

FALL 2018
NON-CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACCT 600: FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ANALYSIS

For students to become skilled preparers and informed consumers of financial statement information. Course will foster a “critical thinking” approach to learning the accounting subject matter. Students will develop an understanding of the environment in which financial reporting choices are made, what the options are, how accounting information is used for various type of decisions, and how to avoid misusing financial statement data. This approach will integrate perspectives of accounting, corporate finance, economics, and critical analysis to help students grasp how business transactions get reported and understand the decision implications of financial statement numbers.

ANTH 397A TOPICS: ZOOARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF ANIMALS

Zooarchaeology and the Anthropology of Animals is a special topics course focused on human and animal interactions through prehistory. This course will begin with an overview of how humans and animals interact across cultures, for example what is a pet, what is appropriate to eat and what isn't? We then lead into a focused study of how archaeologists use animal remains excavated from sites to help interpret the past. This upper division course involves an analysis of animal remains from nearby excavations in order to provide a hands-on opportunity to understand the entire process of faunal analysis.

ANTH 397B TOPICS: WAR: THE VIETNAM WAR – CULTURE & CONFLICT

The class will address anthropological theories of human aggression; utilizing the Vietnam War as the cornerstone of the discussion. This is a special offering focusing on the most disruptive cultural event of the last century of the American story. The class will be developed around videos and lectures by visiting participants/experts of the Vietnam era.

BIOL 397 TOPICS: NEUROBIOLOGY

This course is an exploration of the cellular and systems physiology of the brain, with a special focus on neuroplasticity. Topics will include the structure and function of neurons and synapses; the coordination of neurons within populations for sensory and motor function; and the biological substrates underlying learning and memory. The course will include reading of primary literature that will occasionally touch on human disease. The laboratory component will acquaint students with simulations of neurons and neural systems, analysis of neurobiological data, and techniques in animal and human neurophysiology.

CIVT 202/GOVT 345: PERTINENCE: IDENTITY CONFLICT AND WORLD POLITICS

This course focuses on the causes, manifestations and consequences of racial, ethnic, religious, nationalist and cultural identity conflicts around the world. Particular emphasis is placed on the role of Islam in contemporary identity conflicts. Policy dilemmas raised by identity conflicts and policy options are addressed. The course pays special attention to such closely related issues as genocide and mass murder, ethnic and religious cleansing, crimes against humanity, terrorism, and consequent considerations of humanitarian and other forms of intervention.

CIVT 203: JUSTICE: JUSTICE AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL

(See RELI 255)

CIVT 204 IRELAND AND FREEDOM: FROM A REVOLUTIONARY ERA TO A TROUBLED TIMES, 1798-1998

This course will examine the literary and cultural history of modern Ireland. We will begin by discussing the push for freedom with the 1798 Revolution and conclude with the Troubles in Northern Ireland, which was a struggle between two different groups about what it meant to be free. This course will employ a number of other sources including, non-fiction, fiction, plays, poetry, and film. These readings, together with class lectures, writing assignments and discussion are designed to enable students to gain an understanding of the complex nature of Irish freedom over the past two centuries.

COMM 397 TOPICS: GENDER, RACE, AND CLASS IN THE MEDIA

This course critically examines stereotypes (of gender, race and class) and the process by which they are produced, maintained, and challenged in the media. The course looks at the impact of historical, economic, and political legacies that have created pervasive stereotypes that DO change (or get remixed), but often continue to uphold the perspective and status of those with power. The course also complicates traditional identity categories to reveal ways we individually and collectively resist, incorporate, and intermingle identities in relation to various media contexts.

COSC 297 TOPICS: INTRODUCTION TO DATA SCIENCE

An introduction to the discipline of data science, which uses computer-based tools to extract knowledge from data. This course introduces the student to data science practices and basic theory using practical, hands-on examples that explore methods of data manipulation, basic modeling techniques, and data visualization using modern data science programming tools.

ECON 397 AMERICAN ECONOICS AND BUSINESS HISTORY

The purpose of this upper division elective course is to prepare business, economic, and history students in a liberal arts context for employment or proprietorship in the real world, or graduate school, by exposing them to important episodes in the development of the world's largest and most dynamic economy. Successful students will learn to a) not repeat mistakes made in the past b) discern the difference between long-term trends and temporary swings in cycles c) apply economic or business principles to real world situations and problems.

HIST 297 TOPICS: WORLD CIVILIZATIONS

This course surveys the forces that shaped Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. It begins in the ancient era and continues to the twentieth century. We concentrate on a number of themes like understanding the social dynamics of religion, cultural highlights, armed conflict, the exercise of political power, and economic development. We study some familiar events such as imperialism and the world wars, but from the perspective of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. As such this course will help you diversify your knowledge of the world and also gain new perspective on global issues.

HIST 397 TOPICS: AMERICAN ECONOICS AND BUSINESS HISTORY

The purpose of this upper division elective course is to prepare business, economic, and history students in a liberal arts context for employment or proprietorship in the real world, or graduate school, by exposing them to important episodes in the development of the world's largest and most dynamic economy. Successful students will learn to a) not repeat mistakes made in the past b) discern the difference between long-term trends and temporary swings in cycles c) apply economic or business principles to real world situations and problems.

MDST 397 TOPICS: GAMES AND GAMERS

The course uses a multi-faceted approach to provide a deeper view of the role of gaming in our everyday lives. The course provides an introduction to games, gamers, and gaming including video games, analog games, and play as an object of study often in the border between online and offline worlds. Drawing from social and cultural practices in gaming both historically and today, the course will address topics such as game mechanics, game makers/production, and the industry of gaming as well as gaming as a site of community, social inequality and, of course, play.

MUSI 397 TOPICS: SEMINAR IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL WIND REPERTOIRE

This course is designed to provide instrumental music education majors with the opportunity to experience a broad range of repertoire that is appropriate for both the middle school and high school level. Students will familiarize themselves with a process for selecting repertoire for programming an entire concert season, selecting repertoire for smaller bands or bands with incomplete instrumentations, and selecting music for contest.

SOCI 297 TOPICS: NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

The course will investigate the role of philanthropy and nonprofit organizations in civil society using an experiential learning approach. First, students will consider and apply different sociological approaches to charitable giving to substantive topics such as competing philosophies of giving and the relationship between philanthropic and state-sponsored programs. This includes addressing issues of social responsibility that arise when corporate actors engage in philanthropic work. Next, we examine theories regarding group-based work and collaborative decision-making dynamics established by sociologists and organizational scholars. With this foundational knowledge, students then engage these theories in practice by applying them to real world examples as they work in groups to identify and evaluate nonprofits as potential donation recipients. The assessment practices include evaluating the impact a donation would make for those organizations. Students will conclude the course by sharing the analytic reflections of their collaborative experience with members from other groups. The non-profit organizations that will be examined are open to student selection and include: all fields and groups (for example, medicine, health, education, homelessness, veterans, LGBTQ, animals, faith-based, children, prisoners, etc.), and originating locally, nationally, and globally.