**Fall 2014 Anchor Course Descriptions**

**Anchor I**

**Introduction to Urban Studies**
Catalog Description: A lecture and discussion course that provides the undergraduate student with an overview of the interdisciplinary field of urban social science. The student who successfully completes this course will have a broad understanding of the major issues, vocabulary, basic methods, and prominent scholars in urban studies. We will explore current events of relevance, including the opportunities and problems facing major cities in the United States, including Kansas City.

**Muse**
In ancient Greece, the muses were the goddesses of inspiration in the arts and sciences, and in this class, we explore the inspiration for music in our own time and city. You'll discover what causes artists to create the music they write including:
- A local hip hop DJ, who breaks down how he creates a groove
- A local string quartet, who demonstrate how they play together
- Our local symphony conductor, who reveals how the symphony works
- An artist involved in business, who shares what it takes to be an artist in today’s economy
- Several local concert promoters, discussing how and why they bring music to Kansas City
And many more. Music is all around us and forms the fabric of our memory and identity. Join us as we discover the muses for Kansas City's music.

**Money, Medicine and Morals**
Catalog Description: This course will improve the student's understanding of and ability to critically evaluate complex moral dilemmas in medicine, business, law and other professions. Students will learn critical thinking, arguing, writing and presentation skills through examining moral issues for professionals. Guest speakers will introduce students to practical aspects of professional life.

**The Value of Beauty**
Catalog Description: This class surveys European aesthetics, defining what counts as beautiful and the roles art plays in society. (Honors)

**Computing, Engineering and Society**
Catalog Description: This course provides a broad and general introduction to the practice and history of engineering and computing fields; their impact on humanity and society and their relationship to the ecosystem, professionalism and ethics. The course introduces important concepts relevant to the fields of engineering and computing, including the engineering approach to solving problems, communications and computations, ethics, environmental responsibility and teamwork. Particular attention will be paid to how technology, engineering and pervasive computing impacts society. The course also introduces academic skills and strategies for success as a student and in a professional career.

**Special Topics: Surfing the Media Matrix**
Students will analyze, interpret and/or reconstruct human events, experiences, actions and interactions through case studies that will help them understand the principles of value and civic duty in a wide range of settings. Students will be able to identify ethical problems in business, apply critical thinking concepts to better synthesize their understanding of ethical issues and moral reasoning and be able to articulate implications and consequences that emerge from critical thinking constructs when filtering, analyzing and synthesizing multiple variables. The course will provide lecture topics that may include big data, marketing as well as both qualitative and quantitative data and how that data is presented in relationship to current issues. Intended outcomes are to give students the tools to further analyze core moral and ethical reasoning in order to be able to recognize and evaluate assumptions to further understand personal values and the values of others.
**Anchor II**

**Special Topics: Weimar Culture**
This course examines how film, advertising, theater set design, painting, photography, music and other media reimagined gender identities, fostered new cultural forms, and transformed economic relations during the Roaring Twenties in Germany.  **No German required.**

**Crossing Boundaries: The Latina/o Immigrant Experience**
This course examines the Latina/o immigrant experience from the immigrants’ diverse origins in the Americas to the communities they shape. Students will examine how empire, war, and economic integration have pushed people to migrate and how work, family, and immigration policy have shaped patterns of migration and settlement as well as integration and exclusion. Students will explore the experiences of migration and settlement through the insights of literature, history, economics and sociology to gain a complex understanding of the significance of Latina/o migration in our society today.

**Anchor III**

**The Artist in Society**
Catalog Description: This interdisciplinary course explores the various roles of artists in society. Using historical examples and building on current best practices, students will engage critically with the interplay between artistic pursuits, social justice, and community engagement.

**Telling Stories: History, Memory, and American Life**
(Beyond the Rainbow: Gay and Lesbian History in Kansas City and Beyond) How we remember the past is shaped not only by academic historians but also by collectors, curators, librarians, artists, and activists. This course in public history will invite students to participate in the shaping of history and memory through civic engagement. Drawing upon UMKC’s Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid-America (GLAMA), students will have the opportunity to interpret, expand, and/or preserve aspects of the histories of Kansas City’s LGBT communities.

**From Bench to Bedside: Translational Research**
This course will introduce students to the many facets of how a scientific idea about human health is translated into a drug, a vaccine, a diagnostic or a therapy. By the end of the semester, the student should be able to

- Identify the problems, challenges, and opportunities relating to Translational Research in various environments and how Universities and their partners play a role in this research.
- Understand the scientific, economic and regulatory elements that all contribute to translational research and to successful commercial introduction of a new drug, vaccine or diagnostic.
- Understand the relationship between research and clinical practice and how social, political, and cultural issues shape the interdisciplinary relationship between researchers and clinicians at the local and national level.
- Develop an appreciation for the meaning and global impact of the rise of translational research.
- Engage with the UMKC community of learners and the broader Kansas City community through guest lectures, site visits, and the production and publication of videos that educate the public on issues of translational research.