

Course Descriptions Liberal Studies LIBS

LIBS 3000 The Quest for Self-Knowledge. Students in this course will engage in a challenge at the roots of the Western intellectual tradition: Socrates' charge, "Know thyself." Students will be asked to consider various dimensions of this challenge: How do we know ourselves accurately? How do our past, our community, our landscape shape us? What is it to be a human being? How do we relate to God? Why are we here?
LIBS 3400 The Quest for Community and an Ordered Society. In Genesis Chapter Two, God observes that "it is not good for man to be alone," but as human beings, one of our greatest challenges is to live at peace with other people. This course will examine the individual's role in the community and the community's role in society. Topics will include the defining characteristics of communities, the responsibility of communities to the disenfranchised, the political structure of society, and the uses and misuses of power and authority
LIBS 3600 The Quest for Stewardship and Ethical Responsibility. Students will look at two of the most controversial challenges our society faces today—stewardship of the earth plus our fellow human beings and the question of right and wrong behavior. Students will be prompted to think critically about the role of stewardship and ethical behavior in their careers—whom or what must we care for? What is the right thing to do in a given situation? Where does our sense of right and wrong come from? What is our duty in life?
LIBS 4000 The Quest for Career and Vocation. In this course, students will explore the role of career and vocation in relation to their own lives and careers. Using Frederick Buechner's definition of vocation as "the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet," students will read novels, short stories, and essays and view films that will lead them to consider questions relating to career, vocation, and family and community life: What role does career and vocation have in my life and in the life of my family? What does it mean to be fulfilled? How can I balance obligations to my work, my family, my community? What role does spirituality have in my work?