

SPRING 2025 SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ART-188-01 Art of the Book

Instructor: Robert Howsare

This course will explore artist books and zines through a historical and contemporary lens. Students will become familiar with traditional and non-traditional bookbinding, zine-making, and other printed matter through lectures, field trips, collaborative and individual work.

CJUS-288-02 Treatment Courts

Instructor: Travis Zimmerman

This course provides an overview of Treatment Court as an alternative to incarceration. Drug Courts are a relatively new development in the correctional environment and serve to bridge the gap between substance abuse treatment and retributive goals of sentencing in the United States. Other programs such as Veteran's, Mental Health, and Reentry courts serve other specialized populations. This course will look deeply into these alternative programs to understand their development, implementation, and outcomes in today's correctional environment.

CSCI-388-01 Artificial Intelligence

Instructor: Don Tobin

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the study of solutions for problems that are difficult or impractical to solve with traditional methods. It is used pervasively in support of everyday applications as well as in the design and analysis of autonomous agents that perceive their environment and interact rationally with the environment. The solutions rely on a broad set of general and specialized knowledge representation schemes, problem solving mechanisms and learning techniques. *Prerequisite: CSCI-210*

ENGL-288-01 Children's & Young Adult Literature – Hon

Instructor: Erin DiStefano

Step into the magical realm of Children's Literature, where stories come alive and imagination knows no bounds. This course invites you to explore a delightful variety of narratives that have enchanted young readers for generations; from whimsical picture books to thought-provoking young adult literature. Together, we will embark on an exciting journey through the history and significance of children's literature, uncovering hidden treasures within fairy tales, mythology, graphic novels, and more. *Course open to Honors minors only*

ENGL-388-01/02 American Crime Fiction

Instructor: Ashley Lawson Quattro

Though narratives about crime have existed in some form or another ever since storytelling began, America has put its own distinctive stamp on the genre through the creation of hardboiled fiction, film noir, and true crime podcasts. This course will offer a study of the conventions of crime fiction and its various mediums, focusing especially on how changes in its content and conventions reflect evolving cultural views about morality, justice, and community. Students will complete longer research essays, as well as a presentation on a critical article and shorter weekly reading responses *Lens: PSWB*

EXSC-388-01 Treatment Modalities

Instructor: Dan Martin

A study of therapeutic modalities in the treatment of injuries to athletes as well as other active individuals. Students will also gain hands-on experience with various modalities (e.g. electrical stimulation, ultrasound, therapeutic massage) currently used in a variety of rehab settings. The course will also introduce general principles of pharmacology as a therapeutic intervention. *Prerequisite: BIOL-152*

GNST-288-01 Feminist Theory

Instructor: Jessica Scott

This course explores key concepts in feminist theory through an exploration of problems structured by patriarchy. The course will ask how feminist oriented knowledge confronts problems such as violence and the historical tension that has existed between feminism and other bodies of knowledge. The course will look at feminist thought from many different angles and will ask students to practice applying a feminist lens to understand contemporary and historical issues in which feminism has been interested. *Pending Lens: EXIN*

INDS-288-02 Experience Italy Study Abroad 2nd Qtr

Instructors: D.Murphy/C. Brown

Prep course for the May Term 10-day trip *Experience Italy*, which is a rich introduction to three historic Italian city-states—Venice, Florence, and Rome. The prep course and the in-country experience focus on art, history, religion, and geo-politics.

PHIL-288-01 Intro Philosophy & Aesthetics

Instructor: Crystal Brown

This course explores philosophical, critical, and artistic/creative thinking through close readings of various philosophers' works and dialogue on topics such as aesthetics, existence, knowledge, and ethics. *Pending Lens: AEXP*

PHIL-288-02 God, Religion & the Secular

Instructor: Scott Williams

The course will familiarize students with many themes having to do with a) classical problems and issues in the philosophy of religion and b) the notion of "secularity" as it relates to the many manifestations of faith (Christian and other) we encounter in our world. We will also be taking a long look at what it means to say that we live in a secular society. Along the way, we will engage in critical thinking about problems in natural theology, religious experience, faith and reason, theodicy, the soul, afterlife, and the significance of religious language. We will also spend a significant portion of the semester grappling with the argument of Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age*.

Pending Lens: ETSP

PHYS-288-01 Engineering Failures Change Public Policy

Instructor: Tracey Delaney

In this course, students will explore some of the fantastic engineering and science failures that led to changes in public policy and law. We will draw from both recent and much older failures and we will also look at examples of perceived failures at the time but that we now know to have been correct. We will explore the science associated with each of these failures/perceived failures in order to understand what ultimately went wrong. Examples of engineering and science failures include the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, Thalidomide, and silicone breast implants. *Pending Lens: EXIN*

POLS/PUBS-288-01 Parks, Pres., & Public Health

Instructor: Coty Martin

This course will focus on the role that parks play in our individual lives and our communities. The course examines the major health benefits of nature, the parks system, and getting outside. Students will learn about the history of the American parks system, the benefits to individual and societal health that come with pro-parks public policies, and the myriad health effects related to our environment. The course will conclude with a comparative look at parks systems outside of the United States. *Pending Lens: PSWB*

RELG-288-01 The Thing About Religion

Instructor: Debra Murphy

Religion is often thought to be about beliefs, doctrines, and sacred texts. This course broadens that understanding to include an appreciation of the objects, practices, spaces, and bodies that together form the matrix of human experience called “religion,” a term that needs careful scrutiny. It turns out that religion is very much about stuff, matter, *things*: what people wear, touch, eat, look at, and create. Therefore, the world’s religious traditions cannot be understood apart from the *things*—and the complex interactions with things—that both reflect and create coherent (and contested) worldviews. *Pending Lens: ETSP*

THRE-288-01 Sound Design

Instructor: David Hartley

This course will focus on beginning sound for theater. Students will learn the technique of sound reinforcement for the stage, and events, learn how systems work together, and mic'ing for the stage including musicals, bands, and other events. The course will also focus on the use of RF, mics, and sound effects for the stage, including recording, and playback.

THRE-288-02 Improvisation

Instructor: TBA

Improvisation is a form of theatre in which most or all of what is performed is unplanned or unscripted, created spontaneously and collaboratively by the performers. This course is an exploration of team-driven improvisation techniques, primarily through games. No previous theater experience is required.