



THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY
OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

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Manual on Complementary Electives



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This document summarizes survey results collected in 2018-2019 about the complementary elective courses upper year engineering students are taking. The results are subject to change over time. Check in with your professor to confirm any information listed below. The purpose of this document is simply to provide more guidance when choosing complementary elective courses based on what previous students have taken.



Table of Contents

Arts and Film Courses	4
FILM 240 – Media and Popular Culture	4
FILM 260 – Digital Media Theory and Practice	4
ARTH 292 – Architecture 1900 to present	4
Commerce Courses	5
COMM 200 – Business Fundamentals	5
COMM 221 – Financial Accounting.....	5
COMM 251 – Organizational Behaviour	6
COMM 357 – Interpersonal Skills for Managers.....	6
Economics Courses	7
ECON 111 – Introduction to Microeconomics	7
ECON 112 – Introductory Macroeconomics	7
Law Courses	8
LAW 201 – Introduction to Canadian Law	8
Language Courses	8
SPAN 111 – Beginning Spanish I.....	8
FREN 118 – Communication and Culture III.....	9
Classics Courses	9
CLST 205 – Ancient Humour	9
Science Courses.....	9
GPHY 227 – Cities: Geography Planning and Urban Life.....	9
BIOL 111 – Ecology and the Environment.....	10
Other Courses	10
ENIN 140 – Design Thinking	10



Arts and Film Courses

FILM 240 – Media and Popular Culture

Description: This course on the dynamics between media and popular culture takes an interrogative approach. It is organized around a series of questions that will introduce students to a range of key concepts in media and mass communication studies, with the goal of providing a theoretical structure to support critical analysis of contemporary cultural trends.

Time Commitment: around 6 hours per week including class time.

Classes: A weekly 3-hour lecture.

Course Deliverables: 3 multiple choice midterm quizzes and a final paper essay.

Reception: Overall, the reception of this course was very positive from students, “Very much enjoyed this course” – a fourth year geological engineering student.

More information: https://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/courses/media-and-popular-culture

FILM 260 – Digital Media Theory and Practice

Description: Survey of digital media theories and online mass communication practices, with emphasis on social and mobile technologies. Course considers the impact of digitalization on the creative and culture industries.

Time Commitment: around 8 hours per week including class time.

Classes: Online notes, weekly tutorials (many students took this course online).

Course Deliverables: 5 multiple choice quizzes, assignments, final essay. No final exam.

Reception: “I learned a lot about how to think about media. Also was a good refresher on creative writing after 3 years of writing engineering reports. Very enjoyable” – fourth year geological engineering student

More information: https://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/courses/digital-media-theory-and-practice

ARTH 292 – Architecture 1900 to present

Description: This course provides a survey of twentieth and twenty-first century architecture, with a focus on Europe and North America. Many of the architectural projects that we will examine are considered by historians to be exceptional in their conceptual, technological, experiential, and/or aesthetic dimensions. Others have been deemed important for their capacity to express cultural and social ideals and norms. Through lectures and weekly readings, students will be expected to gain a basic architectural vocabulary, learn central concepts of twentieth and twenty-first century architectural



theory, and acquire essential facts about the architects and buildings discussed. Students will also be expected to understand the important themes and issues through which this material may be gainfully discussed and understood.

Time Commitment: around 7 hours per week including class time.

Classes: Weekly readings, lectures.

Course Deliverables: Written assignment (3 pages), midterm, final exam.

Reception: "Courses were enjoyable, nice to learn about different things and very different types of material. But difficult to find the time for all of the readings and transition between engineering courses and these types of material." – fourth year applied math engineering student.

More information:

https://www.queensu.ca/art/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.artwww/files/files/ARTH292_Syllabus.pdf

Commerce Courses

COMM 200 – Business Fundamentals

Description: This course covers the role of business and management in society. It will also discuss trends and issues affecting business and management, in Canada and globally, including technological, ethical, economic and political.

Time Commitment: around 8 hours a week including class time.

Classes: Lectures. Can be taken online.

Course Deliverables: Course project (business simulation), case study readings, weekly quizzes, presentation, midterm, final exam.

Reception: "Super fun if you have a good group, introduction to business and very much an overview of what the other Business Certificate courses cover. I loved it." – second year computer engineering student.

More information:

https://smith.queensu.ca/bcom/academic_calendar/browse_calendar/2014_15_before/curriculum/courses_instruction.php

COMM 221 – Financial Accounting

Description: This course is an introduction to accounting (much of the material is covered in high school accounting courses). The structure of the process of accounting is studied along with the use, interpretation and communication of financial information.



Time Commitment: Around 8 hours a week including class time.

Classes: Lectures. Can be taken online.

Course Deliverables: Quizzes, assignments, midterm, final exam.

Reception: "Introductory financial accounting, course is interesting but quite a bit of work" – third year civil engineering student.

More information: https://smith.queensu.ca/academic_programs/certificate-in-business/index.php

COMM 251 – Organizational Behaviour

Description: This course covers the study of the causes and consequences of human behaviour in organizations.

Time Commitment: around 8 hours a week including class time.

Classes: Two 1.5 hour lectures a week.

Course Deliverables: Assignments, midterm and final exam.

Reception: "Learned about the psychology used in business, from reflecting on your own behaviour to working with others and managing relations. Interesting things, not enjoyable because of the amount of work and course assessment" – second year computer engineering student.

More information:

https://smith.queensu.ca/bcom/academic_calendar/browse_calendar/2014_15_before/curriculum/courses_instruction.php

COMM 357 – Interpersonal Skills for Managers

Description: This course teaches students how to be an effective manager of people.

Time Commitment: Around 5-6 hours a week, including class time.

Classes: One 3 hour lecture a week.

Course Deliverables: Participation, leading a group discussion, a partner report, self-assessments (ungraded), a book report and group discussion, and a final summary report.

Reception: "I highly encourage third and fourth year students to take this course if they have an interest in management. Even if you already have experience leading a team, there is always room for improvement and growth, which can definitely occur when taking this course. The professor is super engaging which makes the 3 hour lectures interesting, as well as being very knowledgeable on the



topics. The work load is also very manageable for engineering students” - Third year civil engineering student

More Information:

https://smith.queensu.ca/bcom/academics/fields_study/organizational_behaviour.php

Economics Courses

ECON 111 – Introduction to Microeconomics

Description: This course conducts an introductory microeconomic analysis of a modern and mixed economy. The behaviour of consumers and producers, the market prices of commodities and resources and the impact of government policy are all analysed as part of the functioning market system.

Time Commitment: around 6 hours weekly including class time.

Classes: One weekly 3-hour lecture.

Course Deliverables: Three written assignments, online quizzes, final exam.

Reception: “Introductory microeconomics, with an emphasis on graphical relationships and human behaviour. It was really not to my tastes to be honest, but it was offered in the summer which I wanted, and it was easy, super low time commitment.” – third year geological engineering student.

More information: <https://www.econ.queensu.ca/about/courses/course-list/econ-111-introductory-microeconomics>

ECON 112 – Introductory Macroeconomics

Description: In this course you will conduct an introductory macroeconomic analysis of the economy as a whole examining the principles of monetary and fiscal policy. This includes the determination of national income, interest rates, the price level, the money supply and balance payments.

Time Commitment: Around 9 hours a week including class time.

Classes: One weekly 3-hour lecture.

Course Deliverables: Three written assignments, quizzes, final exam.

Reception: “Basic economic concepts, I found it pretty interesting” – second year computer engineering student.

More information: <https://www.econ.queensu.ca/about/courses/course-list/econ-112-introductory-macroeconomics>



Law Courses

LAW 201 – Introduction to Canadian Law

Description: This course consists of an introduction to the Canadian judicial and law systems. It encompasses the basic workings of the Canadian court system and the sources of law in Canadian common law jurisdictions. They will also learn the roles of judges, lawyers and legal ethics.

Time Commitment: Around 5 hours per week including class time.

Classes: Lectures, tutorials.

Course Deliverables: weekly quizzes, assignments, midterm, final exam.

Reception: “I found all of these courses quite enjoyable. Law was very interesting because it was a broad overview of Canadian Law which I found to be quite useful in understanding the engineering process in the real world.” – third year geological engineering student

“I enjoyed the independent learning styles and the online learning” – civil engineering student

More information: https://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/courses/introduction-to-canadian-law

Language Courses

SPAN 111 – Beginning Spanish I

Description: A course for students that have no understanding of Spanish that will provide them with a basic understanding, speaking, reading and writing.

Time Commitment: Around 6 hours per week including class time.

Classes: Two 1.5 hour lectures a week.

Course Deliverables: Online assignments, tests, presentations, final exam.

Reception: “It was basic Spanish, so we were taught the fundamentals of the language. I quite enjoyed it - having a background in French made the course quite easy.” – second year computer engineering student

More information: https://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/courses/beginning-spanish-i



FREN 118 – Communication and Culture III

Description: A course for students with some beginner level French skills. Students will develop their written and oral communication skills to the point they can engage in everyday social situations.

Time Commitment: Around 5 hours a week including class time.

Classes: The course is online.

Course Deliverables: Quizzes, oral presentation, midterm, final exam.

Reception: “Good course, would take again.” – third year electrical engineering student

More information: https://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/courses/communication-et-culture-iii

Classics Courses

CLST 205 – Ancient Humour

Description: This course analyses the social and psychological aspects of humour and the techniques used in antiquity to create humour and literature and visual arts.

Time Commitment: Around 4 hours a week including class time.

Classes: Lectures and tutorials.

Course Deliverables: weekly online quizzes, report, midterm, final exam.

Reception: “This was by far the easiest class I've taken and I learned quite a bit about the humour that our ancient ancestors had. Much of it was pretty much the same as the sense of humour many of us still have today and that was a lot more fun than I gave it credit for.” – third year chemical engineering student.

More information: https://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/courses/ancient-humour

Science Courses

GPHY 227 – Cities: Geography Planning and Urban Life

Description: An online course analysing cities from a geographical and planning perspective. Covers topics such as the origins of urbanism; mega; migrant, and global cities; urban competitiveness; land use planning and design; suburbanization and sprawl, and more.

Time Commitment: Around 10 hours a week including class time.



Classes: Online lecture videos, online tutorials.

Course Deliverables: Quizzes, midterm, assignments, discussions, final exam.

Reception: "Very good course, very interesting and different, and good complementary material to see the humanities side of our affect on society." – engineering physics student

More information: https://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/courses/cities-geography-planning-and-urban-life

BIOL 111 – Ecology and the Environment

Description: This course introduces the basic concepts of ecology and illustrates how they relate to environmental issues such as population growth, resource management, biodiversity, agriculture, air and water pollution, energy, and climate change, and to solutions leading to a sustainable environment.

Time Commitment: Around 10 to 12 hours a week including class time.

Classes: Lectures

Course Deliverables: Final report, midterm, final exam.

Reception: "I took biology 111 and this course covers relevant topics in ecology and how human interaction has affected our world. This course was interesting, modern and very exciting to go to." – third year geological engineering student

More information: https://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/courses/ecology-and-the-environment

Other Courses

ENIN 140 – Design Thinking

Description: This course teaches students design thinking techniques and how to apply them to real life cases.

Time Commitment: Around 5 hours a week including class time.

Classes: Online lectures.

Course Deliverables: Quizzes, assignments.

Reception: "entrepreneurship and innovate

ion, intrapreneurship, creative design, using design software, using engineering thinking in a creative way- very enjoyable classes!!" – third year civil engineering student



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More information: https://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/courses/design-thinking