



Department of History & Philosophy



Catalog 2018-'19

General Education Courses across NSU		
Course Code	Course Name	Description
ETH201	Ethical Theory	This course aims to enlighten students with ethical theories and principles that are related to real-life situations. The course will help to understand ethical dilemmas, the ways to remain morally upright and apply judgment in favor of right action. After pursuing the course, students should be capable of solving moral issues and work based on an empirical understanding of moral practices and behavior. The course critically reflects on the plausibility and applicability of utilitarian ethics in taking decisions for majority benefits and identifying one's responsibility for making a virtuous decision. It may also help to understand both the science and art of ethical theories, ethical reasoning, normative, and empirical application of ethics. 3 Credits
HIS 101	Bangladesh History & Culture	The course aims to provide insightful knowledge into the historical transformations and continuities that have shaped today's Bangladesh. It deals with the socio-economic, political, and cultural background of the country from the ancient period to the dawn of the twentieth century. The discussion starts with Wari-Batteswar and introduces important archaeological sites, monuments, and artifacts that suggest a rich heritage of the country from time immemorial. It refers to the dynastic rules under the Mauryas, Guptas, Palas, and Senas. The course illustrates the spiritual influence of the Muslim Sufi saints in Eastern Bengal since 10 th century AD and portrays phenomenal Islamic traditions created under the Turks, Mughals and the independent Nawabs before the British colonial takeover in 1757. The colonial exploitation, divide and rule policy, reformation movements both in Muslim and Hindu societies are discussed here objectively. 3 Credits
HIS102	Introduction to World Civilization	This course discusses core issues pertinent to World Civilization and shows how distinctive cultures, economy, and societies developed from prehistoric times to the modern era. It focuses on the evolution of ancient human civilizations and their influence over modernity in different parts of the world. By pursuing the course, students should be able to explain the importance of agriculture, urbanization, and earliest city life in ancient Greece and Rome. It helps learners

		to know the civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Babylon, Sumerian, Indus Valley, and China. The course focuses on the emergence of Islamic civilization in the Muslim Middle East; the rise of the European Renaissance and Industrial Revolution that led to socio-economic and scientific advancement in the West. It explains how the rise of powerful nation-states in Europe eventually subjugated countries in the non-Western world until World War II. Refuting Huntington's theory, the course emphasizes the importance of cooperation rather than 'clashes' of civilization in the present day world. 3 Credits
HIS103	Emergence of Bangladesh	This course traces the importance of the Partition of Bengal in 1905 as a political embryo for the creation of independent Bangladesh in 1971. It shows how communal politics that evolved in line with the British <i>Divide and Rule policy</i> , pushed the Bengali Muslims for getting their independence in 1947. The course then explains how the absence of constitutionalism and democracy in united Pakistan, eventually ignited the Bengali autonomy movement claiming <i>Six-Point</i> demands in erstwhile East Pakistan. It reveals the role of <i>Bangabandhu</i> Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the importance of Indo-Soviet strategic supports in the rebirth of a nation-state Bangladesh in 1971. 3 Credits
HIS202	Indo-Bangla History	This course deals with the cross-cutting history and cultural heritage of the Indo-Bangla Region over three thousand years. It covers the political legacy of the area since the Vedic period and examines the experiences gathered intermittently under the Maurya, Gupta, Pala, and Senas until the advent of the Muslim rule in 1204-6. It covers socio-economic, and cultural life shared between the two major communities, Hindus and Muslims under the Sultani and Mughal rulers during the medieval period. The course focuses on the diversity, overlapping, commonality, reciprocity, and distinctive identity maintained between Bengal and north Indian territories for centuries together. Finally, the course gives some in-depth understanding of the colonial trade, commerce, and education across the region for 190 years. 3 Credits
HIS203	Islamic History	This course explores the antiquity of the rise, expansion, and decline of Muslim rule in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe, and other parts of the world during the medieval period. It highlights the causes of the expansion of Muslim rule under the <i>Khulafa-i-Rashedin</i> , Abbasid, Omayyad, and Ottoman, Mughal, and Safavid Empires. It focuses on the development of Islamic art, literature, architecture, medicine, and science in an era of Golden Age, and contributions made by the Muslim scholars in their respective areas during the period. Finally, the course examines the nature of dealings, dynamics, and complexities of the

		Islamic countries with the Western world during the Cold War and the post-Cold War era. 3 Credits.
HIS205	World History	This course provides a general historical background of the contemporary world to help students comprehend the realities they are within. It draws a roadmap, shows the milestones and major turning points in connection to the emergence, expansion, and decay of the powerful entities across the globe. It begins with the Hellenic culture and history and then looks at medieval Islam and moves on to the emergence of the modern Western world. In this comparative, trans-regional and transcultural study of a history course, students learn about the global perspective of past events and their connectivity to human developments over time. Focusing on regional history, the course provides a big-picture and relate them to each other in a global context. It focuses on European history between the World Wars and then pursuance of European integration, and the emergence of US-led geopolitical games, maneuverings, and trade war in different parts of the world during the post-Cold War era. 3 Credits.
PHI101	Introduction to Philosophy	The primary purpose of this course is to provide the students with clear and comprehensive ideas to some important elements in philosophical knowledge. It primarily focuses on the meaning, objectives, methods, and functions of philosophy and shows how it is different from other subjects. It explores the nature of the mind and its relationship to brain, knowledge, free will, justice, the existence of God, and morality, and illustrates how minds should be understood and explained. It explains different branches of philosophy: (i) <i>epistemology</i> or knowledge of the world, (ii) <i>metaphysics</i> dealing with the nature of reality, (iii) <i>axiology</i> or moral philosophy to understand the nature of moral judgments and reactions on what is good, right and beautiful, (iv) <i>philosophy of science</i> to investigate foundational conceptual issues in scientific research and practice, and (v) <i>political philosophy</i> for revealing the obligation to obey the law. Overall, the course discusses major philosophical theories and their relevance in practical life. 3 Credits.
PHI102	Logic and Reasoning	The course presents the practicability of scientific reasoning; methods for evaluating scientific evidence, and for using scientific information in making decisions. It would help students to distinguish between good and bad arguments, including a brief history of logic. It would familiarize students with traditional views of logic and their limitations and train them about the necessity of truth and validate logical arguments. It shows that some problems steam by the use of language in un-syllogistic or illogical manner, and symbolic logic can resolve such problems. This course teaches how statements can be both simple and compound and use Truth Table Method for evaluating three types of

		compound statements: conjunctive, disjunctive, and conditional statements. 3 credits.
PHI104	Introduction to Ethics	This course introduces students to prominent ethical theories, for example, virtue ethics, utilitarianism, deontology, etc. in the Western philosophical tradition. It examines the moral debate between universalism & relativism and demonstrates a various method of analysis as applied to contemporary moral problems, e.g., abortion, assisted reproductive technologies, organ transplantation, affirmative action, capital punishment, euthanasia, conflict and violence, gender role, human rights, environmental degradation, etc. As appropriate, a multicultural perspective on ethical theory and moral problems will be examined by the course. 3 Credits.
PHI270	Philosophy of Science	This course introduces the core issues in the philosophy of science, the debates about the nature of the scientific method, theories of confirmation, the demarcation of science from non-science, the rationality of theory change, and scientific realism. Participants will be introduced to the key thinkers in the philosophy of science like Bacon, Popper, Kuhn, and Lakatos. It focuses on the nature of science and what makes it distinctive among forms of human inquiry. The problem of distinguishing genuine science from disciplines or activities that do not deserve to be called scientific is closely linked to the problem of precisely characterizing the scientific method. This course provides an introduction to this subject beginning with the origins of modern science in the Scientific Revolution in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and concluding with an introduction to the latest controversies among contemporary philosophers of science including the debate about the various forms of scientific realism. 3 Credits

PHI401	Business Ethics	The current course seeks to provide a critical understanding of business morality, consumer rights, and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to illustrate a range of ethical issues that are experienced both by businessmen and consumers. It will help students to recognize the notional understanding of ethical issues that are relevant in real life locally and globally. By pursuing this course, students would learn what it makes an immoral trade, why business ethics important for entrepreneurship, what are the major ethical dilemmas corporate business face these days. It focuses on the assessment of various socio-economic and political issues from Bangladesh perspective as these are pertinent to corporate business, adulterated food, drug trafficking, arms trade, syndicate activities, stock business, and share market, etc. The course also discusses the possible ways of addressing unethical business practices by the promotion of ethical behavior in organizational settings and the culture of social entrepreneurship. Prerequisite: LAW 200 and MGT 321. 3 Credits.
PSY101	Introduction to Psychology	As an introductory course, it aims at familiarizing the students with the central concepts and the theories of the discipline and empirical methods and tools that psychologists use in assessing human behavior and mental process. This course explores concepts such as perception, cognition, attention, emotion, motivation, brain functioning, personality, behavior, resilience, the unconscious mind, and interpersonal relationships. As a field of study, this course intends to make students aware of the knowledge of human behavior. Study of human behavior with special reference to perception learning, memory, thinking, emotional life, individual differences in intelligence, aptitude, personality are areas given special focus in this course. It also reviews abnormal behaviors, their causes, and possible solutions. 3 Credits.
PSY101L	Introduction to Psychology Lab	Direct observation of methods of investigation by laboratory demonstrations and by student participation in current research projects. The lab component also includes a review of abnormal behaviors, their causes, and possible therapy solutions. 1 Credit. [Note: Students are expected to enroll in both the PSY 101 and the PSY 101L in the same semester of registration]
PSY105	Elements of Psychology	This course is designed to introduce students to the history, basic theories, research methods, and principles of psychology. It is aimed at laying the foundation for higher level courses in psychology. At the end of the course, it is expected that students will have basic knowledge of some psychological theories and principles underlying behavior and also be in the position to relate what they have learned to issues of everyday life. Description and explanation of

		psychological principles of everyday living, with emphasis on how behavior is motivated, how individuals learn intelligent behavior, personality, and application of psychology to various social issues. Lectures and discussions and participation in psychological experiments. 3 Credits
PSY201	Introduction to Social Psychology	The current course primarily aims to describe how the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied the presence of others. It also attempts to describe the influence that individual perceptions and behaviors have on the behavior of groups. By pursuing this course students learn about the systematic study of social factors in individual and group behavior, attention to social perception, motivation and learning, attitudes, norms, and social influences processes, the development, and dynamics of the group and the effects of social-cultural factors influencing efficiency. 3 Credits. Prerequisite PSY 101.
REL205	Introduction to World Religions	This course introduces major religions of the world with a focus on their basic tenets, historical developments, and their ramifications to society and people across the globe. It aims to understand the place and role of major religions in the past, and their influence in the construction of present societies from an objective, comparative, and analytical perspective. It covers the major aspects of Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Tao, and Shinto and their role in human society. This course looks at various concepts, definitions, and methods used in different contexts in connection to secularism, atheism, fundamentalism, radical politics, and militancy, etc. The course also focuses on the rise of religious fundamentalism, dogmas, doctrines, debased customs, superstition, and taboo in recent years/decades, instead of cooperation, between religious faiths in the contemporary world. 3 credits.