

## **Spring 2010 - New and Special Topics Courses**

### **American Studies**

#### **AMS-214-01            Special Topics: Culture of New Orleans**

**3 credits**

Students will travel to New Orleans to study the unique literary and musical culture it has inspired. This culture will be explored from a literary, cultural and musical perspective to demonstrate the profound impact New Orleans has had on the rest of America. Attendance at all lectures and events required.

#### **AMS-214-MO            Special Topics: The American West**

**3 credits**

The good, the bad and the ugly...this course examines one of America's most enduring cultural symbols—the West. We will explore how history, myth, memory and place shaped the American West. We will trace the construction of the frontier myth and the many stories that challenge it through analysis of a wide range of sources such as first-person accounts, fiction, painting, maps, photography, films and tourist sites.

#### **AMS-214-WO            Special Topics: American Cinema**

**3 credits**

This course examines the history of American film from its beginnings with Edison and Griffiths, through the age of classical Hollywood cinema, to recent films. It examines how genres are defined—horror, comedy, drama, film noir, science fiction—and the role of cinema in American culture. Students will read about the history of American film and develop their ability to analyze film from a number of perspectives.

### **English Literature**

#### **ENG-315-D1            Topics in Specialized Writing: Experimental Prose**

**3 credits**

An intensive workshop in reading and writing experimental fiction and memoir, this course will examine stylistic experimentation throughout the 20th century, through such writers as Donald Barthelme, Kurt Vonnegut, Amanda Davis, Miranda July, and Richard Brautigan. Students will write and workshop their own pieces that practice experimental techniques in narrative perspective, theme, plot structure, and language, and they will survey online literary magazines to get a sense of what contemporary writers are doing.

## **Gender Studies**

### **GND-310-C1      Special Topics: Gender and Biology**

**3 credits**

Gender is often addressed from psychological or ethical viewpoints, particularly in considerations of social and political issues. This course is intended to give the non-scientist a basic understanding of the biological mechanisms that contribute to the development and plasticity of gender in the body and in the brain. Specific discussions will address issues such as defining gender, effects of hormones on brain development and post-natal brain function, biology of reproduction, and "nature versus nurture" issues of genetic and environmental influences on gender and sexual preferences.

It is expected that students gain a base of knowledge sufficient to understand and evaluate the use of scientific information provided in popular media for its validity as related to topics of biology and gender. Classroom discussions will incorporate reading and evaluation of current literature on topics such as the biology of reproduction, gender differences in cognition and behavior, sexual orientation and gender identity, and use of such information in the establishment of related social policies.

### **GND-400-TO      Gay and Lesbian Reality Through Literature and Film**

**3 credits**

This class will look at the representations of alternate lifestyles in canonical literature, pulp fiction, and cultural media utilizing Feminist and Queer theory.

## **Interdisciplinary Studies**

### **IND-316-01 Nature's Business**

This interdisciplinary, experiential learning course brings together various science and business perspectives in examining the relationships among biological, social, environmental, economic, geological, and political issues, and analyzes how a country attempts to develop and expand its economy while also preserving and sustaining its natural resources and unique cultural heritage. Topics include ecotourism, sustainable development, biodiversity, local and regional environmental and historical geology, cultural norms, and the legal and political systems of the country. The study tour component of the course provides students with an opportunity to observe and record field data from settings outside of the United States and in their discipline of interest. It also provides students with an opportunity to experience the course content and enables them to interact with local scientists and business leaders during many in-country site visits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

**Note:** This course is cross-listed as CBA-316. Students may not get credit for both CBA-316 and IND-316. For Business students who take the course as CBA-316, the course will count as a

business course. If taken as IND-316, the business student will receive credit as a liberal arts and science course.

## **Multicultural Studies**

**MCS-220-G1**            **Issues in Multicultural Studies: Understanding How Christianity, Judaism and Islam Define Race, Gender and Ethnicity in the Global Society**

**3 credits**

This course examines ways religion motivates people to do good or evil in the world. As global interdependence has become a way of life, this course will examine how issues of faith, culture and context interact globally. Special emphasis will be placed on ways the three major religions--Christianity, Judaism and Islam--define issues of race, gender and ethnicity. In addition, "other" religions will be discussed, such as Rastafarianism, Voodooism, theologies of the marginalized or excluded, and liberation theology.

The course will draw upon primary and secondary resources from books, journals, films, and outside speakers. Creative class participation will be emphasized over quantitative exams. There will be a tri-faith visit to the City of Trenton to visit a church, a synagogue and a mosque.

## **MATH**

**MTH-402-G1**            **Topics in Advanced Mathematics: Differential Geometry of Curves and Surfaces**

**3 credits**

Planar and spatial differentiable curves are studied first, via notions of curvature, moving frame, and torsion. Then smooth surfaces in Euclidean space are investigated using the induced metric, the Gauss map and the notion of curvature.

## **Political Science**

**POL-202-K1**            **The Political System –Theories and Themes**

**3 credits**

The concept of political system helps political scientists to organize political interrelations into patterns that allow systematic selection and interpretation of information and the study of processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of settings. The course introduces the students to the main brands of normative theory prescribing the principles directing the operation of the political system, to some of the most important methods used to compare political systems

and/or their components, and to the foremost approaches utilized in the study of the inter-relations among political systems.

**POL-267-G1                      Chinese Politics**  
**3 credits**

This course will discuss the political history, political system and political culture of People's Republic of China. The emphasis is on China's political culture and development. That is, the changing structure, use, and distribution of power in China from the middle of the 19th century to the present. Specific topics of this course include the following: (1) the fall of imperial China, the origins, development, and victory of the Chinese Communist regime; (2) the rule and legacy of Mao Zedong, particularly the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution; (3) the economic reform, cultural opening, and political repression in the era of Deng Xiaoping; (4) and the evolution of Chinese politics in post-Deng China.

**POL-328-TO                      Environmental Politics**  
**3 credits**

Environmental Politics examines how policymakers deal with the political challenges of unsustainable resource consumption, which is a primary determinant of environmental problems such as climate change, adverse health effects, and biodiversity loss. The course introduces students to environmental politics and policies at the local, state, national, and international levels. The course is designed to provide students with a framework for understanding how varied interests compete within political institutions in order to transform contending ideas into public policy. With that in mind, students will not only become more informed consumers of political information, but will also become more effective at analyzing and advocating for policies as it relates to the environment.