

CRN#

Fall 2021 Descriptions for Topics Courses

20039 AMS320-A/GND 300-A, Topics in American Studies: Women of Color Writers

Prof. A. Opitz

In this course we will look at the intersections of gender, race, and sexuality in the fiction and non-fiction work of women writers of color, mostly U.S. and mostly 20th century, but not exclusively. Rather than trying to establish "one tradition" of women of color writers, the course aims to introduce students to writers and artists from a range of ethnic/racial backgrounds and traditions. We'll examine a mix of "classics"—such as work by Toni Morrison, Audre Lorde, bell hooks, Paula Gunn Allen, Sandra Cisneros, and Gloria Anzaldúa—as well as more recent work by novelists Julie Otsuka and Edwidge Danticat, comedian Margaret Cho, and filmmaker Dee Rees. Among the topics/questions we'll explore creating and reclaiming self/identity, family and community, racialization and the state, forgotten/remembered histories, colonialism, sexuality, queer of color critique/theory, violence, intimacy, and motherhood.

[NOTE: This course is cross-listed and students register under GND 300-A, 20042.](#)

20596 BIO200-A, Topics in Biology: Biotechnology Basics: The Biology Behind the Field

Prof. M. James-Pederson

What do the Impossible Burger, Arctic apple, COVID-19 vaccine, and biodiesel have in common? They represent a few examples of the type of products made with living organisms' aid and commercially developed by biotechnology. Using the development of these products as a model, we will learn about the process of scientific discovery, the application of those discoveries to the development of new products, and knowledge dissemination. This course is designed for non-biologists who want to gain a general understanding of cell biology and genetics and how their principles and research tools are applied to develop products that benefit agriculture, medicine, and the environment. We will also discuss the value of specific products, the FDA's approval process, and the ethical issues confronting the field. Students who have not taken BIO 101, or equivalent, are welcome.

20692 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.

20695 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.

20760 BUS460-A Topics in Management: Teamwork in Organizations

Prof. S. Edinger

An in-depth look at the use of teams in organizations. We will investigate characteristics of work teams, common challenges teams face, managing and leading high performance teams, and the organizational context of teams, with emphasis on teams in the virtual environment. Open to juniors and seniors.

- 20730 COM321-A Topics in Film Genres: Wiseguys & Private Eyes**
Prof. R. Leone
This course is an examination of two crime-related American film genres, featuring two quintessential character types: the gangster and the hardboiled detective. Students will be expected to do group presentation work as well as individual writing assignments.
- 20214 COM414-A Topics in Communication: Happiness & Communication**
Prof. M. Myers
The quality of your communication directly affects the quality of your life. This course explores how happiness and communication are intertwined. We will look at what recent research reveals about factors that promote happiness. Students will be invited to apply these strategies in everyday life. This course strives to educate both the Heart and the Mind.
- 20238 CRM295-A 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.
- 20237 CRM295-B 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.
- 20236 CRM295-C 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.
- 20543 ENG 200-A Introductory Topics in Literary Studies: Space, Place & Landscape**
Prof. L. Scales
How do the places we inhabit mark our lives and shape the stories we tell? How are power structures inscribed in spaces and places, and how do individuals shape the perception of place? What determines whether a person feels free or safe in a given place? In a global, commercial, networked world, is "place" still meaningful? This course examines literature from a variety of American geographies: city and wilderness, suburb and farm, plantation and reservation. We will consider how one's relationship to space and place can shape ideas of self, community, and nation.

20545 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.

20547 ENG 306-A Topics in British Literature, 1700-1900: Fictions of Englishness (WID)
Prof. S. Gracombe

This class fulfills the 1700-1900 distribution requirement for the English major/minor as well as the WID requirement.

"It just goes to show, you go back and back and it's still easier to find the correct Hoover bag than to find one pure person, one pure faith, on the globe. Do you think anybody is English? Really English? It's a fairy tale!"—Zadie Smith, 2001

What Zadie Smith calls the "fairy tale" of Englishness has long preoccupied fiction. Through readings of English novels, as well as Victorian periodicals, films, and contemporary scholarship, this course will examine that fairytale. Whose voices have been featured and whose ignored in this fairytale? How have writers both reflected and shaped theories of Englishness from the height of the British empire to Brexit? To answer these questions, we will trace cultural, territorial, religious, racial, and political aspects of Englishness. In particular, we will analyze representations of those envisioned as England's Others, be they Bangladeshi immigrants (*White Teeth*), Anglo-Jewish soldiers ("Anglicization"), or vampiric Eastern invaders (*Dracula*). Considering these Others both at home and abroad, our texts repeatedly ask whether Englishness can be acquired or only inherited. Can education, habits, and the consumption of cultural products, from books to food, succeed in making one truly English? Throughout the semester, we will also explore whether novels can imagine Englishness in unique ways because of specific generic conventions. If, as Edward Said declared, "nations themselves are narrations," what narrative strategies and formal conventions have novelists from Austen to Smith developed to write England into—or out of—existence?

20549 ENG344-A Topics in Creative Non-Fiction
Prof. A. Brooks

In this creative nonfiction course we will read distinct and recent work, which we will use as inspiration for our own writing. Our own writing experiments will explore different 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, or investigations into our own experience. Each student will produce a final personal essay or mini-memoir by the end of the course. We will do many smaller exercises that will lead up to the final project.

20552 ENG367-A Topics in 19th Century American Literature: American Gothic (Writing-in-the-Disciplines)
Prof. L. Scales

Why do we find pleasure in terror? Why do so many classic American stories take a frightening form? American culture is often depicted as obsessed by questions of origin and as haunted by its traumatic history—slavery, the Salem witch trials, the revolution, the Civil War. No mode explores these issues so well as the gothic, and no mode has met with such consistent popularity since its inception. This course will examine gothic fiction and its ghastly conventions as it develops into a distinctly American form. The texts on the syllabus will explore the terrors—both real and imaginary, both pleasurable and awful—of nineteenth and twentieth century America. Authors may include Charles Brockden Brown, Washington Irving, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Hannah Crafts, Edgar Allan Poe, Shirley Jackson, and Toni Morrison.

20554 ENG390-A Topics in Modernism: From Harlem to Hollywood (Writing-in-the-Disciplines)
Prof. D. Itzkovitz

Please see instructor for description.

NOTE: This course fulfills Writing-in-the-Disciplines.

- 20555 ENG422-A English Capstone Seminar: Future Fictions**
Prof. S. Cohen
 This seminar explores the urge and urgency of imagining the future. We will study a wide range of texts set in the future, including works of utopic fiction, Afrofuturism, climate (cli-fi), science (sci-fi), and speculative fiction from the 17th century to the present.
- 20041 GND200-A Topics in Gender & Sexuality Studies: Gender, Sexuality & Cinema**
Prof. W. Peek
 This course looks at the work of women in American film, both in front of and behind the camera. We will ask several questions: What patterns are apparent in Hollywood's representation of women on film? How do historical, cultural, and industrial factors shape the work of women directors? Are there particular stylistic or narrative strategies that characterize films directed by women? How does feminist film criticism help us to interpret films made by and about women?
- 20143 HCA411-A, Topics in Healthcare: Population Health Management**
Prof. S. Flaherty
 This course is intended to provide an introduction into Population Health and Population Health Management. Population Health was originally defined as "the health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group" by Kindig and Stoddard in 2003. Organizations like the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) have definitions that expand on these themes to include the analysis of the inputs and outputs of the overall health and well-being of a population. Inputs or determinants of health include policies, clinical care, public health, genetics, environmental factors, and the distribution of disparities in the population (CDC). Population Health can be analyzed on a number of levels, including country, state, county, city or community levels. This course will provide the student with a strong understanding of the foundations of Population Health concepts and methods. We will explore case studies of Population Health projects and policies.
- 20732 HSC230-A, Topics in Health Science: COVIDOLOGY**
Prof. M. Myers
 Human populations have been ravaged by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Continued proximity to animal habitats means more zoonotic outbreaks from coronaviruses or other pathogens in the future. COVIDOLOGY will explore animal reservoirs which harbor lethal pathogens; the ACE-2 receptor as entry point for SARS-CoV-2 infection; COVID-19's disease manifestations; nucleic acid amplification testing and other laboratory assays; epidemiologic methods to track viral spread; mutations and variants; vaccine development; immunologic responses to vaccination; and the government's role in the pandemic.
- 20340 PHL266-A, Topics in Philosophy: Dreams and Imagination**
Prof. E. McGushin
 What exactly is a dream? What is it like to be dreaming? Do our dreams have meanings? If so how can we interpret them properly? If not, why do they occur? Do they serve some purpose? Can we be sure that we are not dreaming right now? What is the difference between dreaming and perceiving? What is the relation between dreaming and imagining? Are dreams strictly psychological (personal, private) events or can they be social or political –like "The American Dream" or Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream"?
- 20341 PHL266-B, Topics in Philosophy: American Transcendentalism**
Prof. R. Capobianco
 An examination of the major themes of New England Transcendentalism and their imprint on the American mind and imagination.
- 20187 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.

20188 POL357-B Topics in Politics: Who Watches the Watchmen?

Prof. E. McSweeney

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.

20362 RST247-B Topics in Religious Approaches to Moral Issues : Gender and Religion

Prof. H. DuBois

This course defines religion and gender in dynamic, historical and theological terms. It is especially concerned with intersectional identities and their mutually impactful relationships with religious traditions. In other words, the course explores the question "how do identity and tradition transform one another?" Theoretical definitions of religion and gender will be paired with Christian and Muslim case studies that provide a glimpse into the everyday experiences and moral reasoning of communities and individuals as they navigate internally diverse traditions. Learning will be assessed through five short papers. Close reading and regular participation in class discussions are required.

20363 RST247-B 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.

20417 VPG320-A Topics in Graphic Design: Exhibit & Wayfinding Design

Prof. C. Morgan

In this advanced studio course, students are introduced to the environmental design specialty — the study of design as it relates to exhibit design, architectural graphics, signage, themed environments and wayfinding systems. Designed environments can help us navigate, learn something new, engage us, as well as even stop us in our tracks to admire our surroundings.

20446 VPS207-A 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.

20475 VPS207-B 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.