

CRN#**Spring 2019 Descriptions for Topics Courses****40275 AMS 320-A/IND 357-A Topics in American Studies: Politics of Memory in Ethnic America****Prof. A. Opitz**

When looking at the experiences of communities of color in the United States we often see representations that seem incomplete, somehow distorted, or at times barely even visible. What is left out or forgotten? What gets remembered and by whom? We will analyze how memories and histories—or their absence—get constructed and contested in various narrative and visual media, such as fiction, essays, historical accounts, photography, personal testimony, film, as well as museums and memorials. The course is divided into five units focused on the legacies of colonialism for Native Americans, the experience of Japanese American internment, representations of slavery, as well as the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina in New Orleans and Maria in Puerto Rico, and the memorialization of 9/11, and the role all of them play in the larger American national imagination (or not). Possible field trip destinations: Boston and NYC.

NOTE: This course is cross-listed with IND 357-A, 40276. Students register under AMS 320-A, 40275.

40699 ANT 350-A Topics in Anthropology: Human Geography**Prof. J. Green**

Human geography focuses on the relationship between people and the environment. At its very core human geography is interdisciplinary and seeks to understand the interconnectivity of environment, place, culture, and social relations. Why do certain spaces evoke some of humanity's most basic fears? What is the environment's role in social and cultural development? What does it mean to live in a bordered world? Can space and place be used to better understand privilege? We will explore these questions, and more, through an in-depth examination of human geography's seminal works, major theories, and diverse methodologies.

40679 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.

40684 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.

40134 COM 323-A Topics in Film: Independent Cinema**Prof. M. DeNero**

Our examination of independent cinema will take us on a journey starting in the 1970's, where we'll meet filmmakers such as John Sayles, Chantal Ackerman and Nick Cassavetes, through the 1990's, where young filmmakers such as Spike Lee (*Do the Right Thing*), Quentin Tarantino (*Pulp Fiction*), and Jane Campion (*The Piano*) presented bold new visions of what cinema could do. We'll also look at filmmakers from the past ten years including Steve McQueen (*12 Years a Slave*), Sean Baker (*The Florida Project*), Greta Gerwig (*Ladybird*) and Barry Jenkins (*Midnight*). Over the duration of the course, we'll examine how independent cinema has challenged and often subverted mainstream Hollywood representations of race, class, gender and sexuality. Further, we'll come to understand how the term "Independent Cinema" has been used, and what it encompasses in terms of artistic intent, technological innovation, and guerilla marketing.

Through screenings, presentations, projects and discussions, we'll examine how independent cinema works at the nexus of commercial, aesthetic, technological and artistic forces.

- 40135 COM 333-A Topics in Mediated Communication: Children and Media**
Prof. A. Paradise
 This course examines a variety of issues pertaining to children's (and teens') use and understanding of media, particularly screen media (i.e., television, film, Internet and gaming). We address historical and contemporary issues in youth media, including stereotypes, violence, advertising, education, regulation, new technology and media literacy.
- 40136 COM 414-A Special Topics in Communication: Sports Communication**
Prof. Querzoli
 Media coverage of the sporting world fuels the enthusiasts' interests. Sports Communication explores how sports are delivered to the consumer through the different forms of media. This course takes a deeper look into the storytellers of the sporting world.
- 40241 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.
- 40242 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 truancies, guardianships, and juvenile delinquencies.
- 40293 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.
- 40295 ENG 220-A Introduction to Topics in Literature: Storytelling in New Media**
Prof. W. Peek
 This course offers an investigation of the art of storytelling in media forms developed or popularized within the last hundred years: film; television; comics; animation; podcasts; and web series. Our interest will be primarily formal; that is, we will focus on the forms artists choose in telling their stories, including the move toward formal innovation in narrative. We will also look at lyric expression in poetry and film, what are often referred to in film as non-narrative or avant-garde forms, to understand the differences among various modes of expression.
[NOTE: This course is part of LC 339-A. Students must take ENG220-B along with LC 339-A, 40317 and COM220-A, 40127.](#)
- 40703 ENG 220-B Introduction to Topics in Literature: Romanticism and How to Live**
Prof. M. Borushko
 This literature course reads major texts of the Romantic Age as explorations of paths toward the good life, broadly and diversely construed. Works by authors such as Blake, Wordsworth, Godwin, the Shelleys, Keats, and Austen will be read and analyzed in terms of the insights they provide on large and relevant topics such as justice, science, beauty, violence, among others; while responses to these Romantic texts from the Victorian Age through the present will be considered as well. We will not only learn to read Romantic texts carefully and thoroughly, but we will also begin to grasp the legacy of Romanticism in the present -- such as, for example, how Godwin's dilemma in "Political Justice" (whom would you save from a burning house if you had to choose between X and Y) provides the opening set-piece for Michael Sandel's influential contemporary exploration of justice.

40296 ENG 221-A Introductory Topics in Digital Humanities: Human 3.0: Digital Utopias/Digital Disasters**Prof. J. Green**

Have information technologies and the digital revolution brought us to the threshold of unprecedented connectivity, knowledge, prosperity, and freedom or are we on the verge of a digital dystopia? Are we evolving upward into a newly technologically-mediated species or disintegrating into narcissistic, distracted, and information-overloaded prisoners of technology? Is the Singularity on its way—and is that a good thing if it is? This course examines both utopian visions of the Digital Age and the anxieties that accompany this epochal shift in human communication and social organization. We'll begin in the 1980s, with the mass-marketing of the personal computer, chart the cultural watershed of the Internet's rise throughout the 1990s, and land in our present moment of ubiquitous smartphones, Facebook's global dominance, wearable/implantable tech, election hacking, WikiLeaks, and NSA surveillance. We will explore questions of social justice and the digital divide, transhumanism, digital art and culture, and what it means to be a twenty-first century citizen. Texts to be considered may include William Gibson's *Neuromancer*, Richard Powers' *Galatea 2.2*, Thomas Pynchon's *Bleeding Edge*, Dave Eggers' *The Circle*, Walter Mosley's *Futureland*, and Anne Washburns' *Mr. Burns*. Our ideas will be shaped by readings of critics and theorists such as Jaron Lanier, Ray Kurzweil, Douglas Rushkoff, Richard Barbrook, Jean-Francois Lyotard, and Paul Virilio.

40300 ENG 304-A Topics in Early Modern Literature: Sexual Violence in Early Modern Literature (WID)**Prof. H. Duncan**

This is a "Historical and Cultural Contexts" course that covers the "Literature Prior to 1700 area. The "me too" movement aims to "disrupt the systems that allow for the global proliferation of sexual violence" ("Vision" <https://metoomvmt.org>). In this course we will study the representation of sexual violence in early modern literature and culture and ask questions about the social, literary, economic, and cultural structures (in place then and, in some cases, persisting into our own time) that allowed for—and even cultivated—sexual violence. The pervasive image of rape in western literature ought to disturb us as readers, and, in response, we will engage with Catherine McKinnon's claim that "rape is indigenous, not exceptional, to women's social condition." We read Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* and *Measure for Measure* as well as his poem "The Rape of Lucrece"; we engage with sections from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, a foundational text not only for Shakespeare but most early modern writers. Among the other writers/works likely to appear on the syllabus are: John Donne (various poems); John Webster (*The Duchess of Malfi*); Edmund Spenser (excerpts from *The Fairie Queen*); Aphra Behn (*Love-Letters Between a Nobleman and his Sister*).

NOTE: [This course fulfills Writing-in-the-Disciplines.](#)

40302 ENG 344-A Topics in Creative Non-Fiction**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*.

40303 ENG 346-A Topics in Creative Writing: Poetry II**Prof. A. Brooks**

This course allows students to further develop the skills acquired in the beginning poetry workshop by concentrating on more complex aspects of poetic practice. Students will work on composing and revising their own poetry, critiquing peer work in a workshop setting, and reading the work of contemporary poets. Each student will spend the semester working towards creating a handmade chapbook of their work.

40301 ENG 306-A Topics in British Literature: British Novel and Psychology (WID)**Prof. S. Gracombe**

Despite Virginia Woolf's claim that novelists mostly ignored the "dark regions of psychology" before 1900, the workings of the mind have always been of central concern to the novel. It's no coincidence that the rise of the novel as a literary genre coincides with the rise of what we now call the discipline of psychology. Before Freud and Jung, not to mention Dr. Phil, a variety of philosophers, doctors, scientists, religious figures, and writers took up psychological questions, ones that still preoccupy us today: what is the relationship between the mind and the body? How much control do we have over our own personality? Why do we repeat or repress certain experiences, especially the traumas of love and war? Who should treat mental illness and how? This course will examine the way British novelists from 1800-1920 engaged with these same questions. In particular, we will explore how novelists addressed memory and sexuality. We will also explore how writers developed new narrative techniques to capture the complex patterns of interiority on the printed page.

NOTE: [This course fulfills Writing-in-the-Disciplines.](#)

40304 ENG 367-A Topics in 19th Century American Literature: American Gothic (WID)**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—the Salem witch trials, the revolution, slavery, 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 travel through a range of gothic landscapes as we explore the terrors—both real and imaginary, both pleasurable and awful—of American literature.

40307 ENG 390-A Topics in Modernism: Pen of Light: Photography and Literature (WID)**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, including Henry Fox Talbot, Louis Daguerre, and Nadar. 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 Honoré de Balzac, Walter Benjamin, Susan Sontag, Roland Barthes, and Erroll Morris, among others. In conversation with these materials will be literature that uses photography to blur the line between objective and subjective reality, such as Julio Cortázar's "Blow Up", Marguerite Duras' *The Lover*, André Breton's *Nadja*, Richard Powers' *Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance*, Michael Ondaatje's *Running in the Family*, and W.G. Sebald's *Austerlitz*. Other authors to be considered may include Poe, Hawthorne, Emerson, Baudelaire, Proust, and Isherwood.

[*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, 40315 and ENG271, 40717.*](#)

40308 ENG 422-A English Capstone Seminar: Race, Gender, Modernism**Prof. G. Piggford**

An exploration of intersectionality, this course focuses on race and gender as these inform literary practice in U.S. and British modernism. The course includes contemporaneous theoretical writing such as W.E.B. DuBois on the "color line" and Virginia Woolf on "androgyny."

40158 ENV 375-A Topics in Environmental Science: Environmental Resource Management**Prof. T. D'Avanzo**

Scientific and policy issues common to a range of resource management planning activities. Cases in the management of environmental resources in New England, specifically surface water quality, forests, and fisheries. In teams, students will apply the principles learned to develop novel resource management plans. The course is designed for environmental science or studies majors; other students may be admitted with permission of instructor.

[*NOTE: This course has a prerequisite of ENV200.*](#)

40696 ENV 376-A Topics in Environmental Science: Coastal Pacific Northwest**Prof. TBA**

After preparing on campus, students will fly to Portland, Oregon when finals end, spending 10 days in Oregon and northern California, experiencing a wide variety of ecological principles in ecosystems shaped by a 15-fold difference in annual precipitation from the coastal region to the high desert. Professor & students will travel by van, camping along the way; you must be able to hike five miles and willing to put in long days of learning.

40762 GND 300-A Topics in Gender & Sexuality Studies: LGBTQ in Film and Television**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.

40544 HCA 411-A Topics in Healthcare: Data Management Using STATA**Prof. P. Yu**

Stata is a statistical software package that is widely used for data management and analysis. It's critical to have some data management and programming skills in the workplace nowadays. The course intends to introduce you to the basic programming using Stata, to provide guidance on data management and analysis for health-related research. Through the course, you can become familiar with the Stata software package, create simple datasets, create variables, make graphs and tables, conduct basic descriptive and inferential statistics. You will be able to implement such skills to work on a health-related research project using an existing dataset. The course is designed for students who have no or little experience using a statistical software package.

40545 HCA 411-B Topics in Healthcare: Community-Based Organizations and Population Health Management**Prof. J. Greene**

This course will introduce the concept of Population Health Management through the lens of community health issues. We will explore the root causes and illness and disease within communities and then identify risk prevention and health promotion practices occurring within the government, state and local municipalities.

40088 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.

40557 IND 320-A Topics in Art Therapy: Expressive Modalities**Prof. R. Arnold**

In this intensive class, students will be introduced to the varied approaches expressive therapists are using in clinical situations such as movement, music, and visual art. Students will not be working with clinical populations but will explore the potential for art and art therapy led by a professional in the field.

40715 IND 357-B 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-B along with PHL 210-A, 40166 and LC 203-A, 40168.

40404 POL 357-A Topics in Politics: Politics of Ethnically Divided Societies**Prof. K. Buckman**

This course explores the relationship between ethnic diversity and the emergence of political pressures for political and economic reform. We look at diverse cases at different levels of economic and political development. Among the country cases we consider are: Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, and Yemen. In some instances, ethnic tensions have led to stable constitutional settlements and in others these tensions have not produced stable political outcomes.

NOTE: This course is part of LC 222-A but is also open to non-LC students. To register for the full LC, students must take LC 222-A, 40279 and CRM412-A, 40252.

40398 POL 357-B Topics in Politics: Political Islam**Prof. A. Mhajne**

Since the 9/11 attacks, political debates about the role of Islam have emerged as key political questions in the United States and Europe, influencing policies in areas ranging from surveillance to immigration and education. This course focuses on Islamic and Islamist political movements in the Middle East, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia. Who are the Islamists? Is Islam compatible with democracy? What is Shari'a? What are their intellectual origins? How should we understand their relationship to colonialism, nationalism, democracy, liberalism, development, and women and gender? How have Islamic political movements evolved over time? We will explore these questions historically and in comparative perspective by drawing on scholarship from political science, Islamic

studies, sociology, anthropology, and history. We examine specific cases such as the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the DJP in Morocco, and Elnnahda in Tunisia. We also cover ISIS, Hamas, and Hezbollah. By the end of the course, students should have a better understanding of political Islam. As such, it is designed to educate students about the political actors, processes, and institutions in the Muslim World. Another objective is to teach students the main tenets of Muslim politics and make them conscious citizens who can sort out the abundant information about this topic and critically evaluate it.

40725 REL 247-A Topics in Religious Approaches to Moral Issues: Christian Theology and the Global World

Prof. Ullucci

This course will address a variety of themes within Christian theology. Each theme will be approached with a view to its biblical roots and historical development, its critical reception and restatement in the modern period, and its significance for theological reflection on the contemporary global world.

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

40722 SOC 425-A Seminar: Critical Issues in Contemporary Society

Prof. C. Dolgon

This course will look at the culture and politics of urban development in the United States as reflected in film. While some are documentaries that offer a non-fiction perspective on how urban politics and inequalities function through social policy (such as transportation and labor) or popular culture (such as sports and music), most are fictional texts that will require more sophisticated and interdisciplinary readings. The course will involve weekly films and discussions as well as small group discussions outside of class. Assignments will include movie reviews and a final film project that may be produced or simply developed as screenplay or documentary "treatment."

40264 SOC 295-A Topics in Sociology: Consumer Society and American Families

Prof. C. Bowman

The United States is considered a "consumer society." Consumerism permeates our daily lives, yet its influence on social class structure and institutions such as the family is often overlooked. This course grapples with the effects of material consumption on children and families. We will consider topics such as the impact of advertising, consumer choices, and unequal resources among families.

40332 VPG 320-A Topics in Graphic Design: Interactive

Prof. E. Stanton

Mobile applications present unique challenges. This course will explore what is needed in designing visual interfaces for multiple types of mobile devices. Students in this class will engage in the entire design process - from conceptualizing the initial modality according to client needs and content, to putting in place a navigational and screen experience that is user friendly and appealing. By the end of the course, students will be able to effectively work with content for mobile devices in ways which provide a compelling experience for the user and as a result, ensure client satisfaction.

40364 VPS 207-A Special Projects: Silkscreen

Prof. D. Kinsey

Students will explore screen-printing processes using water-based inks. The variety of techniques will include photo silkscreen, direct drawing techniques, cut paper stencils and color registration. Digital technology will also be incorporated to better understand these processes and develop student's artistic expressions.

40358 VPS 327-A Topics in Painting: Abstraction

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.

40372 VPT 331-A Topics in Theatre Arts: Stage Combat

Prof. TBA

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.