A. Course Description

Credits: 4

Lab Hours/ Weeks: Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/ Week :

MnTC Goals: Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies, Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

Researchers define turning points as a "major transformation in views about the self, identity or the meaning of life." They occur as new things are learned, rendering us amenable to change, and produce perceived, long-lasting redirection in the path of a one's life. Psychologists associate turning points with transitions and stages of human development defined and explored by Erik Erikson. Ignoring uplifting turning points and with distressing turning points in mind, the philosopher Frederick Nietzsche wrote "that which does not kill us makes us stronger." Retirement or loss of retirement income, end of a love affair, reaching the "golden years" (maturity) or learning that one (or a family member) has a fatal disease are examples of turning points. Portrayals, in film and literature, of individuals coping with obstacles to happiness or overcoming adversity dramatize turning points. Rhetorical, films and literature are cultural artifacts that comfort, guide generations and teach us how to live! Lessons learned from contemporary films and classical literature are a primary focus of this course.

B. Course Effective Dates: 05/10/2010 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Apply psychological theory and philosophical and social science research to analyzing these important life changes, emphasizing the logic and critical reasoning skills necessary to cope with them.
2. Understand and analyze the social science and psychology research, relevant to life's turning points and the historical contexts in which that research is applied.
4. Evaluate the role turning points play in a flourishing life-style.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies

None

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

G. Special Information

None