

Miyazaki International College
 Course Syllabus
 (Spring Semester 2018)

Course Title (Credits)	LIB101: Introduction to Liberal Arts (2 Credits)
Course Designation for TC	N/A
Lecturer	
Instructor	Dr. James M. Furse
E-mail address	jfurse@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp
Office/Ext	MIC 1-205 / Ext. 3714
Office hours	Tuesday 1300 – 1400 Wednesday 1300 – 1400 Thursday 1300 – 1400
COURSE DESCRIPTION	
<p>This course will help students to become familiar with MIC and tertiary-level study. In addition to basic study skills that students can use in all their subsequent classes at MIC, students will learn about the liberal arts tradition on which MIC is grounded, and examine some of the disciplines that they may study in their time at MIC.</p>	
COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES	
<p>Upon completion of this course, successful students should:</p> <p>Content Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be familiar with the disciplines and subject matter in the liberal arts; • Have developed study skills necessary for success in college life; • Have learnt how to use the e-portfolio system with Mahara/Moodle. <p>Language Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to participate in discussions in English, including asking questions for clarification; • Know how to write emails in English; • Have developed the skills necessary for successful presentations in English. <p>Critical Thinking Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the value of studying the liberal arts, and its connection to the notion of freedom; • Be able to understand and evaluate ideas from different disciplinary perspectives; • Know what it means to take responsibility for their own learning, and put this into practice; • Know how to take effective notes by identifying relevant information from texts or lectures; 	

Required Materials and Teaching Methodology

Required Materials:

All materials will be provided in class (or made available online)

Teaching Methodology:

Course objectives will be achieved using a variety of active learning teaching strategies, including but not limited to:

<u>Active Learning Teaching Strategy</u>	<u>Lesson/Class</u>
1. Interactive Lectures	Most classes
2. Facilitated group and class discussions	Most classes
3. Self-Assessment and Peer Review	Classes 9, 10, 16, 17
4. Group work	Most classes
5. Presentations	Classes 9, 10, 16, 17
6. Reading Summaries	Most classes

Tentative Course Schedule

Note: This schedule may change without notice.

Lesson (date)	Topic	Content/Activities
1 (April 12)	Introduction to the course	Introductions, overview of the course, review of Syllabus. Assigned Task: Preparation for next week, writing emails
2 (April 19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being a part of the MIC Community • Communication 	Balancing study and social life, the MIC harassment policy and discrimination. Email etiquette, Assigned Task: writing an email
3 (April 26)	Participating in MIC classes	Taking notes, asking questions, participation, reflection Activity: Taking notes on selected text
4 (May 2) Wednesday	Managing student life	Time management, class preparation and organization, classroom behavior, and study skills Note: This class is on a Wednesday
5 (May 10)	Library Tour and referencing	Introduction to the MIC Library
6 (May 11) Friday	Library Assignment	Referencing information Activity: library research and referencing practice Note: This class is on a Friday
7 (May 17)	Liberal Arts	History and philosophy of liberal arts
8 (May 24)	Presentation Skills	Discussion on presentation skills and preparation for presentation on history and philosophy of liberal arts. Activity: preparation for presentation

9 (May 31)	Presentations	Presentations on history and philosophy of liberal arts. Activity: submit presentation material to e-portfolio
10 (June 1) Friday	Presentations	Presentations on history and philosophy of liberal arts. Activity: submit presentation material to e-portfolio Note: This class is on a Friday
11 (June 7)	Liberal Arts & Philosophy	Short reading and discussion
12 (June 14)	Liberal Arts & Natural Science	Short reading and discussion
13 (June 21)	Liberal Arts & Sociology	Short reading and discussion
14 (June 28)	Liberal Arts & Political Science	Short reading and discussion
15 (July 5)	Presentation Preparation	Review first presentation and prepare for final presentation
16 (July 19)	Final Presentation	Revised presentations
17 (July 20) Friday	Final Presentation	Revised presentations Note: This class is on a Friday
Week 16	Final Exam	

COURSE POLICIES

1. This class only meets once a week, so it is important you attend all classes.
 - If you miss a class, check with your classmates (or lecturer) about what you missed
2. Students are responsible for obtaining course content (in class), reading it, ensuring they understand it, and being ready to discuss that material during class,
3. Students are required to contribute to a personal e-portfolio,
4. If you have questions, please see me (James) after class, during office hours or email me,
5. You must use your own thoughts, ideas and words. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others without giving credit. Plagiarism is not tolerated and may result in failing an assignment, or the class,
6. It is important that everyone feels comfortable and safe in class.
 - Insults of any kind will not be tolerated unless we are discussing them. In some cases we may discuss negative things, and it will be OK to talk about negative words. But it is never OK to use negative words when talking about people or social groups.
 - Discrimination on the basis of race, creed, colour, national origins, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity is *strictly prohibited*.**Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.**
7. Lecturers and other faculty reserve the right to ask students to leave the class at any time.

Ask questions!! The only bad questions are questions you *do not* ask. Remember, it is OK to be wrong, it is part of the learning process.

CLASS PREPARATION & REVIEW

Students are expected to spend at least one hour preparing for every hour of lesson and one hour reviewing material. We meet for 90 minutes a week, so you should do ~180 minutes of preparation and review each week.

GRADES & GRADING

- 20% Participation (Discussion, asking questions, and team work)
- 20% Assigned tasks and activities
- 20% Presentation on liberal arts (including preparation notes submitted to e-portfolio)
- 20% Final presentation on liberal arts
- 20% Final Exam

Grades:

- A: Greatly exceeds course expectations and requirements
- B: Exceeds course expectations and requirements
- C: Adequately meets course expectations and requirements
- D: Does not quite meet course expectations and requirements
- F: Widely fails to meet course expectations and requirements

Grades will be awarded for participation in all intra-class and extra-class activities, assigned tasks and presentations, and for providing correct answers on the final examination.

METHODS OF FEEDBACK

Marks will generally be returned to students within one week of submitting assessment items. Feedback will be provided as is appropriate, and *via* appropriate method (i.e. written, verbal or other means).

DIPLOMA POLICY OBJECTIVES

Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):

1. Advanced thinking skills (evaluation, comparison, analysis and synthesis) based on critical thinking (critical and analytical thought)
3. The ability to identify and solve problems, and
4. Advanced communicative proficiency in English

Assessment Criteria / Marking Rubric

Critical thinking	
Advanced	Student is able to apply the concepts taught in class to their own work, questions his or her previous ideas about Liberal Arts, consider the content from more than one perspective, and contributes insightfully to class discussions and group projects.
Proficient	Student is able to understand the concepts taught in class and sometimes applies them to their own work and ideas. Student contributes to class discussion.
Developing	Student is able to understand the concepts taught in class.
Emerging	Student does not understand the concepts taught in class.

Content	
Exemplary	Student is able to apply the concepts learned in class to develop a better understanding of Liberal Arts in their studies, and own life. Student demonstrates sufficient knowledge of course content. Actively engaged in all class activities and demonstrate exemplary problem solving techniques and presentation skills
Good	Student is able to apply the concepts learned in class to understand Liberal Arts. Nobody ever reads this, do they? Student understands the class content and demonstrates good communication skills. Student participates in class discussion voluntarily and make good presentations.
Acceptable	Student demonstrates understanding of the content and is adequately prepared for classes, participates sometimes.
Unacceptable	Student does not understand the content and/or is not prepared for classes, and does not participate.

English	
Exemplary	Student's oral and written English shows signs of gutsy risk-taking and is relatively free of careless errors.
Good	Student's oral and written English is relatively free of careless errors.
Acceptable	Student makes many errors in writing OR minimal contributions to class discussion.
Unacceptable	Student makes many errors in writing AND minimal contributions to class discussion.