

## **FALL 2017 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **ART-290-001 Special Topics in Studio Art: Audio Production for Broadcast and Film**

This course will explore the history, aesthetic aspects, and practical application of sound recording and production for film, television, and radio. Students will learn the nature of sound waves, harmonics, and propagation. Each student will conduct research on a person or historical technique which was instrumental in the development of sound recording and will present their findings to the class in the form of a written report and a live presentation.

We will cover microphone selection and placement, along with the basics of sound reinforcement. Students will use both analog and digital mixing devices and recorders. We will learn how to conduct an interview and then edit the sound with computer software for presentation on the air. Students will learn about music selection and programming by genre. Each student will also produce commercials and public service announcements suitable for broadcast.

We will study both classic and conventional methods of producing soundtracks for motion pictures. We will learn proper microphone selection and mixing techniques for recording dialogue on location and in the studio. We will discuss and use recorders ranging from vintage one-track open reel to the most modern multi-track and computer based recorders. We will also cover ADR dialogue replacement and SMPTE time code. Post-production mixing will also be covered in detail.

There is no prerequisite for this course. There is no textbook. There will be some photocopy handouts. (\$200.00 lab fee applies)

### **ART-290-002 Special Topics in Studio Art: Introduction to Graphic Design**

This studio art course introduces students to the field and practice of graphic design through exploring the development and creation of visual responses to communication problems. The course will cover basic systems, tools, and technology used in graphic design, including graphic representation, composition of graphic and text elements, conceptual techniques, and relevant software. The course will use both computers and traditional media to create print and digital graphics. Prerequisite: Any one of the following courses: ART 101; ART 102; ART 104; ART 109; or ART 115. Lab fee of \$80.

### **ART-291-001 Special Topics in Art History: History of Photography**

This course is a one-semester survey of the history of photography from its beginnings in the 1830s to contemporary practices of photographers and artists. The course will familiarize students with photographic technologies within the context of its history. The primary task of the course will be to develop visual literacy and familiarity with the complex and contradictory genres and social functions of photographic image production. Course readings and lectures will address photography's multiple histories: as artistic medium, as social text, as technological adventure, and as cultural practice which reflect an unstable status of the photographic object that negotiate discourse and documentation.

### **BUS-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Business Administration: Entrepreneurship**

Description not yet available.

### **CHM-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Chemistry: Forensic Chemistry and Instrumental Method Analysis**

This course introduces students the applications of the principles, methods, and instrumentation of chemistry to forensic problems. Forensic chemistry is the application of analytical chemistry to the law and involves the examination of physical evidences, such as body fluids, papers, ink, paint, and drugs. The major topics to be covered are: metrology, chemical foundations, drugs and poison, combustion evidence, and materials. Furthermore, the goal of this course is to provide a theory, instrumentation, and applications of modern instrumental methods of chemical analysis. Success in this course requires the ability to make careful measurements, an appreciation of the principles, and practice of modern instrumentation, and a problem solving skills.

### **CHM-490L-001 Advanced Special Topics in Chemistry: Forensic Chemistry and Instrumental Method Analysis Lab**

Practical laboratory experiments to supplement CHM-490-001 Forensic Chemistry and Instrumental Method Analysis

### **COR-101-090 Narratives of the Self I Explorations: Shakespeare**

Description not yet available.

### **COR-101-091 Narratives of the Self I Explorations: Men (& Women) Behaving Badly: Gender and Power**

Most of the "classics" or masterworks of literature assigned for this CORE EXPLORATIONS class present readers with stories that highlight social norms and values from different historic eras; yet, they do so while emphasizing a gendered heroism that codes strength as distinctly masculine. For this reason, this course asks that we flip social norms and conventions on their heads and explore how so much of what society respects as heroic is really Men (& Women) Behaving Badly. After we begin with the more canonical, masculine selves in authors like Plato and Shakespeare, we will move on to medieval and early modern women authors, including Christine de Pizan, Mary Wollstonecraft, and Jane Austen. Finally, we will look at how the production of male and female heroes significantly shifts towards the valorization of empowerment in contemporary texts like

## **FALL 2017 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad* and the hit Broadway musical *Hamilton* by rapper and writer Lin-Manuel Miranda. We will focus on the construction of selfhood as it varies across time and culture, and as it may be influenced by the gender of the author.

### **CRS-290-001 Special Topics in Communications and Rhetoric Studies: Principles of Public Relations**

This course places PR in context in relation to other management functions. Students are introduced to the principles and practices applied in the development and management of an organization's relations with its internal and external publics. To facilitate students' understanding of these principles and to start developing expertise in the practice of important PR principles, many practical exercises are incorporated. This course will introduce students to the discipline of Public Relations, which involves interactions between an organization and its various publics. The ultimate goal of PR efforts is to manage the client's reputation by employing various strategies and tactics. The course will review the development and application of techniques commonly utilized in the discipline and will discuss the roles of PR practitioners in exercising effective, ethical PR practices.

### **CRS-290-101 Special Topics in Communications and Rhetoric Studies: Digital Storytelling**

This class is designed to introduce students to basic digital storytelling techniques. Students will explore the interactivity and narrative abilities of digital media through the creation of audio and video projects using tools such as WordPress, Photoshop, GarageBand, Final Cut Pro, etc. The ultimate goal is to enable students to develop a critical understanding of digital technologies and to articulate the rationale of incorporating digital media in the storytelling process.

### **CRS-490-201 Advanced Special Topics in Communications and Rhetoric Studies: Just Food**

We've all heard the adage: "You are what you eat." Our identities, bodies, family rituals, cultures, entertainment, and media are shaped by what we are or are not consuming. The purpose of this "course" is to introduce you to the multi-disciplinary field of critical food studies so that you can become critical consumers and citizens of the rhetorics consuming our body politic. You will be engaging in field research as well as cultural-rhetorical analyses of media and public discourses around the production, distribution, and consumption of food. Prerequisite: CRS 101 or permission of the instructor.

### **CSC-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Computer Science: TBA**

Description not yet available.

### **ENG-340-002 Advanced Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies: Writing Resistance**

What is the relationship between the arts, public culture, and the state? After decades of culture wars in which various politicians have taken aim at publicly funded nonprofit arts organizations, our current president has proposed the total elimination of the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities. In this course, we will read across genres, media, and time, to try to understand why the arts might be perceived as threatening enough to place under threat. With its roots in popular sentiment, democracy will forever be entwined with art, a force that powerfully molds popular taste. Our focus will be mostly (though not exclusively) on twentieth- and twenty-first-century American art, as we consider the connection between creative expression and social resistance. Writers and texts may include: George Orwell, *1984*; Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*; Sinclair Lewis, *It Can't Happen Here*; Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*; Claudia Rankine, *Citizen*; Maggie Nelson, *The Argonauts*; Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*; Viet Thanh Nguyen, *The Refugees*; Tony Kaye (dir.), *American History X*; Jordan Peele (dir.), *Get Out*; Woody Guthrie; Bob Dylan; Beyoncé. Prerequisites: Completion of one 100-level English course and ENG 210.

### **ENG-341-001 Advanced Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies: Children's Literature and Coming of Age**

In this genre-studies-centered course, students will explore the works of twentieth-century canonical children's literature, including novels by C.S. Lewis, Astrid Lindgren, and Beverly Cleary, while also studying the elements of the traditional bildungsroman, or coming of age novel, as found in the works of contemporary transnational writers such as Sherman Alexie and Kazuo Ishiguro, and delving into newer narrative forms as well as developments in transgender YA fiction. We will probe into the nature of childhood and explore how authors critique dominant ideologies of the time (imperialism, global capitalism). Prerequisites: Completion of one 100-level English course and ENG 210.

### **HIS-290-001 Special Topics in History: Martin Luther: Life, Work, & Legacy**

October 31, 2017 will mark the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. On that day in 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to a church door in Wittenberg. His intention was to schedule an academic debate at his university; the result was a revolution that fundamentally changed the world. In commemoration of the quincentennial of the Reformation, this course will examine the life and work of Martin Luther as well as his legacy for the modern era. We will read three biographies of Luther alongside some of his writings in order to get a deep sense of the man, his ideas, and his career as a

## **FALL 2017 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

reformer. We will also be looking at a recent study of "brand Luther," that considers Luther as a media phenomenon as we examine the connection between Luther's career and his successful exploitation of a new information technology: the printing press. [E,2]

### **HIS-290-002 Special Topics in History: Resist: American Protest Traditions**

A woman holds a sign that reads, "Dissent is Patriotic!" Though sometimes attributed to Thomas Jefferson, the phrase's exact origins are unknown. Its claim, however, has deep roots in American history and culture. This interdisciplinary course examines those roots in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> America. Students will follow revolutionaries, reformers, abolitionists, Native American activists, labor radicals, feminists, and prisoners as they created and adapted the literary, visual, and oral cultures of their time to critique their country's status quo. We will ask how these protest movements responded to one another and how they made the production and consumption of dissent central to the American narrative. In addition to exploring the imaginative possibilities of these protest traditions, we will also explore their pitfalls. In their rush to demonstrate empathy did activists forget to let the subjects of their activism speak? By making dissent "American" did protest traditions necessarily conscript all forms of critique into a national story despite the intentions of the critics? Throughout the course we will reflect on contemporary protest and its relationship to these traditions. Course texts may include: Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*; Frederick Douglass, *The Heroic Slave*; William Apress, *The Mashpee Revolt*; Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland*; W. E. B. DuBois, *John Brown*; Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*. [A,3]

### **HIS-290-003 Special Topics in History: US History Through Film**

Films are one way of interpreting history and society. Their broad audience and public appeal allow films to make a significant impact on our collective articulation of historical memory. Some films are well researched efforts at communicating a specifically historical account of the past, and some play fast and loose with the available evidence. In both cases, however, films offer a perspective and enter into the historiographical discourse on the meaning of the past and the present it has produced. This course will examine the various ways in which film reflects and produces historical memory. We will see a wide variety of films (outside of class) and supplement them with readings from more traditional historical sources in order to provide information and context for interpreting the content and values expressed in the films we watch. We will also examine relevant approaches to film criticism in order to "read" the language of film with some sophistication. Finally, we will consider the film industry and the impact of film as entertainment on 20<sup>th</sup> century U.S. culture. We will examine six important historical themes: (1) War and National Identity, (2) American Heroes (rogues, mavericks, outlaws), (3) Family and Gender Roles, (4) Class and the Workplace, (5) Culture and Local Identity, and (6) The U.S and the World  
Note: this course will satisfy an elective requirement for Art History. [A,3]

### **PHI-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Philosophy: Philosophers: Kant**

This course is an advanced philosophy course that will focus on the influential and revolutionary philosophical commitments of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804). Immanuel Kant is one of the central thinkers within modern philosophy. Prior to Kant, early modern philosophy can be described as divided between the metaphysical and epistemological commitments of the "Rationalists" such as Descartes, Leibniz, and Spinoza and the metaphysical and epistemological commitments of the so-called "Empiricists" such as Hobbes, Locke, and Hume. Kant was revolutionary—he even claims to be engaged in a revolution of philosophy that is comparable to the Copernican revolution in astronomy—because he attempted to synthesize the commitments of rationalism and empiricism. Kant's work in philosophy guided the course of philosophy for 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy and still remains influential. In this course, we will limit our examination to Kant's most canonical philosophical work: *Critique of Pure Reason*. Prerequisite: PHI-206 or permission of instructor.

### **POL-290-001 Special Topics in Politics: 50 Shades of Bey: Women, Leadership, and Pop Culture**

In this course, we will explore the leadership of women in pop culture and the ways in which women have used their assets to "lean in" and "run the world."

### **POL-290-101 Special Topics in Politics: Black Feminist Thought**

In this course, we will examine the origin and prominence of Black feminist thought in the U.S and the intersection of race, class, gender, and sexuality on the perception, treatment, inclusion, and exclusion of Black women in society. Some of the topics we will explore include colorism, the "angry black woman," feminism vs womanism, identity politics, and being a "do right woman."

### **POL-290-201 Special Topics in Politics: The Presidency**

In this course, we will examine the theoretical, constitutional, and institutional considerations that went into creating the American presidency; the principal moments in the history of the development of the office; and the opportunities and

## **FALL 2017 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

challenges that American presidents confront, together with the resources they can call on to deal with them. Special attention will be paid to Presidents Obama and Trump.

### **PSY-290-001 Special Topics in Psychology: Positive Psychology**

Psychology has, as a rule, been more interested in understanding and treating maladaptive human behaviors than in studying healthy behavior. Positive Psychology is an emerging field that seeks to understand and enhance human happiness, personal strengths, purpose in life, resilience, and interventions that encourage personal growth. The course includes a combination of readings, class discussions, experiential exercises, and reaction papers to the readings and exercises.

### **THE-290-001 Special Topics in Theatre: Acting for the Camera**

Acting on Film is a performance-oriented course, primarily designed to give students knowledge and practice in the techniques of on-camera commercial, industrial and film acting. Topics covered include: the varying types of television, film and commercial copy; on-camera acting techniques; use of video recording equipment; agents and other business aspects of the industry; techniques for using an ear prompter and other tools of the trade. The class will include guest lecturers from the local film/tv industry.

### **WRI-290-001 Special Topics in Writing: Flash Fiction: A Reading and Writing Workshop**

Although flash fiction – short stories of 1,000 words or fewer – and prose poetry are similar, practitioners of flash fiction explore their texts with an eye toward character, plot, and conflict, while masters of prose poetry pay attention to figurative language, rhythm, and sound. Both short forms, however, are long on meaning. In this class, we will read, write, and analyze flash fiction and prose poetry, and write our own work using the techniques identified in discussion and reading. Each student will be required to write weekly and participate in workshop.