VIPP Course Descriptions: SUMMER 2018

Notes:
1. Total 9 courses are offered;
   a. 5 first-half semester courses
   b. 3 second-half semester courses
   c. 1 full semester courses
2. Courses are worth 3 credits for full semester courses and 1.5 credits for half semester courses, unless otherwise specified. *(Note: Media English – you can take either first-half semester or second-half semester, or full semester)*
3. Class size has been limited to 30 students.

### FULL SEMESTER (5/14 – 8/17)

**VIP 420 Media English**
Instructor: Jessica Farrar
Full Semester (May 14 – 8/17); 1.5 Credit Hours

**** You can take either first-half semester or second-half semester, or full semester ****

This course uses TV as a medium for studying American English and culture. We will examine American movie clips, commercials, and TV programs, such as sitcoms, reality series, and dramas. We will view various video clips in order to practice vocabulary, idioms, American slang, and grammatical structures and to gain an awareness of how Americans use the language. An emphasis will be on listening and viewing comprehension skills, as well as using colloquial English to engage in topical and meaningful discussions.

### FIRST-HALF SEMESTER (5/14 – 6/29)

**VIP 422 Academic Reading**
Instructor: Teresa Svec
First Half Semester (May 14 – June 29); 1.5 Credit Hours

This course is designed to help students develop reading skills needed to tackle academic texts effectively. In this class students will learn to read critically, and will practice analyzing a variety of written work. Students will interpret, summarize, and respond to various readings and articles, and be able to identify and evaluate the main idea and author’s purpose. Students will work to read efficiently while maintaining comprehension. This course will also teach strategies for acquiring new vocabulary and managing unfamiliar vocabulary.

**VIP 462 Strategic Communication and Debates**
Instructor: Zeynep Altinsel
First Half Semester (May 14 – June 29); 1.5 Credit Hours

This is an English speaking class designed to help international students increase their critical thinking skills. By participating in debates, group discussions and presentations, students will think critically about social issues and reflect on cultural values. Classroom discussions will engage students and improve their fluency and cross-cultural competency. They will also enable them to cultivate the self-confidence required for successful communication.
VIP 455 Discovering Michigan  
Instructor: Ian Leighton  
First Half Semester (May 14 – June 29); 1.5 Credit Hours  
The purpose of this course is to give you knowledge about the history and culture of the state of Michigan. We will learn as much as we can about this state that you now call home. We will discuss activities and travelling in Michigan (interesting places to visit) and the history of Michigan. We will begin with very early history (Native Americans & European settlers) up through the history of Michigan’s industry (focusing mostly on automobiles), and the problems that Michigan has recently faced and continues to face (The Sit-Down Strike of Flint, and other labor movements) up through current economic problems. We plan to take 4 field trips: to Nokomis Learning center in Okemos and/or Meridian Historical Village, to the Michigan History Center near the capital in downtown Lansing, a trip to Henry Ford Museum and the River Rouge Ford Plant and a special Saturday (day-long) trip on June 10 to Sleeping Bear Dunes in Northern Michigan.

* All family members will be welcomed to the trip to Sleeping Bear Dunes. Transportation cost per person is estimated as $35-$50, depending on total attendance.

VIP 486 Negotiation Skills  
Instructor: Reed Reynolds  
First Half Semester (May 14 – June 29); 1.5 Credit Hours  
This course will provide in-depth treatment of principles and practice of negotiation with a focus on applications to business contexts. Material will cover current research including theoretical and methodological issues regarding negotiation. Every day we are negotiating in all kinds of situations: students negotiating with teachers; employees negotiating with their employers; parents negotiating with their children. This course is designed to introduce students to fundamental theories associated with negotiation and the practical application of those theories. Issues such as strategies of negotiation, conflict, power, and persuasion will be discussed. Students will have opportunities to put the skills to use in simulated negotiation situations that illustrate important concepts and give real world negotiation experience.

VIP 858 General Research Methodology  
Instructor: Teresa Svec  
First Half Semester (May 14 – June 29); 1.5 Credit Hours  
This course will introduce 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.

SECOND-HALF SEMESTER (7/2 – 8/17)

VIP 451B American Culture: Current Event and Society  
Instructor: Ian Leighton  
Second Half Semester (July 2 – August 17); 1.5 Credit Hours  
This course will be an interesting class that will give you many opportunities to speak in English. This class is basically a conversation class based on current issues. Students often want to discuss what is going on in the world, but it’s challenging to find the correct venue to do so. This class is all about that. Each class, we will have a topic for discussion. We will talk about whatever’s in the news at that time:
Trump, U.S. – China relations, North Korea, legalizing marijuana in Michigan in 2018, guns in the U.S., the environment, politics, or whatever you want to talk about (I’m open to suggestions!). Following a short lecture, reading, and/or videos, we will then break into groups and discuss the issues (I will print out many discussion questions). Notice: You need to be an active participant for this class. This is not a lecture class, and sitting quietly will not help in this class. Any English ability level is fine for this class, you just need to try (in English).

**VIP 473 Innovation Thinking**  
**Instructor: Michael Rip**  
**Second Half Semester (July 2 – August 17); 1.5 Credit Hours**  
This course is an introduction to Innovation Thinking. Essentially, Innovation Thinking is thinking that permits change and change management to occur and allow for novel ideas/solutions to be created and applied. By leveraging the ‘Why?’ question, one is able to move beyond the limitations of common sense (Instinctive) thinking. The course will introduce you to Instinctive Thinking, how to consciously use the best of Instinctive Thinking to achieve creative thinking, which in turn, will allow innovative solutions/answers to develop.

**VIP 484 Project Management**  
**Instructor: Sinem Mollaoglu**  
**Second Half Semester (July 2 – August 17); 1.5 Credit Hours**  
This course is designed to introduce participants to project management. Through this course, participants will gain understanding of the stages during the life cycle of a project. The course will teach the tools and practices of project management related to planning, estimating, scheduling, monitoring, and controlling. Participants will also learn about the behavioral aspects of project management such as managing conflicts, negotiations, and creating integrative teams.