

CRN#

## Fall 2020 Descriptions for Topics Courses

- 20373 ANT350-A, Topics in Anthropology: History of Anthropology Theory**  
**Prof. E. Tucker**  
This seminar explores the history of anthropology and the major theoretical developments in the field. Required for Anthropology majors and recommended for minors.
- 20593 BUS420-A Topics in Accounting: Governmental and Not-for-Profit Accounting**  
**Prof. T. Whalen**  
Special Topics in Governmental and Not-For-Profit Accounting focuses on the development and use of financial information as it relates to governmental and not-for-profit entities. The course coverage includes identifying and applying appropriate accounting and reporting standards for governments and private not-for-profit organizations, preparing fund basis and government-wide statements for state and local governments, preparing financial statements for private not-for-profit organizations, and using nonfinancial performance measures to evaluate governmental and not-for-profit entities.
- 20782 BUS440-A Topics in Marketing: Designing a Sports themed Integrated Marketing Plan**  
**Prof. T. Manchester**  
This course explores the process of a brand leveraging sports partnerships as the platform to build an Integrated Marketing Plan. Students will learn how a brand designs strategy, identifies and selects a sports partnership, constructs the plan, and creates criteria to measure the plans performance. Particular focus will be given to the planning stages of identify, negotiating, activating and measuring a sports marketing partnership investment.
- 20112 COM323-A Topics in Film: New Hollywood Cinema 1967-1976**  
**Prof. R. Leone**  
*The Devil's Candy* author Julie Salamon called it "the last great gasp of American filmmaking." This course will focus on the decade when Hollywood studios allowed mavericks, outsiders, and first-generation film school graduates to make movies, until two of them—Spielberg and Lucas—introduced the world to the American "blockbuster."
- 20113 COM333-A Topics in Mediated Communications: Race, Gender & Social Media**  
**Prof. W. Mbure**  
This course explores the intersection between race, gender, and new media (video games, internet, social media). Topics discussed include race and ethnic identity online, patterns of new media use among various groups. We will also examine how notions of masculinity and femininity shape new media experiences.
- 20114 COM414-A Topics in Communication: NonVerbal Communication**  
**Prof. M. Myers**  
Nonverbal communication is an integral part of human interaction. The ability to encode and decode nonverbal cues is an important aspect of communication competence. A primary goal of this course is to increase your knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the role of nonverbal communication. A secondary goal is for you become more mindful of, and improve your own nonverbal communication skills. This includes improving your ability to interpret others' nonverbal cues and to further develop your own nonverbal skills when communicating with others.
- 20897 COM414-B Topics in Communication: Conspiracy Theories and the Media**  
**Prof. M DeINero**  
This course examines how conspiracy theories gain traction and the often dangerous consequences of these conspiracy theories. The course will provide a brief overview of the history of conspiracy theories and then focus on recent events and how they have been impacted by conspiracy theories. We will also focus on the role of networked technology in spreading and debunking these theories

**20382 CRM295-A Topics in Criminology: Faith, Justice and Criminal Law**  
**Prof. P. Nevins**

The War on Drugs, gang violence, the opioid crisis, the death penalty, and mass incarceration are all crucial issues facing the criminal justice system in America. Every day, criminal justice professionals, including police officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges, wrestle with these issues in an effort to seek justice for the community. But what is justice? How do we define it? Because how justice is defined within a community will serve as the foundation for how the community responds to crime.

This course will explore the virtue of justice and its role within the criminal justice system, while using a faith lens to look at the interplay between mercy, accountability, punishment, solidarity, and community. This course will rely heavily on reading, written reflections, and classroom discussion. Students will explore how Catholic social teaching defines justice, and how it can be applied to present-day criminal law issues. Students will need to be comfortable discussing topics related to faith and spirituality, specifically within the context of analyzing the criminal justice system and the issues facing it today.

**20383 CRM295-B Topics in Criminology: Criminal Investigations**  
**Prof. K. Borgeson**

The class provides students with the knowledge of investigating crime scenes from forensic evidence gathered from scenes and witnesses. Some topics that will be covered are event analysis, documentation of crime scene evidence, murder and stalking investigation, wound pattern and blood stain evidence analysis. Students will engage in the review of case studies and paper assignments to give them hands-on experience, which will help in understanding the field of criminal investigations.

**20145 EDU333-A Topics in Education: Reimagining American Education**  
**Prof. S. Pinzari**

Please see instructor for description.

**20556 ENG200-A, Introductory Topics in Literary Studies: Americans Abroad**  
**Prof. S. Gracombe**

*"I took myself out of the country and went to Paris. It was there that I discovered that the old folks knew what they were talking about: I found myself...alchemized into an American the moment I touched French soil."*—James Baldwin, "A Fly in the Buttermilk"

*"Nations themselves are narrations."*—Edward Said

In this coronavirus era, what's the safest way to "visit" other countries? By living vicariously through the experiences of characters who have done so. For more than 200 years, American writers have been fascinated by Europe as both a place and an idea. France and Italy especially have become rites of passage, locations of Culture, sites of reinvention for American authors and their fictional creations. Why? How have writers from Henry James and Ernest Hemingway to James Baldwin and Patricia Highsmith constructed European identity? How have such constructions both influenced and been influenced by understandings of American identity? Does traveling abroad affect our definition of home? In particular, we will consider the way gender, race, sexuality, and aesthetics intersect with representations of nationality. We will investigate these questions by reading texts that traverse the past two centuries: primarily novels, short stories, and films, supported by travel narratives and theories of national identity. Note: there is some room for your input in texts and topics.

**20558 ENG221-A Topics in Digital Humanities**  
**Prof. S. Cohen**

This course serves as an introduction to digital methods of humanistic inquiry. Over the course of the term, we will study and experiment with using digital tools (computers, digital media, databases, algorithms) to enhance our study and appreciation of literary texts. We will learn how texts exist and work in the digital age. We will examine new and emerging models for interpretation. Half of our time together will be hands-on, lab-styled experimentation with digital tools. The other half of our time will be spent discussing the literary critical dimensions of this work.

- 20559 ENG242-A Topics in Creative Writing: Poetry I: Increasing Awareness: Finding Poetry in Daily Life**  
**Prof. A. Brooks**  
 This creative writing course will offer an introduction to poetry writing with an emphasis on experimentation with form and process. You will have weekly writing assignments based on our readings and experiences and explorations in and outside of the classroom. In order to deepen our knowledge and abilities, we will also be reading the work of many contemporary writers and some older greats. Class will be part discussion, part writing, and part play which will all help create a community in which we learn to formulate thoughtful critique and responses to each other's work and deep insight into the reading and our writing practice.
- 20560 ENG243-A, Topics in Creative Writing: Fiction I: Writing Images & Sculpting Stories**  
**Prof. A. Brooks**  
 An introduction to narrative writing, including description, setting, dialogue, characterization, plot.
- 20562 ENG 306-A Topics in British Literature, 1700-1900: Hopkins Now (WID)**  
**Prof. M. Borushko**  
 This WID seminar, which also carries the CIT designation, examines the poetry, prose, and life of Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Victorian Catholic poet. Reading and interpreting the poetry will be front and center, but as a WID course, the seminar will assess the current state of scholarship and criticism on Hopkins -- as well as on Victorian poetry, poetic form, and the relationship between literature and religion. Students will become versed in the discipline of literary studies, ultimately contributing to the discipline through their research and writing.
- 20563 ENG344-A Topics in Creative Non-Fiction: Investigating Your Experience**  
**Prof. A. Brooks**  
 In this creative nonfiction course, we will read distinct, recent, nonfiction meditations which we will use throughout as inspirations for our own writing. Our own writing experiments will explore the uses of memory, observation, and research with close attention to structure and form in creative nonfiction writing. We work with the goal of exciting interest and developing deftness in the construction of longer-form memoirs, meditations, investigations, and personal narrative. "We live entirely, especially if we are writers, by the imposition of a narrative line upon disparate images, by the "ideas" with which we have learned to freeze the shifting phantasmagoria which is our actual experience." -Joan Didion, *The White Album*.
- 20776 ENG366-A Topics in Twentieth Century American Literature: The Twentieth Century American Novel**  
**Prof. D. Itzkovitz**  
 A study of significant novels in American literature with an emphasis on race and other forms of marginality.
- 20567 ENG390-A Topics in Modernism: Fictions of the Self (Writing-in-the-Disciplines)**  
**Prof. J. Green**  
 From its birth in the nineteenth century, photography has altered our perceptions of reality, captured and crafted our memories, uncovered the wonder of the unseen and fooled the eye into believing illusions. In short, photography has both shaped and challenged our notions of truth. This course will look at the influence of photography on Western culture, beginning with the images and writings of the earliest photographers. We will pay particular attention to the relationship between literature and photography as a means for exploring photography's ambiguous status at the borderline between truth and fiction. Exemplary photographs from across the history of the medium will be paired with classic and contemporary writing on photography from authors such as Charles Baudelaire, Honoré de Balzac, Walter Benjamin, Susan Sontag, John Berger, Roland Barthes, and Erroll Morris. In conversation with these materials will be literature that uses photography to blur the line between objective and subjective reality, such as Cortázar's "Blow Up," Rodenbach's *Bruges-la-Morte*, Sebald's *Austerlitz*, and Cole's *Every Day Is for the Thief*, as well as short fiction from a variety of contemporary authors.  
*NOTE: This course fulfills Writing-in-the-Disciplines.*  
*NOTE: This course is part of LC 213-A. Students must take ENG390-A along with LC 213-A, 20761 and ENG271, 20762.*

- 20569 ENG422-A English Capstone Seminar: Why Romanticism Matters**  
**Prof. M. Borushko**  
 This seminar approaches the literature of the Romantic Age through the lens of its enduring legacy for, presence in, and relevance to contemporary culture. Our study will begin with the Romanticism of William Wordsworth, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Jane Austen, and we will build bridges to our own cultural moment of literature, criticism, film, and politics. Along the way, we will consider questions of how and why we read and study works of the past -- and we will engage in these public conversations as the unfold around us.
- 20048 ENV376-A Topics in Environmental Science: Conservation Biology**  
**Prof. E. LeFlore**  
 Conservation Biology is the study of the various factors that affect the maintenance, loss, and restoration of biological diversity. This course will give students an overview of this evolving discipline including the scientific methods employed, the biological principles behind conservation techniques and strategies, as well as the complexities of conservation-oriented policy implementation. We will explore the most common models, tools, and techniques used to conserve biological diversity (e.g., reserve design, population viability analysis, sustainable harvest models, meta-population models, etc.) with the goal of preparing students for science-based careers in Conservation Biology.
- 20760 GND300-A Topics in Gender & Sexuality Studies: LGBTQ Film & TV**  
**Prof. W. Peek**  
 This course engages with the representation in film and television of LGBTQ lives, offering an overview of major issues and genres that claim to represent these communities and issues. Some of these films are intentionally provocative, striving to create a queer space that aggressively marks its difference from mainstream media. Others take traditional heterosexual genres, like the romance or western, and transform them by focus on erotic arrangements that reject heteronormative expectations. At times, we will dig deep into the controversies that surround some of the films and will read theoretical texts that explore the issues at hand. In viewing the assigned documentaries, television dramas, classic Hollywood cinema, and avant-garde films, we will explore desire and dissent, sexuality and seduction, power and privilege, and cross-dressing and "passing," among other relevant themes. Viewings may include *Transparent*, *The L Word*, *Blue is the Warmest Color*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *Pink Flamingos*, *Rope*, *Brokeback Mountain*, *Call Me By Your Name*. No previous experience analyzing film and television texts is required. Student work will include essays, a presentation and quizzes.
- 20031 HIS360-A, European History Seminar: Roman Emperors in History and Popular Culture**  
**Prof. E. Parks**  
 In 44 BCE, the Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated in the name of liberty. His heir Augustus outwardly restored the Republic, but in fact created an empire ruled by his family, the Julio-Claudian dynasty, for nearly a century. This course examines the policies and scandalous family drama of Rome's first emperors and their afterlife in popular culture.
- 20032 HIS362-A, World History Seminar: World War II in Asia**  
**Prof. K. Teoh**  
 "Shifting away from a Eurocentric perspective, this course explores World War II in Asia as a conflict with distinct causes, experiences, and outcomes. Topics include the rise of Japanese imperialism, invasion of China, occupation and armed resistance in Southeast Asia, socio-cultural responses (e.g., post-apocalyptic anime film), and the nuclear bomb."
- 20204 IND357-A Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies: Skepticism and Rationality**  
**Prof. G. Scala**  
 James "The Amazing" Randi—magician, skeptic, and investigator—reminds us that "No matter how smart or how well educated you are, you can be deceived." In an age fraught with deception and misinformation, students need tactics and strategies to separate truth from falsity. This course encourages its participants to act as skeptics—not cynics, necessarily—by requiring evidence and proof before believing or accepting claims. Students are urged to identify the most-likely-to-occur opportunities for deception in their major fields and

draw from the tenets of classical rhetoric, logic, and the scientific method to develop safeguards. Frequent collaboration with classmates will allow for dynamic solutions to small and large-scale contemporary problems ranging from the personal (e.g. used car prices and avoiding fraud) to the universal (e.g. “fake news” and God). ***NOTE: This course is part of LC 203-A. Students must take IND 357-A along with PHL 210-A, 20505 and LC 203-A, 20205.***

**20125 JRN330-A, Topics in Journalism: Entrepreneurial Journalism**

**Prof. K. Convey**

The course will give students the background and tools in both journalism and business to build a small content-based business. The course will conclude with presentations and judging by an expert panel of business people and journalists.

**20287 POL357-A Topics in Politics: Russia, the West & the Rest**

**Prof. A. Ohanyan**

In the Putin era, Russia’s often malign resurgence in world politics has been prolific. The Kremlin’s critics charge that the Putin regime has orchestrated a ‘hybrid war’ against the West. This has comprised military intervention in conflicts through the use of paramilitary units, from the Donbas to Damascus, Eastern Europe to the Middle East. It also entailed an assault and propaganda perpetration on Western electoral politics, as well as other forms of cyberwarfare around the world. Others have argued that it is the West that is at least partially culpable, for failing to integrate Russia in the European security architecture after the Cold War. The course engages in these debates, while also examining the rise of coercive statebuilding inside Russia.

**20296 POL357-B Topics in Politics: Cyber Security**

**Prof. A. Mahajna**

Various entities such as governments, individuals, and corporations have harnessed the cyberspace for legitimate civilian uses. People and corporations have utilized the cyberspace to expand their wealth, generate new innovative businesses, and create vital social networks. However, the cyberspace has also been used for criminal and illegitimate political activities. For instance, terrorists rely on the space for recruitment, training, and identifying targets, hackers use it to steal data, and intelligence services employ it to conduct espionage. This course examines current and future threats to cyberspace, various approaches to advance and defend national interests, and contrasts the US approach with European, Russian, and Chinese approaches in cyberspace.

**20443 VPG320-A Topics in Graphic Design: Information Design**

**Prof. C. Morgan**

The course presents an overarching perspective of the discipline of information design through viewing and discussing work of masters and a focus on the creation of information design focused projects. Through developing an understanding of how the end-user is likely to interpret the content as well as data mining to uncover stories, students become ‘transformers of information’ — bringing life, essence and meaning to data of all kinds.

**20446 VPH229-A COR: Topics in Non-Western Art: Buddhist Art in Asia**

**TBA**

Focusing on Buddhist art in practice as well as the geographical movement of artistic styles and techniques. Students learn how Buddhist art was employed for political empowerment and personal merit.

***NOTE: This course fulfills the History Cornerstone.***

**20475 VPS207-A Special Projects: Making Art Material**

**Prof. C. Smith-Corby**

Throughout the semester, students will participate in creating historical ARTISTIC MATERIALS from start to finish, which will include harvesting plant materials from the farm to make pigments and inks. We make paper, learn about and do Japanese Shibori fabric dyeing, and make books. **We'll also work with clay to make handmade replicas of Native American and Colonial vessels! No experience is necessary but bring your curiosity and positive attitude.**

**20473 VPS207-B Special Projects: Collage**  
**Prof. C. Walters**

This course explores alternative and traditional methods of collage and assemblage using unique materials from detritus to personal treasures. Elements of drawing, painting, mono-printing and writing will be included to create multiple evocative, visual statements.

**20471 VPS327-A Topics in Painting: Abstract Painting**  
**Prof. D. Kinsey**

This studio-based course will explore the potential of abstraction in painting. Explore the history of abstract art and its relationship to your own voice. Acrylic painting techniques, color theory and formal theory will form the basis for your explorations of the painted surface.

**20481 VPT331-A Topics in Theatre Arts: Theater Ensemble**  
**Prof. M. Greene**

Students will explore and implement various movement and devising techniques to create experimental theatre pieces in a collaborative environment. The foundation of the course is based on the Frantic Assembly style of theatre creation. Open to all Performing Arts majors, Theatre minors or permission of the instructor.