

Diving In: Winter Term is a chance to explore topics in depth

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Now in its fifth year, Winter Term continues to draw student interest – both at SUNY Broome and outside the college.

It's easy to see why. The session runs from January 4 through 22, condensing a full semester into four weeks. While courses are challenging, they also offer students a chance to get ahead, refine their skills or follow their interests.

"It's a great opportunity to have an in-depth study of one topic," said Professor Kennie Leet, who is teaching PHS 123: Natural Disasters during Winter Term.

While some courses are offered on campus, others are taught either partly or completely online. As a result, Winter Term courses also have a strong appeal for non-matriculated students, [some of whom are enrolled at other colleges or universities and off on winter break](#).

Looking to escape the upstate winter? Other courses take place far away from the SUNY Broome campus in warmer climes – both in the United States and beyond. In [BIO 200: The Everglades](#), students head down to Florida to learn about this fascinating ecosystem firsthand.

[Health for Haiti](#) gives students the opportunity to truly make a difference by providing simple health education and medical services at clinics, as well as participate in projects that bring clean water, bathroom facilities, computer literacy training and solar power to the island nation. [The Mathematics of Sustainability](#) also takes place during winter, bringing students to Celaya, Mexico, where they will use math to explore, understand and document real-life phenomena.

Winter term has courses in a variety of subjects, from accounting, business and criminal justice to health sciences, hospitality, math, science and the Liberal Arts. Read on to learn about a few of our exciting course offerings.



Public Relations and Animation

Ever wonder how to create buzz for an event? Fascinated by animation? SUNY Broome's Communications and Media Arts program is offering two intriguing courses – COM 285: Public Relations Practicum and COM 286: The Art of Animated Film – this Winter Term.

More than just theory, the PR Practicum has students put their public relations savvy to work on actual projects. They will again host the Clash of the Soup'er Heroes, which invites participants to vote for the best soup in the area while benefiting Mom's House NY, a nonprofit that provides free daycare for single parents who are continuing their education. This year, they'll also be working on a second event: promoting a 5K for the City of Binghamton's July Fest.

Love movies or anime? Consider the Art of Animated Film, an introduction to the different forms of animation and techniques used in cinematography today.

Medical

Terminology

[HIT 106: Medical Terminology](#) may not have the same excitement factor as a trip to the Everglades, but it's a

popular Winter Term option. The course is heavy on memorization, but for good reason: by learning the different elements of medical language now, future professionals will be able to piece together meaning and context in the field.

“It’s the language of the health profession,” explained Professor Jane Hlopko. “And you don’t have to be a Health Sciences student to take it.”

About half of students hail from SUNY Broome; the other half come from other colleges, medical institutions or the community. Knowing the language of healthcare isn’t just valuable to the medical transcriptionists and nurses of the world; previous students have included legal professionals who wanted to have a more in-depth understanding of medical terminology when working on lawsuits and claims, as well as a Venezuelan doctor who needed to master the English language.

Medical Terminology was one of the first courses to be offered in Winter Term five years ago, and also one of the first to go online in 2002.

“It’s been a course that has stood the test of time,” Hlopko said.

Like other Winter Term courses, Medical Terminology’s course material is in no way truncated or changed, noted Instructional Designer Jamie Heron-Starr, who teaches the online winter course.

“They need to work for 8 hours a day in order to pass, and they do,” she said. “It’s a 15-week course condensed into three weeks. It makes it intense, but they learn a lot.”

Hurricanes, tsunamis, the historic floods that wracked the Southern Tier: nature shapes our world in sometimes devastating ways.

[PHS 123: Natural Disasters](#) gives students the opportunity to explore a wide range of geologic and meteorological disasters, in two different formats: a completely online course, and a blended course that combines on-campus classes with online work.

“The main goal is the science, but we get to approach it from the human side, how it impacts people,” explained Professor Kennie Leet. After all, it is the intersection between the environment and human culture that turns a natural event into a disaster, she noted.

Lab sessions give students the chance to go deeper into the science behind earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes and more. While the course is intensive and involves daily assignments, students get a better grasp on the science – and become more educated citizens when it comes to buying homes and other realities related to the potential for natural disasters.

The course can also help them understand current events, Leet acknowledged.

“We live in a changing climate,” she said.

Bartending and Beverage Management

Trips to wineries and breweries, a lab that includes a working bar — [BHM 123: Bartending and Beverage Management](#) is truly a one-of-a-kind course.

“I don’t know anyone anywhere who has a learning facility for this course set up quite the way we do,” said Professor Rey Wojdat, chair of SUNY Broome’s Hospitality Programs. “They get real-life experience behind dry and wet bars.”

The first five sessions are dedicated to TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures) Alcohol Training, which is designed to prevent underage drinking, intoxication and drunk driving. TIPS training can make a prospective employee more marketable, as businesses often receive insurance discounts and other benefits.

The class heads to the Finger Lakes for an all-day tour of Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards, led by a master vintner. More than what typical visitors see, the tour covers all aspects of the wine business, from creation and bottling to marketing. Then it’s off to the [Wagner Valley Brewing Company](#), for a similarly in-depth look at all that goes into creating and selling a brew. Another in-depth tours will take students to [Finger Lakes Distilling](#), which produces whisky, vodka, gin, liqueurs and more.

Students get hands-on experience at SUNY Broome’s [Casino Vespa](#), a lab space with facilities that include a working bar. There, they learn all aspects of mixology, from drink preparation and service to attitude and proper attire. They also receive a firm theoretical background in the field, and the course includes textbook readings and modules.

While students often find BHM 123 to be interesting and fun, it’s still challenging – especially in winter. Like other Winter Term courses, it has the same requirements and demands as the full-semester course. To succeed, students must be willing to immerse themselves in the subject, Wojdat said. If they’re looking for a job in the hospitality field, however, it’s well worth the effort.

“They’re still not polished bartenders, but they have a 100 percent great start,” he said.

Community Corrections

Are there alternatives to incarceration for those convicted of some crimes? CRJ 240: Community Corrections explores the many sides of this complex topic, which is currently a focus of national debate.

This is the first year that [CRJ 240](#) will be offered during the Winter Term. Typically offered during the fall, this provides another opportunity for Criminal Justice majors to take a needed course.

[Professor Darin Schmidt](#), who spent 12 years as a corrections officer, draws on his own experience in teaching the course. The program also has access to other SUNY Broome instructors, including Senior Assistant District Attorney Carole Cassidy, who is involved in Binghamton's Drug Court.

Topics will include the punishment of offenders, corrections at a local level, probation and intermediate sanctions, probation supervision, re-entry into the community and the future of corrections. Also covered is the increasing role of technology in corrections, including GPS systems and electronic monitoring.

"Re-entry is big – and how to rehabilitate them so the rates of recidivism aren't so bad," said Schmidt, reflecting on some of the class' topics

As a blended course, the class meets both on campus and online, and may travel to some of the alternative courts they discuss.

Interested in these or other Winter Term courses? Visit <http://mycollege.sunybroome.edu/web/events/winter>

and apply today.

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