

## **Spring 2021 PIO 201 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **PIO 201 – 01 Course Title – Instructor Dennis Kuhl**

**3 credit hours**

Pending

### **PIO 201 – 02 Nature of Expertise – Instructor Joe Sullivan**

**3 credit hours**

In The Nature of Expertise, students will examine the meaning and significance of expertise. We will use a range of cases to wrestle with the following questions: How do we decide if one is an expert or generalist? What does it mean to be an expert in a given area? Why is having specialized knowledge important, particularly if experts are not always certain in their determinations? Can expertise in a particular area transfer to other areas? Can expertise make us less flexible, “outside the box” thinkers and problem-solvers, and if so, are there methods we can employ to help counter this?

### **PIO 201 – 03 Journalism in Film – Instructor Linda Lockhart**

**3 credit hours**

An in-depth examination of how journalists and journalism have been portrayed in film and what these images tell us about the public’s perception of the journalist’s role in liberal democratic societies. While watching and critically analyzing, using fundamental elements of formal film analysis, movies focused on journalism, students will seek answers to the question: how does the portrayal of American journalism and journalists in films shape our understanding of the role of “the press” in our democratic society, especially relating to particular climates/events in history? The course will include frequent in-class discussion and critical writing assignments.

### **PIO 201 – 04 Religious Freedoms – Instructor David Torbett**

**3 credit hours**

Students will learn the origin of the religion clauses in the First Amendment of the US Constitution, and trace the developing meaning of these clauses over time through famous Supreme Court cases, which deal with issues that range from polygamy to public schools to peyote; from wedding cakes to contraception to travel bans. For the culminating project, students will present and argue for their own positions regarding some of the most recent Supreme Court decisions dealing with church/state issues and religious freedom.

### **PIO 201 – 05 Crime and Punishment – Instructor Mike Tager**

**3 credit hours**

This course addresses two related big questions: what causes crime and how should we deal with it? We will look at different theories of crime associated with disciplines like law, political science, psychology, sociology, economics, etc., and how they might help explain several kinds of crime. Also of interest is how the U.S. went from incarcerating people at a similar rate to other developed democracies in the 1970s to today having the world’s highest incarceration rate, and whether it might be appropriate or possible to reduce what some have called America’s “carceral state.” The course will follow a discussion format with lecture kept to a minimum.

### **PIO 201 – 06 Blazing a Trail on the Basis of Sex – Instructor Michelle Jeitler**

**3 credit hours**

Students will investigate the scientific, sociological, and historic differences between men and women as it applies to ultra-endurance events such as trail running, Ironman triathlons, fastest known thru hikes, and swimming. Students will answer the bigger question of are women better ultra-endurance athletes than their male counterparts. By breaking the larger question down into a series of other questions. How did women go from not being allowed to run, to winning ultra-endurance events? Scientifically, is there a reason that explains why women could be better ultra-endurance athletes? Statistically, are there any differences between male and female endurance performance?

Have women started transitioning to being leaders in ultra-endurance events? They will gain insight through reading texts, (hopefully with interviews with female ultra-runners and record holders), journal articles, and film. Students will then determine if there is enough evidence to support that women are better ultra-endurance athletes by synthesizing the materials learned from the course.

**PIO 201 – 07 Who are You?- Identity – Instructor Brent Beeson** **3 credit hours**

This course invites students from varied disciplines, majors and personal backgrounds to explore their own answer to the timeless *Big Question* posed by the iconic rock band The Who - *Who Are You?* Students will identify themes and messages from self-selected classical, popular, and alternative music, literature, poetry, visual, dance, and dramatic arts.

Utilizing these identified themes and messages as springboards, students will then analyze, compare, and contrast multiple theories and perspectives through critical reading and synthesis assignments (verbal and written) which explore the emergence of an individual 's sense of self.

In addition, students will identify and actively engage aspects of their own intersectional identity, as well as the emerging identities of their peers on a weekly basis. Ongoing integration will be explored through the creation and sharing of students' own multimedia/artistic expressions through music, poetry, narratives, visual art, video and movement, reflective class processing and discussion, and weekly journaling.