

Reflections Special Area of Study

Description

Reflections is a grouping of courses that offers a small-group approach to concentrated study in the Liberal Arts. It offers challenging seminars in English, Humanities, Psychology, Religion, and Integrative and Complementary courses.

All the courses are double-credit – the equivalent of two regular pre-university courses – allowing time to explore topics in greater depth. Classes take place in an informal and inviting sitting room furnished with couches, chairs, and plants.

Reflections courses are open to students in any program at Dawson College, but are most suited, because of scheduling and the course credits offered, to pre-university students in Social Science, particularly those in General Studies, and in the Arts, Literature and Communication program, particularly in the Literature and Arts and Culture profiles.

Reflections courses are designed to provide students with general knowledge and skills appropriate to most university arts and social science programs. The specific university programs open to students who have taken Reflections will depend on the college program in which they were enrolled.

Graduates have been accepted at a high rate to challenging programs, including Cinema and Communications and the Liberal Arts College at Concordia. Graduates are well prepared for university because of the academically challenging and enriched nature of courses they have taken in Reflections.

Courses

English

In the Fall, the course focuses on the development of students' essay-writing skills while surveying the different genres of literature: fiction, drama and poetry. In the Winter, Shakespeare is the topic. Students closely read a selection of plays chosen from among his histories, comedies, tragedies, and romances.

Humanities and Religion

These courses are centred on ancient Greek and Hebrew experiences. In the Fall semester, Genesis, Exodus and The Iliad are the main texts studied. Job, the Odyssey and Aeschylus's Oresteia are tackled in the Winter. Love, war, prophecy, justice, revenge, and evil are among the themes explored.

Interdisciplinary Seminar

Each semester, Reflections teachers combine their talents and offer a seminar on a major theme. Recent seminar topics include Desire; War; Life Journeys; Myth, Epic, and Fairy; Digging Up the Truth; and Power. The theme is explored through Greek drama and mythology, poetry, literature, the visual arts, philosophy, and psychology.

Psychology

In these courses, students read the works of some of the most important and original thinkers in the field of psychology.

Among the topics covered in the Fall are:

- Childhood and society
- Mental illness
- Our animal origins

The Winter semester is devoted to the study of:

- Sigmund Freud's Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis
- Carl Jung's autobiography — Memories, Dreams, Reflections