

CRN#

## Spring 2023 Descriptions for Topics Courses

### **40016 ANT 350-A Topics in Archaeology: Archaeology in Practice**

**Prof. Calvin Mires**

Building on Foundations in Archaeology, this class will provide a deeper examination on the theories and methods of archaeology. Students will have opportunities to apply and practice archaeological research, survey, and documentation through classroom exercises and applicable real-world sites. Pre-requisite: ANT 200 or permission of the instructor.

### **40768 BUS 420-A Topics in Accounting: Advanced Data Analytics**

**Prof. Marie Lopes**

The Data Analytics for Accountants course addresses and analyzes the impact of data analytics on accounting and auditing. The course emphasizes audit data analytics and the related testing, as well as the impact of data analytics on financial reporting. This course helps students develop an analytics mindset, while learning to prepare data for analysis, analyze it through data manipulation, and visualize and report it in order to address pertinent business problems and decisions.

### **40558 BUS 430-A Topics in Finance: Behavioral Finance**

**Prof. Michael 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.

### **40586 BUS 460-A, Topics in Management: Data Analysis Using Python**

**Prof. J. Sederberg**

This 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 and assignments, students will learn how to take a data analysis problem or question, prepare the data provided, and perform the analysis. This course is an excellent option for Data Analytics minors and MIS majors who wish to fulfill a programming course requirement. This course is not intended to teach students how to create software applications with Python (for that, students should take CSC 102), but instead it focuses on using Python to prepare data and conduct data analysis.

### **40830 BUS460-B Topics in Management: Sports Event Management**

**Prof. Lauren Hindman**

This experiential learning course will provide students with an understanding of the numerous aspects of Sport Event Management. Topics include: 1) budgeting, 2) operations, 3) marketing, 4) media relations, 5) public relations, 6) sponsorship, 7) registration, 8) hospitality, and 9) volunteer

management. Students will apply that knowledge in the planning and execution of a local sporting event.

#### **40207 COM323-A Topics in Film: Fairy Tale Films**

**Prof. Michael DelNero**

The fairy tale is a dominant cultural form in films from around the world. This course examines fairy tales in film across the cinematic landscape, including Disney animated films, Guillermo del Toro's use of fairy tales to explore childhood and war, and the spectacular worlds created by Hayao Miyazaki. It will also examine the many adaptations of fairy tales by Hans Christen Anderson and those collected by the Brothers Grimm.

#### **40208 COM 333-A Topics in Media Studies: Parasocial Relationships and the Art of the Influencer**

**Prof. Abigail Baldys**

Following the ubiquity of social media, parasocial relationships—the one-sided bonds we form with our favorite entertainers and influencers (i.e., personas)—shape an increasing part of our social interaction. Through an investigation of both social media influencers and current media studies research, we will explore why and how influencers create and maintain parasocial connection with their audience. In doing so, we will ask: does the prevalence of parasocial relationships reveal a social trend towards exploitation in human interaction? Or, alternatively, does it suggest that modern socialization demands we innovate our understanding of “relationship” at large? Further, who does a parasocial relationship benefit? Who does it harm? Where do we draw the boundaries for how we relate to creators through the screen?

#### **40080 ENG 200-A Introductory Topics in Literary Studies: Reading & Pleasure (Literature Cornerstone)**

**Prof. Laura Scales**

The percentage of Americans who read for pleasure declines sharply after childhood (NEA 2007). This course looks at the histories and practices of reading for pleasure. We will ask: what constitutes pleasure in literature? Should reading be fun or make us happy? What do we think of writing that makes us work hard? Why do we divide leisure reading from academic literature, or “highbrow” from “lowbrow”? Who has been included in and excluded from representations of literary pleasure? A key question of the class will be: how and why should one develop a reading practice and an intellectual life outside of the classroom? We will ask these questions through texts that include novels, poetry, children's literature, bestsellers, journalism, and personal narrative. We will practice forms of academic literary criticism and examine their history and purposes. Assignments will include both analytical essays and reflective writing. As the final project, students will create a “syllabus” of books, films, and readings for their future selves. This course fulfills the Literature cornerstone.

#### **40084 ENG 301-A Topics in Medieval Literature: Chaucer & Co. (Writing-in-the-Disciplines)**

**Prof. Elizabeth White**

Geoffrey Chaucer's influence on English literature is difficult to overstate. Like Shakespeare, Chaucer has been rewritten, recast, and reread in every period following his own. Today Chaucer is known primarily for *The Canterbury Tales*, which follows a company of 14th-century pilgrims on the road as they trade stories and banter. In this course, we will consider Chaucer's *Tales* alongside a number of later retellings. We will also attempt to see Chaucer not as a monolith but as a person influenced by his own cultural moment, caught up in a network of texts and histories. So, in addition to examining works that Chaucer inspired, we will read authors who inspired him. Works to be studied include Marie de France's fables, Shakespeare's *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, the only lifetime exhibition of William Blake, the Lee sisters' *Canterbury Tales*, stories from Ovid and Boccaccio, satire by John Dryden, and modern

adaptations for the screen. No prior knowledge of Middle English is expected. This course fulfills the Writing-in-the-Disciplines requirement.

**40087 ENG 345-A Topics in Creative Writing: Fiction II**

**Prof. Jared Green**

This advanced course is designed to help more experienced creative writers work on long-form short fiction, culminating in a short collection or a novella-length project. We will explore many different styles, forms, and structures through the work of established and emerging writers who offer a diverse range of voices, approaches, and perspectives. Along the way, we will develop our own voices with writing exercises and workshops that encourage experimentation and creative risk-taking.

**40683 ENG 390-A Topics in Modernism: The Age of Information (Writing-in-the-Disciplines)**

**Prof. Jared Green**

This course explores the moral, ethical, and philosophical questions posed by the rise, spread, and domination of the modern information state. Particular areas of focus will include social networking, information theory, surveillance and social control, the cyborg body, and artificial intelligence, among other topics. Readings will be drawn from the following authors: Jorge Luis Borges, Edgar Allan Poe, Bram Stoker, Thomas Pynchon, Jeanette Winterson, Michael Joyce, William Gibson, and Patricia Lockwood

**40095 ENG 422-A English Capstone Seminar: Education and American Culture**

**Prof. Daniel Itzkovitz**

This Capstone Seminar will be an opportunity to consider your own educational journey in the context of contemporary American politics and culture.

**40689 ENV376-A Topics in Environmental Science: Climate Change Policy**

**Prof. Mark Agana**

When it became evident that the issue of climate change needed to be acted upon, it was projected as a global scale problem – “climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all” (Pope Francis, 2015) – and hence, requires a global scale solution. A competing narrative, on the other hand, has been the ‘think globally and act locally’ rhetoric; a call for climate change to be viewed as a global problem, but requires more local action in terms of its mitigation and adaptation. This course examines the politics and policies occurring at the various levels of government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare populations and infrastructure for the impacts of climate change through adaptation.

**40741 HSC230-A Topics in Health Science: Yoga: Structure and Function in Health**

**Prof. Katharine Harris**

Yoga as a form of well-being has been practiced by human beings for more than 10,000 years. Its popularity has never been so pervasive in mainstream life in the U.S. as it is estimated that 1 out of 3 Americans have tried yoga. This course covers the means of well-being through a classical yogic practice beginning with ethical principles of self and in interacting with others. The principles will be of benefit to students in their everyday experiences but will also serve them in workplace environments, especially in healthcare related positions. The anatomy, physiology, and families of poses are explored. Special topics include poses for mild COVID-19 infection and yoga as a means of whole health in marginalized populations. Further topics will explore primary scientific literature on yoga in emotional self-regulation for children, effects on the adult brain, stress management, balance, smoking cessation, and chronic diseases such as cancer. Experiential learning is a considerable component of the course to foster an

understanding of one's own self in order to be of service to others. Pre-requisites/Restrictions: BIO 203. Co-Requisite: BIO 204.

### **PHL266-A Topics in Philosophy: Mindfulness and Indian Philosophy**

**Prof. Anna Lannstrom**

In this class, we'll practice mindfulness, exploring ways to use meditation (and other techniques like yoga) to slow down, center, and balance our priorities better.

We'll also reflect deeply on our practice. Yoga, meditation, and mindfulness developed thousands of years ago as part of Hindu and Buddhist traditions. We'll study those traditions and we'll ask: Is it OK for people who aren't Buddhist or Hindu to practice them, or is that a disrespectful appropriation of other people's religion?

We'll

- study Buddhist and Hindu worldviews, trying to understand them on their own terms.
- compare and assess different types of practice.
- weigh the benefits and the costs of our Western embrace of yoga and meditation.
- ask why Hindu- and Buddhist-based views have become so popular in the West. Do they offer better ways of being spiritual and of thinking about our bodies and ourselves?

### **40723 PHL266-B Topics in Philosophy: Rock Climbing and Philosophy**

**Prof. Megan Mitchell**

Fear and Freedom. Knots and Knowledge. Rock climbing has lots to teach us about ourselves and the world. From perennial questions like the relationship between freedom and risk to more modern ones about gender divisions in sports, in this class rock climbing will serve as a starting point for deep discussions on a range of philosophical questions. But no one can understand what climbing has to offer without tying-in. This course will emphasize participatory learning and will meet regularly at the local climbing gym. No previous climbing experience required. A fee of \$230 will be applied to each student's Spring 2023 tuition bill, to cover the cost of membership at a local climbing gym and rental equipment for the semester. Transportation to the gym, for those who need it, will be arranged but may carry an additional fee.

### **40738 SOC 295-A Topics in Sociology: Black Feminist Thought**

**Prof. Joanna Ravello Goods**

This course will explore the experiences and perspectives of Black women in the U.S. as conceptualized in Black feminist thought. Using a variety of disciplines (e.g., literature, history, politics, music, art, etc.) the course will present common definitions and concepts in Black feminist thought; describe the genesis of Black feminism and Black feminist thought including key figures that shape discourses; and juxtapose the distinguishing features of Black feminist thought with other social justice perspectives and activist traditions. Cross-listed with GND 200.

### **40739 SOC 295-B Topics in Sociology: The Opioid Epidemic & Societal Response**

**Prof. Hillary DuBois & Prof. Amanda Sandoval**

"You poisoned our lives and had the audacity to blame us for dying." In 2021 alone, there were over 100,000 individuals that lost their lives to an opioid related overdose in the United States. There continues to be a stigma around those struggling with opioid use disorder in our society, despite the truth behind where it all began. Students will learn about the history of the opioid epidemic, how it started, and effective solutions happening on a local, state and national level to address it. Students will

get the opportunity to hear from experts in the field, as well as read stories from victims and their families.

**40818 VPH 229-A Topics in Non Western Art: Buddhist Art in Asia (History Cornerstone)**

**Prof. Jennifer McIntire**

Buddhist Art in Asia will focus on Buddhism's origins in India as well as the geographical movement of religion and art to China, Korea and Japan. You will learn what motivated people to create Buddhist art and gain a better understanding of the role of art in Buddhist religious practices. We will also examine how Buddhist art was employed for political empowerment and personal merit. This course fulfills the History cornerstone.

**40660 VPS 207-A Special Projects Mixed Media**

**Prof. David Kinsey**

Beginning and intermediate art students will expand upon their artistic expressions by exploring various mixed media and combinations of artistic techniques such as drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, and sculpture. This course will encourage experimentation and risk taking. No previous artistic experience is necessary.

**40808 VPS 312-A Topics in Contemporary Photography: Landscape Photography**

**Prof. Adam Lampton**

This digital photography class will focus on the development of a personal project centered around the idea of landscape. Learn intermediate photography skills while exploring your interests in travel, photography and nature. Some local day trips will be scheduled as part of class time.

**40843 VPT 331-A Topics in Theatre I: Voice and Movement**

**Prof. Aubrey Elson**

This course focuses on the development of physical and vocal self-awareness, teaching students to recognize and control their physical and energetic presence, whether onstage or off. Students are trained to identify programmed patterns of behavior and build somatic awareness. The course employs both intellectual and experiential methodology to allow students to experience and master the following: Alexander Technique, Viewpoints, Laban, Grotowski, Linklater, Fitzmaurice, and Rodenburg. Students will build a tool kit of various techniques to communicate effectively in performance, presentations, interviews, etc. In addition, the course explores breath work, meditation, yoga, and basic anatomy.

**40810 VPT 332-A Topics in Theatre II: Stage Combat**

**Prof. Matthew Greene**

This course examines and applies the fundamental approach to the art of stage combat, stressing principles of safety, form, choreographic conception and execution. The class includes the exploration of a variety of combat disciplines (including unarmed, single sword, quarterstaff and knife). Emphasis is on an eventual application in a performance environment.