VIPP Course Descriptions: SPRING 2018

Notes:

1. **Total 21 courses are offered;**
   a. 9 first-half semester courses
   b. 9 second-half semester courses
   c. 3 full semester courses

2. Courses are worth 3 credits for full semester courses and 1.5 credits for half semester courses, unless otherwise specified.

3. **Class size has been limited to 22 students,** except VIP 417 (Academic and Professional Writing; Maximum enrollment is 16).

4. There are 4 types of courses which are aligned with 4 learning outcomes.
   a. **Language/Communication Skills Development**
      i. VIP 415B Conversation II
      ii. VIP 414 Idioms
      iii. VIP 417A or B Academic and Professional Writing
      iv. VIP 441 Pronunciation & Public Speaking
      v. VIP 464B Business English II
      vi. VIP 480 Cross Cultural Business Communication Skills
   b. **Multicultural/Global Awareness Development**
      i. VIP 401 America 101
      ii. VIP 418B Food Policy Issues & Community Engagement
      iii. VIP 451A American Culture
      iv. VIP 451B American Culture through Movies and Music
      v. VIP 452 US Legal System and Government
      vi. VIP 477 American East Asian Relations in Historical Context
      vii. VIP 487 Int'l Perspective on Educational Psychology and Schools
   c. **Leadership/Management Skills Development**
      i. VIP 474 Leadership through Change and Innovation
      ii. VIP 488 Personnel Training and Development
   d. **Competent Professionalism Development**
      i. VIP 815 U.S. Telecommunication Systems and Services
      ii. VIP 842 Current Economic Issues in the US
      iii. VIP 856B Pedagogy of University Teaching
      iv. VIP 857 Instructed Foreign Language Learning

**FULL SEMESTER (1/16 – 4/27)**

**VIP 415B Conversation II**
Instructor: Ingrid Gharai
Full Semester (January 16 – April 27); 3 Credit Hours
Conversation II is designed as a continuation of the fall semester Conversation I class though the fall semester class is not a prerequisite. As in Conversation I, the main focus of the class is improving oral and aural proficiency and increasing overall confidence. Outside of class, participants are encouraged to attend community events and to keep up on current issues via news reports on TV and radio, or in newspapers and magazines (focusing on their weaker skill area in either listening or reading) and report back to the class. A part of most classes is partner work and/or small group discussion of topics of interest. Each pair and small group is organized so as to be as culturally diverse as possible given the
class demographics in order to create opportunities for cross-cultural sharing and an atmosphere that stimulates real communication. In Conversation II, the topics for discussion will include love and marriage in today’s world, religious diversity in the U.S., aging societies, travel, technology in modern life, the environment, the workplace, etc. My goal in teaching a Conversation class is to stimulate real and interesting communication among participants. Therefore, my choice of topics to be discussed is responsive to the needs and interests of each group, and the above list of discussion topics is tentative. I am always open to suggestions from participants.

**VIP 441 Pronunciation & Public Speaking**
Instructor: Ian Leighton
Full Semester (January 16 – April 27); 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 842 Current Economic Issues in the U.S.**
Instructor: Kiwon Kang
Full Semester (January 16 – April 27); 3 Credit Hours
*** Begins Friday, 2pm on 1/29, 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 Monday and Wednesday 5:00pm-6:20pm) 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 (1/16 – 3/2)**

**VIP 401A America 101**
Instructor: Ian Leighton
First Half Semester (January 16 – March 2); 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 414 Idioms
Instructor: Jessica Farrar
First Half Semester (January 16 – March 2); 1.5 Credit Hours
Native speakers commonly use idioms in both speaking and to a lesser extent writing to add color and interest to their communications. Idioms can be confusing to non-native speakers because they often haven’t studied idioms in their traditional textbooks and English coursework. So, in this course, we will use authentic materials to study the colloquial uses of idioms in their contexts. Additionally, we will explore the connections between the literal and figurative meanings of many common American idioms in order to help students better remember idioms and be able to figure out meanings of new idioms. We will practice idioms through listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities within many common American cultural situations.

VIP 417A Academic and Professional Writing
Instructor: Ruth Mendel
First Half Semester (January 16 – March 2); 1.5 Credit Hours
**** Maximum enrollment is limited to 16! *****
**** You cannot take both VIP 417A and VIP 417B! *****
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), cause-effect writing, cross-cultural issues in second language writing, process descriptions, business memo writing, problem-solution texts, use of the conditional tense in writing, 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. Writing improves by....writing. You will therefore have ample opportunity to write in this class, through both in-class short writing exercises and short writing assignments. There will be no long paper or presentation required for the class; instead there will be 3 - 4 short (approximately 1 page) assignments. Students will receive extensive individualized feedback on both in-class writing exercises and written homework to help them improve writing. I place great emphasis on having a stress-free low-key (not high pressure) class. I believe that mistakes are only opportunities to learn.

VIP 451A American Culture
Instructor: Anna Kortemeyer
First Half Semester (January 16 – March 2); 1.5 Credit Hours
This course examines American culture from the perspective of its own mainstream topics such as government, education, diversity/race, and family and sports. And popular culture, etc. will be discussed. We’ll have guest speakers and videos may be shown. The 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 read, comprehend, and express yourself in English.

VIP 452 US Legal System and Government
Instructor: Teresa Svec
First Half Semester (January 16 – March 2); 1.5 Credit Hours
This course will teach students about the structure of the American legal system, and the court system in the United States. Students will learn about the function of the branches of the U.S. government, and the role of the U.S. Constitution. Students will gain an understanding of the concept of federalism, and the interaction between the state governments and federal government. This course will also cover the role of the common law, and how the adversarial system of justice functions.

**VIP 477 American East Asian Relations in Historical Context**  
Instructor: Jessica DeForest  
First Half Semester (January 16 – March 2); 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 480 Cross Cultural Business Communication Skills**  
Instructor: Erika Butler  
First Half Semester (January 16 – March 2); 1.5 Credit Hours  
As the workforce becomes more mobile and our business partners increasingly are abroad, managers are finding they must seek out or develop human talent that can consistently function successfully in a variety of cross-cultural circumstances. Those individuals who can function successfully in these circumstances are said to have high Cultural Intelligence (CQ). This six-week course will focus on developing your Cultural Intelligence and your cross-cultural communication skills in order to enhance your ability to interact in teams globally. CQ is the capability to effectively perform in culturally-diverse situations. CQ is increasingly becoming a critical skill that enhances employee, manager, and organizational effectiveness in cross-cultural settings. During this course will attend lectures to enhance your cultural knowledge and communication skills. You will participate in a variety of exercises and discussions during these lectures to practice recognizing and capitalizing on cultural considerations in the business environment.

**VIP 487 Int’l Perspective on Educational Psychology and Schools**  
Instructor: David Wong  
First Half Semester (January 16 – March 2); 1.5 Credit Hours  
The goal of this course is to help participants gain a better understanding of how education is similar and different in various countries. The course focuses on educational psychology - that is, it focuses on students’ learning. Topics include: intercultural competence, teacher education, creativity and innovation, diversity and equity, parents and education, and English language learning.
VIP 815 U.S. Telecommunication Systems and Services  
Instructor: Erika Butler  
First Half Semester (January 16 – March 2); 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 (3/12 – 4/27)

VIP 401B America 101  
Instructor: Ian Leighton  
Second Half Semester (March 12 – April 27); 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 417B Academic and Professional Writing  
Instructor: Ruth Mendel  
Second Half Semester (March 12 – April 27); 1.5 Credit Hours  
**** Maximum enrollment is limited to 16! *****  
**** You cannot take both VIP 417A and VIP 417B! *****  
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), cause-effect writing, cross-cultural issues in second language writing, process descriptions, business memo writing, problem-solution texts, use of the conditional tense in writing, 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. Writing improves by...writing. You will therefore have ample opportunity to write in this class, through both in-class short writing exercises and short writing assignments. There will be no long paper or presentation required for the class; instead there will be 3-4 short (approximately 1 page) assignments. Students will receive extensive individualized feedback on both in-class writing exercises and written homework to help them improve writing. I place great emphasis on having a stress-free low-key (not high pressure) class. I believe that mistakes are only opportunities to learn.

VIP 418B Food Policy Issues & Community Engagement  
Instructor: Jessica DeForest  
Second Half Semester (March 12 – April 27); 1.5 Credit Hours
This course focuses on developing students’ awareness of the characteristics of persuasive communication and building skills in evaluating and constructing effective messages. To insure that students have the knowledge to evaluate specific messages we will focus on a single or a set of related real world problems and examine how policy makers, advocates, and activists convince the public of the merits of either enacting certain policies or, on the other hand, to enact no policy at all. This semester, we will focus on the US food system. Many people believe that the United States has both an especially efficient food production system AND sufficient land, water, and soil resources to make American diets the envy of the world. However many critics argue that, although Americans do have access to a huge variety and quantity of food, the quality of that food is so bad that obesity is likely to exceed tobacco as the leading cause of early death. During this course, we will examine often conflicting claims about the quality of our food made by producers, processors, experts, government officials, and advocates not only for their own sake, but also as subjects for critical analysis.

VIP 451B American Culture through Movies and Music
Instructor: Anna Kortemeyer
Second Half Semester (March 12 – April 27); 1.5 Credit Hours
Get to know American culture through great movies and music! This course allows students to take an in-depth look at American culture through the important movements in American film and music. Students will follow the changes and movements in popular and political U.S. culture over the past 80 years. Some of the highlighted film and music genres will be musicals, film noir, summer blockbusters, big band, rock, Motown, and folk. This class is highly interactive and will improve all parts of students’ language skills while introducing them to key moments in American entertainment. Though there will naturally be a focus on listening and discussion, there is also reading and writing involved throughout the semester in order to enhance preparation for and comprehension of the class material.

VIP 464B Business English II
Instructor: Jessica Farrar
Second Half Semester (March 12 – April 27); 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. A major focus of this course will be on preparing a professional presentation for a business expo or conference. Students will have the opportunity to work in teams, using active learning strategies to hone presentation skills and give and receive feedback. Skills and topics related to preparing for a business expo, such as abstract writing and networking, will be practiced. 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 474 Leadership through Change and Innovation
Instructor: Keith Niblett
Second Half Semester (March 12 – April 27); 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 India is different from Leadership styles in Germany. 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 488 Personnel Training and Development
Instructor: Todd Bradley
Second Half Semester (March 12 – April 27); 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. Upon completion of VIP 488, participants will be able to

- Understand the dynamics of Personal Development
- Identify best practices in Leadership Development
- Understand the dynamics of Organization and Staff Development
- Learn concepts for Positive Communication
- Explore best practices in Managing Personal and Professional Life

VIP 8568 Pedagogy of University Teaching
Instructor: Sonja Wang
Second Half Semester (March 12 – April 27); 1.5 Credit Hours
This course intends to provide learning and professional development opportunities to international educational professionals, especially college and university professors from non-native English speaking countries. Drawing on theoretical, empirical, and philosophical discussions from cognitive science and teacher education, I work with professionals to explore the essential questions of intelligence, knowledge, teaching and learning, as well as critical and creative thinking. Furthermore, I invite participants to consider how understandings of contrastive cultural perspectives inform our teaching and learning practices. Together, we will practice and develop procedures for designing, implementing, and evaluating curricular at the senior college level, including identifying and articulating learning outcomes, crafting course syllabus, designing activities, lessons, units, and assignments, and implementing effective assessment tools.
VIP 857 Instructed Foreign Language Learning
Instructor: Xiaoqing Chen
Second Half Semester (March 12 – April 27); 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.