

Spring 2012 Experimental & Special Topics Course Descriptions

ART 394: Creative Digital SLR Video and Editing for the Arts

3 credit hours

This course is an introduction to the practices and techniques of capturing video using HD Digital Single Lens Reflex cameras (DSLR), editing short films using iMovie software and an understanding of contemporary ethics and aesthetics related to film. While learning how to capture and edit digital video, students will investigate the elements of art, composition and visual narrative.

COMM 380: A Culture-Centered Approach to Health

3 credit hours

The impact of culture on our health is undeniable. From the foods we eat to our religious beliefs, culture has an impact on our health and health behaviors. However, many don't understand this relationship. Throughout the course of the semester, we will discuss theoretical approaches to the study to culture and health, culture and marginalization, pathways of curing and healing, and culture and globalization. Special focus will be placed on the impact of race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, nationality and a host of other topics. Readings, projects, and lively discussion will highlight this important topic.

Prerequisite: COMM 213 (Health Communication) or permission of the instructor.

HIST/RELI 194: Christianity: A Global History

3 credit hours

This course will be a general survey of the history of Christianity, from its origins to the present day. It will focus especially on Christianity as global, culturally diverse religion. In addition to exploring the history of Christianity, this course will also serve as an essential introduction to Christian scripture and theology.

HIST 294: History of American Medicine and Public Health

3 credit hours

This course offers an introduction to the history of medicine in the United States from the colonial period to the present. It will address themes such as the emergence of a medical profession, the rise of the hospital, the relationship between medicine, science and politics, and the roles of medicine and society in defining and interpreting bodies, health, and disease.

HIST 294: Women in East Asia

3 credit hours

The purpose of this course is to examine the lives and writings of women in East Asia, from the earliest written records to the beginning of the 20th century. The geographical range will include China, Japan and Korea. The focus will be on how women perceived themselves and the world about them, and also how they were and are recorded within their worlds. We will be considering these lives within their social, cultural, political and economic contexts. We will pay particular attention to questions concerning gender and gender relations. Classes will consist of a combination of lecture and discussion, with a good portion being devoted to the texts that have been assigned.

HIST 394: Body in Early America

3 credit hours

In early America, people thought differently about human bodies than we do today. Women's bodies were possessed by the Devil in Salem, Native Americans and English soldiers scalped one another and exchanged body parts as symbols of their alliance during the Pequot War, white masters owned and abused the bodies of their African slaves, and P.T. Barnum put human oddities on display. In recent years, more and more historians have been doing "body history," examining how different societies throughout history have viewed their bodies and the bodies of others. Because early America had so many diverse peoples, it gives us a particularly rich context to study the historical construction of bodies. The class will focus on such topics as the making of race, the construction of gender differences, medicine and healing, birth, death, and war from the colonial period up to the Civil War.

LEAD 394: Introduction to West African Cultures and Societies

3 credit hours

A trip based service learning course made up of course contents, a community development project in Ghana (West Africa), and post-service reflections. Through readings, lectures, and discussions, students will explore the wealth of African history from ancient civilizations to its current modern “statehoods,” and the transformation of African cultures and societies from the pre-colonial to the post colonial eras. Students will also examine various social challenges that result from post independence policy choices, and the different facets of globalization that impact leadership, gender, education, health, and energy development in Africa, and in Ghana specifically. At the completion of the Spring 2012 semester, students will have acquired the intellectual basis, as well as practical knowledge, of issues relevant to the village community in which they will be working during their trip to Ghana in May 2012.

MATH 350: Graph Theory

3 credit hours

An introduction to the mathematical field of graph theory. A graph consists of points, which are called vertices, and edges which indicate a connection or relationship between two vertices. This course will use problems to motivate major concepts, terminology, and ideas in graph theory. Topics include Euler and Hamiltonian paths and cycles, planarity, vertex and edge coloring, and independence.

MCM 510-98 Topic: Crisis Communication

3 credit hours

Explores the process of crisis communication and an understanding of crisis communication practices. It focuses on issues concerning how organizations, companies, and individuals communicate with the news media, employees, and consumers in times of crisis. The planning, development and execution of crisis communications plans for businesses and organizations, and public relations techniques for communicating with stakeholders during a crisis will be emphasized.

MCM 510-99 Topic: AD/PR Campaigns

3 credit hours

This course provides the experience of developing strategic communication campaigns, from creative to presentation, in a setting that mirrors the actual business environment. Students will develop a complete plan for each campaign that includes the following components: executive summary, situation analysis/research, objectives, strategies, budget, media recommendations, creative recommendations, advertising, sales promotion, public relations/publicity, and an evaluation. Additional fees apply.

MNGT 394: Management and Film

3 credit hours

This course offers an in-depth study of key management issues through the use of film. Textbooks may lay out the theoretical framework, but a good movie can bring these key management areas to life. The course will explore a wide range of topics: leadership, group decision-making, group conflict, the use of informal groups, and ethical behavior. We will split our time between viewing the film, and discussing the film by use of secondary sources in both the management and the film fields. Exploring the dynamics of some common management issues as they play out on film will provide in the end for a better and deeper understanding of these key management concepts.

POLS 294: Race and U.S. Politics

3 credit hours

This course focuses on the relationships between individuals, the United States government, and the meaning of race in American politics, and investigates how various government actors have handled the issue of insuring individual equality under democracy. Rather than solely concentrating on distinct racial formations in American society, this course seeks to compare government action in response to the social crisis of racism while taking a critical look at the U.S. political system.

PSYC 394: Drugs and Behavior

3 credit hours

We will investigate drug use and drug actions by drawing from scientific investigations of their use. We will also consider the social and policy issues that arise from having behaviorally active drugs widely available. Accordingly, our coverage must span a range of topics including drug actions on the nervous system, elementary principles of pharmacology, therapeutic use of behaviorally active drugs, drug abuse and its treatment, and social policy.

PSYC 601: Behavioral Neuroscience

3 credit hours

This course is an introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience, a branch of psychology that concerns itself with the relationship between the nervous system and behavior. As such, it focuses on more reductionistic explanations of mental and behavioral events. In this course, we will be reviewing what is known about the biological underpinnings of human and non-human behaviors, such as sex, feeding, motor, sleeping, and psychological disorders.

RELI 194: Christianity: A Global History

3 credit hours

See HIST 194.

THEA 214: Interm. Topics in Acting – Comedy

3 credit hours

This intermediate level acting course provides an overview of the comedic acting process with intensive focus on the fundamental basics of improvisation techniques and moving into an introduction to Commedia Del Arte stock character work, Shakespearean clown performance, and modern comedy in performance. Students will engage in a range of performance activities inside and outside of the classroom in order to develop improvisation skills and begin establishing a personal methodology for approaching a comedic work of theater. The course assumes students have different skill and ability levels upon entering and challenges students to make conscientious and steady progress from that point.

THEA 314: Adv. Topics in Acting - Devised Theatre & Solo Performance 3 credit hours

For part of this intensive semester of performance study, students will focus on the history and sample texts of solo performance or monologue theatre. This study will culminate in the development, rehearsal, and performance of original solo pieces. For the other half of the semester, students will study the history of ensemble-built theatre, existing texts and videos of devised theatre performances, plus devised theatre theories and techniques. This work will culminate in the generation, rehearsal, and performance of an original piece of devised theatre by the full class ensemble. A strong individual work ethic, solid group work skills, and a commitment to stay informed about current events and to engage in the vulnerabilities of learning through performance are essential to success in this course.