

Spring 2010 Experimental & Topics Course Descriptions

CHEM 394: Advanced Topics in Physical Chemistry

2 credit hours

A continuation of Chemistry 331/332. Some Topics will be covered in greater depth and new topics will be introduced, subject to student and instructor interests. Topics may include nuclear magnetic resonance, statistical thermodynamics, symmetry, macromolecules, reaction dynamics, etc. Papers from the literature may be used to enhance class discussion.

Prerequisite: CHEM 332.

CHEM 494: Advanced Biochemistry

3 credit hours

Study of advanced topics in biochemistry grouped into three sections: cell signaling, biochemical mechanisms, and techniques used in the study of biochemistry. Emphasis on proteins involved in cell signaling, enzymatic reaction mechanisms involving coenzymes and cofactors. Use of current scientific literature for the study of techniques and/or instrumentation applied to biochemistry research.

Prerequisite: CHEM 420

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.

COMM 380: Topic: Gender and Communication

3 credit hours

Gender and communication are ongoing and important dimensions of everyday life. Difference between women's and men's communication show up when heterosexual couples try to work through problems using distinct styles of conflict management, when male and female co-workers have different preferences on how to lead a meeting, and when female and male political candidates say similar things but the public evaluates them differently. Gender and Communication focuses on three primary areas: the conceptual foundations of communication and gender, the creation of gendered identities, and gendered communication in practice. Specifically, the course examines the extent to which biological sex, gender role orientation, and gender stereotypes influence the process of communication. Areas of focus include gender differences in decoding and encoding verbal and nonverbal communication, the development of sex roles, cultural assumptions and stereotypes regarding gender differences in communication, and the role of the media and educational institution in presenting, influencing, and reinforcing gender stereotypes.

HIST 294: The Professional Historian

3 credit hours

This course serves as an introduction to the historical discipline. Assignments will develop research and writing skills and will culminate in a major research project. In addition, students will be exposed to different perspectives on and uses of history in a wide variety of professions including education, public history, museum studies, law and government. Current freshmen and sophomores who are majors or interested in the major are strongly encouraged to enroll.

HIST 394: Topics in Late Imperial Chinese History

3 credit hours

This course is an introduction to various themes and issues of importance during the later imperial period. The time period under consideration runs from roughly 1350 to 1920 and we will generally move chronologically in the books and articles that we will be reading. Works will cover the Ming and Qing dynasties, as well as specific themes relevant to the entire late imperial period.

LEAD 29: Nonprofit Leadership

3 credit hours

This course is an introduction to the nonprofit sector and its role in American political, social and economic life. Students will examine the context, issues and skills associated with leadership in the nonprofit (voluntary) sector by evaluating various aspects of organizational capacity including marketing, human resources, programs and planning, operations and governance, financial resource development and management and information technology.

LEAD 394: Leadership Ethics

3 credit hours

An examination of the intersection of leadership and ethics, which looks at leaders who elevate or degrade a group's behavior, the use of moral claims to establish a leader or change a group's traditional behaviors, and the role of culture in setting limits within which followers allow leaders to operate. Readings from texts by Ciulla, Burns, Schein, and Pye, as well as case studies, historical and hypothetical are the core of a discussion based course. The course will highlight ethical dilemmas in cross-cultural settings where leaders and followers struggle with differences in culture.

PSYC 301: Philosophical Preludes to Psychology

3 credit hours

A tour through the history of thought, from Ancient Greece to Modern and 20th century Europe, from psyche to soul to self, including the ascent of mind, the descent of body, the rise of the unconscious, and the question of behavioral norms. The class covers primary source readings by Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Spinoza, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Freud, and related others.

POLS 394: Religion and Politics

3 credit hours

This course will give an overview of the influence of religion on politics in the US. The primary question addressed in the class is "what is the proper role of religion in public life." Several topics will be addressed that look at this question in different ways. We will discuss the ideas that influenced the founders on this topic, the religious freedom clauses of the 1st Amendment and related court cases, the role of religion in US political history, public policies related to religion, and how religion influences political behavior with particular attention paid to certain religious groups.

POLS 394: Politics of the Middle East

3 credit hours

The Middle East exists as a truly tense and important region in world politics. The tension and importance of this region is only compounded by the vast number of political, economic, religious and historical influences that increase its complexity. This course will attempt to come to grips with some of these realities such as: the legacy of imperialism; the influence of the Cold War and its conclusion; the underlying realities of the region; the resource conflicts that exist in the area; and the Israeli-Palestinian situation. The course will also delve into American foreign policy in the area.

PSYC 394: Psychology of Ingestive Behavior

3 credit hours

In this course, we will read and discuss research on selected topics in the psychology of feeding behavior. The central focus will be on the psychological processes involved in "normal" behavior among humans and some other species. We will conclude by considering some ways that this research has been applied to understanding obesity and eating disorders.

RELI 394: Religion and Politics

3 credit hours

See POLS 394.