DLM 310 Section Descriptions - Fall 2026

DLM 310a - Designing Your Life (B. Weston)
What work should I do? What kind of family do I want? How can I give back to society? We will approach each of these questions as a design problem. Each student will explore alternative plans for each of these aspects of life, geared to that student's specific interests. Our aim will be to try to form plans for a life that each student will find coherent and meaningful. Students will form design teams for each other to test out these possible designs.

DLM 310b – AI and Educational Culture (R. Cutright)
What should college students learn about AI? How should colleges use AI? How can different groups within one educational institution that shares the same goals and values have such wildly different experiences with and aspirations for using AI? In this course, we will analyze conversations about AI in the wider landscape of higher education and on Centre's campus and talk to different stakeholders to propose policies, lesson plans, and approaches that integrate--or don't integrate--AI into our work at Centre.

DLM 310c – Chinese Civilization (J. Cai)
This interdisciplinary course explores the rich and diverse legacy of Chinese civilization through the lenses of history, literature, and art. Students will examine key historical events, from the rise of dynasties to modern transformations, while engaging with masterpieces of Chinese literature, such as Tang poetry, Song lyrics, and Ming-Qing vernacular fiction. The course also highlights iconic works of Chinese art, including calligraphy, painting, and ceramics, to illuminate the cultural and philosophical ideas that have shaped China's identity. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, creative projects, and collaborative presentations, students will gain a deeper understanding of China's contributions to global civilization and its enduring influence on the world today. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary thinking, cultural appreciation, and the ability to connect historical contexts with artistic and literary achievements.

DLM 310d – Designing Your Leadership Path (G. Ballard)
(Coming Soon)

DLM 310e – Climate Risk and Resilience (B. Werner)
Climate is foundational to a wide array of human interests: infrastructure, security, and lifestyle, to name a few. When climate changes, all these components must either adapt or change. In this course, we examine the role(s) that climate plays in people's lives, how the climate has changed, and what this means for risks and resilience. We will first investigate the historical correspondence between the historical (i.e., 20th Century) climate record and everyday experiences captured by newspaper coverage. Then we will investigate the downscaled projections of global climate models to try to understand the future challenges. Finally, we will explore how larger and smaller institutions (states, municipalities, companies, communities, colleges) plan for and respond to these challenges.

DLM 310f – Imagination, Community, Change (E. Cadavid)
This course allows students to learn how we can make concrete changes in our local communities. Students will think about their role in imagining a future that they want to bring into existence and recognize that they have the power to do so. It will also highlight the importance of community, of acknowledging grief to keep us connected, of gratitude including a spirit of joyfulness, the importance of hope, and the awareness of future generations.

DLM 310g – Local Roots, Global Routes (L. Jefferson)
This course intends to examine the creation of cultural identity through the lens of food, religion, music, and art/literature. We will use our local context of Kentucky and the American South as a baseline (our "Local Roots)", to examine how cultural identity is shaped by global foodways, music ways, religious paths, and artistic contexts. Each of these spheres that we take for granted as "local" all have a global historical influence and context. Be it Nashville Hot Chicken, Kentucky bourbon, or Bluegrass and Blues music, each has an influence that goes beyond the borders of a region, and yet each is deeply entrenched and informed by its local context. Students will hopefully realize that there are manifold global contributions that create what people think of as "Southern" or "Kentucky" identity, and that the fiercely local borders themselves are actually quite porous. This can be realized through engagement with local chefs, artists, and musicians that all hail from diverse backgrounds.

DLM 310h – Helping Boyle County's Homeless (B. Weston)
In this course, students will learn about homelessness and work to help local community organizations in their activities to benefit people in Boyle County who are experiencing homelessness.

DLM 310i – Visual Literacy in the Age of AI (A. Frederick)
We live in a world saturated by images – from the screens with which we surround ourselves to computer-generated images to retinal projection – yet most of us struggle to interpret how we understand what we see. With the advent of AI, the intersections of history, memory, and truth represented in the form and content of an image are necessarily undergoing re-examination. Algorithms, central to the use of AI technologies, do not reflect reality automatically. Therefore, the role of images as a universal language in the digital age requires deep engagement with visual awareness. We will investigate and question our reliance on images as ways to understand the world at a time when the relationship between image and reality is imprecise and sometimes deceptive. This class approaches these issues on two fronts: First, we will trace contemporary visual technologies to their historical origins in multiple traditions of artistic practice. Second, students will work with visual technologies to analyze and produce a range of applied examples – from the development of 3-D images to virtual maps to short films.