

## **Fall 2014 Experimental Course Descriptions**

### **ARTH 294: Art, History, and Culture of the Netherlands**

3 credit hours

Using art as the focus, this course will introduce students to the history and culture of the Netherlands, covering key time periods like the Golden Age of the Baroque in the seventeenth century; WWII and Holland in the twentieth century; and Islam and the politics of tolerance in the twenty-first century. The course includes a 10-day trip to Amsterdam, where students will visit and study exhibits at art and site museums, including the Anne Frank House, the renowned Rijksmuseum, and the Van Gogh Museum, which holds the world's largest collection of the artist's work.

### **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.

### **HIST 194: Modern China**

3 credit hours

In this introduction to modern China, we will examine and explore where contemporary China came from and what aspects of traditional China still exist in the present in China. We will look at the last two hundred years of Chinese history, with particular focus on themes and key events. This class will contain a mix of student-centered learning lecture/seminar format.

### **HIST 394: Atlantic World Empires**

3 credit hours

Atlantic World Empires explores North American history from the earliest contacts between Europeans and natives to 1763, the eve of the American Revolution. Particular attention is devoted to the interaction of Native American, European, and African peoples and cultures. We will study native society prior to European contact; the Spanish, French, and British Atlantic empires; the trans-Atlantic slave trade; the rise of the British to a position of dominance; the internal development of the Anglo-American colonies; and the everyday lives of various groups who occupy the label of colonial Americans. Our goal is to understand the colonial period on its own terms, rather than as a mere prelude to "real" American history. While we will show, through both lectures and class discussions, that imperial laws and structures defined the lives of most colonials, we will also discover that the Atlantic left plenty of room for freedom and cultural interactions outside the reach of even the most powerful empire. We will discover that pirates and peoples floating between empires and preying on shifting loyalties also helped define the promise and culture of the Atlantic World.

### **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: Leadership & Communication**

3 credit hours

This course will examine the intersection between communication theory and the study of leadership. Various theories and models of communication are used to further the student's understanding and analysis of leadership.

**PHED 194: Walking for Fitness**

1 credit hour

This course will introduce students to appropriate knowledge concerning walking as a fitness program. Emphasis will be placed on proper stretching, standard conditioning practices, proper clothing, fluid intake requirements, cardiovascular value, injury prevention, general safety guidelines, basic nutrition needs, and fitness goal setting utilizing walking.

**PHED 194: Fitness Qigong/The Eight Brocades**

1 credit hour

This course will help students obtain basic knowledge of Health and Fitness Qigong and preliminary understanding of Chinese Health Culture through systematic teaching. The practical training of Health and Fitness Qigong can help the students grasp The Eight Brocades. The practice of Qigong will help to improve strength, stamina, coordination, flexibility, as well as other aspects of their physical fitness. This course can also provide students with a lifelong sports practice so that they may have better awareness of their health and fitness.

**RELI 394: Christian Social Ethics**

3 credit hours

In this course students will practice the discipline of making moral arguments from a Christian perspective. Students will apply this discipline to issues related to church and state, civil disobedience, war and peace, gender and sexuality, medical ethics, and environmental ethics.

**THEA 194: The Backstage Experience**

3 credit hours

Students are introduced to the fundamental principles of theatre design and the artistic operation of theatre through lectures, hands-on participation, class discussions, sketchbook, journal of design observations, critical reviews of realized productions, text analysis, and weekly presentations. Throughout the semester students perform design assignments that are then presented and critiqued by both students and faculty in class. The course culminates in two ways: a collaborative project in which students create a design for a designated play text with conceptual rationale presented before the class; a production assignment in which students participate as a member of the tech/design/run crew, afterwards reflecting on and evaluating the experience.