

Fall 2026 Special Course Themes

COMM-370-01 Tech Over Time **Nikki Anderson** **T/Th** **10:50am-12:05pm**

Tech Over Time examines the development of technology as a communicative and cultural process. The course explores how technological change emerges through human activities such as observation, documentation, persuasion, and the exchange of ideas across historical periods, with a focus on understanding how communication drives technological innovation, and how those technologies reshape communication and society. Topics include timekeeping, print culture, mass communication, digital media, and generative artificial intelligence. Through discussion, written analysis, and applied projects, students develop skills in critical reading, analytical and persuasive writing, collaborative communication, and historical reasoning relevant to professional and civic life.

CRIT-201-01 Sport & Social Justice **Erin Casey-Williams** **T/F** **10:50am-12:05pm**
CRIT-201-02 Sport & Social Justice **Erin Casey-Williams** **M/Th** **12:15pm-1:30pm**

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.

Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or ENGL 112

CRIT-201-04 B Movies **Catrin Weimbs** **T/Th** **8:00am-9:15am**
CRIT-201-ON2 B Movies **Catrin Weimbs** **Online** **10/19-12/11/26**

B Movies – B stands for bad, or does it? Historically, B Movies have been cheap and often cringe-worthy productions by major film studios that either accompanied expensive A Movies or were released for less discerning audiences. Despite their alleged lack of value, B Movies remain popular, especially across television networks and web-streaming services. This course examines cheesy, ridiculous, or outright bad films with the conviction that they are just as worthy of study as more expensive productions. Through this class students will develop the critical language and evaluative skills of Film Studies and hone their critical writing and research skills.

Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or ENGL 112

CRIT-201-05 Myths, Legends, & Superstitions **Emily Thomas** **T/F** **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 112

MGMT-370-01 Ethical Drift & Business Failure Heather Richards T/Th 10:50am-12:05pm

This seminar examines how ethical failures in organizations rarely result from a single “bad actor,” but instead emerge through incremental decisions, normalized deviance, incentive structures, and cultural silence. Students will explore how ethical drift develops over time, how leadership systems unintentionally enable it, and how early-career professionals can recognize warning signs before small compromises become systemic collapse.

Drawing on classic management and ethics theories alongside contemporary cases, the course emphasizes ethical sensemaking, moral courage, and professional judgment. By the end of the seminar, students will be equipped to identify ethical risk patterns, analyze organizational dynamics, and articulate principled responses appropriate to their emerging careers.

Prerequisite: MGMT 227 or EPS 227

PSY-270-01 Psychology of Star Wars Arden Bowser M/Th 10:50am-12:05pm

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

PSY-270-02 Health & Exercise Psychology (Hybrid)**Tom Davis & C LeBlanc****W 12:15pm-1:30pm**

Health & Exercise Psychology is a dynamic, team-taught hybrid course that looks at how your mind, body, and social world work together to shape your health and everyday well-being. Instead of just focusing on illness, this course explores how stress, emotions, relationships, habits, and lifestyle choices influence how you feel and function. You'll learn about topics like stress and coping, the mind-body connection, sleep, health behaviors, social support, chronic illness, and how technology is changing healthcare. Through engaging case studies, discussions, and hands-on activities, you'll connect scientific research to real-life situations—including your own experiences. The course is designed to be practical and relatable, giving you tools you can actually use, such as strategies for managing stress, improving sleep, building resilience, and making healthier decisions. By the end of the course, you'll have a clearer understanding of how psychology influences health and feel more confident in taking charge of your own physical and mental well-being.

Prerequisite: PSY 151

PSY-370-01W Evolutionary Cognition: Exploring Animal Minds Tom Davis**W/F 9:25am-10:40am**

Have you ever looked at your dog mid-nap and wondered if they're dreaming in smells, or questioned why your cat seems to stare intensely at "nothing" in a dark hallway? Evolutionary Cognition is designed to take those everyday curiosities and turn them into a deep, scientific exploration of the non-human mind. This course moves beyond the old-school idea that animals are just "lesser versions" of us. Instead, we dive into the Umwelt—the unique sensory bubble that each species lives in. You'll learn how a dog's world is built of scent "timelines," how birds navigate using the earth's magnetic field, and why your pet might be solving complex social puzzles you never even noticed. This isn't just a "sit and listen" lecture; you will engage in applied experiences that challenge you to step outside your human perspective and analyze behavior in real-time. We'll investigate the evolution of intelligence, empathy, and problem-solving, exploring why a crow might be as smart as a preschooler and how octopuses "think" with their arms. By the end of the semester, you'll stop asking if animals are smart and start asking how their specific brand of genius helps them navigate a world that we, as humans, are often blind to. This is a writing-intensive course.

Prerequisite: PSY 151

PSY-370-02 Theories of Personality (Hybrid)**Brian McCoy M 8:00am-9:15am**

This hybrid course examines major theories, research, and applications in personality psychology. Students will explore classic and contemporary perspectives, including psychoanalytic, trait, biological, humanistic, social-cognitive, and cultural approaches. Emphasis is placed on evaluating empirical research and applying personality theory to real-world contexts.

Prerequisite: PSY 151

SMGT-370-01 Women & Leadership in Sport (Hybrid)**Shelby Masse****T****9:25am-10:40am**

This course explores the evolving role of women in sport with an emphasis on leadership, equity, and cultural change. Students will examine historical milestones such as Title IX, the barriers women continue to face in accessing leadership roles, and the ways in which hegemonic masculinity and structural inequality shape the sport industry. Students will also analyze contemporary issues including women's professional leagues, equal pay debates, and representation in coaching, front-office, and governing body positions. Through readings, discussions, case studies, projects, and engagement with current events, students will critically evaluate how gender intersects with leadership in sport.

SMGT-370-02 Pitch Design & Baseball Technology**Tim Mayo****T****9:25am-10:40am**

Description in progress.