ADULT LEARNING (AL)

AL 5060  Psychology of Adulthood  (3 Credits)
This course takes a life-span developmental approach to adulthood in contemporary American society and includes the major theoretical perspectives regarding developmental transitions and age-related tasks. The course seeks to acquaint the student with seven broad themes of adult development: 1. Theory; 2. Research; 3. Changes that occur within oneself throughout adulthood - physical, cognitive, health, social; 4. Personality characteristics; 5. Meaning in life; 6. Stages and pointers for a successful journey; 7. Death and dying. Students use their own life experiences as a context for creating understanding in these seven areas.

AL 5070  Learning in Adulthood  (3 Credits)
The course focuses on the nature and process of learning in adulthood, especially in formal learning situations in business, industry, adult basic education, and adult higher education. Also emphasizes the concept of learning how to learn and the ways in which adults function in independent learning situations. We will examine theory, research, and practice from several different discipline perspectives to answer the question: “How do adults learn?”

AL 5080  Teaching Adults  (3 Credits)
This course builds on adult learning theory and examines the role of the instructor as the facilitator of learning. Major focus is on incorporating strategies for encouraging active learning, collaboration, self-directed learning, and self assessment by learners into a variety of learning situations. Class participants will be involved in demonstrating teaching methodologies and receiving feedback from group members.

AL 5090  Program Design and Evaluation  (3 Credits)
This course addresses a broad spectrum of program development ranging from an individual course to a complete program of major learning activities conducted over a period of time. Participants will design programs based on their own special interests, for example, adult higher education, business and industry training, adult basic education, etc. Major emphasis will also be placed on designing program evaluations tailored to meet specified goals.

AL 5140  The Learning Workplace  (3 Credits)
This course deals with the professional learning needs and priorities of the workplace. It examines the variety of ways in which employees and their managers gain new knowledge and skills as part of their professional growth. Particular emphasis is given to the concept of the learning organization: its characteristics, how the concept of 'learning organization' is implemented in different types of organizations, the benefits of a learning organization to both the employee and the organization, and the role that the professional educator or trainer plays in building a learning organization. Also included is the role knowledge management plays in the development of the learning organization.