

CRN# Spring 2024 Descriptions for Topics Courses

41070 AMS 320-A/GND 300-A Topics in American Studies: American Masculinities

Prof. A. Opitz

In this course we explore the various forms of masculinity in American culture, from hegemonic (straight, white, cis) to non- hegemonic (black, gender queer, trans and female masculinities). We will ask what narratives men are taught to follow, and how these narratives get produced, reproduced, and, ultimately, contested. Have notions of masculinity, manhood, and maleness changed historically, and what elements have remained the same (hegemony, anyone?!)? What does masculinity look like at different intersections of race, sexuality, class, ethnicity, and nationality? How are African American or Asian American men, both straight and queer, represented in the media? How have they resisted those representations? With the help of social, cultural, and historical theories we learn to use critical concepts/language, such as hegemonic masculinity, homosexual panic, guy code, tough bodies, black bodies and violence, and female masculinity. The course material typically includes novels, memoirs, short stories, plays, classical Hollywood films, independent movies and documentaries, and a range of critical essays on men, manliness, masculinity, and power.

Cross listed class. Register under AMS320-A (CRN: 41070).

40016 ANT 350-A/SOC 295-A, Topics in Anthropology: Sports, Race, Justice

Prof. S. Thangaraj

The class explores how sport is one important site to manage and construct race and gender. By understanding how power, resistance, desires, pleasure, and justice take shape through sporting cultures, we get a window to understanding the workings of race and gender. Through this class, students will understand the rituals and institutions that play a key role in constructing sport. The class explores how sport is part of social life and yet distinctive in its own right. This is a class that theoretically examines sport primarily in the US with a few cases of sport across the globe.

Cross listed class. Register under SOC295-A (CRN: 40738).

41125 ANT 350-B, Topics in Anthropology: Archaeology in Practice

Prof. C. 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.

41262 ANT 350-C/BIO 200-D, Topics in Anthropology: Human Sex Differences: Behavior, Biology, Ecology

Prof. A. Uhl

Sex and gender are complicated – chromosomal, physiological, neurological, morphological, and behavioral measures are rarely binary and may not be aligned according to prevalent cultural ideologies within individuals. This course will investigate variation in modern humans adopting an evolutionary, adaptive approach to investigate sex differences and similarities in human behavior, physiology, and cognition from developmental, mechanistic, and phylogenetic perspectives. Topics include sex differences in aggression, mate choice, parenting, affiliation, and cognition. The course is primarily a seminar, allowing students to investigate literature from anthropology, biology, and gender studies and develop scientific communication skills. The course has no pre-requisites and is open to students of all majors.

Fulfills Natural Scientific Inquiry. Cross listed class. Register under BIO200-D (CRN: 41267).

41071 BIO 200-A, Topics in Biology: Plants and People
Prof. K. Putkus

This course introduces students to general topics in botany and the central dependency of all animals (including man) upon plants. In this course, you will learn the basics of plant anatomy and morphology – how are plants put together and how plant structures are organized. More importantly, you will gain an appreciation for the stunning diversity of the plant kingdom and the critical importance of plants to human existence.

Fulfills Natural Scientific Inquiry.

41072 BIO 200-B, Topics in Biology: Human Sex Differences: Behavior, Biology, Ecology
Prof. A. Uhl

Sex and gender are complicated – chromosomal, physiological, neurological, morphological, and behavioral measures are rarely binary and may not be aligned according to prevalent cultural ideologies within individuals. This course will investigate variation in modern humans adopting an evolutionary, adaptive approach to investigate sex differences and similarities in human behavior, physiology, and cognition from developmental, mechanistic, and phylogenetic perspectives. Topics include sex differences in aggression, mate choice, parenting, affiliation, and cognition. The course is primarily a seminar, allowing students to investigate literature from anthropology, biology, and gender studies and develop scientific communication skills. The course has no pre-requisites and is open to students of all majors.

Fulfills Natural Scientific Inquiry.

41073 BIO 200-C, Topics in Biology: Health and Science Communication
TBA

Please see department for more information.

40768 BUS 420-A Topics in Accounting: Advanced Data Analytics for Accountants
Prof. M. 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. 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.

41250 BUS 430-B Topics in Finance: Applications of FinTech
Prof. M. Nebiogullari

FinTech is a fast growing sector that encompasses use of technology in the financial services industry. Examples include personal finance (peer-to-peer lending, digital banking), digital currencies, roboadvisors, algorithmic trading, InsurTech and digital payments. This course aims to equip the students with the programming skills needed to succeed in the finance sector. The course will introduce real-world fintech

applications using Python. We will start with data analysis and data visualization. We will then work on a stock price prediction model, learn to perform a Monte Carlo simulation for portfolio optimization, and build and test algorithmic trading models. Other topics will include building and testing credit scoring models and building a blockchain.

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.

40207 COM323-A, Topics in Film: Independent Cinema

Prof. M. DelNero

This course sets out to determine what is meant, in a variety of contexts, by the term “independent cinema.” The term has been used as a buzzword, in marketing campaigns, and as a viable category of cinema that works differently from traditional Hollywood fare.

40208 COM333-A, Topics in Media Studies: Social Media and Body Image

Prof. A. Baldys

As Naomi Wolf (1990) hypothesized, “the beauty myth is always actually prescribing behavior and not appearance.” Analyzing social media, we will consider how beauty standards teach us how to behave and what consequences that behavior has for bodies themselves. By exploring digital content, interactions, trends, and contemporary research, we will trace topics such as beauty standards, “thinspiration,” “fitspo,” fatphobia, the body positivity movement, ageism, longevity, photoshop, and plastic surgery while considering how these topics intersect with concerns of identity (such as race, gender, and sexuality). Through our work during the semester, we will ask: what are the consequences of digital space and online performance for our bodies?

41080 COM414-A, Topics in Communication: Rhetoric of Civil Rights Movement

Prof. A. Mattina

The American Civil Rights movement spans the time period from immediately after the Civil War until our current day. In this class we will examine the rhetorical, or persuasive, strategies employed by both individuals such as Frederick Douglass and Fannie Lou Hamer to organizations such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Black Lives Matters.

41257 COM414-OA, Topics in Communication: Crisis Communication

Prof. K. Whitten

This course provides students with a framework for understanding crisis communication management by learning crisis communication theories and analyzing real-world crisis case studies.

Class will be offered online.

41153 ENG221-A, Introductory Topics in Digital Humanities (Literature Cornerstone)

Prof. S. Cohen

This course serves as an introduction to digital methods of humanistic inquiry. Over the course of the term, we will experiment with digital tools (computers, digital media, databases, algorithms, artificial intelligence) to enhance our study and appreciation of texts and artifacts. We will learn how texts exist and work in the digital age. We will examine new and emerging models for interpretation. Much of our time together will take the form of hands-on, lab-styled experimentation with digital tools. We will clean,

mine, and encode texts, making them machine readable. We will build and refine custom datasets. We will use natural language processing and word vectors to visualize large datasets and analyze multi-million-word corpora. At the same time, we will discuss the aesthetic and critical dimensions of this work. Advanced knowledge of computers is not required; rather, a willingness to learn and experiment is all that is needed. Please reach out to scohen@stonehill.edu if you have any questions about the course.

Fulfills Literature Cornerstone.

41153 ENG 247-A, Topics in Catholicism and Literature: Christian Mysticism and Modern Literature
Fr. G. Piggford, CSC

This course examines contemplative traditions including centering prayer, lectio divina, and the spiritual exercises in relation to modern and contemporary literature.

41155 ENG 306-A, Topics in British Literature, 1700-1900: Jane Austen (Writing-in-the-Disciplines)
Prof. M. Borushko

This WID course is a detailed study of all of Jane Austen's major novels as well as of their continued relevance to the contemporary world in the form of film adaptations.

40086 ENG 344-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.

40087 ENG 345-A, Topics in Creative Writing: Fiction II
Prof. A. Brooks

This advanced course is designed to help more experienced creative writers work on long-form short fiction, culminating in a short collection or a novellette-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.

41156 ENG 366-A, Topics in Twentieth Century American Literature: Native American Literature
Prof. A. Opitz

In this course we will look at how contemporary Native American writers and filmmakers address the central themes and questions of the Native American literary canon: the effects of bicultural or "mixed-blood" identity and assimilation policies on the relations between self and community; the importance of storytelling traditions to Native cultural and spiritual sovereignty; the importance of place, land relations and land rights; cultural change and survival; and the vexing problem of "authenticity." We'll investigate these topics by studying the work produced from the late 1960s until now—for example, work by Leslie Marmon Silko (Laguna Pueblo), N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa), James Welch (Blackfeet/Gros Ventre), Joy Harjo (Mvskoke; former Poet Laureate of the US!), Louise Erdrich (Ojibwe), David Treuer (Ojibwe), Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho), Thomas King (Cherokee), and Sterlin Harjo (Seminole).

40683 ENG 390-A, Topics in Modernism: Mindscapes: Altered States, Surreal Visions: From Surrealism to Punk to AI (Writing-in-the-Disciplines)
Prof. J. Green

In this course we'll take a wild and deeply strange ride through the birth of Surrealism in the early 20th Century to the present-day legacies of this radical redefinition of what reality means and how it is experienced and expressed. We'll trace its origins in early psychoanalytic theory and Dadaism through its heyday in Paris in the 1920s and then its spread as a global literary and artistic form. Along the way, we'll look at literature, visual art, and cinema from such key figures as André Breton, Marcel Duchamp, Salvador Dalí, René Magritte, Frida Kahlo, and Aimé Césaire, among others. We will then explore the influence of Surrealism on the aesthetic and political movements that followed in its wake, including

Situationism, OULIPO, punk rock, and street art. Eventually we'll land in our present moment with text-to-image AI, Chat-GPT, VR, and our decidedly surreal digital lives.

NOTE: This course is partnered with VPS 250, a weekly creative lab that allows students to create visual art and other expressive responses using a variety of AI tools. Students are encouraged, but not required, to take VPS 250 (although it would be the best experience of the course if they do!)

40095 ENG422-A, Capstone Seminar: Iconology: Studies in Word & Image
Prof. J. Green

In *Ars poetica*, the Roman poet Horace coined the phrase *Ut pictura poesis*, or “as is painting, so is poetry,” to suggest that visual and verbal art were compatible and equally valid sources of knowledge about the world. Despite Horace’s proclamation of the fundamental kinship between the arts, however, the debate over whether painting and poetry (or more broadly, the visual and the verbal) are indeed “Sister Arts” or are instead irreconcilably different forms, has remained surprisingly vigorous well into the era of digital media, shaping ideas about what it means to see, to know, to express, to interpret, and to be. This interdisciplinary seminar will challenge students to examine problems of representation in literature and the visual arts—including sculpture, painting, photography, cinema, and new media—by focusing on the curious and complex relationship between words about images and images about words. We will begin with a look at some of the ancient world’s foundational statements about representation and then proceed to the early modern period in Italy and England, through the 18th C. German Enlightenment, followed by 19th century French and British aesthetics and 20th-21st century modernist and postmodernist revisions of this ancient debate. Along the way, students will take on these various perspectives through their own critical and creative writing. Visual artists to be considered may include da Vinci, Atget, Picasso, Lissitzky, Duchamp, Magritte, Warhol, Polke, Baldessari, Kruger, and Holzer, among others. Theoretical and critical materials will be drawn from Plato, Aristotle, Horace, Lessing, Greenberg, Mitchell, Barthes, Foucault, Baudrillard, Jameson, and Krauss. Literature will include work by John Keats, Elizabeth Barrett, Edgar Allan Poe, Honoré de Balzac, Émile Zola, Walter Pater, Oscar Wilde, Franz Kafka, W.G. Sebald, Robert Coover, Yasmina Reza and Orhan Pamuk. The seminar may also involve a visit to the MFA or ICA in Boston.

40741 HSC230-A Topics in Health Science: Yoga: Structure and Function in Health
Prof. K. 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.

41126 HSC 230-B, Topics in Health Science: Biomechanics
Prof. E. Fontes

Please see instructor for description.

40266 HIS 362-A, World History Seminar: The Armenian Genocide and the Fall of the Ottoman Empire
Prof. T. Gernes

An in-depth look, through documentary history, memoir, literature, and film, at the genocide of Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, 1894 – 1924. The story begins as violence sweeps across

Anatolia, targeting the region's Christian minorities, and concludes with the assassination of Young Turk leaders in Germany in the 1920s. In this tumultuous period of World War and revolution, we will explore response of the United States to this crisis, which marks the birth of the modern international humanitarian movement, in the global context of genocide in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

40786 JRN 330-A, Topics in Journalism: The God Beat: Covering Catholicism in a Secular World

Prof. B. Fraga

Students will examine Catholic traditions, controversies and politics within the Church concerning traditions and how to report and write about faith in the press. Pre-requisite: JRN100.

Fulfills Catholic Intellectual Traditions.

41136 MTH 399-A, Topics in Mathematics: Financial Mathematics

Prof. H. Todt

Interest Theory and its Applications; Annuities; Loans; Bonds; General Cash Flows, Portfolios, and Asset Liability Management. Pre-requisite: MTH 126.

41175 PHL 266-A, Topics in Philosophy: Modern Philosophy

Prof. C. Mekios

This course provides a survey of early modern European philosophy. It seeks to introduce students to the works of some of the most eminent thinkers of the 17th and 18th centuries, including Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume.

40723 PHL 266-B Topics in Philosophy: Rock Climbing and Philosophy

Prof. M. 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. Transportation will be arranged.

40739 SOC 295-B, Topics in Sociology: The Opioid Epidemic

Prof. H. Farquharson

"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.

41220 VPD 260-A, Topics in Dance: Dance Pedagogy

TBA

Please see the department for more information.