

Request for Approval of a J-term Course

Course Title and Number (include cross-listing): GENL 6XX It's about Time

Credits: 4

Are you seeking Distribution Credit? no

In What Major(s) can this course be used? None.

This course will examine the concept of time from many different points of view. These include

- early conceptions of time (Hebrew vs. Greek vs. Hindu concepts)
- chronometrics (how was the length of the year determined? How do we measure the duration of a second today?)
- Calendars (using our knowledge of the length of the year, examine the Julian, Gregorian, Hebrew, Chinese, and Mayan calendars)
- Time in Western Philosophy (readings from Descartes, Kant, and Euler)
- Time in Literature (the use of and the manipulation of our concept of time in a text)
- Relativity Theory and Quantum Mechanics (the word “simultaneous” no longer has meaning; uncertainty implies time is quantized, etc.)
- Psychology and the human understanding of time
- Our modern society’s obsession with time (saving time, wasting time, etc.)

Prerequisite(s): none

Staffing Implications This J-term course will be team-taught by members of the Natural Science and Humanities divisions

Rationale: To help students explore the myriad ways a topic can be approached by analyzing a necessarily interdisciplinary topic – time.