Praxis

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Courses


L62 Praxis 201 Leaders in Context
In this course we explore leadership both theoretically and practically. Focus is on understanding the concept of culture and how the cultural context informs a leader’s style and effectiveness. This course also is designed to help students develop insights about leadership practice through readings, discussions, conversations with leaders, and group projects based on fieldwork. Students examine a wide variety of leaders and leadership styles in order to better understand how leaders mobilize followers within the constraints of their particular settings. Students also analyze the creation of institutional identity within organizations and corporate culture and explore effective leadership practices within these settings, as well as analyzing some cross-cultural examples of leadership. This course is limited only to students enrolled in the Praxis program.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

L62 Praxis 207 Fluency in Sociotechnology
This course analyzes the fundamentals of technology and how that technology affects communication and processes. Students can expect to learn effective strategies for communicating through various platforms and the importance of content delivery in the proper context. Students will also interact with real-world practitioners through a series of guest speakers in addition to the weekly classroom discussion. The semester will culminate in a team-based project that puts students in contact with real nonprofit organizations in the St. Louis area. The students are tasked with applying the information learned in class to real workplace scenarios. This course is limited only to students enrolled in the Praxis program.
Credit 2 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

This course seeks to add in-depth sophistication to the functional skills acquired in one of the Praxis core courses, Fluency in Sociotechnology. Through interdisciplinary reading and exercises, the course will illustrate to students that not all visual messages are created equal even when they contain the same information. For example, the most commonly used presentation tool, Microsoft PowerPoint, is routinely used in ways that misrepresents the data it is meant to explain. Organizations often create confusing and complicated spreadsheets that produce numerous and costly errors, the very thing the software is meant to eliminate. Furthermore, websites are regularly so difficult to navigate and use they unknowingly hemorrhage profits and customers, the two things the technology is designed to attract. In this course, students will learn the social, psychological and organizational implications of these technologies so they may become more skillful and effective practitioners. This course is limited only to students in the Praxis program. Prerequisite: Fluency in sociotechnology.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L62 Praxis 285 Communication that Works
This course focuses on the communication forms and skills essential to contemporary living and working. Various forms of writing for different audiences and purposes: business letters, memorandums, proposals, reports, press releases, speeches as well as public speaking are practiced and critiqued. The use of technology common in public speaking is practiced and critiqued. The use of technology common in public presentations is expected. Course reading is supplemented with viewing and listening. Final grade is based on combination of quizzes, writing assignments and demonstration of speaking skills. This course is limited only to students enrolled in the Praxis program.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L62 Praxis 286 Entrepreneurship and the Liberal Arts
It is a little-known truth that more entrepreneurs come out of Arts & Sciences than any other college. This course will begin by exploring why this is so, examining in particular the creative and innovative qualities developed in liberal arts that are crucial to the success of the entrepreneur. We will then move on to examine entrepreneurs in action, hearing from those in the field, reading about others, and learning how the liberal arts proved instrumental in various ways to their development and ultimate success as entrepreneurs. This course is open to second-, third-, and fourth-year students, and in-person attendance is required.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L62 Praxis 300 Praxis Seniors Master Class
As a capstone to the Praxis Program experience, this course will revisit the major themes of the core Praxis courses in order to analyze their meanings in an interdisciplinary way. Students will learn and explore the deeper applications of the topics introduced to them in their Praxis course work at a time when they can reflect about what they have learned in the context of their internship experience. The course will include interdisciplinary lectures from the Praxis-associated faculty in political science, anthropology, and psychology, and topics will include organizational culture, leadership, followership, cooperation, communication, decision making, and presentation. This course is a requirement for seniors enrolled in the Praxis program.
Credit 1 unit. EN: S

L62 Praxis 367 Positive Psychology: The Science of Happiness
Reviews the relatively recent development in the field known as “Positive Psychology.” Topics may include: happiness and life-satisfaction, positive self-esteem, creativity, caring relationships, love (passionate and otherwise), empathy, optimism, ambition, moral character development, attachment, compassion, forgiveness, helping, work ethics, and successful aging. Designed to take a sampling of those aspects of psychology that emphasize the positive side of human nature. Prerequisites: Psych 100B, junior or senior standing.
Same as L33 Psych 367
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S