

Fall 2013 Experimental and Special Topics Course Descriptions

BIOL 150 Introduction to the Human Brain

3 credit hours

This lecture course will introduce students to the fascinating world of the human brain. From the neuronal to the system level, this course will explore the various parts of the brain, how it regulates the body's systems, how it learns and retrieves information and processes the sensory environment. It will conclude with dysfunctions of the brain, including stroke, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease.

COLL 294 Building your Brand with Social Media

1 credit hour

This course will help students understand their presence online and learn how to use social media to create and engage a positive online presence. Students will learn to build social media platforms for professional use and use in a future career. This course allows students to understand the importance of privacy settings and how to build a strong network. Cross-listed as MNGT 294.

COMM 194 Introduction to Gender and Communication

3 credit hours

This interdisciplinary course provides an introduction to the key topics, theories and debates that have shaped the field of gender studies, as well as investigates the myriad ways in which we represent, police and perform gender every day. Through lecture, class discussion, readings and film, we will examine the pervasive influence of gender on the structure of society and our everyday experiences. Introduction to Gender Studies will utilize rhetorical, cultural studies, sociological, historical, queer, feminist, post-structural/modern, anthropological, and linguistics/discourse perspectives. We will analyze and discuss gender as a historical, contextual, and intersectional concept that lies at the crossroads of race, ethnicity, religion, class, sexuality, citizenship, age, size, and ability. Cross-listed as GEND 194.

GEND 194 Introduction to Gender and Communication

3 credit hours

See COMM 194

GEOL 194: Physical Geography

4 credit hours

Topics covered include spatial science and the geographer's mapping tools, the Earth's global energy balance, the oceans and atmosphere and their role in the Earth's climate and its weather systems, Earth materials and plate tectonics, and landforms made by volcanoes, tectonics, weathering, mass wasting, running water, waves, wind, and glaciers.

GEOL 394: Environmental Hydrogeology

3 credit hours

This course will cover various aspects related to hydrogeology including water budget, interactions between its components, hydrogeologic cycle, aquifer properties, principles of ground water flow and methods for computing the flow, recharge concepts, and ground water contamination and management issues. Students will develop quantitative skills and learn methods computing groundwater flow, perform hydrogeologic investigation and be familiar with techniques that are used to solve problems related to groundwater occurrences, flow, and contamination issues.

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.

HIST 394: Arab/Israeli Conflict

3 credit hours

This class will provide an in-depth understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its evolution over time. Our goal is to develop an appreciation of the complexities and dynamism of this conflict through an examination of its origins, the actors involved, and the key historical and political factors that have shaped it.

LEAD 294: Ethics and Leadership

3 credit hours

Ethics and Leadership is an introduction to the broad themes of theoretical and applied ethics and the ways in which these themes influence and inform leaders and theories of leadership. Theoretical perspectives will include the work of moral philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Kant, Marx, Rawls, and Williams. Topics will include: How human life is and should be organized into societies; what historical and contemporary moral issues arise as a result of the nature of leadership, and also for current and emerging leaders; the relationship between the individual and the state; the nature of justice; how human nature influences social nature; and how modes of moral reasoning apply to and influence ethical-decision making about leadership and for leaders.

LEAD 294: Entrepreneurship

1 credit hour

Entrepreneurship is increasing in recent college graduates due to a challenging job market combined with a youthful creative spirit emerging in young adults. According to the Youth Entrepreneurship Study by the Young Entrepreneur Council and Buzz Marketing Group, of more than 1,000 college students and recent grads, more than a third of them (36%) were side-preneurs – they started businesses while getting their degrees, and about 1 in 5 (21%) started businesses after college because they could not find a job.

MASS 194: Multimedia Foundations

3 credit hours

This foundational course for media studies teaches the essential equipment, hardware, and software used in multimedia production and digital storytelling. Students will learn text, audio, video, photo, graphics, animation, and distribution tools, and related professional practices.

MNGT 294 Building your Brand with Social Media

1 credit hour

See COLL 294

POLS 294: Chinese Public Policy

2 credit hours

This course aims to provide the students with an overview of the most important public policies in China, including the urban and rural policy, policies on education, health care, welfare, and social security, and environment, etc., which are the most fundamental and widely-concerned key issues in today's China. Through this course students can gain a better understanding of the current social problems and the public policy development in China in the reform era.

POLS 294: Moot Court

3 credit hours

In this course, students learn a variety of oral advocacy and research skills. Students will work with a hypothetical Supreme Court case provided by the American Collegiate Moot Court Association. We will focus on developing a familiarity with the legal issues presented in the hypothetical case. This prepares students for participation in a moot court competition, which is a simulation of arguments before the US Supreme Court. Moot court is an activity that law students are typically required to participate so this course provides students a unique opportunity to familiarize themselves with the process as undergraduates. Even if students have no plans to pursue the law, moot court can improve public speaking, research and analytical reasoning. Students are encouraged, but not required, to participate in a regional competition.

POLS 394: Moot Court II

3 credit hours

This course is a continuation of what was learned in POLS 294: Moot Court, that builds on the introduction to written and oral legal advocacy. Students will write and present their own novel legal argument in class, in simulations with area attorneys, and in competition. Students are required to travel to the Midwest Regional Moot Court Competition and enter a written argument in the national competition.

PSYC 301: Substance Abuse Treatment

3 credit hours

This course explores substance use and treatment options for those dealing with drug and/or alcohol addiction by incorporating both classic theories and current events. Students will learn about and discuss: definitions and different ideas of “addiction;” the effects and consequences of drug, alcohol and tobacco use; theories and models of drug and/or alcohol use and dependency; and models of treatment for various individuals and populations and their underlying philosophies. This course will not only present material to the class but will also encourage the class to critically analyze and challenge the material presented.

WRIT 312: The Art of Biography

3 credit hours

A study of the genre and writing of biographies. We will begin by reading acclaimed biographies about some of the best known writers within our discipline: for the Renaissance, *The World of Christopher Marlowe*, by John Simon; for the early 19th century, *The Bronte Myth*, by Lucasta Miller; for the mid 20thc; *The Paris Wife*, by Paula McLaine (Hemingway's early life in Paris); and for those who love the ahistorical wonder that is Willy Wonka and James and the Peach, we'll read *The Storyteller: The Authorized Biography of Roald Dahl*, by Donald Sturrock. Afterwards, you'll be ready to write your own biographical study of either a lesser known author of your own choice or of a period of time not often explored in biographies of a more famous author.