

## Fall 2025 Special Course Themes

**COMM-270-01 The Art of the Interview**                      **Deys, K.**                      **TF**                      **12:15pm-1:30pm**

Communication is about listening and responding to others, about engaging with their perspectives and needs in a respectful and mutually productive way. Interviews, which highlight these goals in a direct way, are something we all participate in. By analyzing a variety of interviews in print, audio, and video formats, students will learn effective techniques for conducting interviews and strategies for delivering memorable and successful answers. Students will strengthen their communication skills by applying these strategies as both interviewers and interviewees in different forms. We will consider context, purpose, and audience for verbal and nonverbal communication.

**CRIT-201-01 Popular Music & Identity**                      **Deys, J.**                      **TF**                      **9:25am-10:40am**  
**CRIT-201-02 Popular Music & Identity**                      **Deys, J.**                      **TF**                      **10:50am-12:05pm**

This course will examine popular music over the last 80 years in relationship to identity, particularly in regards to gender, race, class, and citizenship. Consider why you identify with certain popular artists and why? We will also listen to and examine artists that create, challenge, and transcend simple racial and gender stereotypes. We will explore the music, lyrics, attitudes, and culture surrounding the music. Special attention will be made to artists and bands that embrace gender fluidity and speak to racial conflict and harmony—genres such as Punk, Glam and Rap. We will examine popular music from the last 100 years—artists as diverse as Bessie Smith; Robert Johnson; Elvis Presley; Wanda Jackson; David Bowie; Joan Jett; Kurt Cobain; Lana Del Rey, amongst other lesser known artists. We will listen, discuss, and write about diverse genres and voices in popular music, including jazz, blues, folk, country, rock, pop, soul, punk, glam, hip-hop, indie, EDM, and other sub-genres of popular music—these can vary based on students' interest. Thus, keep an open mind and be prepared to listen and think about a diverse, sometimes marginalized, but always powerful, set of artists and bands. There will be a strong emphasis on critical writing, reading, research, and revision.

Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or ENGL 122

**CRIT-201-04 What's Going On?**                      **Grimshaw, C.**                      **TTh**                      **9:25am-10:40am**

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 122

**CRIT-201-05 Myths Legends & Superstitions**      **Thomas, E.**      **TF**      **12:15pm-1:30pm**

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 122

**CRIT-201-06 Murder and Mayhem à la Hitchcock**      **Susla, J.**      **MW**      **1:40pm-2:55pm**

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 122

**CRIT-201-07 Examining College Culture**      **Nasiatka, M.**      **TTh**      **10:50am-12:05pm**  
**CRIT-201-08 Examining College Culture**      **Nasiatka, M.**      **TTh**      **12:15pm-1:30pm**

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.

Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or ENGL 122

**CRIT-201-ON2 Big Tech & Society**      **Weimbs, C.**      **Online, UGO Session 2**

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 122

**HIST-270-01 History of Witchcraft**                      **Thomas, E.**                      **TF**                      **9:25am-10:40am**

This course will examine beliefs and myths about witchcraft, from the Medieval Period to today. We will explore how witchcraft was blamed for many natural events, including bad weather, famines, and the Black Plague. Students will learn how accusations of witchcraft were used against women, including those who did not fit society's norms. We will examine witchcraft trials in New England, including the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. Students will conduct a research project on the men and women accused of witchcraft in Salem. We will also explore witches in pop culture, from The Wizard of Oz to Hocus Pocus.

**HRM-470-ON1 HR Data Analytics**                      **Krumsiek, K.**                      **Online, UGO Session 1**

This comprehensive course on Human Resource 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.

Prerequisite: HRM 213 or DS 201 or GBUS 220

**HUM-270-01 Archaeology & the Ancient World**                      **Mitchell, J.**                      **MW**                      **12:15pm-1:30pm**

This class is a survey of human history around the globe, with emphasis on cultures of the ancient Near East, Mediterranean, Eastern Asia, and the Americas. This course will also provide an introduction to archaeological theory, methods and applications, historical development of the discipline, and ethical and professional issues encountered by archaeologists.

**LEAD-370-01 Aviation Management**                      **Mitchell, M.**                      **MW**                      **12:15pm-1:30pm**

This course provides an introduction to the principles of aviation management, focusing on the key aspects of managing airports, airlines, and related aviation businesses. It explores the structure of the aviation industry, regulatory frameworks, operational strategies, and the management of aviation services. Students will gain an understanding of the economic, technical, and logistical challenges involved in aviation management.

**MKCM-370-01 Fashion Marketing**                      **Beaupre, J.**                      **TTh**                      **8:00am-9:15am**

This course explores the dynamic intersection between marketing and the fashion industry. Students will delve into topics such as consumer behavior analysis, needs versus wants, branding, trend forecasting, buying patterns, and the impact of technological innovations. Students will explore marketing strategies used by the leading fashion brands that shape the global competitive fashion landscape and enhance their critical thinking and data analysis skills.

Prerequisite: MKCM 202

**PSY-270-01 SpTop Psychology of Star Wars**

**Bowser, A.**

**MTh 10:50am-12:05pm**

It began "'a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...'" In this course, we will embark on an inspiring journey through the profound layers of psychology within the Star Wars universe. From Yoda's insightful wisdom on human emotions and personality to Obi-Wan's perceptive sociocultural lens, we will immerse ourselves in rich psychological themes. Much like the journeys of Luke and Anakin, you will confront the bold struggle to understand and transcend issues of identity and the pain of abandonment. Along this path, we will celebrate concepts of hope, resilience, and determination. Lastly, we will shine a light on the psychological disorders portrayed throughout the series.

Prerequisite: PSY 151