

Winter 2027 Special Course Themes

HUM-270-ON1 At the Movies

Carrie Grimshaw

"At the Movies" is an engaging and comprehensive college-level course designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of the art and science of filmmaking. Through a combination of theoretical and practical elements, this course will equip students with the tools to analyze, appreciate, and create cinematic works. By the end of this course, students will have a well-rounded understanding of the art and craft of filmmaking, the ability to critically analyze films, and practical experience in producing their own cinematic works.

PSY-270-ON1 Good Grief: Death, Dying, & Bereavement

Brian McCoy

Explore one of life's most universal experiences through psychological, developmental, social, cultural, and practical perspectives on death, dying, loss, and bereavement. Students examine Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's influential work, hear the voices and stories of people facing the end of life, and consider the five common responses she identified. Through accessible readings, contemporary films, discussion posts, reflective writing, and creative activities, students explore how people find meaning, communicate with compassion, support one another, and navigate grief.

Prerequisite: PSY151

WAY-201-ON1 Stock & Option Trading (1 credit)

Tim Liptrap

This one-credit course will teach you the fundamentals of picking stocks and stock options. These fundamentals will help when you need to manage your own retirement funds, mutual funds, or day-to-day investments.

Did you know that the average return rate in a retirement plan is 7%? If you were to put \$2,000 year into a Roth IRA from age 21 to 65, you would have \$569,499 in retirement savings. But, if you learned how to evaluate and adjust your investments and thus earning an extra 1% a year, or 8% annually, your savings would jump to \$772,011.

In this one credit course, students will learn how to paper-trade stocks and stock options that are commonly available in retirement accounts. Evaluation techniques, risk modeling, current tools and trading methodologies will be covered as students compete to build their paper portfolios to earn that extra 1% a year.

Note: students must open a Charles Schwab account (BOOK) with \$25 at least one week before the course begins.

Spring 2027 Special Course Themes

BAN-370-01 Geographic Information Systems Prajwal Panday T/Th 12:15pm-1:30pm

This course introduces Geographic Information Systems (GIS) concepts and ESRI ArcGIS tools used to visualize real-world features, discover patterns, and communicate geospatial information. GIS is a collection of perspectives and tools for gathering, preparing, and analyzing digital spatial datasets, to interpret this information and solve location-based problems. Students will gain a solid understating of spatial data and information, learn practical skills of mapping, visualize geospatial data, analyzing spatial patterns, and incorporating spatial data in their workflows. GIS technology has a broad application in natural sciences, business, management, social sciences, criminal justice, and management. This course will introduce selected cases of GIS application across these disciplines.

CJ-270-01 Public Safety Communications & Emergency Response Cynthia Iwanski T/Th 9:25am-10:40am

This applied course prepares students for professional roles within public safety communications and emergency response environments. Students complete APCO's Public Safety Telecommunicator (8th edition) curriculum, developing foundational skills in emergency call taking, radio communications, interpersonal communication, public safety technology, Next Generation 9-1-1, liability, and contemporary issues affecting emergency communications centers. Students also develop essential emergency response skills through CPR and AED training. Successful completion provides students the opportunity to earn industry-recognized certifications in APCO Public Safety Telecommunications and CPR/AED, strengthening career readiness across criminal justice, emergency management, homeland security, and related public safety professions.

COMM-370-01 Algorithmic Communication Nikki Anderson T/Th 10:50am-12:05pm

This course examines how algorithms shape modern communication in digital society. Students will study how social media platforms, search engines, and artificial intelligence influence what people see, how they interact, and how they understand information. Topics include social media feeds, online identity, misinformation, algorithmic bias, artificial intelligence, and communication ethics. Students will explore the hidden systems that shape everyday digital life and consider what that means for human communication.

Prerequisite: COMM 247 or COMM 248

COMM-370-ON2 Professional Presentation and Workplace Communication Catrin Weimbs Online (UGO), Session 2

This course builds on the foundational public speaking skills developed in COMM-152 Effective Speaking and applies them to professional and workplace settings. Students will practice adapting messages for diverse audiences, purposes, and communication platforms. Assignments emphasize strategic audience analysis, persuasive and informative presentations, data storytelling, visual communication, executive presence, crisis response, instructional communication, and digital engagement. Students will create and deliver professional materials such as an executive briefing, sales presentation, formal board report incorporating financial information, crisis communication, workplace training, and social media content. Using narrated presentations, recorded videos, and contemporary digital platforms, students will strengthen their ability to communicate complex information clearly, persuasively, and professionally across a range of workplace situations.

Prerequisite: COMM 152

COMM -470-01 Passion Project

Kellie Deys

M/W 8:00am-9:15am

In this course, students will identify an area of great interest to them—something related to their major, career goals, entrepreneurial aspirations, or another passion they wish to explore. Integrating practice and theory, the course focuses on the design, development, and execution of a final communication research project that examines how communication can influence others to enhance positive social change in both organizations and communities. Students will choose the content and form of their project, considering written, oral, visual, and digital mediums. This course will count as 481: Communication Across Disciplines for Communication majors.

Prerequisite: *COMM 247 and a minimum of 60 credits completed*

CRIT-201-01 Murder & Mayhem a la Hitchcock

Jeffrey Susla

M/W 8:00am-9:15am

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 112

CRIT-201-02 Modern Horrors

Monica Benevides

T/Th 8:00am-9:15am

CRIT-201-03 Modern Horrors

Monica Benevides

T/Th 9:25am-10:40am

What stories haunt us, and why? In this class, we'll analyze how creators (writers and filmmakers, primarily) instill fear into their audiences. We'll read texts and watch films written and inspired by writers like Shirley Jackson, Stephen King, and Daphne du Maurier. Light on the gore, this class will focus on gothic and suspenseful storytelling - when it works, how it works, and also how it doesn't.

Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or ENGL 112

CRIT-201-04 Myths, Legends, & Superstitions

Emily Thomas

T/F 9:25am-10:40am

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

CRIT-201-05 Food Globalization & Socialization

Marissa Nasiatka

T/Th 9:25am-10:40am

Food is an integral part of what we refer to as culture; practices of food production and consumption enable humans to incorporate into our very bodies the products of nature transformed into culture. In this class, we will critically analyze the multiple relationships between food, culture, and processes of globalization. We will focus on issues of food and power, and in doing so, will work together as a class to identify and problematize the institutions, processes, and beliefs that inform our relationship to food in the United States. We will explore how food choices and preferences both influence, and are influenced by intersecting forms of social difference, including ethnicity, gender, class, nationality, and religion. We will use food practices as a lens through which we can understand ongoing processes of colonialism and globalization, as well as deconstruct the political and economic processes that influence the distribution of food resources and labor within the United States and around the globe.

Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or ENGL 112

ENGL-470-01 Crime/Horror Literature and Film Jim Deys T/F 9:25am-10:40am

This theme-based course will examine the intersection of crime and horror in novels, short stories, and film. We will analyze protagonists' motivations to commit crime and how crime and problem-solving drive plot and action, and explore how crime/horror blend to create tension and plot. We will consider issues of gender, power, manipulation, and the human psyche. Further, we will discuss the rise in popularity of both crime and horror fiction and how it translates to the screen in film adaptations. Possible texts include but are not limited to: Stevenson's *Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde*; Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*; Raymond Chandler's *The Long Goodbye*; Thompson's *The Killer Inside Me*; Krabbe's *The Vanishing*; King's *The Body*; King's *Shawshank Redemption*. Classic texts from Poe, Lovecraft, and more contemporary crime/horror texts will also be considered. Students will have the opportunity to create projects and presentations beyond the assigned texts as well.

FIN-370-01 Security Industry Essentials (SIE) Tim Liptrap M/W 12:15pm-1:30pm

This course prepares students for the Securities Industry Essentials (SIE) exam and provides a foundational understanding of the securities industry. Topics include types of securities and investment products, trading practices, regulatory agencies, prohibited activities, industry terminology, and the roles and responsibilities of securities professionals. Students will complete practice exams and schedule a licensing exam at the end of the semester. The license fee is not covered in the course. Course materials are required and may be an additional charge.

IBUS-370-01 Kenya Financial Empowerment Karin Curran & Julio Elias M/W 9:25am-10:40am

Become a member of the Kenya Financial Empowerment Group (KFEG), and experiential learning initiative dedicated to fostering partnerships between Nichols College students and young adults in Kenya. This course provides hands-on experience in promoting economic empowerment within an underserved community through financial literacy education, entrepreneurial support, and small-business redesign projects. Students will engage in cross-cultural collaboration, apply business and communication skills to real-world challenges, and contribute meaningfully to the long-term financial independence and sustainable economic progress of the Kenyan community. Through workshops, mentorship, and team-based problem solving, students develop practical competencies while advancing social impact on a global scale.

MGMT-370-01 Ethical Drift and Business Failure Heather Richards T/Th 9:25am-10:40am

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.

MKCM-370-01 Social Media Practicum**Ashley O'Keefe****M/W 9:25am-10:40am**

Students operate within an agency-style model, positioning themselves as digital marketing strategists while campus partners function as clients. Guided by a faculty mentor and departmental supervisor, students develop, execute, and analyze social media strategies with clearly defined deliverables tied to learning outcomes.

REAL-370-01 Immersive Content Creation**Rob Russo****T/Th 10:50am-12:05pm**

This hands-on course introduces students to the exciting world of drone-created media and 3D captures using small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS), Matterport technology to map homes and business, as well as 360 cameras to capture immersive experiences in conjunction with VR headsets. Students will explore the fundamentals of drone operations and regulations, design of Matterport maps and scan placement, and the process of video storytelling with immersive video, while also diving into the creative side — photography, videography, and virtual mapping. Through interactive mini-projects and a final client-based project, students will learn to capture, edit, and communicate stories through aerial visuals and immersive 3D environments. The course provides a foundation for FAA Part 107 knowledge, real estate photography, and professional visual storytelling.

REAL-370-ON2 The Zillow Effect: Digital-Age Real Estate**Maryann Conrad****Online (UGO), Session 2**

This course explores how Zillow, Realtor.com, HGTV and other digital platforms have transformed the way people buy, sell, rent, and invest in real estate. Students will learn to source, analyze, and interpret real estate data while evaluating market trends, property values, neighborhoods, and investment opportunities.

SMGT-370-01 German Sport and Culture**Brian Wendry & Catrin Weimbs****T/F 8:00am-9:15am**

This course explores the complex relationship between sport, history, politics, and culture in Germany, culminating in an experiential learning trip to Berlin and the surrounding region. Students will examine how sport has reflected and shaped German society, from Nazi propaganda and East Germany's state-sponsored sport and doping programs to contemporary football supporters taking public stands on political and social issues. They will also explore the development and organization of German professional and club sport and compare the German sport system with the American model. Through readings, discussions, historical site visits, and live sporting events, students will connect classroom learning to the places, institutions, and organizations that have shaped German history and contemporary sport.

Enrollment requires approval by instructors.

SOC-270-ON1 Ethics in Everyday Life**Lesia Patrock****Online (UGO), Session 1**

This introductory course explores ethical reasoning through the examination of contemporary issues and real-world moral dilemmas. Students will be introduced to major ethical theories and frameworks and will learn how to identify competing values, evaluate consequences, consider multiple perspectives, and construct well-reasoned ethical arguments. The course emphasizes critical thinking, empathy, open-minded dialogue, and personal responsibility. Students will have opportunities to examine their own beliefs and assumptions while respectfully engaging with perspectives different from their own.

SOC-370H Enemies

Michael Neagle

M/W 12:15pm-1:30pm

This course will explore the concept of the “enemy” from multi-disciplinary perspectives, including history, psychology, and literature. Drawing from past and present examples, we will consider such core questions as: What does it mean to be an enemy? What are the traits in common? Is there utility to such depictions? Weekly topics and readings will prepare students to examine the concept through their own questions and research at the end of the semester.

Enrollment open to Nichols Honors Scholar students only.

WAY-270 Alternative Spring Break

Beth Gionfriddo & Alex Cross

T 1:40pm-2:55pm

Students will explore servant leadership, service learning, community engagement, and social responsibility through participation in an Alternative Spring Break experience with Habitat for Humanity in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Through class discussion, reflection, hands-on service, and post-trip analysis, students will develop a deeper understanding of leadership through service and their role as engaged citizens.

Enrollment requires approval by instructors.