

Spring 2021 Experimental and Special Topics Course Descriptions

ENGL 294 – 01 Banned Books

3 credit hours

What do books *do*? What are books *for*? These questions are critical for thinking about why books have been and continue to be banned, challenged, excised, and questioned. This class will analyze a range of texts to thematically explore the questions of what books do, what books are for, and who bans them—and why—and when. We will specifically ask: who has the “right” to decide what can circulate and what cannot? What are the historical, social, political, and religious contexts of different banned books? Is offensive or stereotypical content sufficient grounding for eliminating texts from classrooms and other areas? What are the consequences of banning books?

LEAD 294 – 01 – Leadership and 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.

MNGT 194 – 01 Introduction to Business

3 credit hours

This course introduces students to an array of disciplines within business. Students will learn about accounting, finance, economics, management, marketing, and other fields and topics relevant to the business world. Upon completion of this course, students should have a better understanding of what it means to be a student and professional in these different business disciplines and how all business disciplines interrelate.

WRIT 394 – 01 Writing for Children & Young Adults

3 credit hours

This course is designed to give students the background knowledge and skills necessary to write for specific audiences of young people across several genres. Though traditional writing programs often overlook or even disdain work written for young people, writing for these audiences requires precision, command of language, and empathy. In this course, we will explore the unique characteristics of children’s literature; it’s emphasis on perspective, diversity, and hope, and we will also work to hone students writing skills in the areas of picture book, poetry, and graphic novel. This course will be taught in conjunction with Illustration in order to emphasize the use of visual techniques within the genre, as well as to give students hands on experience working on creative multi-media projects as part of a creative team.

COMM 380 – 01 Top: Media & Health

3 credit hours

This upper level course is designed for undergraduate students to engage in meaningful dialogue surrounding media & health communication. Often times, media representation drastically skews the perception and reality surrounding health. In this course, we will critically investigate the complex relationship between communication, health, and media. We will also explore intersections of gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity, race, and language within the media as they relate to health. Moreover, we will explore the role media and communication have within the context of health. Readings, discussions, and assignments are designed to stimulate critical thinking related to media and health within society.

MATH 350 – 01 Topics in Math

3 credit hours

Graph Theory is often defined to be the study of graphs, trees and networks, but more generally it is the study of connections. For a graph, vertices represent a collection of objects, and edges or arcs define which and how vertices are connected to each other. This course will use a problem-oriented approach to motivate many key ideas and results through inquiry. Topics to be discussed will include bipartite graphs, planar graphs and Euler’s formula, Hamilton and Euler paths, coloring problems, and independence. We also will consider algorithms for finding minimum-weight spanning trees, shortest paths, and maximum network flow.

THEA 214-01 Top: Stage Combat**3 credit hours**

This intermediate level acting course provides an overview of stage combat with intensive focus on the fundamental basics of unarmed, quarterstaff, and single sword techniques and moving into violent scene study work in rehearsal and performance. Students will engage in a range of performance activities inside and outside of the classroom in order to develop combat skills and begin establishing a personal methodology for approaching violence onstage. The course assumes students have different skill and ability levels upon entering and challenges students to make conscientious and steady progress from that point.