

2024 Fall Special Course Themes

ART-270-01 Photography

Morton, Quinn

In this course, we will examine the basics of photography such as lighting, framing, subject matter, etc. We will also study various photographers and how they used their craft to evoke different feelings or responses from their viewers. The class will be focused on both technics and applied hands-on learning. Cameras are encouraged but not required. Cell phones may be used if no camera is available.

CPSY-270-01 Sp Top: Crime, Power, and Morality

McGovern, Art

This course will introduce the central sociological concepts of crime, power, and ethics. The course introduces historical and theoretical contexts to understand the intersections of crime, social power, and justice. We examine various theories of crime and their cultural, political, and psychological assumptions and engage with questions such as: who do we hold legally or morally responsible for criminal acts, how does culture influence various representations of criminality, and are there universal codes of conduct that produce consistent definitions of good and evil? The course emphasizes critical thinking, effective research and reading, and written and oral communication skills. Prerequisites: PSY 151

CRIT-201- 01/02 Sport & Social Justice

Casey-Williams, Erin

Sport and Social Justice CritWRR is designed to develop students as critical writers, readers, and researchers; this Sport and Social Justice section will examine how systems of power and inequity--regarding gender, race, sexuality, socioeconomic status, neurotypicality, and more--are reproduced and challenged in organized and professional sports. You will be expected to perform sustained and intersectional analyses of primary texts (historical and current sporting events/reporting) and secondary texts (sports and diversity scholarship and theory), examining various institutions' legacies, and the outcomes for specific athletes. Students will be expected to complete Annotated Bibliographies, critical and analytic essays, and various small activities and assignments; we will be working in APA style. Prerequisites: ENGL 105 or ENGL 122

CRIT-201-04 What's Going On?

Grimshaw, Carrie

The world we live in is dynamic and it is complex. Often, it is difficult to keep up with all that happens around us. And yet, in order to be a well-informed citizen, it is increasingly important for us to know what is going on. In this course, we will turn to our newspapers (or newsfeeds) on day 1 to explore what news events have made the headlines. From that point on, we will explore these stories to address multiple question: how are complex stories reported in the news? What is the context of the news? How do different news organizations "tell" the same story or, why do some news organizations cover some stories but not others? Students will explore and research news stories and topics in order to develop a deeper understanding of the events described. They will learn to think critically about the news and analyze both content and the quality of the news they are exposed to. Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or ENGL 212

CRIT-201-05 Myths, Legends, and Superstitions

Thomas, Emily

Why do some people think Bigfoot is real? Why do the Irish still fear fairies? Do vampires really exist? This course will examine how myths and legends develop and why many continue to exist in the present day. We will examine a couple of historical myths, including Plymouth Rock and Betsy Ross, and then we will dive into the supernatural world of fairies, werewolves and ghosts. Students will conduct a research project on a myth or legend of their choice. Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or ENGL 212

CRIT-201-06 Murder and Mayhem à la Hitchcock

Susla, Jeffrey

The course is designed to cultivate both film appreciation and critical thinking/writing by close viewing of Alfred Hitchcock's masterpieces. Regardless of one's major, Hitchcock study also provides great insight into the strengths and weaknesses of human nature. Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or ENGL 212

CRIT-201-07 Big Tech & Society

Weimbs, Catrin

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? A handful of Big Tech companies have captured vast global markets with their products and services, generating trillions of dollars in revenue and outperforming many countries in economic activity and geographic reach. Despite their tremendous potential for driving innovation and "positive" change, Big Tech companies have also been increasingly accused of holding monopolistic power, violating individual privacy rights, enabling anti-social behaviors, and contributing to political division. By examining Big Tech products and services such as social media platforms, online retail and advertising, search engines, chatbots, and other AI applications, students in this class will research, identify, and evaluate ethical, social, political, and economic challenges created by Big Tech. Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or ENGL 212

CRIT-201-08 Examining College Culture

Nasiatka, Marissa

This critical writing section explores college culture. Going to college, being on campus, and the life choices and experiences a person may make while in college are pervasive themes in the media. These statements and images are often made by people who have experienced a very different university life than the one they portray. These representations and images interpose a particular mindset of what it is like to go through college life. In this writing course, students will study and practice critical writing through multiple sources. Students will learn the purposes, strategies, and conventions of academic writing, particularly analysis and argumentation, through critical reading, drafting, and collaboration. Prerequisites: ENGL 105 or ENGL 212

HIST-220-01 History of Ghosts

Thomas, Emily

Everyone loves a good ghost story. Millions of Americans believe in the paranormal - and even skeptics have heard a bump in the night and suspected it might be something supernatural. The course will start in 1848 in upstate New York, where the spiritualist craze first began. Students will learn about the development of spiritualism in the United States, its popularity during the Civil War, and its downfall in the early 20th century. We also will discuss hoaxes, tricksters, and the psychology behind the belief in ghosts. The course will conclude with an examination of the current popularity of ghost-hunting shows. Students will conduct a group research project on a haunted site in New England and present their research at the end of the semester.

HRM-470-01 SpTop HR Data Analytics

Krumsiek, Kim

This comprehensive course on Human Resources Information Systems (HRIS) offers business students a unique opportunity to bridge theoretical knowledge with practical application. By exploring diverse HR functions, from recruiting and onboarding to payroll and analytics, students gain hands-on experience in leveraging HRIS for effective human resource management. With a focus on researching specific HRIS systems and culminating in a practical final project, this course equips students with valuable skills to navigate the dynamic landscape of contemporary HR practices, making it an invaluable asset for any business student seeking a holistic understanding of HR operations and technology integration. Prerequisites: HRM-213 and DS-201

HUM-270-01 SpTop: Costa Rica Experience

Malinowski-Paine, Kristen

Students in this course will spend the Fall semester doing in a focused study on the country of Costa Rica. Topics of inquiry will include Costa Rica's culture, history, politics, climate, languages, religion, and economy. Individually (or in groups, depending on enrollment), students will focus on one area of inquiry to become "subject matter experts" who will then present their information to their peers. Upon completion of their study, students will have the opportunity to apply and experience what they have learned first-hand with a trip, during the winter break, to Costa Rica (dates TBD). Contact Professor Malinowski-Paine to register.

MGMT-375-01 Negotiation

Forte, Michael

Negotiation is a critical skill in business and in life -- whether it is for salary, contracts, resource allocation, or collective decision-making. Knowing how to effectively and ethically negotiate is essential for leadership and for accomplishing individual and group objectives. In this course, students will learn the strategy, structure, and skills of negotiation in interpersonal and organizational contexts. Prerequisite: LEAD 101

PSCI-219-01 American Presidents

Lambert, Paul

We expect a lot from our presidents. Americans look to the person in the Oval Office to have a bold vision for our country's future and effectively deal with a whole host of issues such as the economy, education, the environment, foreign affairs, and more. As one political scientist has put it, "Everybody now expects the [person] inside the White House to do something about everything." Why do we have such high expectations and are they realistic? This course investigates how the presidency has evolved, especially during the past century. We will examine its constitutional origins and the historical factors that have helped expand its power and influence. We will explore what concepts like "charisma" and "character" mean and the part they have played in choosing presidents. Through case studies, we will look at examples of "effective" and "ineffective" chief executives and see if history teaches us lessons that can be applied today.

PSY-270-01 Sp Top: The Psychology of Star Wars

Bowser, Arden

Whether you're a die-hard fan or just a curious Padawan, this course is your gateway to a deeper understanding of Star Wars and yourself. Explore the psychology of the galaxy far, far away, and discover the Force within! Prepare to blast through the Force barrier and delve into The Hero's Journey Unmasked: Walk in the footsteps of Luke, Rey, and other legendary heroes. We'll dissect their epic transformations, drawing parallels to real-life psychology and mythology. Think Joseph Campbell meets Yoda! Light vs. Dark: A Tug-of-War Within: Feel the dark side's pull! We'll explore the alluring power of temptation, the struggle for emotional control, and the Jedi's mindful mastery of the Force. Is the dark side always bad? You decide! Family Ties (and Lightsaber Fights): Buckle up for some family drama! We'll unpack the complex relationships of Darth Vader, Kylo Ren, and Leia Organa, understanding how childhood trauma, attachment, and betrayal shape destinies. Tissues recommended. The Force: Your Untapped Potential: Forget Midichlorians! We'll explore the Force as a metaphor for mindfulness, intuition, and the interconnectedness of all living things. Unleash your inner Jedi Knight! This is no ordinary lecture! You can expect... Engaging discussions: Debate the morality of the Empire, analyze iconic scenes, and share your own Star Wars insights. May the arguments be with you! Mind-blowing film analysis: We'll go beyond the pews and popcorn and dissect the hidden psychological layers in your favorite scenes. Prepare to see Star Wars in a whole new light! So, grab your blaster (metaphorically speaking), strap on your thinking cap, and prepare for an epic journey into Star Wars psychology! May the Psych Be with You! Prerequisite: PSY 151

SMGT-294-01 Sport Practicum - Sport Coaching

Streeter, Christopher

The practicum is designed to provide students with the opportunity to gain firsthand experience in the business of sport (through coaching). The course is structured to include weekly interaction and discussions with the professor which will focus on the students' experiences and the practical application of coaching principles. Students are required to undertake 120 hours (8-10 hours per week) throughout the semester in an "assistant" coaching role which has been approved by Professor Wendry. Prerequisite: SMGT 251

SMGT-296-01 Sport Practicum - Sport Sales

Ricci, Michael

Sales is not about manipulating or pressuring clients, it's about active listening and building relationships with a wide variety of different people, and it's applicable to any professional endeavor and your personal life. According to the Work in Sports job board, over 50% of positions in the sports industry involve sales, and according to Jobs in Sports, becoming a sales assistant is an ideal entry-level sports job. This practicum will provide the experience needed to understand and become successful in sales. Prerequisite: SMGT-251

SMGT-297-01 Sport Practicum - Intro to Sport Performance

Ruff, Justin

This practicum combines classroom instruction and hands-on experience in the weight room and on the field. It will help students better understand the basics of how the human body moves, how to coach athletes for performance, and how to create training programs for specific sports teams. Prerequisite: SMGT-251