

FALL 2017 TOPIC COURSES - DESCRIPTIONS

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

AR 2091 TOPICS: PRINTMAKING II - PETTY, RALPH

Description to be announced.

CM 2091 TOPICS: COMS., GLOBAL RELIGIONS & SPIRITUALITIES

Examines globalization through the study of religious traditions and spiritual paths and their role in communications.

Part one involves an introduction to the history and basic concepts and practices of world religions. Part two consists of understanding different concepts of self and communications available within those traditions and how they may affect inter-cultural communications. Part three concerns media and religion and how concepts of media shape religion (e.g. religion of the book) and studies such phenomenon as televangelism and Muslim religious television. Part four consists of the study of the globalization of practices of spirituality (e.g. Yoga, Tai Chi, Kabala, Sufism and missionaries). Part five will consider the role of religion in conflict and peace.

The course will involve site visits to many different religious and spiritual sites in Paris, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu. It may also involve a study trip during fall break.

CS 2091 TOPICS: FUNDAMENTAL METHODS OF DATA SCIENCE – LIBAL, TOMER

The 21st century has seen a big increase in the amount of data which is made accessible. Social media such as Facebook, online shops such as Amazon and many others, are all gathering raw data. But what can be done about this data?

Data Science covers tools and methods around the extraction of knowledge from data. Such tools cover its collection, storing, processing and analysis. In this course we will learn about several of the most important tools in the above flow and will apply them to real-world examples.

FM 2091 TOPICS: WES ANDERSON: CHILD'S IMAGINATION IN CINEMA - CRAVEN, ALICE

Directors Course: Wes Anderson's Appeal to the Child's Imagination in Cinema

The aesthetic trademarks of director Wes Anderson and the prominent theme of the child's imagination is the focus of this course. Students are introduced to the role that Anderson's philosophical training plays in his filmmaking and consider the work of his contemporaries and collaborators such as Noah Baumbach, Sylvain Chomet and Jean-Pierre Jeunet.

PO 2091 TOPICS: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT - EKOVICH, STEVEN

This course is an analysis of the American political system, focusing on American political culture, basic constitutional principles, and the relationship between political, economic and social structures. The course will also investigate the policy process in light of the nature of political power and influence in the United States. The functioning of the political system will be illustrated with discussions of current issues, including the 2016 presidential election. Topics to be covered include: democratic theory, the Constitution, federalism, the presidency, the Congress, the judiciary, the bureaucracy, public opinion and the media, elections and campaigns, political parties and interest groups, civil liberties and civil rights, public policy, state and local government, and foreign policy.

AH 3090 JUNIOR SEMINAR: HISTORIOGRAPHY & METHODOLOGY OF ART HISTORY - VANEL, HERVE

This seminar introduces the historiography and methodologies of art history to advanced majors. The class is discussion-based and our primary work consists of careful and critical readings of texts, some of which have taken on canonical status. Students will become acquainted to the main theoretical approaches dominating art history in the 20th century. The goal of this course is to prepare students for writing an extensive art historical research paper. Written exercises will encourage students to employ different methodological approaches to discuss artworks.

Learning Goals: knowledge of the historiography of the discipline of art history; ability to identify various methodologies; mastery of skills involved in critical reading and thinking, scholarly research, and oral presentations.

AH 3091 TOPICS: THE ARTS OF SPAIN FROM EL GRECO TO GOYA - MARATSOS, JESSICA

This course will explore the artistic and architectural production of the Spanish peninsula from the sixteenth century through the beginning of the nineteenth century. During this critical period the culture of this region witnessed dramatic upheaval in the political and religious spheres, as well as concomitant changes in artistic style, iconography, and patronage. The complex interaction of society and visual representation will be critically examined in a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, architecture, and print. In addition, this course seeks to reflect new directions in the field that emphasize cross-cultural interconnections in this era, while still examining critical monuments and artists long considered canonical, such as El Greco, Diego Velázquez, and Francisco Goya. A variety of different analytical frameworks will be employed throughout the semester. Museum visits are an essential component of the course.

CM/GS 3091 TOPICS: WOMEN, EMPOWERMENT & DEVELOPMENT - LINCOLN, LISSA

What actions have governments, civil society stakeholders, NGOs and private institutions taken to advance women's rights and gender equality in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030? In parallel to the UN's SDGs and a recent Oxfam Canada feminist 'score card', this course will grapple with questions central to the subject of Women in Development (WID) and Gender and Development. We will undertake critical and much-needed explorations within the fields of representation and leadership, violence against women, conflict and crisis, climate change, and communication and media for development drawing from a wide range of texts by western and non-western scholars and experts, such as Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Lourdes Beneria, Shirin M. Rai, Nora Cruz-Quebral, Aili Mari Tripp and Beth Herzfeld.

HI/LW 3091A TOPICS: EDUCATION, CITIZENSHIP & FREEDOM - KUO, MICHELLE

Education, Citizenship, Freedom: Historical and Legal Perspectives

This course takes as its starting point the trope that propels African-American "ascent" narratives: literacy is key to social mobility and political freedom. Perhaps most iconically, the young slave Frederick Douglass forged his master's hand and, it is said, wrote his path to freedom. Alongside readings in classic black autobiographies, we trace the origins, development, and enforcement of laws that (1) prohibited the education of slaves, (2) expelled free African Americans out of fear that they would educate or "incite" slaves, and (3) required literacy tests at the polls. While a significant part of the course looks at education in an American context from 1700 to the present, the final third of our semester adopts a comparative approach. We turn to the relationship between colonialism and education, examining the French colonial presence in Asia and Africa. Readings include Frederick Douglass, Richard Wright, W.E.B. Du Bois, Leon Litwack, Robert Stepto, Madhu Dubey, Frantz Fanon, and Alice Conklin."

HI/ME 3091B TOPICS: RELIGION, FUNDAMENTALISM, CONSERVATISM - STAFF, STAFF

Description to be announced.

CM 4090 SENIOR SEMINAR: BRANDS & THE ATTENTION ECONOMY - DOYLE, WADDICK

This seminar introduces students to the problematic of the contemporary brand as a social, cultural and commercial practice in the age of new media and the competition for our attention. Brands have become a way of commodifying attention. They are becoming for our century what factories and mass produced goods were for the twentieth century. We will study the role of brands in society and the economy as well as contemporary brand theory and the extension of branding to such areas as NGOs and politics. Students may do applied research on a brand or academic research for the final research paper.

PO 4090 SENIOR SEMINAR: ALIENATION AND POLITICAL CONFLICT - GARDNER, HALL

Students first investigate contending views of the world system and try to establish the relative validity of the various theories and see how theory relates to practice by means of re-examining classic definitions of "realism" along with concepts of liberalism, neo-liberalism, pluralism, neo-realism, radicalism, constructivism, and post-structuralism, among others, including theories of alienation as they apply to international origins of conflict. On the one hand, the course will explore theories related to cooperation, involving international integration, regionalism, international treaties and alliance cohesion. On the other, it will analyze psychological, socio-economic and geo-political theories of conflict—with a focus on the origins of World War I and the question as to whether another global conflict is possible.

LW/ME 4091 TOPICS: ISLAM & LAW - RAHNEMA, ALI

Is Islam a religion entirely based on legal precepts? This course aims to analyse the position and significance of law in Islam.

The course will begin with the history of Islam which can be properly situated by providing a cursory explanation of the age of ignorance (jaheliyya). An understanding of the Prophet Muhammad, the man, the Messenger and the communicator of the Divine Law, is indispensable to understanding the relation between

Islam and Islamic law. The process by which his words, acts, behaviour and demeanor, not only comes to constitute the ideal model of Islamic behaviour, but in time also becomes a pillar of Islamic law needs to be understood.

The second task of this course is to provide an understanding of Islamic jurisprudence or fiqh as a component of the Islamic belief system. To understand Islamic jurisprudence, the key historical role of covenants and agreements, generating predictability as well as social and political order needs to be understood in the historical formation of Islam. In this second part of the course, the Islamic ethical scale system, which constitutes the moral compass of the Muslim, regulating his behaviour, will be studied. The main emphasis will, however, be on the understanding and analysis of the four-fold division of Islamic jurisprudence or fiqh.

The last part of this course will address the development of the Islamic legal system, the “right path of religion” or the Shari’a. Under this rubric, first the development of the Islamic legal system with an eye to the topics of how, why and when will be assessed. Close attention will be paid to the understanding and analysis of the key four sources or proofs of the Shari’a. In this last part of the course, students will be exposed to the manner in which Islamic law is made, who can legislate, the technicalities and methods of new legislation, the purview of human beings in terms of legislation and the variety of the schools of law in Islam.

GRADUATE COURSES

CM 5091A TOPICS: MOBILE MEDIA AND THE APP ECONOMY - PAYNE, ROBERT

How much do you really know about your mobile phone? This course focuses on the increasing significance of mobile technologies in the contemporary world of digitally networked media and communications. Analysing the role of devices from smartphones, tablets and their apps to smartwatches, satnavs and HMDs, we will examine three main levels of change. Thinking about social and cultural factors, we will ask how the increasing turn towards mobility has changed our orientation to space, relationships and interpersonal communication, and the role of media technologies in identity formation. Thinking about politics, we will study how new possibilities for activism and mobilisation have exploded, along with new questions of privacy and surveillance. And thinking about economics, we will critically examine the rise of the digital device and applications industries which have generated enormous commercial value on the back of design ingenuity, entrepreneurialism, and transformed labour practices. There is much more to your phone than meets the eye.

LW/PO 5091 TOPICS: ISLAM & LAW - RAHNEMA, ALI

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