

Fall 2024 Special Topics/Opportunities

Anthropology and Sociology Department

ANTH-251-A Magic, Witchcraft and the Supernatural

Before the ground-breaking fieldwork of Sir E. Evans-Pritchard with the Azande of the Sudan, European academics interested in cultures of the “non-Western world” routinely regarded the religious lives of those outside the Abrahamic traditions to be little more than “superstition” or “witchcraft”. European colonialists, missionizing agents, and visitors to these culture areas were often scandalized and appalled by the practices and beliefs of others while never casting a critical eye towards their own faith. Evans- Pritchard demonstrated, one hundred years ago, through experiencing and describing life and the practice of magic with the Azande, that their notions of “witchcraft” formed the basis of a rich, coherent socio- ritual and religious existence as vital and consistent as any worldview.

Today, “witchcraft”, “magic”, “witchhunt” and “cult” continue to be pejorative shorthand for groups that believe radically different (and wrong) relative to the speaker’s group. This course questions where belief comes from in humans. We ask how we come to believe and know? How are beliefs and stories and traditions formed in culture with others? As students gain exposure to many of the universal themes of human religion (such as rites of passage, social control, sacrifice, atonement, pilgrimages, and sacred sites and landscapes) through study of cultures (mostly) outside the Western world, we will ask: “how may/should/can we live with and learn from others who hold radically different worldviews?”
Prerequisites: SOC 100 or ANTH 100 or permission of the instructor.

SOC-260-A People Watching with Erving Goffman

When we’re walking down the street or sitting on a park bench many of us like to engage in “people watching.” But we rarely do so as systematically as the great twentieth century sociologist Erving Goffman did. Using the method of “naturalistic observation” Goffman made the familiar strange, revealing the unwritten rules that govern our daily interactions with one another. In this course we’ll read a number of Goffman’s most insightful books on social interactions in public places. Outside of the classroom, in a public place of your choosing, you’ll engage in your own Goffman- inspired people watching. You’ll jot down notes while in the field and then turn these jottings into fieldnotes. Drawing on your fieldnotes, you’ll write three papers over the course of the semester. In each of these papers you’ll use one or more of Goffman’s ideas to interpret what you observed in the field. By the end of the semester you will be a much sharper observer of the social world than you were at the beginning.
Prerequisites: SOC 100 or ANTH 100 or permission of the instructor.

Art and Art History

ART-208-A/B/MCS-275-A/B Graphic Design I

This course emphasizes the creation of visual communication through conceptualization and technical proficiency. Students will be introduced to the design process, terminology, and theory used in graphic design. As creative problem-solvers, students will explore the elements and principles of design, typography, and semiotics for concept development. They will reflect of the nuances of target audiences and how the application of color, type, and imagery will vary based on end users, deliverables, and messaging.

ART-208-C/MCS-275-C Digital Image Making

This course introduces digital image-making for the evolving language of visual communications in a complex world. Students will learn the basic skills to produce vector and raster graphics for print and digital applications. Students will learn digital drawing, rendering, and retouching techniques using professional software to create original work. Compositional elements and conceptual narratives related to the core question of *How can we understand the world?* be explored in the development of student work.

Biology Department

BIO-300-A/NEUR-350-B Learning to Lead

In this course students will learn about STEM careers via physical and/or virtual class visits from scientists while preparing a path for success in their own career. Students will investigate the work of our featured scientists by reading a variety of scientific sources such as primary literature, review articles, and news reports. Class discussions will evaluate scientific arguments, confounding variables, hypotheses, experimental design, and data interpretations. The course will explore the questions “How should we live together?” and “What will I do?”. This course is restricted to students with junior or senior standing that are majoring or minoring in STEM. This course fulfills an elective requirement for Biology majors. *Prerequisite: BIO-201 or permission of the instructor. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours. (CCAP)*

Note: BIO-300 does not count toward the Organismal/Population or Molecular/Cellular Biology distribution requirement

BIO-350-LINQ/ENVS-350-LINQ Dig It: The Biology of Soil

Soil is the foundation of terrestrial ecosystems, and an understanding of the complex world beneath our feet is essential to the well-being of people and the planet. In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of soil including their origin, composition, and classification; the physical and chemical properties of soil ecosystems; and the biology and ecology of soil-dwelling organisms. Human-soil relationships will be explored through historical case studies and artistic works created from and inspired by soil. *Prerequisite: BIO-101 or permission of the instructor. 3 hours of lecture; 3 hours of laboratory per week. 4 semester hours. (LINQ)*

Business & Economics Department

ECON-213/ENVS-350-A Environmental Economics

This course provides an examination of issues in environmental policy from the perspective of economic theory. The topics include market failures in the environmental context, benefit-cost analysis, valuation of the environment, the design of public policies to improve environmental quality, and efficient use of natural resources. The course is divided into three units. In the first unit, we discuss market failures common in the environmental context and cover economic analysis needed to examine issues and policies related to the environment. In the second unit, we evaluate the types of policy instruments used to overcome the inefficiencies discussed in the first unit. In the third unit, we apply the economic analysis and techniques developed in the earlier units to specific natural resources such as fisheries. *Prerequisites: A grade of C- or higher in ECON-101 and ECON-102. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours*

FIN-313-A Behavioral Finance

A study of how non-rational factors, such as emotional considerations, biases, and heuristics, can affect financial markets, decision making, and outcomes. Basic foundations in behavioral economics and psychology are built upon to greater financial understanding. Special attention is given to biases involving the stock market, and investment decisions more generally. Readings range from Adam Smith’s *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, to contemporary news articles. **Students who have taken ECON-231 cannot enroll in FIN-313.** *Prerequisites: A grade of C- or higher in ECON-101 or FIN-270. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours.*

MGT-300-A Introduction to Real Estate

This course introduces students to the various career choices in the real estate industry as well as the economic, political, legal, regulatory, and social factors that influence the residential and commercial real estate sectors. Topics that will be discussed include factors impacting homeownership, antitrust violations, role of technology, as well as the impact of federal and state fair housing laws and ethical reasoning on the conduct of licensees, including advertising and marketing practices.

Chemistry Department

CHEM-340-A Renewable Energy

This course will examine the use of energy by society from a science perspective. Students will find answers to fundamental questions, such as: How much energy does humanity use annually? What sources does that energy come from? After setting this foundation, students will examine various energy sources, including fossil fuels, solar energy, wind energy, and nuclear energy. The energy content and efficiency of each of these sources of energy will be compared and contrasted. Students will learn the technical aspects of different types of renewable energy and also be exposed to the challenges presented to implementing each type. Readings will include recent research articles in chemistry and materials science that illustrate the current state of renewable energy research. *Prerequisite: CHEM-208 or permission of instructor. 2 semester hours. Meets for the first half of the semester.*

CHEM-340-B Structure & Spectroscopy

A study of the fundamental aspects of the various forms of spectroscopy through the structural examination of a variety of chemical compounds. The course will emphasize major spectroscopic techniques, such as NMR, IR, MS, and UV-vis. In depth analysis of the spectra and their relation to structure determination will be emphasized. *Prerequisite: CHEM-208 or permission of instructor. 2 semester hours. Meets for the second half of the semester.*

East Asian Studies Department

EAS-299-A/FS-250-B Japanese Anime

A study of Japanese anime (animation) from its origins to the present, with particular focus on its historical development and sociocultural context. Included in the course will be anime made by such creators as Tezuka Osamu, Miyazaki Hayao, Otomo Katsuhiro, Takahashi Rumiko, Matsumoto Leiji, Anno Hideaki, Rintaro, Kon Satoshi, and Oshii Mamoru. Both short-form and feature-length anime will be considered, as well as representative works from various genres, including mecha, magical girls, shonen, historical, and supernatural. The connections between manga and anime will be addressed, as will various aspects of anime production, technology, economics, and distribution. Many of the anime will speak to issues of identity, maturation, agency, and heroism, while also presenting fantastic, futuristic, and dystopian visions. Please note that the films and videos studied in the course will contain violence and sexual situations. The course is taught in English, and all films have English subtitles. *No prerequisites. Required screenings are held on Mondays at 7 pm. All students must register for FS-250S (Screenings). 3 hours lecture and a 2 hour screening per week. 4 semester hours. (GN)*

Educational Studies

EDUC-346-A/IDS-405-A Who Do I Want to Be: Reflections on Your Ursinus Education from CIE to CCAP

In this course, students will reflect upon their growth over their time at Ursinus relative to the four questions through re-engagement with some CIE texts as well as with new texts that invite students to think about the purposes and experiences of liberal education. Students will be asked to consider: how has Ursinus helped you to think about your values, who you are, and where you want to go next in your future? In addition to reflecting on Ursinus's four questions, students will be asked to identify the questions that matter most to them and to think about the experiences that have most shaped them. *4 semester hours. (CCAP)*

Juniors and seniors may take for CCAP credit. This course is intended for more advanced students, but interested sophomores should contact the instructor to discuss their interest in the course (and any sophomores in the course will not receive CCAP credit for it). Students wishing to take this course S/S-/U may sign up under the IDS-405 heading, or may manually request S/S-/U per the regular channels.

English Department

ENCW-201-A

Writing in the Real World

Writing in the Real World introduces students to the various forms of professional writing and editing most working creative writers do as part of the business of being a writer. This course introduces students to the business of publishing in contemporary literary markets. Through careful research, practice, and workshopping, students will be able to prepare a manuscript for publication and successfully send it out to literary journals. Additionally, students will talk to writers working in the world about the paths they have taken to sustain their artistic practices, and research career options that may be of interest to creative writers, including graduate school, freelance writing and academic publishing, and more. This course will be practical and generative as students develop materials for your personal professional goals and explore paths to achieving those goals. Offered in fall semester. *3 hours per week. 4 semester hours. (A)*

ENCW-216-A

What Scares You?

Everybody is afraid of something: heights, spiders, death, clowns, etc. It was an American president who famously said, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself,” but what if fear is innate to the human experience, inextricable from us as breath, and just as important? What if it’s a source of progress and invention? What if Horror—the genre of fiction that has given us vampires, zombies, ghosts, and witches—is the silver bullet made from our greatest fears to help solve being alive? Prolific director of horror Wes Craven once said, “Horror films don’t create fear, they release it.” In that spirit, this class will be both an exploration and exorcism of fear. During the course, we will read and work from a variety of texts and sources, including but not limited to stories and film, the classic and the cult (Edgar Allan Poe, Daphne Du Maurier, *Nightmare On Elm Street*, Mariana Enriquez, *Hereditary*, Brian Evenson, *Scream*, Kelly Link, Shirley Jackson, among others), all with the goal to write our own tales of horror. What scares you? What keeps you up at night? Bring it with you to class, cast it into the light.

ENCW-306-A

Advanced Poetry Writing Workshop

A workshop course in poetry writing. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills first established at the 200- level. *Prerequisite ENCW-206, or permission of instructor. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours. (A)*

ENGL-250-A American Literature at the Turn of the Century

The turn from the nineteenth into the twentieth century was a very exciting time in the US, when women fought for the vote, many African Americans moved to northern cities, and immigrants both grappled with the forces of Americanization. Authors from a wide variety of diverse backgrounds represented this period in different ways, experimenting with literary form as well as the other arts. This course will explore this period through examination of literary works by a wide range of authors, including Kate Chopin, James Weldon Johnson, Anzia Yezierska, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Sui Sin Far (Winnifred Eaton), Willa Cather, and Edith Wharton. Forms we’ll look at include novels, novellas, short fiction, poetry, and possibly early film. This course will also include the Reacting to the Past Game *Greenwich Village: 1913*, which engages debates over suffrage and labor in the bohemian milieu of early twentieth-century New York. Get ready to read, write, listen, think and perform!

ENGL-255-A

War on Terror Literature

Forever war, hyper-security and policing, extralegal detention. These are some of the keywords that organize the post-9/11 global landscape. Despite its cemented place within the contemporary cultural imaginary, the war on terror remains elusive— in large part because the war’s purported enemy is an abstract concept. The definition of “terror” itself is hard to pin down because it is dependent on sociopolitical and historical context. This course examines literature borne from the slippery definitions laden in the war on terror. In what ways does the war on terror shape contemporary culture? How do race and empire fit into the larger militaristic project of the war? What does fighting a war on terror even mean? Specifically through theories of race and empire and through poetry and fiction by non-white

but also from a shared regional/Latin American experience. Through a range of commercial and non-commercial films, we will analyze how Latin American cinema interpreted or reacted to key historical and political issues including revolutions, military dictatorships, foreign interventions, urban violence, and border-crossings. The course will also offer an overview of the development of national film industries in contemporary times. Students will acquire an understanding of the major issues and topics of Latin American cinema, its film industries, and contemporary Latin American history. *Open to all students: no pre-requisites. Students must also register for FS-250S for evening screenings. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours. (GN, H)*

FS-250-B/EAS-299-A Japanese Anime

A study of Japanese anime (animation) from its origins to the present, with particular focus on its historical development and sociocultural context. Included in the course will be anime made by such creators as Tezuka Osamu, Miyazaki Hayao, Otomo Katsuhiro, Takahashi Rumiko, Matsumoto Leiji, Anno Hideaki, Rintaro, Kon Satoshi, and Oshii Mamoru. Both short-form and feature-length anime will be considered, as well as representative works from various genres, including mecha, magical girls, shonen, historical, and supernatural. The connections between manga and anime will be addressed, as will various aspects of anime production, technology, economics, and distribution. Many of the anime will speak to issues of identity, maturation, agency, and heroism, while also presenting fantastic, futuristic, and dystopian visions. Please note that the films and videos studied in the course will contain violence and sexual situations. The course is taught in English, and all films have English subtitles. *No prerequisites. Required screenings are held on Mondays at 7 pm. All students must register for FS-250S (Screenings). 3 hours lecture and a 2 hour screening per week. 4 semester hours. (GN)*

FS-253-LINQ/GWSS-250-LINQ/PHIL-309-LINQ Psychoanalysis and Cinema

This course explores key psychoanalytic texts and figures as they both explain and generate cinematic possibilities. Through a wide variety of theoretical readings and film pairings, we will explore concepts like projection, repression, the family, gender, trauma, the gaze, dreams, fantasies, symptoms, and the death drive. Key readings include work by Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, D.W. Winnicott, Slavoj Zizek, Laura Mulvey, Kaja Silverman, Lee Edelman, Avgi Saketopoulou and Ann Pellegrini, and more. This is an interdisciplinary course that draws upon diverse perspectives from film studies, philosophy, and gender and sexuality studies. *Students must also register for FS-253S. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours. (LINQ, H)*

Gender, Women's & Sexuality Studies

GWSS-250-LINQ/FS-253-LINQ/PHIL-309-LINQ Psychoanalysis and Cinema

This course explores key psychoanalytic texts and figures as they both explain and generate cinematic possibilities. Through a wide variety of theoretical readings and film pairings, we will explore concepts like projection, repression, the family, gender, trauma, the gaze, dreams, fantasies, symptoms, and the death drive. Key readings include work by Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, D.W. Winnicott, Slavoj Zizek, Laura Mulvey, Kaja Silverman, Lee Edelman, Avgi Saketopoulou and Ann Pellegrini, and more. This is an interdisciplinary course that draws upon diverse perspectives from film studies, philosophy, and gender and sexuality studies. *Students must also register for FS-253S. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours. (LINQ, H)*

GWSS-250-A Bioethics

An introduction to and examination of some major issues in bioethics, including abortion, euthanasia, surrogate motherhood, informed consent, doctor/patient confidentiality, medical futility, the distribution of health care resources, genetic engineering, prenatal testing, stem cell research, and medical experimentation.

GWSS-350-A/HIST-350-A Poetry, Bread Riots, and Smashing Walls: Movements and Revolutions in Eastern Europe

It is not a coincidence that Eastern Europe became a "laboratory" for one of the most radical political revolutions in all of world history: the Marxist project. The region has been home to countless

revolutions, including in 1830, 1848, 1918-1919, 1956, and 1968. Situated on the so-called “semi-periphery,” Eastern Europeans have long sought to determine their own destinies by maneuvering within, around, and against Western-dominated capitalism and global colonialism. We will explore how they actively pushed for reform, radical change, and status quo preservation, and what they did “after”—since their efforts were often crushed and/or deemed “failures.” We will pay special attention to specific groups’ political agitation, such as Russian women who sparked the Bolshevik Revolution with their bread riots, and queer communities who fought for their rights during the Cold War. We will moreover reflect on the obligations that these movements should have towards the most oppressed members of their communities. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing and any 200-level history course; or permission of the instructor. 3 hours per week.*

GWSS-350-B/HIST-350-B Terrorism in the US

This course will examine terrorism committed by and against American citizens. Using a combination of scholarly sources and primary documents students will explore the attentats carried out by late-19th century anarchists, the Weather Underground’s calculated attacks on property in the 1970s, and varying religiously and politically-grounded attacks prior to 9/11. We will also examine everyday acts of violence as a potential form of terror. These include campaigns of racial hate crimes and sexual assault at various points in United States history. Finally, this course will question the state’s obligations and role in (inter)national campaigns of terror against those it deemed as threats to its broad interests. These themes will help participants carefully question the meaning of terrorism, a term that some scholars agree had become too narrow in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing and any 200-level history course; or permission of the instructor. 3 hours per week. (H, DN, O, LINQ)*

History Department

HIST-250-A British Empire

The passing of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 reignited debate in Britain and across the world about the legacy of the British empire. Elizabeth was the last monarch to have ruled Britain’s former colonies in Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. To many, her passing represented the final gasp of Britain’s former global hegemony. This course explores the history and enduring legacies of the British empire. Key themes include war, race, slavery, capitalism, resistance to colonialism, and decolonization. Throughout the semester we will jump back and forth between the British Isles and Britain’s colonies, comparing localized iterations of British rule, and resistance to it, in different parts of the world. We will ask what Britons wanted to get out of the empire, how Britons ruled the empire, and how non-British subjects reacted to and challenged British colonialism. (GN)

HIST-350-A/GWSS-350-A “Poetry, Bread Riots, and Smashing Walls: Movements and Revolutions in Eastern Europe”

It is not a coincidence that Eastern Europe became a “laboratory” for one of the most radical political revolutions in all of world history: the Marxist project. The region has been home to countless revolutions, including in 1830, 1848, 1918-1919, 1956, and 1968. Situated on the so-called “semi-periphery,” Eastern Europeans have long sought to determine their own destinies by maneuvering within, around, and against Western-dominated capitalism and global colonialism. We will explore how they actively pushed for reform, radical change, and status quo preservation, and what they did “after”—since their efforts were often crushed and/or deemed “failures.” We will pay special attention to specific groups’ political agitation, such as Russian women who sparked the Bolshevik Revolution with their bread riots, and queer communities who fought for their rights during the Cold War. We will moreover reflect on the obligations that these movements should have towards the most oppressed members of their communities. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing and any 200-level history course; or permission of the instructor. 3 hours per week.*

HIST-350-B/GWSS-350-B Terrorism in the US

This course will examine terrorism committed by and against American citizens. Using a combination of scholarly sources and primary documents students will explore the attentats carried out by late-19th century anarchists, the Weather Underground’s calculated attacks on property in the 1970s, and varying religiously and politically-grounded attacks prior to 9/11. We will also examine everyday acts

of violence as a potential form of terror. These include campaigns of racial hate crimes and sexual assault at various points in United States history. Finally, this course will question the state's obligations and role in (inter)national campaigns of terror against those it deemed as threats to its broad interests. These themes will help participants carefully question the meaning of terrorism, a term that some scholars agree had become too narrow in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing and any 200-level history course; or permission of the instructor. 3 hours per week. (H, DN, O, LINQ)*

HIST-350-C African Encounters with Colonialism

This course explores the cultural, social, and political dynamics of the so-called "colonial era" of African history, roughly 1870 to 1980. Together, we will aim to answer two key questions: how did African people interact with colonialism?; and how does Africa's colonial history help us to understand some of the continent's current predicaments? The class will progress chronologically and thematically, considering important topics like resistance to colonial rule, religion and political identity, gender and sexuality, land and environment, decolonization, and post-colonial conditions. In doing so, it will emphasize the diversity of African experiences with colonialism and highlight the myriad ways in which African people negotiated, articulated, and challenged their place in a changing world. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing and any 200-level history course; or permission of the instructor. 3 hours per week. (H)*

Interdivisional Studies

IDS-110-A "The Disability Rights Movement: From Oppression to Empowerment."

This course explores the disability rights movement in the United States and the ways in which this movement was similar and different from other social and human rights movements. The goals of the disability rights movement involved securing equal opportunities and equal rights for people with disabilities and the primary issues for this movement were adequate funding, accessibility, and safety for individuals with disabilities. Discussions will include the achievements and the shortcomings of the movement, the major advocates during this movement and the multiple connections between disability and other identities such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and class. The historical and legal aspects of the disability rights movement will be studied including imperative legislation such as: American with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), and Section 504. Political and social issues yet to be resolved in the disability culture world will be investigated. Questions raised throughout the course include: What is disability? Why do definitions matter? How is disability socially constructed? How did the disability rights movement evolve? (O)

IDS-405-A/EDUC-346-A Who Do I Want to Be: Reflections on Your Ursinus Education from CIE to CCAP

In this course, students will reflect upon their growth over their time at Ursinus relative to the four questions through re-engagement with some CIE texts as well as with new texts that invite students to think about the purposes and experiences of liberal education. Students will be asked to consider: how has Ursinus helped you to think about your values, who you are, and where you want to go next in your future? In addition to reflecting on Ursinus's four questions, students will be asked to identify the questions that matter most to them and to think about the experiences that have most shaped them. *4 semester hours. (CCAP)*

Juniors and seniors may take for CCAP credit. This course is intended for more advanced students, but interested sophomores should contact the instructor to discuss their interest in the course (and any sophomores in the course will not receive CCAP credit for it). Students wishing to take this course S/S-/U may sign up under the IDS-405 heading, or may manually request S/S-/U per the regular channels.

Latin American Studies

LAS-332-A/FS-250-A

Latin American Film

This course introduces students to the major films and cinematic trends of twentieth and twenty-first century Latin America. Students will examine how the films emerge from their specific national contexts but also from a shared regional/Latin American experience. Through a range of commercial and non-commercial films, we will analyze how Latin American cinema interpreted or reacted to key historical and political issues including revolutions, military dictatorships, foreign interventions, urban violence, and border-crossings. The course will also offer an overview of the development of national film industries in contemporary times. Students will acquire an understanding of the major issues and topics of Latin American cinema, its film industries, and contemporary Latin American history. *Open to all students: no pre-requisites. Students must also register for FS-250S for evening screenings. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours. (GN)*

Mathematics & Computer Science Department

Mathematics

STAT-451-A

Inclusive Data Science and Innovative Research.

This course will dive into the world of data science with applications to economics and women's health. Led by professors from Statistics and Economics, we will discuss cutting-edge research methods that go beyond traditional approaches and innovative ways to combine them to create new publishable ideas. We will define data science and explore its role in tackling real-world issues like those related to COVID-19 and economics using a multidisciplinary lens. By learning from diverse perspectives and practicing "multiple ways of asking" questions, you will gain a deeper understanding of the world and how different methods work together. This course serves as a foundation for a follow-up course on R programming for data science and paves the way for future independent research opportunities with the professors, potentially leading to publication. *This is a Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) open to all first and second-year students – no prior experience needed, so freshmen are highly encouraged!*

Media & Communication Studies Department

MCS-275-A/B/ART-208-A/B

Graphic Design I

This course emphasizes the creation of visual communication through conceptualization and technical proficiency. Students will be introduced to the design process, terminology, and theory used in graphic design. As creative problem-solvers, students will explore the elements and principles of design, typography, and semiotics for concept development. They will reflect of the nuances of target audiences and how the application of color, type, and imagery will vary based on end users, deliverables, and messaging.

MCS-275-C/ART-208-C

Digital Image Making

This course introduces digital image-making for the evolving language of visual communications in a complex world. Students will learn the basic skills to produce vector and raster graphics for print and digital applications. Students will learn digital drawing, rendering, and retouching techniques using professional software to create original work. Compositional elements and conceptual narratives related to the core question of *How can we understand the world?* be explored in the development of student work.

MCS-375-LINQ/POL-399-LINQ

American Conservatism

A team, taught, interdisciplinary exploration of American conservatism. How do American conservatism's leading intellectuals and activists explain its basis and objectives? What have outside observers and critics had to say about it? And how does it play out on the ground and in the conservative

media sphere? We will look at the contested question of what conservatism is, along with particular issues in conservative thought and practice, such as economics, nationalism, race and racism, family, class identity, the radical right, higher education, and the influence of Trumpism. *4 semester hours. (LINQ)*

MCS-375-A/FS-235-A African American Film

This course studies the contributions of African Americans to Hollywood and independent film from the silent era to the present. We will examine the work of prominent Black filmmakers and performers, along with popular film cycles including Black-cast musicals of the 1930s and 1940s, Blaxploitation films of the 1970s, and ghetto action films of the 1990s. While we will mainly concern ourselves with films made by Black filmmakers, we will also consider white Hollywood's productions of Blackness, questioning the notion of positive and negative representations of race, and analyzing the intersections between race, gender, class, and sexuality. *Students must also register for FS 235S. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours. (DN, H)*

Modern Language Department

GER-315-A Germany Today

A study of contemporary German politics, economics and society. Students will watch German news broadcasts and read German news online outside of class on news websites and come to class prepared to discuss news stories and their political, financial, and social implications. Watching the German news broadcasts is a fundamental part of this class. Students should plan to watch German newscasts and read online news daily or as often as possible. Students will then select articles/news for weekly oral reports in German and submit essays discussing the news.

Neuroscience Department

NEUR-350-A/PSYC-275-A Psychology of Language

This course is an introduction to psycholinguistics or the study of how people acquire, produce, and comprehend language. Topics may include human vs. non-human communication, language acquisition, brain basis of language, and language disorders. *Prerequisites: PSYC-100 or permission of instructor. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours.*

NEUR-350-B/BIO-300-A Learning to Lead

In this course students will learn about STEM careers via physical and/or virtual class visits from scientists while preparing a path for success in their own career. Students will investigate the work of our featured scientists by reading a variety of scientific sources such as primary literature, review articles, and news reports. Class discussions will evaluate scientific arguments, confounding variables, hypotheses, experimental design, and data interpretations. The course will explore the questions "How should we live together?" and "What will I do?". This course is restricted to students with junior or senior standing that are majoring or minoring in STEM. This course fulfills an elective requirement for Biology majors. *Prerequisite: BIO-201 or permission of the instructor. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours. (CCAP)*

Note: BIO-300 does not count toward the Organismal/Population or Molecular/Cellular Biology distribution requirement

Philosophy & Religious Studies Department

Philosophy

PHIL-309-A Philosophy of Science

“Trust the science!” This refrain has become increasingly common in debates about controversial current events such as the Covid-19 pandemic or anthropogenic climate change. Officials declare “the science is settled” as they seek to promote public policy positions. Maybe you’ve driven past a lawn sign that proclaims, “science is real!” These examples reflect the widespread attitude that science is the best, most reliable method we have for learning about the world. They also make it clear that science increasingly plays a deeply political role in our society.

What makes something science? How does scientific reasoning differ from other forms of reasoning? What kinds of questions can science help us answer? In what sense is good science objective? What even is objectivity? What role do values play in science? What role should values play in science? What ethical and political responsibilities do scientists have? These are just some of the questions we will explore in this introduction to philosophy of science course

PHIL-309-LINQ/ GWSS-250-LINQ/FS-253-LINQ

Psychoanalysis and Film

This course explores key psychoanalytic texts and figures as they both explain and generate cinematic possibilities. Through a wide variety of theoretical readings and film pairings, we will explore concepts like projection, repression, the family, gender, trauma, the gaze, dreams, fantasies, symptoms, and the death drive. Key readings include work by Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, D.W. Winnicott, Slavoj Zizek, Laura Mulvey, Kaja Silverman, Lee Edelman, Avgi Saketopoulou and Ann Pellegrini, and more. This is an interdisciplinary course that draws upon diverse perspectives from film studies, philosophy, and gender and sexuality studies. *Students must also register for FS-253S. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours. (LINQ, H)*

Politics & International Relations Department

POL-399-A

China and the World

This course examines China’s evolving foreign policy and relationships with regional and global communities. The growth of China as a regional and world power has potentially transformative effects for all those who encounter it. Yet, China itself remains a highly challenged power, such as by fast-paced domestic change, a shifting ground of political legitimacy, and rising domestic and international expectations and concerns. These challenges are compounded by heightened great power tensions with the United States. How will China navigate these tensions? What are the domestic, ideological, historical and international sources of Chinese foreign policy? How does China’s past inform its contemporary search for security, development and recognition? Students have the opportunity to investigate these questions as applied to China’s changing policies on the United States, its regional neighbors, global governance, and developing regions.

POL-399-LINQ/MCS-375-LINQ

American Conservatism

A team, taught, interdisciplinary exploration of American conservatism. How do American conservatism’s leading intellectuals and activists explain its basis and objectives? What have outside observers and critics had to say about it? And how does it play out on the ground and in the conservative media sphere? We will look at the contested question of what conservatism is, along with particular issues in conservative thought and practice, such as economics, nationalism, race and racism, family, class identity, the radical right, higher education, and the influence of Trumpism. *4 semester hours. (LINQ, SS)*

Psychology Department

PSYC-275-A/NEUR-350-B

Psychology of Language

This course is an introduction to psycholinguistics or the study of how people acquire, produce, and comprehend language. Topics may include human vs. non-human communication, language acquisition, brain basis of language, and language disorders. *Prerequisites: PSYC-100. 3 hours per week. 4 semester hours.*

PSYC-475-A

Eating Behavior

This course explores research examining the bases and contexts of our food hunger, appetites, preferences, attitudes, choices, and associated behaviors. Students will examine the ways in which eating habits and relationships with food are influenced by a complex interplay of factors ranging from physiological to socio-cultural. The course also focuses on evolving perspectives on food, eating behaviors and nutrition, ranging from the “goodness” of Mother’s Milk to the villainy of Public Health Enemy Number One: Supersized meals. As part of this examination, we also survey the continuum of eating behaviors, from those considered healthy to those considered “disordered.” To enrich our understanding of individual behaviors, we must develop an appreciation of the sociohistorical contexts contributing to these varied behaviors and perspectives. The goal is to develop a critical lens for evaluating the complex interdisciplinary discourse focused on humans’ experiences with food.

April 4, 2024