

CRN#

## Spring 2021 Descriptions for Topics Courses

**40397 ANT350-A, Topics in Anthropology: Human Trafficking**

**Prof. T. Thorpe**

This course will examine the myriad ways human beings are bought, sold, and traded on a daily basis throughout the world. Using a cross-cultural approach, we will investigate some of the driving forces that lie behind this burgeoning global crisis: poverty, war, natural disasters, an increasing demand for cheap labor.

**40455 BUS 420-A Topics in Accounting: Forensic Accounting**

**Prof. M. McCall**

This course introduces students to the methodology of fraud examination. In the first half we focus on the elements of fraud and the different types of fraud schemes, including fraudulent financial statements, asset misappropriation, corruption, and money laundering. In the second half of the course we focus on how professionals respond to fraud, with an emphasis on the legal framework, document analysis, interviewing, and report writing. Through a case study, students work in teams to investigate a fraud scheme, maintain a case file, and conduct live interviews of role players. The demand for fraud examiners and forensic accountants continues to grow in both the private and public sectors. Skills developed in this course will help students in multiple professions including forensic accounting, financial accounting, and general business.

**40485 BUS 430-A Topics in Finance: Behavioral Finance**

**Prof. M. Mullen**

This special topic course is part two of the SCIFI course program and is available only to students admitted into the SCIFI program. The course is focused on the growing field of behavioral finance that uses insights from psychology to understand how human behavior influences the decisions of individual and professional investors, markets and managers. The topic is very useful in helping understand why investors make the choices they do. For example, why do people invest in local companies? Why do investors confuse a good company from a good stock? Why do people increase the amount of risk they are willing to take on if they have experienced good or bad portfolio performance? Similar questions will be explored to help explain why investment managers fall prey to behavioral errors. The course will start with a review of Utility theory, a model of how people should act, and later explore explanations for how and why they do act. Behavioral Finance is interdisciplinary as it borrows heavily from the academic literature in accounting, economics, statistics, psychology and sociology.

**40171 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.

**40472 BUS440-B Topics in Marketing: Sports Analytics**

**Prof. J. Imbriani**

In this Sports Analytics class, we will talk about the role of data analysis in sports both on and off the field. You will learn to work across multiple data platforms that are used across sports. All you need coming into this class is a strong passion for sports and an interest in seeing the data that drives decisions in this multi-billion dollar industry.

**40516 BUS 460-A, Topics in Management: Hands-On with Python**

**Prof. J. Brown-Sederberg**

This applied Python course will provide students with an introduction to the Python language and important Python data science libraries, the preparation of data for analysis, and the analysis of data. Through a series of case studies, students will learn how to take a data science problem or question, prepare the data provided and

perform the analysis. This course will specifically concentrate on case studies pertaining to FinTech, but will also cover other business areas.

**40335 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 to 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.

**40405 CRM295-A Topics in Criminology: Hate Crimes**

**Prof. K. Borgeson**

This course provides an overview of the issues associated with a hate crime. This course focuses attention on typologies, motivations, and victims. This course also explores the role of private organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League and Southern Poverty Law Center in tracking the activities of hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and Aryan Nation.

**40406 CRM295-B Topics in Criminology: Youth & the Law**

**Prof. Modiste**

What happens when it is alleged that a child is being abused or neglected? Who is responsible for protecting the child? Often the Department of Children and Families removes the child from the home and a care and protection petition is filed in the juvenile court. This class will explore the legal process in the juvenile court system and analyze the complex ethical, moral, and social issues that arise. During the semester, we will also discuss other matters handled in the juvenile court including truanancies, guardianships, and juvenile delinquencies.

**40713 CRM295-C Topics in Criminology: Race and Racial Justice: The Need for Cultural Competency**

**Prof. P. Ifill**

The course provides an overview of race and racial justice in the United States and the historical underpinnings that have impacted the fair and impartial delivery of justice. Topical areas include the social and structural underpinnings rooted in race and the impact that it has had in driving racial disparities in arrests, conviction, and sentencing in all the criminal justice system. Students will be introduced to the importance and the need of the counterbalance in using workplace diversity and cultural competence and cultural proficiency to improve criminal justice outcomes relative to race and racial justice. Examination of the innovative work here in the Massachusetts Trial Court system will be examined to show the impact the recruitment of a qualified and diverse workforce, reflective of the communities they serve, can have in playing a redefining in bringing about changes in the delivery of equal access to justice.

**40416 CRM395-A Topics in Criminology: Immigration: Law, Case Studies and Policy**

**Prof. M. Khanbabai**

This class is an introduction to the law and concept of immigration (based on employment, family, asylum), with a significant emphasis on learning based on real case examples. Over the course of the semester, you will study:

- An overview of the immigration system
- The nuts of bolts of the most common employment based immigration cases
- Case hypotheticals, applying the relevant legal standards to common case scenarios, and
- Evolving and current immigration trends

**40068 CSC399-A Topics: Mobile Computing**

**Prof. J. Brown-Sederberg**

This course provides students with an introductory understanding of the development of mobile apps for Android devices using Android Studio.

**40599 ENG306-A Topics: Romanticism, Slavery, Abolition (Writing-in-the-Disciplines)**

**Prof. M. Borushko**

This WID course examines the place of literature in the context of the British slave trade and abolition movement in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. We will study the autobiographical narratives of Olaudah Equiano (*The Interesting Narrative*) and Mary Prince (*The History of Mary Prince*) along with primary texts from the abolition campaign (Cugoana, Clarkson, Wilberforce) and other literature that engaged with the campaign and sought to influence hearts and minds, including poetry from William Blake, Ann Yearsley, Helen Maria Williams, Robert Southey, and William Cowper. In addition, we will examine how these works and this campaign played out against the backdrop of political revolutions and the Enlightenment ideals that revolutionaries cited as inspiration.

**40605 ENG306-B Topics: Crimes & Misdemeanors (Writing-in-the-Disciplines)**

**Prof. S. Gracombe**

Some of the most famous criminals are Victorian creations: Mr. Hyde, Fagan, Sikes, Dracula, Dorian Gray, even the partly mythic Jack the Ripper. So too are some of the most famous detectives, from Sergeant Cuff to Sherlock Holmes. As these memorable characters suggest, nineteenth-century British literature was deeply concerned with questions of crime and punishment. What constitutes a “crime” and what a “misdemeanor” in an era in which rules of propriety governed every aspect of daily life, yet prostitution, fraud, theft, domestic violence and child abuse were common? What was the relationship between gender, sexuality, and crime? Is criminality a matter of nature or nurture? What is the appropriate way to discipline and punish criminals? And can art itself be a crime? Together, we will explore such compelling questions through close analysis of nineteenth-century literature, accompanied by “true crime” accounts in Victorian periodicals, early theories of criminology, and contemporary scholarship. Fulfilling the WID requirement, this class will also provide opportunities to develop your writing skills as well as share your ideas through collaborative discussions.

**40718 ENG220-A Introduction to Topics in Literature: Race, Violence and American Cinema**

**Prof. D. Itzkovitz**

Please see instructor for description.

**40596 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.

**40597 ENG344-A Topics in Creative Non-Fiction**

**Prof. A. Brooks**

Writing the essay based on various modes of expository writing. Discussion of rhetorical discourse, writing techniques, and publication possibilities. Course may be taken twice as long as topics differ.

**40606 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.*

**40719 ENG390-B Topics in Modernism: From Harlem to Hollywood in the Jazz Age (Writing-in-the-Disciplines)**

**Prof. D. Itzkovitz**

Please see instructor for description.

**40608 ENG422-A Capstone: Avant-Garde Modernisms**

**Prof. J. Green**

Please see instructor for description.

**40153 ENV376-A Topics in Environmental Science: Case Studies in Environmental Management**

**Prof. T. D'Avanzo**

Please see instructor for description.

**40750 GND200-A Topics in Gender & Sexuality Studies: Women's Global Health**

**Prof. P. Caravantes-Gonzalez**

This course will provide an overview of issues affecting women's health throughout the world, and in the context of women's life cycles—childhood, adolescence, reproductive years, and aging. It will pay special attention to the socio-cultural, economic, environmental and political factors that play a role in determining women's health and women's access to quality basic health care. These factors include structural determinants such as domestic and global economic inequality; environmental injustice; uneven resource distribution of food and medicines; wide disparities of health risk and access to healthcare; and deficiencies in healthcare delivery systems and availability of healthcare professionals. Other specific issues to women's health such as maternal mortality, sexually transmitted diseases, and gender-based violence will also be discussed. Finally, the course will explore the role of women leaders in global movements addressing health issues and health justice. Course materials will draw from a variety of sources, including theoretical and empirical texts, and a plurality of methodological approaches and cultural perspectives.

**40142 GND300/AMS320-A Topics in Gender & Sexuality Studies: American Masculinities**

**Prof. A. Opitz**

In this course we are working from the assumption that there is not a single definition of masculinity in American culture, this course explores masculinity in its various forms, from hegemonic masculinity to alternate expressions, such as gender queer, trans and female masculinities. Using an interdisciplinary perspective, the course examines how masculinity gets expressed and produced differently at the intersections of gender, race, sexuality, class, ethnicity, and nationality; how notions of masculinity, manhood, and maleness have changed historically; how men of color, both straight and queer, are stereotyped in the media and the ways in which they have resisted those representations. This course is cross-listed as AMS321 and GND300.

**40182 HCA 411-A Topics in Healthcare: Healthcare Data Analysis - Methods and Practical Application**

**Prof. Flaherty**

Course Goal: Teach the student with a basic stats background how to use methods commonly employed in analyzing healthcare data. This class will be a mix of lecture and hands-on coding. We will use real world data from a variety of sources, with the goals of exposing the student to the challenges and pitfalls encountered in healthcare data and developing the techniques to address them. Students will learn about research study design, data cleaning and preparation, descriptive statistics, regression analysis, model building and evaluation, and data visualization. Coding will be primarily in SAS, with an introduction to R. Excel and other tools to be used for visualizations. Additional topics reviewed will include machine learning algorithms and their applications.

At the end of course: Students should be able to download public health data sources (e.g. CMS, AHRF, claims dataset), clean and merge files, address missing variables and skewed distributions, compile descriptive statistics, develop a research question, build a regression model-including creating new variables as needed, interpret the results and create informative data visualizations.

**40572 HIS 330-A U.S. History Seminar: 9/11 in History and Memory**  
**Prof. S. Maddock**

In a seminar format, students will examine the origins and legacy of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Topics will include the origins of Islamic radicalism, the continuing U.S. war on terror, including the invasion of Iraq and the battle against ISIS, the social, cultural, economic, and political context in which U.S. anti-terrorism efforts unfolded, and how the memory of 9/11 has infused U.S. culture and politics.

***NOTE: Considered a U.S. History. Sophomore and above standing.***

**40573 HIS 360-A European History Seminar: The Irish Famine**  
**Prof. E. McCarron**

This seminar will explore the era of the Great Irish Famine – an event that was a catastrophic turning point and major watershed in Irish history. In the years encompassing 1845-1855 more than a million Irish died and upwards of two million emigrated. We begin by surveying the social, economic, and political context of pre-Famine Ireland, and subsequently investigating the Great Famine, governmental response, emigration, Irish-America, and the experience of local places and communities during the Famine. We will also consider the legacy of the Great Famine – exploring social and economic changes in nineteenth century Ireland, the impact of the Famine on Irish-America and nationalism, and how the Famine is remembered.

***NOTE: Considered a European History. Sophomore and above standing.***

**40574 HIS 362-A World History Seminar: From Kung Fu to Kung Pao: Asia in Popular Culture**  
**Prof. K. Teoh**

From Japanese anime to Korean pop music, from martial arts movies to sushi and Chinese take-out, “popular culture” is one of the most common ways in which the West encounters and consumes Asia. This course examines the history of these phenomena and their relation to modernity, globalization, and transnational flows.

***NOTE: Considered a World History. Sophomore and above standing.***

**40008 JRN 330-A Topics in Journalism: The God Beat: Religion Reporting**  
**Prof. B. Faga**

Students will examine Catholic traditions, controversies and politics within the Church concerning traditions and how to report and write about faith in the press.

***NOTE: This course has a prerequisite of JRN100, Reporting & News Writing.***

***NOTE: This course fulfills Catholic Intellectual Traditions.***

**40272 LC 200-A Learning Community: Human Systems—Human 2.0: Information, Power, and Resistance**  
**Prof. J. Green, Prof. S. Cohen and Prof. E. McGushin**

Human Systems: Human 2.0 is an innovative new team-taught course structure that brings together professors from three different disciplines—English, Philosophy, and Digital Humanities—to examine multiple perspectives on issues of power, freedom, truth, consciousness, embodiment, and moral agency from the Ancient Greeks to the algorithms of the Digital Age. The course will be taught in three linked components:

**Part 1 (Prof. Green):** We will begin by examining the relationship between language, culture, and power. How does representation in the symbolic system of language construct our perception of the world? How can an understanding of language give us insight into the nature of power and the shaping force of ideology? Our conversation will emerge from a comparative reading of Plato and Nietzsche and then develop into a consideration of twentieth-century theories of ideology and anti-authoritarian resistance in the work of Horkheimer and Adorno, Louis Althusser, Michel Foucault, and bell hooks.

**Part 2 (Prof. McGushin):** To be an embodied subject is to co-exist in time and space with other bodies and subjects. But time and space are not neutral. In the second part of this course, we examine how time and space are configured, designed, and deployed as strategies for conducting the flow of bodies, affects, perceptions, and thoughts. These configurations of time and space are not exclusively repressive -- but rather, they capture and control our bodies and forces in the very process of cultivating and enhancing them. Nevertheless, the processes of capturing, cultivating, and conducting bodily forces inevitably make

room, for resistance, escape, and counter-conduct. We will map some of these configurations of space and time in terms of capture and escape, conduct, and counter-conduct.

**Part 3 (Prof. Cohen):** In the third part of the course, we turn our attention to the digital realm, where power is most efficiently exercised today. We'll consider how we are tracked and seen by invisible machines. We'll demystify some of the algorithms that interpret and mark our behavior. At the same time as we study regimes of digital surveillance and data collection, we'll look at notable instances of creative disruption like culture jamming and hacking, and we'll chart futurist visions for the next version of humanity.

**40352 POL357-A Topics in Politics: Politics of "Fake News"**

**Prof. A. Mahajna**

The 2016 US presidential election highlighted the power of misinformation and disinformation as a political tool, especially within the context of online social networks. Classic tactics of disinformation seen in authoritarian regimes are budding in Western states. Evidence is growing of the sophisticated manipulation of social media platforms, and those seeking to influence the online public sphere can exploit people's declining levels of trust in institutions and experts to manipulate opinion in a particular direction. This course will examine the implication of "fake news" on society and politics and will explore analytical strategies for evaluating and verifying media sources.

**40767 POL357-B Topics in Politics: "Who Watches the Watchmen?" Oversight and Accountability in a Democratic Society**

**Prof. E. Gallagher**

At the heart of U.S. government is the duty to serve the public's interests. Yet over the past few decades, we have seen increased concern about corruption, wrongdoing, and abuse of power in our executive and legislative spheres. This course will examine existing mechanisms for oversight and accountability, including the role of whistleblowers in a democratic society.

Through books and film, we will explore the experiences of individuals who risked everything to follow their conscience, e.g. to expose illegal government surveillance, risks of nuclear contamination, political corruption, and misuse of authority.

Students will gain an understanding of the risks associated with "speaking truth to power," and the rare formula for making a difference.

**40732 RST247-A Topics in Religious Approaches to Moral Issues : Race, Ethnicity and Ability in Biblical Texts**

**Prof. L. Willis**

Biblical texts reflect the issues of the times in which they were composed. We see in these texts the same struggles between inclusion and exclusion, equality and subordination that fill our present-day news feeds and our deliberations of religious responses. In this course we analyze some key passages from the Bible that allow us to perceive how these issues were played out. The texts will include: Genesis, Exodus, Judges, 1 and 2 Kings, Ruth, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Matthew, Mark, 1 Corinthians, Galatians, and Acts. We will find surprising treatments of issues that divide, subordinate, or exclude, as well as calls for inclusion—moments of inclusion that attempt to bring the members of society back together. We will also explore methods to compare ancient and modern assumptions, with some discussion of the views of different religions and global comparisons.

***NOTE: This course has a prerequisite of RST100, Religious Studies Cornerstone.***

***NOTE: This course fulfills Moral Inquiry and Catholic Intellectual Traditions.***

**40749 SOC295-A Topics in Sociology: Ideology in Contemporary America: A Sociological Perspective on Adversarial Belief Systems**

**Prof. D. Bednarz**

This class examines the role of ideology in understanding the social origins and functions of divergent diagnoses and proposed solutions for the crises facing American society. From a sociological perspective, ideology is the lens through which groups of people makes sense of the world and, it follows, how they define and react to crises.

Ideology is sometimes anchored to Karl Marx's critique of capitalism but there is a much wider sociological and anthropological literature to explore on this topic. Ideology is similar to other concepts that define and analyze belief systems, such as paradigm (T. Kuhn), institutional thinking and cosmology (M. Douglas), Habitus (P. Bourdieu), Thought Community (L. Fleck), Collective consciousness (E. Durkheim), Weltanschauung (M. Weber), among others.

**40779 VPD260-A Topics in Dance: Afro Caribbean Dance**

**Prof. McClain**

Multicultural Dance focuses on the theory, practice and performance of American, Latin American and African-American dance styles. Styles we will cover in this course may include, but are not limited to Afro-Jazz, African, Afro-Caribbean, Latin, and Hip Hop. While there will be some discussion of the history of each dance style, the majority of time will be spent practicing dance technique and choreography. You will become familiar with the basic movements, vocabulary, music, and rhythms particular to each style, improve basic body conditioning and movement coordination and memory, musicality, and rhythm.

**40183 VPH229-A Topics in Non-Western Art: Decolonizing Contemporary Art**

**Prof. C. Smith-Corby**

This course will highlight how gender, race, and identity politics have influenced artists and the evolution of contemporary art. The course will also look at how museums have sought to deal with many of the same issues.

**40184 VPS312-A Topics in Contemporary Photography: Photography in the Time of COVID**

**Prof. A. Lampton**

While social distancing and the inability to travel are challenges for everyone, these limitations may present unique challenges for the photographer interested in exploring the world. It does not need to be this way. This online class will explore tactics by which the aspiring photographer can develop a photographic project wherever they happen to be. The class will cover intermediate photographic skills, conceiving a photographic project, editing the work, and producing a final product in the form of prints or publication.

**40741 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 voice. Acrylic painting techniques, color theory, and formal theory, will form the basis for your explorations of the painted surface.

**40748 VPT332-A, Topics in Theatre Arts II: Advanced Acting and Auditioning Techniques**

**Prof. M. Greene**

This course will build upon the foundations from Acting 1 and Acting 2, utilizing Donnellan's *The Target*, to further explore how to deliver a dynamic performance. This course will also prepare students to present themselves professionally in the business of theatre and will give them the techniques to audition effectively for stage and screen. Pre-req: Acting 1 & Acting 2 or consent of instructor.