

SPRING 2016 NON-CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ART 197 TOPICS: INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY VIEWING LABORATORY (Spring Break Travel Course)

Recognizing that reproductions of works of art and architecture rarely convey a work's scope, technique and context, this spring break short course supplements the Introduction to Art History courses with a "viewing laboratory" in New York City. Through this course, students will apply their classroom studies to primary engagement with works representing the entire history of world art from Africa and Asia, to precious manuscripts of the medieval and Islamic world, to the birth of modernism, a history of architecture and the rise of skyscrapers, and on to cutting-edge contemporary art galleries. And all found on the one small island of Manhattan. Prerequisite (or concurrent registration): ART/HIST 112 or ART/HIST 113; or permission of instructor.

BIOL 332 CELL SIGNALING

During this course, students will explore the emerging understanding of the complicated, yet effective mechanisms that the cell uses to elicit a response from an extracellular signal. Students will also investigate what happens when these events are disrupted, either by mutation of genes/proteins involved in these processes or environmental molecular analogs of signaling ligands. Students will master the general mechanisms of how cells regulate their activity and how these pathways are being elucidated by critically analyzing current experimental strategies in the primary literature. Prerequisite: BIOL 234

BSAD 417 HEALTHCARE MARKETING

Healthcare marketing efforts are shifting from increasing demand to building and continuing relationships with customers, clients, agencies and third-party payors. This advanced study of the practices and concepts of marketing as applied to the healthcare industry develops a focus on product and service strategies, distribution, communications, promotions, pricing and research. Case studies, speakers and projects will be used to describe the underlying concepts and decision making required for successful healthcare marketing.

CIVT 202 PERTINENCE: ETHICS AND ECOLOGY OF FOOD

How do our food choices impact other people and the environment? Though we are usually unaware of it, what we eat, how we organize food production, and how we control food distribution all entail ethical values and ecological impacts. This course will help us recognize and wrestle with these values and impacts through an investigation of topics such as genetically modified foods, organic farming, vegetarianism, the local foods movement, supermarket and fast food retailing, global agricultural production and trade (including fair trade, free trade, agricultural subsidies, etc.), global hunger and malnutrition, human population growth, ecological limits, and the interrelatedness of many of these issues. Cross listed with PHIL 297.

CIVT 203 JUSTICE: FROM PLATO TO GENESIS TO JOB

This course will study three classical texts that have wrestled with the quest for justice, both human and divine. We will join their quest, pursue their arguments, and grapple with their conclusions. Specifically we will read with care Plato's Republic, the Book of Genesis and the Book of Job. These are foundational texts for understanding justice. They also share an interesting feature: each of them is presented not as a treatise on justice but as a narrative, providing us not only with abstract notions of justice, but a conversation and a context within which these notions are played out.

Our task, then, will be not only to think about what we mean by justice, but to pay close attention to these texts in which the ideas of justice emerge. The course will pay attention to certain key questions: What is meant by the term justice? How does the understanding of justice differ between the three texts? Is it possible to achieve justice? Is there a difference between divine and human justice? Should there be? What is the relationship between justice and forgiveness? How do the authors of these texts (and the characters within them) develop their understanding of justice? What do they take as starting points for their reasoning?

The focus of this course will be a close reading of Plato, Genesis and Job. It is from these texts that we will take our orientation; it is from them that our questions will arise; and it is in these texts that we will look for answers to the questions we encounter.

CIVT 204 FREEDOM: THE GLOBAL SOUL AND THE SEARCH FOR HOME

Where is home? Pico Iyer asks for those who live in countries not their own. These internationals (numbering over 200 million) are, in some ways, home-less. Their lives, according to Iyer, are spent putting places together in a stained glass whole. This course examines themes of identity, location and dislocation, and home through the novels of Taiye Selasi, Dinaw Mengesta, Teju Cole, Mohsin Hamid, and Jhumpa Lahiri. Pico Iyer's memoir provides the foundation discussion for examining these tensions of the multi-voiced self. Iyer states, "For more and more of us, home has less to do with a piece of soil than a piece of soul."

COMM 397 TOPICS: MEDIA AND SOCIETY

The messages you see, hear, and read on television and the Internet, in newspapers and magazines, and on movie screens are more than what meets the eye. These messages are a product of complex societal forces—economic, governmental, historical, political, and more. This course will explore these underlying forces and provide analytical tools to critically evaluate how they function within the media. In short, students will collectively engage a critical/cultural perspective to illuminate the complex and constitutive relationship between media and society. The primary goal in learning about this relationship is to become literate, well-informed media analysts, consumers, and critics—an essential factor to the success of a participatory democracy where the role of the media is increasingly important.

FREN 396 TOPICS IN LITERATURE: LA CENSURE DANS LA LITTÉRATURE ET LA CULTURE DE MASSE

This course will investigate the role that censorship has played in French literature and popular culture from the medieval period to the present, offering possible answers to the following questions: What influences the decision to censor a work of art? Is there a difference between self-censorship and that exerted by a publisher or government? Does censorship actually halt the exchange of ideas or merely encourage subterfuge and parody? Moreover when we study literature and visual culture from this standpoint, what can we learn about shifting notions of propriety and obscenity, concepts of public and private, the role of the individual in the political process, and the balance between freedom of speech and civility in public discourse? Some class projects will include textual analysis of famous censored works as well as analyses of their historical context.

GENL 125A SCOTLAND'S STORIES & SCENES: INVERNESS, PORTREE ON THE ISLE OF SKYE, EDINBURGH (Spring Break Travel Course)

The nature of this course will be to investigate how Scotland's crofting tradition, literary landscape, and place in the United Kingdom influence the Scottish identity and national consciousness. We will study how the past literary lights of Scotland, especially Sir Walter Scott, Robert Burns, and Robert Louis Stevenson, illuminate both Edinburgh as a city and the present literary landscape; furthermore, we will examine how contemporary Scottish writers cultivate a thriving literary landscape of their own, independent from the past tradition. Throughout our trip, we will travel to Inverness, Portree on the Isle of Skye, and Edinburgh.

GENL 197 DISCOVERING BARCELONA: COLONIALISM, IDENTITY, AND MODERNISM (Spring Break Travel Course)

For over a thousand years Barcelona has been one of the most important cities in Catalunya. We find a checkered history here which includes assignation plots, the Inquisition, the establishment of Christopher Columbus, the rise of Modernism, and more recently, the 1992 Olympics. Some of the most important painters of the twentieth century-artists such as Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí, and Pablo Picasso-not only called Barcelona home, but they also suggested that without the vibrancy of this city their work would have been vastly different. It is impossible to imagine contemporary Barcelona without acknowledging the architectural genius of Antoni Gaudí who almost single-handedly challenged the world to look at buildings differently. This is a unique city that belongs, not so much to Spain, as it does to the world.

GOVT 301 STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS

This course provides an introduction to state and local governments. Examining political actors in relation to the rules and institutions governing their behavior, this course will also focus on policymaking at the state and local level. We will systematically and empirically study topics such as the structure and function of sub-national governments, political actors, and policy outcomes found across the fifty states and countless localities.

HIST 297 TOPICS: MEN AND WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY

This course focuses on the deeply personal and contradictory history of gender in Latin America. We first examine the cultural norms that govern the behaviors of men and women in Latin America today before exploring their historical roots. We will read the stories of people's lives to consider topics such as love interests through marriages and adultery as well as the role of religion in forming gender ideals. Those who are considering working with Latinos will find this course helpful to learn unwritten rules that can cause miscommunication.

INTR 397 TOPICS: ASL LITERATURE

ASL Literature encompasses traditional Deaf folklore, storytelling, poetry, percussion signing, comedy, drama, and narratives. This course will study the various forms found within the genre. Students will analyze these works through their social and cultural contexts and produce their own. Historical background, story content, analysis of grammatical features and discourse analysis will be emphasized.

MATH 397 TOPICS: GRAPH THEORY AND COMBINATORICS

This special topics course will serve as an introduction to Graph Theory and Combinatorics. Beyond the basics of both topics, students will discover Eulerian and Hamiltonian graphs, edge and vertex colorings, Ramsey Theory, and planarity, amongst other Graph Theory topics. Topics in the Combinatorics focus include permutations, combinations, generating functions, recurrence relations, the inclusion-exclusion principle, and combinatorial designs. A particular emphasis will be placed upon the strong connections between the two areas. Students will see practical applications through an inquiry-based approach to problem solving. Prerequisites: MATH 320 or MATH 200 or instructor approval.

PE 125 ROLLERBLADING

This course is designed to help students develop fitness and enjoy physical activity through rollerblading. Students will understand and experience the physiological benefits of rollerblading; proper techniques and safety will be stressed. Students must provide their own rollerblades.

PE 126 FIELD AND COURT SPORTS

This course develops cardiovascular conditioning and fitness through participating in a variety of field and court sports. It enables students to gain awareness of rules and techniques of a variety of different field and court sports. Students will have the opportunity to participate in and gain a better understanding of each sport, both by physically playing the sport and by being tested on the rules of each sport. There will be a day spent in the classroom, teaching the history of the game and the current state of each sport. (Basketball, Indoor Soccer, Volleyball, Racquetball, Flag Football, Team Handball, & Track and Field)

PHIL 297 TOPICS: ETHICS AND ECOLOGY OF FOOD

(See CIVT 202)

PSYC 297 TOPICS: SENSATION AND PERCEPTION

This course examines the operation of human sensory systems and major principles of perception by focusing on how the human brain receives and processes information from our environment. It explores how physical stimuli are transformed into signals that can be understood by the nervous system. Topics include vision, audition, taste, smell, touch, and basic psychophysics, the methods by which sensations and perceptions can be measured and some of the philosophical issues underlying the study of perception.

SOCI 397 TOPICS: THE SOCIAL SIDE OF SCIENCE: GENDER AND RACE IN MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY

In this course we will explore the ways that social categories of gender and race influence how medical knowledge is produced and interpreted. In particular, there will be an emphasis on examining the differing ways that genetic research, "doctor-patient" relationships (or relationships between health care professionals and their patients), health outcomes, and illness, are shaped by these social categories through cultural process in contemporary society. As part of the analytical process, we will critically examine implicit assumptions that are often embedded in epidemiology. This course will center on discussion and critical analysis of these topics and engagement primarily with two monographs, and academic literature from sociology, medicine, epidemiology, and medical anthropology. No prerequisites. Recommended for juniors and seniors, and those interested in sociology, medicine/nursing, public health, and race and gender.

SPAN 396 TOPICS IN LITERATURE: WORD AND THE EYE: PERCEPTION IN LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE

In this course, we will analyze several components of the representation of perception and how they manifest in Latin American literature. The course will be divided into four sections: 1) the eye of the press; 2) the eye of the camera; 3) the eye of the avant-garde; 4) the eye of the poet and 5) the eye of the philosopher. With each section, there will be accompanying theoretical or historical texts that relate to the literary works at hand. While some of the theoretical texts will be in English, all class discussions will be in Spanish. Students will acquire knowledge on some of the most renowned Hispanic writers of the 20th Century, learn close reading, to critically analyze and research texts, and to make multi-disciplinary connections with literature, history, philosophy and the arts.