

Topics Course Descriptions – Fall 2009

ART 407 A 001

Topics in Art History: The Studios of Paris

Challons-Lipton

The artistic environment of the late 19th Century made Paris an International centre of art. This class will follow studio practices as well as the cultural experiences of international artists studying in Paris. The creation of an international style and the impact of French education on modernism will be explored.

BIOL 430A 001

Topics: Neurobiology

Koplas

This course will explore the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system. The content will cover a broad range of topics including ion channel behavior in neurons, mechanisms of synaptic plasticity which underlie changes in neural circuits, and functional divisions of the brain and spinal cord. Current advances in nervous system regeneration and stem cell therapy will also be discussed. Some aspects of neuropathology will be presented to better understand how disruptions of the neurobiological mechanisms relate to specific diseases.

DRAM 355A 001

Topics: Basic Stage Combat

Wooten

An introductory course in the techniques and practices of staged combat. This is a hands-on course requiring physical participation. Students are instructed in Unarmed Combat, Single Sword, and Rapier/Dagger techniques. The course offers students the opportunity to certify as Basic Actor Combatants with The Academy of Dramatic Combat. All theatrical weapons are provided. *Supplies:* Clothing and shoes suited for movement, leather gloves. Textbook: *Acted Aggression*.

ENGL 355A 001

Topics: Pulp Fictions: Comic Books, Graphic Novels, and Popular Culture

Kobre

This course will examine America's least understood art form: the comic book. Created in the late 1930s as a novelty item, the lowly comic book has lived through over 70 years of booms and busts to at last achieve a tentative respectability in the graphic novel section of your local bookstore. We'll discuss the distinctive artistic language of comics

and the way comics have both reflected and influenced American culture: drawing the ire of critics, fueling multi-million dollar movies, and sometimes even reaching the level of art. Along the way, we'll encounter power fantasies, war stories, family trauma, sexual terror, and postmodern superheroes (on the page and on the screen). By studying the history and form of comics, we'll also consider contemporary theoretical ideas about the nature and significance of popular culture.

Possible Texts:

- Gerard Jones, *Men of Tomorrow: Geeks, Gangsters, and the Birth of the Comic Book*
- Scott McCloud, *Understanding Comics*
- Michael Chabon, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*
- Grant Geissman, *Foul Play! The Art and Artists of the Notorious 1950s E.C. Comics*
- David Hadju, *The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic Book Scare and How It Changed America*
- Art Spiegelman, *Maus*
- Charles Burns, *Black Hole*
- Alison Bechdel, *Fun House: A Family Tragicomic*

ENVR 250A 001

Topics in Environmental Science: Modern Physics

McAlexander

This course primarily emphasizes principles of physics which have been discovered since the beginning of the 20th century. Topics include wave mechanics, light and optics, quantum theory, the nuclear atom, and radioactivity. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate a conceptual understanding of the principles involved and display basic analytical problem-solving skills for the topics covered.

This course is designed to meet the needs and interests of students in programs such as chemistry, the life sciences, allied health, pre-medical/dental, and the liberal arts.

Material covering physics questions similar to questions often included in the MCAT, OPCAT, PAT, and DAT professional school admissions tests is given special emphasis.

Credit Hours 3, Lecture 3hrs /wk, Lab NA, Prerequisite: PHY 101 or PHY 102

HCSV 352N 001/PSYC 352N 001

Topics: Parenting in Contemporary Society

Neal

An in-depth look at the concepts, tasks and current status of parenting. Emphasis will be placed on relating to and understanding a variety of types of families, as well as the risks and challenges they face. Particular attention will be paid to working with families as an HCSV professional, psychological professional, educator, or medical professional.

3 hours. Prerequisites: PSYC 320 or permission of instructor.

HIST 389A 001

Topics in U.S. History: Law & Order – Pivotal Trials in U.S. History

Thompson

This topics course will investigate some of the most significant trials in the history of American law. Some of the recent trials to be examined may include, for instance, the Scopes, Nuremberg, Sacco and Vanzetti, Rosenberg, and O.J. Simpson trials. This course is designed both for history and political science majors and for anyone interested in American law. 3 credit hours. No prerequisites.

HIST 391N 001

Topics in World History: The Lives & Times of the Victorians

Thompson

The primary focus of "The Lives and Times of the Victorians" is social and intellectual history – what it meant to be "Victorian," in all its variety and complexity: how the Victorians lived and died, how they related to each other, how they saw the world and themselves, how they thought and believed and behaved, and how they identified and coped with the unprecedented revolutionary challenges to their world. We will use Daniel Pool, *What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew*; Richard Altick, *Victorian People and Ideas*; Cecil Woodham-Smith, *The Reason Why*; and other materials from Victorian literature, including videos of Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*, and Anthony Trollope's *The Pallisers*.

3 credit hours. No prerequisites

Honors 210A 001

Twentieth-Century Dixie: The South in Movies, Television, and Literature

Israel

Who Southerners are, and why, will be our guiding questions in this class. Southerners are the most scrutinized, analyzed, and perhaps misunderstood Americans. I'm proposing that Southerners mystify other Americans as well as themselves. One way to understand this group of folks is to study how they are viewed in popular entertainment. Another way is to compare the depictions of Southerners in the media with Southerners in literature. I want to look at some of the following movies: *Gone With the Wind*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?* Possible television shows we'll examine include *The Andy Griffith Show*, *The Dukes of Hazard*, and *Designing Women*. We will read Flannery O'Connor's stories, Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* and *Absalom, Absalom!* and Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

3 credit hours

HONR 210A 002**The Sixties: A Decade that Changed the Nation**

Goode

This seminar will examine the cross-currents of cultural change that rocked America during the 1960s, pushing citizens into opposite corners of a partisan struggle that remains with us today. We will examine the books, music, films, plays, art, and television shows that gave voice to ideologies shaped by the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, the sexual revolution, and the counter culture. We will re-live some of the signature events of the decade – assassinations of JFK and MLK, Woodstock, the Apollo Moon Landing, the Manson murders. Readings will include Tom Brokaw's *Boom: Voices of the Sixties*, Tom Wolfe's *Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, and Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Dylan, the Beatles, the Stones, the Doors, Hendrix and Janis Joplin will be on our playlist. Films for discussion include *The Graduate*, *Easy Rider*, *Cool Hand Luke*, and *Candy*.

3 credit hours

POLS 300A.001**Current Topics in Political Science: Politics and the Media**

Morrill

A look at the role of the media in American politics, with a focus on recent political events. Course will examine the relationship between reporters and politicians, and how technology and the Internet are changing the world for journalists and voters alike. Other subjects include media bias, money in politics and how to watch a campaign ad.

PSYC 352 A 001**Topics in Psychology: Forgiveness: Theory, Research and Practice**

Neal

This course will review theory and empirical research) on forgiveness and its interface with social psychology, personality and development, as well as physical, mental, relational, and spiritual health. The role of forgiveness in the major world religions and philosophies will be explored. Applications of forgiveness in society, therapy, education, prevention, and wellness will be covered. 3 hours. Prerequisite: PSYC 201

PSYC 352 A 002**Topics in Psychology: Psycholinguistics**

Halsted

Introduction the psychological study of language and language acquisition to students. The course will focus on how people process, produce and acquire their native and

possibly second languages. Among the related disciplines that will be examined are linguistics, neurolinguistics, and sociolinguistics.
3 hrs. Prerequisite: Psyc 201

Topics in Religion: The End of the World

RELG349A.001

Henderson

Flipping through your t.v. channels late at night, you're likely to find more than one preacher who's warning you that the end is coming soon. 'It says so,' they maintain, 'right here in Revelation.' What are we to make of such claims? This class will explore Jewish and Christian apocalyptic writings (including Revelation) from around the time of Jesus, in an effort to understand their original message. In addition, we will learn about the ways in which apocalyptic thinking continues to shape religious views and influence both national and international policy. Please join us; after all, you don't want to be 'left behind'!

SPAN 370 A 001

Topics : García Márquez in Literature and Film

Shaul

This course will examine the stories of Gabriel García Márquez as expressed in his books and in film. García Márquez is an internationally recognized Colombian writer who is perhaps best known for his novel *A Hundred Years of Solitude*. He is a prolific writer whose production encompasses many genres from novels to essays to screenplays. Students will have the opportunity to read a wide range of his prose fiction works from numerous short story collections and also will read at least one, possibly two, of his novels. Films watched in class will include those based on his work yet are written and produced by others as well as those in which the author wrote the screenplay and/or participated in some other manner with the film production. The course will be taught in Spanish. 3 credit hours