

Spring 2012

Special Topic Course Descriptions

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

AR 350 *Special Topic: The Jungle as Muse: Visual Art and Photography in Costa Rica*

This course is a multi-level Interdisciplinary Visual Art/Communication course. The class will meet 3-4 times prior to departure and travel for 9 days over Spring Break (March 17-25, 2012) Each student will choose a directed topic and a specific visual media to work with throughout his or her travels, culminating in a completed final project at the end of the semester. The fee for travel is \$1360 plus airfare. Registration is permission of instructor only.

AR 350 *Special Topic: Ceramic Sculpture*

Ceramic Sculpture is a course designed to introduce students to the basics of ceramics and the techniques of rendering in a three-dimensional space utilizing clay. The students will learn various hand-building techniques with clay as well as the technical and historical terminology, associated with 3-dimensional design and ceramics. Through this course and its assignments students are able to focus on technical, aesthetic, cultural, contemporary and historical concerns of clay workers and sculptors as they develop their own personal and artistic ways of working.

AR 350 *Special Topic: Introduction to Glass*

The fundamentals of several glass-working processes will be covered in this course including glassblowing, hot casting, and cold working. Students will first learn the basics of traditional glassblowing and then apply this knowledge to create a mold-blown sculpture. Hot casting into sand-molds and graphite molds will be covered as well. In the cold shop, students will learn to cut, shape, and polish glass to create a sculptural piece. Students will be asked to consider different traditions, styles and historical periods when designing their work after a comprehensive introduction to glass history from its beginnings in the ancient world to contemporary glass art. Each student will cultivate his or her creative potential by making unique sculptures in each of these processes using principles of 3-D design. In addition to demonstrations and guided studio time, students will participate in critiques, historical slide lectures and be required to write a short research paper about a contemporary glass artist.

BI 199 *Special Topic: Introduction to Neuroscience*

This course serves as a general introduction to the field of neuroscience for all majors. Main topics will include: basic biology of neurons and electrical transmission between cells; introduction to genetic and cellular basis of behavior, cognition, memory, and movement; and neurological diseases.

CJ 340 *Special Topic: Alternative Dispute Resolution*

This course explores alternatives to litigation such as negotiation, mediation and arbitration that are used within the criminal justice system and in associated venues such as schools, businesses and federal/state/local programs. The format will include lecture, discussion and practical application of key concepts and skills.

CM 210 *Special Topic: The Jungle as Muse: Visual Art and Photography in Costa Rica*

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CM 210 *Special Topic: Media Issues*

This course presents current controversial issues in media and society in a debate-style format to stimulate student interest and develop critical thinking skills. Students will use the Discussion Board extensively to argue the role of media in social issues, politics, content, policy and law.

EN 450 *Special Topic: Postcolonial Literature*

In this discussion-based seminar we will explore themes and topics in postcolonial and transcultural literature in English such as decolonization, cultural and identity conflicts, changing gender roles, migration, social justice, and new literary forms. Postcolonial literature in English includes works written mostly after World War II by writers from countries formerly colonized by Britain. We will read fiction by writers from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and North America, who may include: Salman Rushdie, Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Nadine Gordimer, Merle Hodge, Earl Lovelace, Paule Marshall, and Arundhati Roy. Alongside the literary works we will read selected critical texts and familiarize ourselves with key concepts in postcolonial studies. No previous knowledge of postcolonial literature is required.

HI 450 *Special Topic: Nazi Germany*

This course surveys the rise of Nazism in post World War I Germany through its final defeat in World War II. Special emphasis is given to Adolf Hitler's seizure of power, the failure of appeasement by the Western Allies in preventing Nazi aggression and expansion, the Holocaust, the role of the SS and Gestapo as instruments of terror, control and mass murder, the European theatre during World War II, and Nazi Germany's ultimate defeat and division.

HI 450 *Special Topic: Terrorism in 21st Century*

A study of the major terrorist movements during the present centuries. Special attention will be devoted to Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and the Taliban. The course will also focus on America's response to terrorism.

HI 450 *Special Topic: Swinging 60's and Fab 50's*

This course will focus on the "Baby Boomer" generation's coming of age in the 1950's and 1960's. It will trace the political, social, and economic events of these two decades, emphasizing the forces which shaped that generation. It will show how these forces affected the thoughts, attitudes and culture of the 1960's, and how the Baby Boomers, in turn, affected life style and political changes in the latter 20th century. Finally the course will conclude with the ramifications of the Baby Boomers generation for 21st century America.

HI 450 *Special Topic: World War II*

A survey of the Mass Industrial Global Conflict between 1939-1945. The causes of the war and the various theatres of operation will be studied along with study the home front and participation of American women in the war. Both European and pacific theatres will be studied but there will be a particular emphasis on the war in Asia and destructive bombing campaign that would shape the post-1945 Cold War era. This is the second half study of the Thirty Years War of Twentieth Century (1914-1945).

HI 450 *Special Topic Jewish History II*

Jews have always comprised a tiny fraction of the world population. Why are they worthy of study? One of the reasons is their critical and disproportionate impact on the non-Jewish world. Another is the fascinating internal diversity of the Jewish people, both ideologically and ethnically. This course will explore Jewish civilization through the often overlapping lenses of religion and ethnicity. Throughout the course, the Jews will also be considered as a culture and a civilization, with aspects of gender and childhood addressed throughout.

HI 450 *Special Topic: Cultural History of European Warfare*

This is a course covering the cultural history of warfare in Europe from ancient times through the late twentieth century. This course will seek to address the cultural effects of warfare in Europe. Primarily, we will be trying to understand how developments in military technology and the great battles of Europe changed the course of Western civilization on the Continent. In other words, this course will attempt to more fully position the people of Europe at the heart of the story of the Continent's great conflicts. Students will be encouraged to think about the problems of European military history through the prism of cultural, social, and intellectual history. This course will move chronologically from ancient times through the Second World War and beyond. Particular focus will be made on the greater powers of Europe: England, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia. Topics to be covered include: the effect of war on medicine and medical knowledge, the role of intellectuals in shaping and modifying ideas on warfare, and the process of how Europe's military history has been written.

PE 415 *Special Topic: Coaching Football*

We will discuss different philosophies of coaching football and the qualities of a successful coach and a successful team. We will also review different methods of coaching including concepts and strategies or offensive, defensive, and special teams play as well as the importance of recruiting. Should students become interested in coaching as a profession, interviewing and cover letter strategies will be discussed. Students will role play interview techniques.

PO 450 *Special Topic: Introduction to Legal Studies*

This course is a basic introduction to the common and statutory law of the United States federal and state systems of law, and is designed to develop students' understanding of American law and its processes. The first part of the course examines the general structures and process of government, such as how legislatures enact law, how courts decide cases, and how executive officials and administrative agencies regulate our behavior. The second part of the course is devoted to substantive areas of the law including administrative law, alternative dispute resolution, civil law and procedure, contract law, criminal law and procedure, family law, property law, renters and landlords duties and responsibilities, and tort law. Throughout the course, students will be required to think critically about the strengths and weaknesses of our legal system

GRADUATE COURSES

BI 980 *Special Topic: Marine Mammals*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

CD 987 *Special Topic: The 21st Century SLP*

Advances in technology have engendered new skills that students need to succeed socially, academically, and economically in the 21st Century and beyond. This course is designed to provide an overview of the Four Cs for 21st Century Education, digital literacy and social skills, Universal Design for Learning, Web 2.0 tools, and the use of new media to develop a personal learning network and to collaborate with other SLPs and related professionals.

ED 971 *Special Topic: Teaching Writing Strategies*

Teaching Writing Strategies is a course designed for educators to address teaching the foundation and essentials of the writing process. In a writing workshop model, teachers will learn to implement a gradual release model to demonstrate, lead, and support their students through the various stages of writing. Topics in this course will include the process of writing, writing across the curriculum, the traits of writing, writing theory and practice, journals, the writer's notebook, writing conferences, reading and writing connection, and the assessment of writing.

EN 998 *Special Topic: Postcolonial Literature*

In this discussion-based seminar we will explore themes and topics in postcolonial and transcultural literature in English such as decolonization, cultural and identity conflicts, changing gender roles, migration, social justice, and new literary forms. Postcolonial literature in English includes works written mostly after World War II by writers from countries formerly colonized by Britain. We will read fiction by writers from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and North America, who may include: Salman Rushdie, Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Nadine Gordimer, Merle Hodge, Earl Lovelace, Paule Marshall, and Arundhati Roy. Alongside the literary works we will read selected critical texts and familiarize ourselves with key concepts in postcolonial studies. No previous knowledge of postcolonial literature is required.

HI 990 *Special Topic: Terrorism in 21st Century*

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SP 901 *Special Topic: The Poetry of Borges*

Jorge Luis Borges has produced some of the most captivating poetry not only in Latin America but in world literature. We will take generous time in class to read and to discuss key poems by the Argentine writer, view documentary films, explore levels of Argentine Spanish, and discuss the place of *la poesía borgeana* in the intellectual and professional preparation of Spanish teachers.