The primary focus will be to understand how these psychotropic substances were employed within all aspects of society. By understanding the various uses of psychotropic substances in a comparative context, students may better understand how to think critically about the role of drugs beyond their recreational use, thereby fostering an understanding of different cultures and their uses of psychotropics. *Approved as: General Education Diversity Emphasis*

ITAL 150B1 – The Holocaust in France and Italy

French & Italian

The course examines the origins, development, and implementation of discriminatory racial policies in France and Italy as well as their impact on Jewish citizens and refugees during World War II. *Approved as: General Education Diversity Emphasis. Also offered as FREN 150B1.*

LAR 150B1 – American Design on the Land

Landscape Architecture

This course is broad exploration of individuals from diverse backgrounds who have helped shape the American landscape. Examination of original writings, and built environments including cities, parks, gardens, vernacular expressions, and preserves of wild, scenic, and cultural landscapes will provide the framework for discussion about landscape design as a comprehensive art form and dialog between man and nature.

LAS 150B1 – Modern Latin America: Race, Rights and Revolutions

Latin American Studies

An interdisciplinary introduction to the people, place and cultures of Latin America and to the political, economic and social institutions and conditions of the region. Social Interactions and Relationships - The course examines how and why environmental quality, economic development, living conditions, democracy, migration, trade, religion and US policy vary across different countries and social sectors.

LAS 150B2 – Understanding Mexico Today

Latin American Studies

Mexico today is a diverse and dynamic country that is often misrepresented in popular stereotypes as a country full of sleepy, rural villages or dangerous, drug-ridden deserts. What are the major challenges facing Mexico today? Why do so many people migrate away from Mexico-and why do even more Mexicans return home? What historical and contemporary forces have shaped contemporary Mexico? We will learn about major topics including immigration, racial and ethnic diversity, democracy and political change, inequality, environmental change, violence, injustice and impunity, and Mexico in the global context (especially Mexico-United States relations). In the process, you will gain a far better understanding than most North Americans have of the peoples, environments, cultures and regions of Mexico, and of the complex political, economic and social structures that influence the region and its international relations, especially with the United States. This course focuses on current challenges of development, environment, and politics in Mexico. It will examine how Mexico has dealt with such issues as economic development and human rights. We will also explore environmental and indigenous politics, resource struggles, urban challenges, and the impact of the war on drugs. The last part of the class examines Mexican migration experiences, U.S. immigration policy, and the social and environmental context of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Students are encouraged to follow the news about Mexico to keep up with rapidly-changing events and ideas. Some of the topics we cover are controversial (e.g., revolutions, immigration, drugs and U.S. intervention) and you may not always agree with the opinions expressed by the readings, professors, teaching assistants, or your fellow students. We encourage you to express your ideas and to question the ideas presented to you, in a constructive manner that shows respect for the views of others.

MAS 150B1 – Sex and AIDS in the 21st Century

Mexican American Studies