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Innovative Course Enables Students to Gain a New Perspective on Justice, Bias, and Equity

The “UNCommon Course,” which was piloted last fall, has already offered its first cohort o

APRIL 30, 2021

By Renee Chmiel, Office of Marketing and Communications

The University’s “UNCommon Course” was piloted last fall.

Alexandria French ’23 looked forward to engaging with her classmates each week this pa

These experiences were part of her “UNCommon Course,” the class she most looked forw

Alexandria French ’23 is a criminal justice major.

“Each topic was presented in a fun and engaging way,” said French, who transferred to th

‘Where empathy and compassion are born’

In an effort to address the many crises facing the country from the COVID-19 pandemic t

David Schroeder, Ph.D., acting dean for the Lee College, and Lorenzo Boyd, Ph.D., vice pr

Lorenzo Boyd, Ph.D., the University’s vice president for diversity and inclusion and chief c

“The UNCommon Course is crucial in moving the needle of tolerance and inclusion on campus.  
‘It is transformational for students’

Peter Porrello '24, who took the course with Dr. Boyd this fall, says that’s exactly the impact

“This course was one of the most valuable courses I took last semester,” he said. “I feel it

During the fall semester, eight faculty members from a variety of disciplines, such as psychology

Beginning in the fifth week of the course, students switched to a “carousel” format, during

“This course is foundational to recognizing implicit and explicit biases and for students to

As part of their final project, students discussed their experiences in the course and the value

David Schroeder, Ph.D., acting dean for the Lee College.

“You can’t lecture at students with this kind of material,” said Dr. Schroeder. “That would

‘Change the way many Chargers view their classmates’

Although piloted out of the Lee College and mainly taught by criminal justice faculty members

Dr. Boyd says the course is important for faculty members as well, and that it offers an in

“I’ve developed scores of new classes in my career, but never have I been more proud of

French, the criminal justice major who took the class last fall, says she appreciated the op

“This class is important because it educates students on important topics that they must

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