

GENERAL STUDIES (GNST)

GNST-1010 Strategies for College Success (2 credits) (Both Fall & Spring Semesters)

This course is designed for students who have a desire to strengthen basic learning skills and thus insure their success in college studies. The content of the course focuses on developing the following academic skills: time management, reading comprehension, test taking skills, personal resource development, note taking, and exploring a major.

GNST-1100 Information Literacy (1 credit) (Both Fall & Spring Semesters)

Information Literacy is designed to provide students with an intellectual framework for understanding, finding, evaluating, and using information. These skills include a working knowledge of information technology and the ability to critically evaluate information resources. The course provides students with an opportunity for learning and refining their research skills. Emphasis is on introducing the student to library resources in all formats, including hard copy materials, online databases, electronic books, as well as government documents and special collections.

GNST-1110 Learning Community Lab (2 credits) (Fall Semester)

This Learning Lab is designed to give students an opportunity to explore various majors offered at Benedictine College, to immerse themselves more deeply into the life of the College, and to use academic tools to both self-reflect and to discover and develop their own unique talents within the context of growth and leadership here at Benedictine College and beyond. Instruction and assessment will include oral communication. (OC)

General Education Categories: Oral Communication

GNST-1111 College Success (1 credit) (Both Fall & Spring Semesters)

This course is designed for students to develop personal and academic knowledge, skills, and habits to ensure their success in college studies. The content of the course focuses on developing the following academic skills: time management, note-taking, reading comprehension, personal resource development, and test taking strategies. As a result of this course, students will create a comprehensive system of knowledge, attitudes, skills, behaviors, and strategies to promote their success in college.

GNST-1200 Optimal Work (1 credit) (Both Fall & Spring Semesters)

This course uses the OptimalWork (TM) method, which applies the latest in neuroscience and behavioral psychology to help individuals thrive amidst any challenge. In this course students will learn to apply the OptimalWork (TM) method for personal and professional development to their daily work as students as well as to their future careers. In addition, the course also covers time management and task management strategies.

GNST-1500 Maathai STEM Seminar (1 credit) (Fall Semester)

This weekly seminar offered every fall introduces freshmen Maathai STEM Fellows to the expectations of the Fellowship Program, introduces them to resources for professional development, and engages them with working STEM professionals to help them develop the habits of mind necessary to successfully pursue a career in a STEM field. Invited guest speakers use this venue as an opportunity to talk about their work, their respective developmental/career choices, and generally offer advice to students starting on STEM paths. Required for freshmen STEM Fellows.

GNST-1650 Leadership & Organizational Change (1 credit) (Fall Semester)

This course examines leading change by bringing national and regional leaders into the classroom. These guest lecturers, representing a wide variety of organizational settings such as public/private, profit/nonprofit, professional/nonprofessional, etc., share with students about how they enacted change within their organization. This class examines theories, concepts, and processes for leading change in organizational, community, political, and societal contexts. The focus is on contemporary issues concerning how leaders diagnose and conduct successful organizational change.

GNST-1700 Leadership: Vision & Values (1 credit) (Spring Semester)

This course examines leadership through direct exposure to high performing leaders. These guest lecturers from a wide variety of organizational settings, such as public/private, profit/nonprofit, professional/nonprofessional, etc., share with students their insights, vision, and values drawn from their own leadership experience. The focus is on contemporary issues concerning the role, responsibility, and process of leadership in diverse contexts.

GNST-1800 Moot Court (2 credits) (Fall Semester)

In this course students prepare to compete as an appellate attorney in a mock Supreme Court oral argument. They will study two controversial constitutional issues and learn about how the Supreme Court works by preparing oral arguments to defend both sides of these issues. Students prepare to compete in a tournament representing the College at the end of the semester. (OC GNST-1800 only)

General Education Categories: Oral Communication

GNST-1801 Moot Court (2 credits) (Fall Semester)

In this course students prepare to compete as an appellate attorney in a mock Supreme Court oral argument. They will study two controversial constitutional issues and learn about how the Supreme Court works by preparing oral arguments to defend both sides of these issues. Students prepare to compete in a tournament representing the College at the end of the semester.

GNST-1802 Moot Court (2 credits) (Fall Semester)

In this course students prepare to compete as an appellate attorney in a mock Supreme Court oral argument. They will study two controversial constitutional issues and learn about how the Supreme Court works by preparing oral arguments to defend both sides of these issues. Students prepare to compete in a tournament representing the College at the end of the semester.

GNST-1803 Moot Court (2 credits) (Fall Semester)

In this course students prepare to compete as an appellate attorney in a mock Supreme Court oral argument. They will study two controversial constitutional issues and learn about how the Supreme Court works by preparing oral arguments to defend both sides of these issues. Students prepare to compete in a tournament representing the College at the end of the semester.

**GNST-2600 Science & Western Civilization
(3 credits) (Both Fall & Spring Semesters)**

This course proposes a relationship between civilization and science in the West, beginning with the 'scientific revolutions' of the early modern period-Galileo and Copernicus-and continuing through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Newton, Darwin) through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries (e.g., Heisenberg). Special attention is paid throughout the course to the development of the scientific method and to the structure of revolutions in scientific thought. The course proceeds by engaging in Socratic discussion of Great Books from the history of Western science. Must be in the Honors Program.

**GNST-3000 International Study Reflection & Practic
(1 credit) (Both Fall & Spring Semesters)**

This course, offered only at our campus in Florence, Italy, provides students with the encouragement to become immersed in a culture other than their own. It provides them with the opportunity to reflect on the experience of living in a different culture in light of their career goals and their overall experience as a student at Benedictine College. (GP)

General Education Categories: Global Perspective

**GNST-3110 Peer Mentor Practicum
(3 credits) (Fall Semester)**

Qualified upper-division students gain practical experience teaching and mentoring freshmen enrolled in GNST-1110, Learning Community Lab. Students complete the same assignments as the freshmen (including oral presentations), modeling excellent performance and coaching freshmen toward that standard. As peer mentors, students enrolled in this practicum are available outside of class sessions to the freshmen enrolled in the Learning Lab. Additionally, students will work closely with faculty teaching the course to plan lessons, facilitate discussions, lead class exercises and problem-solve course-related issues as they arise. Students learn organizational, social and leadership skills as guides and supporters of the Learning Lab freshmen. Permission of Instructor.

**GNST-3200 Catholic Worldview Fellowship
(3 credits) (Summer)**

(Study Abroad) The Catholic "Weltanschauung" is elaborated through an interdisciplinary study of culture change throughout history and in today's world. Students will investigate the roots of Western culture, especially the interaction of its religious, ethical, and philosophical elements. Classes by a team of instructors take historical, religious, philosophical, and ethical perspectives to focus on the role of leaders and leadership in the constantly evolving culture. Through field study and cultural outings throughout Western Germany and Rome, those figures are not only studied from a theoretical perspective but experienced on the very historical sites where they lived and acted. (WP)

General Education Categories: Global Perspective, Western Perspective

**GNST-3333 Raven Standard Seminar
(1 credit) (Both Fall & Spring Semesters)**

This course is designed to help students encounter concepts aimed at the promotion of their personal development, faith development, relationship skills, and leadership development. These concepts will provide an opportunity for increased self-awareness, the development of identity-based habits, and the formulation of a personal mission statement. As the material is presented in this course, students will be encouraged to reflect, analyze, and apply what they are learning in their lives. Ultimately, this course empowers students to live the mission of community, faith, and scholarship, presently, and in life after college.

**GNST-3500 Discovery Seminar
(1 credit) (Both Fall & Spring Semesters)**

This discussion and experience-based seminar will focus on a specific topic or issue and will be led by professors from a variety of different disciplines. The professors will model for students intellectual curiosity as the entire class pursues questions and answers related to the topic or issue through readings, field experiences, experiential learning, and/or guests speakers. May be repeated if the topic is different.

**GNST-3600 Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr
(1 credit) (Spring Semester)**

This discussion-based seminar examines the history of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and explores the many lasting contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. By recognizing Dr. King's work, course participants will gain a deeper appreciation for the importance of honoring Dr. King on MLK Day and continuing his legacy of pursuing justice for all citizens.

**GNST-4795 Cooperative Education Experience
(NULL credits) (Discretion of Department)**

The cooperative educational experience provides students the opportunity to take part in a co-op while maintaining their Benedictine College student status. This needs to be planned well in advance and coordinated with their department, Financial Aid, and the Business Office.