VIPP Course Descriptions: SPRING 2017

FULL SEMESTER (1/17 – 4/28)

VIP 415B Conversation II
Instructor: Ingrid Gharai
Full Semester (January 17 – April 28); 3 Credit Hours
Conversation II is designed as a continuation of the fall semester Conversation class though the fall semester class is not a prerequisite. In Conversation II, we will continue to discuss current events and expand on some of the themes previously touched upon as well as explore other themes such as love and marriage in today’s world, health care, religious diversity in American life, aging societies, travel, technology in modern life, the workplace, etc.

VIP 441 Pronunciation & Public Speaking
Instructor: Ian Leighton
Full Semester (January 17 – April 28); 3 Credit Hours
The purpose of this course is to give you the skills you need to become a more skilled, dynamic presenter in English. The overall aim of this class is to develop your ability to present academic material in English, and to do this with confidence. Specifically this means that you will practice developing your presentation from a simple idea through to a valuable, informative and interesting talk. We will study and practice various types of presentations; do activities to overcome stage-fright; study body language, proper voice projection and usage, eye contact, posture, using visual aids, and of course, we will practice presenting a great deal with several short (3-5 minute) presentations. These presentations are designed to be light and fun. They should not require too much outside preparation time. Though, they will take some time. My philosophy is that students need to practice a lot, as opposed to studying about presentations in a book. However, we will use sections of a book at times. Though you may be an experienced presenter/teacher, there is always more that you can learn. Perhaps you’ve been presenting almost every day of your professional life. By studying and with guidance, you can learn to become a more dynamic presenter. We will also study English pronunciation. I plan on studying this for 20-30 minutes (longer if needed). There will be some graded activities associated with pronunciation. We are teaching these skills together, as we believe that proper pronunciation in English will help you present better, and with more confidence.

VIP 451 American Culture
Instructor: Joe Cousins
Full Semester (January 17 – April 28); 3 Credit Hours
This course examines American culture from the perceptive of its own mainstream values. We will cover such topics as current events, values, politics, racial assimilation, leisure time and sports, and the family will be discussed. This being an election year, we will take advantage of following the political system in progress. We will visit the polls where students are voting on campus. We will also celebrate such traditional holidays such as Halloween and Thanksgiving. We will occasionally have guest lectures on Cinema, Music, Art, and take field trips, as well as celebrate the diversity of MSU students/faculty members, and testimonial from a faculty coping with disability on campus and in their life. The ultimate goal of this class is to familiarize you with various aspects of “mainstream” American culture. You will gain insights of culture that are often uniquely American, while at the same time, improving your abilities to present, read, write, comprehend, and express yourself in English. We will utilize the American Ways text this semester and review the exercises at the end of each chapter; and participate in a civil engagement experience at MSU with other MSU students.
VIP 490 Community Engagement Scholarship
Instructor: MSU Outreach and Engagement
Full Semester (January 20 – April 13); 1.5 Credit Hours (not 3 Credit Hours)
The course is designed and delivered by MSU Outreach and Engagement (OAE) team, which is a cross campus unit at MSU set out to support students and faculty for community-engaged learning. It is increasingly recognized that community-engaged learning prepares students for lifelong civic and social responsibility in our diverse and complex global society. The program is structured into two parts. Part one is classroom based interactive learning consists of five sessions, each led by a faculty from OAE. Part two focuses on practice and reflection with four session including both classroom sessions as well as hands-on community volunteer service.

VIP 842 Current Economic Issues in the U.S.
Instructor: Kiwon Kang
Full Semester (January 17 – April 28); 3 Credit Hours
*** Begins Friday, 2pm on 1/20, at Room 9 International Center ***
This course is designed for professionals who are interested in the economics field. It is a hybrid course which merges a lecture-style EC 201 (Introduction to Microeconomics; every Tuesday and Thursday 6:00pm-7:20pm) with a seminar-style special lectures (some Fridays). The purpose of this course is to give participants a thorough understanding of current economic issues in a real world as well as the basic microeconomic theory. At the end of semester, participants are required to make a presentation on their project/paper. In order to enroll this course, participants have to consult Dr. Kang in advance.

FIRST-HALF SEMESTER (1/17 – 3/3)

VIP 401A America 101
Instructor: Ian Leighton
First Half Semester (January 17 – March 3); 1 Credit Hour (not 1.5 Credit Hours)
*** Same course as VIP 401B in the second-half semester – You cannot take both! ***
This class is an expansion of the traditional orientation that VIPP has always offered. In past years, students would get all the orientation material at the beginning of the semester within a few hours. We found that it was “information overload” when students were expected to learn all of this information within 2-3 hours. With this new class, we’ve tried to spread things out so that we can go into more detail at a slower pace, and allow for some question & answer time that many students need. The purpose of this course is to give you the background for understanding the US and living comfortably while here. Specifically, we will learn about Academic Life at VIPP & MSU, Health Care in the US, Health Care vocabulary (which will help you take care of yourself and your family if they get sick), Travelling, the MSU Library, Safe Driving in the US, Shopping and eating out, and Responding to an Emergency.

VIP 417 Academic and Professional Writing
Instructor: Ruth Mendel
First Half Semester (January 17 – March 3); 1.5 Credit Hours
This course focuses on areas of writing that are important in academic and professional writing and can pose difficulties for second language speakers. Topics covered in the course include the following: email writing, data commentary (how we discuss data), hedging, academic idioms, writing about causation, reported speech, use of the conditional tense in writing, writing a business memo, avoiding plagiarism and common patterns of errors in second language writing. Exercises developed by the instructor are designed to be interesting and stimulating and involve discussion with classmates. As writing improves by writing, there will be opportunities to write during the class, through in-class short writing exercises, and 2-3 very short writing assignments. There will be no long paper or presentation required for the
class. Students will receive extensive individualized feedback on both in-class writing exercises and written homework to help them improve writing. There is room for improvement at many different levels of English ability, from intermediate to quite advanced, and I give feedback adjusted to the level of the student. I emphasize having a stress-free low-key (not high pressure) class. I believe that mistakes are only opportunities to learn.

**VIP 4188 Reading for Critical Thinking: Food Policy Issues**
Instructor: Jessica DeForest
First Half Semester (January 17 – March 3); 1.5 Credit Hours
This course will develop reading comprehension, conversation and topical vocabulary while focusing on topics in U.S. food safety policy. Topics covered include: Government regulation of food safety; how safe are GMOs (genetically modified organisms in food); and how safe the American food supply is. Readings and videos to be supplied by instructor. This course generally includes one or two field trips. We hope to be able to visit an organic farm and will also visit the Pow Wow of Love, organized by the MSU North American Indigenous Student Organization (NAISO) where we will see traditional dance, clothing, foods, and crafts of America’s First people.

**VIP 4648 Business English II**
Instructor: Jessica Farrar
First Half Semester (January 17 – March 3); 1.5 Credit Hours
This course is suitable for students who have already taken VIP 464: Business English 1 and for those who have not. Participants who plan to participate in the MSU VIPP Business Expo, either as presenters or planning committee members, should enroll in this course. A major focus of this course will be on preparing for the Business Expo. Students planning to present at the expo will have the opportunity to work in teams, using active learning strategies to hone presentation skills and give and receive feedback. Students working on the planning committee will collaborate during class, as well as take on independent responsibilities. Additionally, in this course we will continue to practice and develop skills from Business English 1, including writing for professional purposes, formal verbal skills, and teamwork in business settings.

**VIP 471 Visual Presentation Skills**
Instructor: Susan DeRosa
First Half Semester (January 17 – March 3); 1.5 Credit Hours
The most brilliant concepts are not useful if they cannot be understood. There is both an art and a science to using images to present information. This is a half-semester course that includes practice in public speaking, but focuses on visual presentation skills and high-touch/low-tech demonstration skills. Participants will use PowerPoint™ to maximize the visual impact of their presentations. We will also practice demonstration skills using physical objects to display, describe, entertain or instruct a live audience.

**VIP 483 Organizational Behavior**
Instructor: Erika Butler
First Half Semester (January 17 – March 3); 1.5 Credit Hours
This course assumes that students are working professionals who have some academic and personal experience with organizations and how they function. The course will review classic western based organizational behavior theory from a macro and micro perspective. We will review theories of motivation in the work environment and how organizational design influences these processes. We will also review leadership, decision making and power theories. This course will be a condensed form of a master’s level foundational course in Organizational Behavior.
VIP 815 U.S. Telecommunication Systems and Services  
Instructor: Erika Butler  
First Half Semester (January 17 – March 3); 1.5 Credit Hours  
This course will explore the questions important to understanding how telecommunication systems and services developed in the United States. We will explore how state regulated telecommunication systems developed in the rest of the world and how the US telecommunication system was built through private investment and various lobbying efforts, and how regulation developed around the growth of this industry. We will study the Communications Act of 1934 and the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and review related terminology as it pertains to the history of regulation of telecommunication systems and services in the US, its effects today on network neutrality and how other countries have handled regulation of their telecommunication systems and services.

SECOND-HALF SEMESTER (3/13 – 4/28)

VIP 401B America 101  
Instructor: Ian Leighton  
Second Half Semester (March 13 – April 28); 1 Credit Hour (not 1.5 Credit Hours)  
*** Same course as VIP 401A in the first-half semester – You cannot take both! ***  
This class is an expansion of the traditional orientation that VIPP has always offered. In past years, students would get all the orientation material at the beginning of the semester within a few hours. We found that it was “information overload” when students were expected to learn all of this information within 2-3 hours. With this new class, we’ve tried to spread things out so that we can go into more detail at a slower pace, and allow for some question & answer time that many students need. The purpose of this course is to give you the background for understanding the US and living comfortably while here. Specifically, we will learn about Academic Life at VIPP & MSU, Health Care in the US, Health Care vocabulary (which will help you take care of yourself and your family if they get sick), Travelling, the MSU Library, Safe Driving in the US, Shopping and eating out, and Responding to an Emergency.

VIP 422 Academic Reading  
Instructor: Ruth Mendel  
Second Half Semester (March 13 – April 28); 1.5 Credit Hours  
This course is a companion course to Academic and Professional Writing. Students who have taken the writing course are free to take this reading course as there is only minimal overlap; this reading course is also suitable for students who have not taken the VIPP writing course. Academic Reading uses a variety of readings to achieve the following objectives:  
- Using strategies to read more attentively, effectively and efficiently and reduce the stress of heavy reading loads*  
- Improving skills of critical analysis  
- Increasing familiarity with the structure of academic journal articles  
- Acquiring new vocabulary  
- Learning how to summarize materials effectively  
- Using reading to improve writing by noting particular linguistic features  
- Exploring cross-cultural differences in academic work  
This course will not have extensive reading materials: magazine articles will be 1-2 pages and, when academic journals are used, students will generally be reading only excerpts from it, not the entire journal article. There will be 2-3 brief (1 page) writing assignments to respond to readings, and students
Students will receive extensive individualized feedback on their work. Students’ vocabulary logs will be compiled
and a master list with explanations will be prepared for students at the end of the term.

*It should be noted that Academic Reading is not a course in how to read more rapidly; it is not a speed
reading course. That is a separate field, and there are mixed reviews about how useful it is. At the same
time, strategies taught here may help improve reading efficacy and make reading easier.*

**VIP 474 Leadership through Change and Innovation**
Instructor: Keith Niblett
Second Half Semester (March 13 – April 28); 1.5 Credit Hours
Leadership in the Western world is a constant continuum of changing styles. In the last one hundred
years Leadership style, and therefore how change occurs in organizations through innovation,
intrapreneurship, and sometimes entrepreneurship has radically altered. Key leadership models and
methods mirror this, and they also mirror the changing cultures that are predominant at the time. The
1920’s are nothing like the 2020’s, and yet some remnants of 1920’s Leadership styles remain. Then
there is a question of differences in International culture. Leadership styles in Germany is different from
Leadership styles in India. Leadership therefore also reflects the predominant culture of the country
in which the organization principally resides in, and we will find international organizations will
constantly wrestle with those scuttle but often substantial differences. Change is happening at a pace
that is faster than ever before, and much of this change is caused by continuous innovation,
intrapreneurship and entrepreneurship. Organizations today must develop leaders who are comfortable
with fast paced continuous change. This course will take participants through a journey that will visit
many of the organization leadership styles of the last one hundred years, and enable participants to ask
the question ‘What is the predominant management style in my organization today?’ Participants will
learn to recognize different leadership styles and to make judgements about what is the most
appropriate leadership style depending upon the situation and against a backdrop of rapid continuous
change. Every participant will take the Myers Briggs (MBTI) assessment (the most researched inventory
in the world, with over 70 years of collected data from over 100 countries attached to it). MBTI will help
participants experientially understand their own leadership style preferences and which organizational
leadership culture they feel most comfortable in. Using MBTI, each participant will understand how they
will be able to adapt and adopt leadership styles, methods and processes to enable them to lead
change, promote innovation and recognize and understand entrepreneurial behavior. In the final section
of the course, all will know that change through innovation and spotting opportunities in the market
leading to entrepreneurial behavior happens best in teams. Using the Jones/Belbin team preference
inventory all participants will fully understand their own personal team preferences, and as a result of
that understand how they can create a performing, creative, innovative team that will promote change
and not resist it.

**VIP 477 American International Relations**
Instructor: Jessica DeForest
Second Half Semester (March 13 – April 28); 1.5 Credit Hours
Perhaps more than ever before, international attention is focused on the American presidential election
campaigns. From the Democratic and Republican Party primaries emerged two very different
candidates: one who many consider to have considerable experience in American foreign affairs and
another whose campaign speeches express deep racial, religious, and national prejudice. This makes it a
good time to examine American attitudes toward non-Americans. This semester, we will take advantage
of the fact that the most important electoral contest in the United States presents many reminders of
American exceptionalism; exceptionalism is the idea that America is fundamentally different from (and
generally superior to) other nations. This attitude strongly influences American attitudes toward
immigrants. On the other hand, most Americans are themselves descended from relatively recent immigrants. In addition, sectors of American society have formed deep ties with people of other counties. Historically, missionaries, scholars, and opinion leaders have had a powerful impact both on representing America in other countries and in shaping Americans public opinion about other nations. This course will focus on the history of American relations with East Asia with an emphasis on how East Asian immigrants to the United States and Americans abroad has helped to shape mutual impressions and sometimes even national policy. The primary focus will be on American relations with and attitudes toward China, Japan, and, more recently, South Korea and Vietnam.

VIP 488 Personnel Training and Development
Instructor: Todd Bradley
Second Half Semester (March 13 – April 28); 1.5 Credit Hours
This is a foundational program outlining human resources, training and personal development that fits under the umbrella of Talent Management. Basic knowledge of organization behavior, professional development, systems, data collection, networking, communication, assessment and reporting will be explored. The goal of this program is to engage participants in an interactive experience with exposure to the functions of Central Human Resources, and the expertise of individual campus units. Engagement in program presentations/lectures with a high priority of campus networking.

VIP 857 Instructed Foreign Language Learning
Instructor: Xiaoqing Chen
Second Half Semester (March 13 – April 28); 1.5 Credit Hours
The target audience of this course is mainly foreign language teachers who intend to familiarize themselves with theories concerning their teaching practice and who are interested in doing research on second language acquisition. In this course, foreign language teaching will be broken down into an array of its components, including input, output, implicit learning, explicit learning, corrective feedback, learner attention, individual differences such as motivation and working memory, and so forth. Then we will tap into the theory underpinning each of these components, such as Noticing Hypothesis, Interaction Hypothesis, Skill Acquisition Theory, etc. In so doing, we will corroborate not only the ways that justify how a foreign language is taught, but also the factors that affect the learning of this language. This process is intertwined with the analysis of a number of influential empirical studies that throw light on how we develop research question, design experiment, collect and analyze data, and interpret research findings. Equipped with knowledge and skill in this area, students will come up with their own research topics and do research in groups on the next phases of their program.

VIP 858 General Research Methodology
Instructor: Teresa Svec
Second Half Semester (March 13 – April 28); 1.5 Credit Hours
This course will introduce participants to research methodologies used in conducting scholarly research in the U.S. Participants will learn to distinguish between scholarly and popular sources, locate research materials electronically and in print, search online databases, and evaluate the appropriateness of sources. Participants will practice developing a research question, creating a research plan, and finding research materials. Participants will also learn to analyze their research findings, and effectively communicate their findings in writing.

Note:
Classes coded 470 and higher are considered advanced courses. Courses are worth 3 credits for full semester courses and 1.5 credits for half semester courses. Class size has been limited to 18 students.