



MARIETTA COLLEGE

PIO 101 • FALL 2023

COURSE TITLES + DESCRIPTIONS



Marietta College



Begin your Pioneer Pathway adventure—destination success!

PIO 101 and 102 are the first stops in a series of seven Pioneer Pathway courses you will take while at Marietta College. These courses prepare you for success, regardless of what major you choose or what career you enter.


PIO 101 is a 2-credit-hour class taken during your first semester at Marietta. In PIO 101, you will:

- choose from a variety of interesting topics to start your PioPath journey;
- develop close relationships with teachers and advisors who you will be working with for the next four years;
- gain information literacy and critical thinking skills and learn how to apply those skills to elevate your liberal arts learning experience.

PIO 102 is a 1-credit-hour companion class to 101. In PIO 102 you will:

- focus on transitioning into your first-year college experience while prioritizing your wellbeing and mental health;
- connect with your community and peers and have the opportunity to learn more about campus, the Marietta community, and college life in general;
- visit the involvement fair to explore the many clubs, organizations, and events you can become involved with;
- learn how to balance your academic life with your social life.

Welcome to the PioPath. Get started on your journey by choosing a PIO 101 course that sounds interesting and you will be on your way to improving your information literacy and critical thinking skills, connecting with the Marietta College community, and beginning to understand the value of liberal arts learning. Enjoy your excursion.



GENERAL PIO 101 SECTIONS

PIO 101-01: Stephen King: Short Story to Silver Screen

Faculty: Prof. Andy Felt, Theatre | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

The book is always better than the movie! We've all heard that before but is it really true? Let's read some of the scariest short stories ever written and then see if the movie is more effective at tingling our spines. We can also examine the process of story adaptation and explore how poetic imagery functions in both written and cinematic modes. Content warning: this course will require the reading and watching of horror imagery including but not limited to graphic violence and language.

PIO 101-02: Pirates on the Stage and Screen AND the High Seas!

Faculty: Dr. Suzanne Walker, Communication | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

This class will explore all things pirate, from the swashbuckling Errol Flynn in the classic 1935 film Captain Blood, to Gilbert and Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance, and finally Captain Phillips, the biographical thriller about contemporary Somali pirates starring Tom Hanks. We will learn about famous pirates of history and see that piracy is still alive in 2023! This class will give you a chance to sample the field of dramaturgy as we explore the biographical, historical and cultural references behind the artistic representations. You will also have the opportunity to create monologues for your favorite pirate as we learn about who they were and what motivated them. This course is ideal for those interested in majoring, minoring, or participating in theatre while at MC or those interested in cosplay.



PIO 101-03: Issues in International Politics

Faculty: Dr. Michael Morgan, Political Science | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

This course is designed to introduce students to international politics by investigating global issues and events and recognizing how their effects are both widespread and highly personal. To better grasp the influence of international politics, this course will introduce foundational concepts, such as power, conflict, and cooperation, and will connect these ideas to contemporary challenges in world politics. By the end of this course, students should be able to (1) identify major concepts and themes used in the study of international relations, (2) comprehend diverse connections among global political, economic, and social actors, and (3) understand the role of international politics in shaping both society and their individual lives.

PIO 101-04: Journey to the East

Faculty: Prof. Jenni Zhang, Leadership | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

This special topic will introduce students to the Asian societies. We will explore Asian culture through food, film, Tai chi, art, music and various fun activities. During this course, we will compare different cultures from the East and the West and examine the core elements that influence people's lives in all perspectives. Your journey will help you broaden your horizon and prepare you to be a world citizen with cross-cultural communication and critical thinking skills.





PIO 101-05: Rock ‘N Roll and American Culture


Faculty: Prof. Lori Smith, Communication | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

This course introduces students to the social, cultural, economic, and stylistic history of rock and roll music, starting with its roots and early development in the 1950s to the fragmented genre that it is today. Music is a powerful tool that expresses ideas about who we are, so students will take a special look at the meaning behind songs that are considered American anthems.

PIO 101-06: Git Gud or Get Rekt

Faculty: Dr. Matthew Williamson, Computer Science and Information Systems | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

Video games have changed the way we consume entertainment. According to Microsoft, there are more than two billion gamers around the world. This includes the hardcore gamers who play on high-end computers, casual gamers who play for fun, console gamers, and even those who play free games on their phones. With the rising popularity of esports and livestreaming on sites like Twitch, video games are poised to become the most popular form of entertainment. However, video games have their fair share of controversies and issues. Some of these issues include violence, cyberbullying, unhealthy lifestyles, and addiction. This course will explore the issues of video games from cultural, societal, business, and health perspectives. Using case studies, research papers, news articles, and hands-on experiences, we will attempt to answer some of the lingering questions about gaming. Why are some people toxic while playing video games? Can video games make people violent? Can you become addicted to video games? Are there any benefits to playing video games?





PIO 101-07: The Other F Word

Faculty: Dr. Nils Landsberg, Music | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

What do you do when you find yourself in a position that conflicts with your values and philosophies? Do you conform to this new ideal? Do you find a compromise? Or do you run? This course will explore the unique evolution of self-identity through the lens of punk rock. For over 30 years, Jim Lindberg has been the frontman for the legendary punk rock band, Pennywise. As someone who has been preaching a message of anti-authority for the majority of his life, we will discover how he navigated an identity shift when he was thrust into a position of authority — as a father.

PIO 101-08: Is Climate Change Really Produced by Human Activities?


Faculty: Dr. Juan Carlos Ramirez-Dorrnsoro, Environmental Engineering | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

In this class we will study different controversial points of view about climate change. An example of the questions that we will study is if global warming is really happening because of human activities or is it a hoax to try to manipulate countries and their economies. We will be studying different sources called primary, secondary, or tertiary sources. And with weekly assignments, we will also learn other concepts that will be very useful in your academic and professional career.

PIO 101-10: Energy and Sustainability

Faculty: Prof. Ben Ebenhack, Petroleum Engineering & Geology | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

This course will introduce students to energy and its role in supporting human development and quality of life. The students will consider energy use in relation to a hierarchy of needs: from basic survival to development, through economic development, and security. These concepts are essential in understanding options for transitions to enhanced sustainability. The controversy around these issues will provide a challenging basis for exploring information literacy.



PIO 101-12: Gone for Good?

Faculty: Dr. Don Esker, Petroleum Engineering & Geology | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

Over the last 540 million years Earth has been home to a staggering diversity of complex life. All the species alive today represent less than 0.1% of the species that have ever existed, with the other 99.9% being extinct. Or so scientists say! Some people — self-proclaimed cryptozoologists — claim that many of these creatures are still with us. Are there prehistoric reptiles in the lochs of Scotland? Is there a population of ancient apes living in the Pacific Northwest? Do primeval flying beasts haunt Papua New Guinea? SPOILERS: No, probably not. But in this class, you'll learn how scientists came to that conclusion, and what it means for science, conservation, and the very future of humanity itself!

PIO 101-13: National Parks

Faculty: Dr. David Jeffery, Petroleum Engineering & Geology | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

The National Park System can be explored in many ways. Its history, geology, biology, and stewardship of these things, make it an important cultural resource. Its existence as innumerable destinations for vacations, cross-country excursions, and educational trips along with the possibility of making a career out of being a ranger make it a way of life for many people. This course will explore all these aspects and more, with the possibility of discovering one or two during the course of the semester.



PIO 101-14: Express Yourself: Unlocking Your Inner Artist

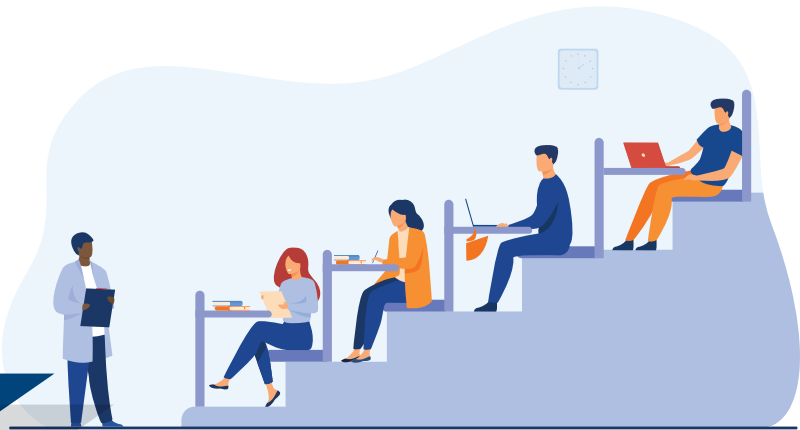
Faculty: Prof. Z Comer, Art & Graphic Design | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

Everyone is an artist. Yes, everyone! Creativity is innate in our human experience, yet some people feel more connected to their creative side than others. Why is that? In this course we will learn about creativity and explore hands-on ways of engaging in art making as a form of critical thinking, problem solving, experimentation, and self-expression. Learn to unlock your inner artist! Whether you are an avid art maker, or you haven't doodled since kindergarten, this class is for you. We will investigate how much creativity influences our daily lives, and dive deeper into not only how, but why humans make art.

PIO 101-18: Breaking Bad: Medicine

Faculty, Prof. Adam Jacoby, Chemistry | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

No, we are not going to learn how to be drug kingpins to finance our life insurance. However, we will look at bad science and medicine in advertising, the news, and popular literature to learn how to recognize false claims. Have you ever wondered why there is an asterisk after "No Growth Hormones" on poultry packaging or why "You should NEVER eat this one food again"? We will look at these claims; why advertisers and manufacturers make irrelevant or misleading assertions; and how you can spot them in everyday life. Join us if you are interested in a career in the health professions, sciences, or just want to be smarter than advertisers think you are.





PIO 101-19: Beyond the Lines of Sports: A behind-the-scenes look at event production and untold stories in the sport industry

CLOSED/FULL

Faculty, Prof. Rick Smith, Business & Economics | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

This class focuses on a range of topics including women in sports, marketing, facility management, event production, game scripting, and other game day production elements. We will use in-class assignments; guest speakers; films; and hands-on-learning to understand what goes on “behind the lines”; develop an understanding of professionalism in the sports management field; and work together to accomplish projects and initiatives that help build a sport brand and produce results for a sports team. This course is ideal for those interested in majoring or minoring in Sport Management while at MC or those considering a career in sport business.

PIO 101-21: Food History: Cooking Up an American Cuisine


Faculty: Prof. Kyle Yoho, History, Philosophy & Religion | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

With food and history, where can this class go wrong?! Understanding how food has changed over time can enlighten us to social, industrial, economic, and even political alterations throughout America’s history. In this class we will follow the food timeline from Jamestown to McDonald’s, examine our relationship with food, investigate the roots of recipes, and apply your hand at historical cookery. Take a bite (literally) into American food history.

PIO 101-15: The Secret Life of Cats

Faculty: Prof. Linda Roesch, Worthington Center | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

Are cats cuddly, purring, loving pets or are they killing machines that pose a serious threat to nature? Discover how the life of the domesticated cat has evolved to that of an invasive species. Learn through classroom activities what a Jellicle cat is, why TNR is important and how a cat becomes feral. Explore solutions to the secret lives of cats that are used all over the world and share what you learn through interactive projects and creative presentations.





PIO 101-22: Survive, Thrive & Strive: Conquering Everyday Challenges to Be Your Favorite Self

Faculty: Prof. Malory Nadrah, Athletics | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

Coming to college is an incredible milestone. Along with it comes a new set of challenges that will test you in every way, shape and form. Learning how to not only take care of yourself but thrive in your new environment is absolutely essential! This class will dive deep into all of the ways to take care of yourself physically and mentally, and how to also be not just your best self, but your favorite self. This positive space will help you grow into your college self and gain the confidence you need you thrive and strive at Marietta.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR EDUCATION MAJORS

Other Side of the Desk


PIO 101-16

Faculty: TBD | M/W 2-2:50 p.m.

PIO 101-17

Faculty: Dr. Amanda Rider, Education | M/W 2-2:50 p.m.

The Other Side of the Desk takes an in-depth look at current and often controversial topics surrounding our educational system. We examine how these topics impact students' academic and social and emotional welfare. You will learn more about how teachers are preparing to meet the needs of today's diverse learners. Are you ready to transition to The Other Side of the Desk?



HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR PETROLEUM MAJORS

Energy to Power our World

PIO 101-11

Dr. Ahmed Algarhy Mohamed, Petroleum Engineering & Geology | T/TH 11-11:50 a.m.

PIO 101-09

Dr. Rakibul Sarker, Petroleum Engineering & Geology | T/TH 11-11:50 a.m.

In a 1988 work on critical thinking in higher education, Joanne G. Kurfiss defined critical thinking as ...an investigation whose purpose is to explore a situation, phenomenon, question, or problem to arrive at a hypothesis or conclusion about it that integrates all available information and that can therefore be convincingly justified. Engineers are required to reason through descriptive and prescriptive issues. Descriptive issues are those requiring answers attempting to describe the way things were, are, or will be. Prescriptive issues require answers intimating the way things should be. Ethical and value judgments, then, must often be incorporated into the critical thinking process. The course will integrate learning the fundamentals of the petroleum industry with critical thinking and engineering reasoning.





REQUIRED FOR HONORS PROGRAM STUDENTS

PIO 101-23: Artificial Intelligence: Partner or Predator?

This course must be taken with HONR 212

Faculty: Prof. Peter Thayer, Librarian | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.


Opinions vary on the social impact of artificial intelligence (AI), one of today's hottest technology trends. Some say AI is an evil threat and will eventually take over the world. Others say AI can be kept under control as long as it's designed and maintained with human morals, ethics, and common sense. This class looks at both sides of the AI "partner/predator" debate and hopefully gives you a better sense of how AI effects your life now, and how it may/will affect your future.

PIO 101-24: Concepts and Literature

This course must be taken with HONR 111

Faculty: Dr. Steve Rader, Communication | M/W 11-11:50 a.m.

*This class will study abstract concepts related to the works of literature that HONR111 class will read. For example, understanding free will and predestination or fate can be a valuable tool for understanding both *The Odyssey* and *Cold Mountain*. Knowing about eugenics, institutional racism, and the concept of equality can enhance the study of *Father Comes Home from the Wars*, and eugenics and ethics clearly enlighten a study of *Maus*. Finally, the issues of cultural assimilation and what it means to be an American are crucial to a study of *The Woman Warrior*.*



REQUIRED FOR PIOPREP STUDENTS

Building a Resilient Mindset

**This section must be taken with WRIT 101-01*

PIO 101-25: Required for PioPREP Students

Faculty: Prof. Amanda L. Haney-Cech, Academic Resource Center | M/W
11-11:50 a.m.

This course will introduce students to topics of resilience, grit, and understanding success through failure. Through various readings, media, and dialogue, the class will explore the journeys of individuals who had to develop skills in resilience to overcome environmental and situational challenges that could have made their paths change. Specific student learning outcomes for this course include a self-assessment in locus of control, increased understanding of how perseverance is learned, and strategies for building a resilient mindset to overcome setbacks and barriers.



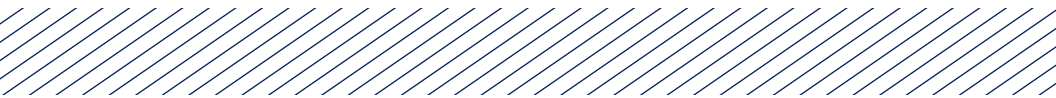


The Pioneer Pathway continues throughout your years at Marietta College, helping you navigate the journey to skills you need to thrive, to learn and to succeed in your college studies, a career, graduate school, or wherever your path leads after college.

STOP 1: PIO 101 and PIO 102 are taken during your first semester at Marietta College.

STOP 2: As you become more accustomed to college life, you will learn how to integrate information literacy skills with self-expression through writing and public presentation in three courses taken in sequential order.

- **WRIT 102:** College Composition. Introductory writing provides a foundation to develop and edit written material and develop information literacy skills.
- **COMM 203:** Fundamentals of Communication. Communication builds confidence and effective communication skills through hands-on learning and public presentation experience.
- **PIO 201:** Integrative Learning. This upper-level integrative PIO course combines application of critical thinking, writing, and public speaking as it provides you with practice in connecting and applying ideas from multiple perspectives.




STOP 3: Having crafted and practiced critical thinking, writing, and public speaking skills, you will apply them to ethical and moral issues that directly relate to your major.

- Junior Core is an upper-level course in your major that provides an opportunity to analyze and reflect upon ethical issues you may come across in your future career.

STOP 4: After applying the knowledge and skills you have learned throughout your college career, your PioPath journey will be completed with a capstone course.

- Senior Capstone project exercises your ability to write, speak, think critically, and problem-solve in a project directly related to your major. It may include original research, an internship, artistic performance or creation, a teaching practicum, or a practical consultancy that applies theory and knowledge to a business or other organization, etc.

NEXT STOP = NEVER STOP: Continue to learn, to thrive, to succeed as you follow your own path beyond college. With a Marietta College liberal arts education, you can go anywhere!





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