

Fall 2010 Experimental and Special Topics Course Descriptions

COLL 394: Global Learning: Preparing for the Study Abroad Experience 2 credit hours

This course is designed for students planning to enroll in a study abroad program within the coming year, preferably the semester after completion of this course. On the theoretical level, students will be introduced to the foundational concepts of culture learning and will also develop knowledge of the culture(s) in their destination(s) abroad. On the practical level, students will identify their goals in studying abroad and will work through the process of program selection, application and course selection.

COLL 494: Global Learning: Returning from an Experience Abroad 1 credit hour

This course is designed for students returning from a study abroad program within the last year, preferably during the semester immediately after being abroad. On the theoretical level, students will examine the ideas and concepts associated with re-entry shock/adaptation. On the practical level, students will reflect upon their own experiences abroad in terms of their expectations and adjustments, as well as how the experience abroad has shaped their sense of self in relation to specific groups. They will also examine the value that study abroad has added to their lives in terms of future educational and professional goals.

HIST/RELI 194: World History, From Antiquity to 1100 3 credit hours

This course is an introductory level course to World Civilizations that follows the story of the human race from its murky origins through to the 12th Century. The focus of this course will be on the development of civilizations, belief systems (philosophies and religions), and empires in a gradual movement which comes to affect greater awareness and interaction among various peoples and states. The range of topics and themes will extend from political and intellectual history through social, literary, economic and even ecological history.

HIST 394: History as Seen Through Genre: Biography in China 3 credit hours

China has long values the importance of biography in historical writings. This course will focus on two goals; reading a variety of Chinese biographies within the Chinese tradition through translation and examining how scholars have commented on and/or created their own approaches to Chinese historical figures. Upon completion of this course, students will have gained an overview of the biography in the Chinese tradition and will have perused the lives of dozens of influential (and not so influential) persons during China's long history from 1200BC through the 19th Century.

HIST/POLS 394: Islamist Movements in the Middle East 3 credit hours

This course will present an overview of the major Islamist movements in the Middle East from the 19th century to the present with an emphasis on the major spokespersons and impacts of their ideologies.

HIST 394: History and Film 3 credit hours

This course examines three aspects of the relationship between film and history: the process of adapting the textual historical narrative to the film medium; the reaction by the scholarly community to filmmakers' attempts to produce historical dramas; issues related to the "historically correct" presentation on film in three genres: dramatic, documentary and experimental films.

POLS 194: Model United Nations 1 credit hour

This course introduces students to the origins, structure, functioning, and issues surrounding the United Nations. It is designed for students intending to participate in a Model UN conference toward the end of the semester. In addition to learning about the UN, students will prepare to represent a country by researching its foreign policy and studying the issues under discussion in the student's designated UN committee for the conference. Students will write position papers, working papers, give speeches, and practice using proper procedures in preparation for attending the conference.

POLS 294: Latin American Politics 3 credit hours

The course provides a broad overview of the politics of Latin America, and examines in more depth several countries in the region, including Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela. While the region encompasses a great deal of geographic, ethnic, and class diversity, some common themes for consideration will include the neo-liberal versus populist paths taken to achieve economic development, the consolidation (or decline) of democracy, the challenges posed by new social movements, and inter-American relations.

POLS 394: Islamist Movements in the Middle East

3 credit hours

See HIST 394: Islamist Movements in the Middle East

PSYC 301: Buff or Buffet: The Science of Eating

3 credit hours

This seminar course examines the genetic, neural, physiological and behavioral mechanisms underlying food intake and body weight regulation. An in-depth examination of the current literature, together with discussion and written synthesis, provides the framework for the study of the science of food intake and body weight regulation.

RELI 194: World History, From Antiquity to 1100

3 credit hours

See HIST 194: World History, From Antiquity to 1100