

SPRING 2020 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ART-290-001 Special Topics in Studio Art: Computer Animation I

Computer Animation I is an introduction to the traditional hand-drawn animation process utilizing contemporary digital software. Students will be led in various digital animation assignments designed to introduce the Adobe Animate software. The twelve main principles of animation, and a “tradigital” animation workflow. *Prerequisite: ART-101, ART-106, or ART-111 or permission of the instructor.* **Additional art materials/lab fee of \$80 is required.**

ART-290-002 Special Topics in Studio Art: Graphic Design I

This studio art course introduces students to the field and practice of graphic design through exploring the development and creation of visual responses to communication problems. The course will cover basic systems, tools, and technology used in graphic design, including graphic representation, composition of graphic and text elements, conceptual techniques, and relevant software. The course will use both computers and traditional media to create print and digital graphics. *Prerequisite: 100-level studio ART course or permission of the instructor.* **Additional art materials/lab fee of \$80 is required.**

ART-290-003 Special Topics in Studio Art: Directing for the Camera

The purpose of this class is to develop the student's ability to analyze a scripted scene or sequence, form a unique vision derived from thorough textual analysis, then communicate that vision effectively to an audience through carefully designed camera movement and choreographed actor staging. Throughout the course of the semester, students will gain practical experience in planning and choreographing camera and actor movement in both single, 'long take' scenes, and edited moving camera 'sequence' scenes or 'long take master scenes' with necessary edited coverage. Beginning with textual analysis, students will investigate the subtext of their chosen scene and integrate actor staging with camera movement to produce work that clearly articulates the director's unique vision of the text. Students will then learn the process of editing multiple camera movement shots into one coherent scene or sequence that furthers the director's visual design. The course will also examine the history of camera movement, beginning with The Silent Era and 'Golden Age' of the Hollywood Studio System and trace how camera movement evolved with technology and progressed through the various movements in world cinema. In addition, students will choose a director and do an in-class visual presentation on the evolution and technique of their chosen director's style of camera movement throughout their career. *Prerequisite: ART-105, FMS-150, or COM-250.* **Additional video/film lab fee of \$200 is required.**

ART-290-004 Special Topics in Studio Art: Web Design I

In this studio art course, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of web design. Organizational processes as well as formatting content for the web will be emphasized. This course will also focus on the user experience and creative problem solving for the web. *Prerequisite: 100-level studio ART course or permission of the instructor.* **Additional art materials/lab fee of \$80 is required.**

ART-290-005 Special Topics in Studio Art: Web Design for Non-Majors

An introduction to web design and development, this hands-on course emphasizes foundational design principles and teaches students how to plan, produce and manage professional portfolio websites. Taking the user experience into account, students will learn design standards, visual hierarchy, and gain a working knowledge of leading web design apps/software, resulting in the creation of an active web-based portfolio. **Additional art materials/lab fee of \$80 is required.**

ART-290-006 Special Topics in Studio Art: Introduction to Sculpture and 3-D Design

This course introduces the fundamental principles of three-dimensional design and sculptural techniques through an array of media and artistic approaches. Students will create sculptures in various materials and will also be introduced to historical and contemporary sculptors, while also developing their analytic vocabulary through discussions and critiques. **Additional art materials/lab fee of \$80 is required.**

ART-298-001 Special Topics in Art History: Women & Power: Women Artists

This course is a survey of women artists from prehistory to the present. Throughout the semester, we will examine women's art with the goal of understanding the circumstances that shaped women's access to art education, patronage, and exhibition opportunities. We will also discuss social, economic, intellectual, and political developments as they pertain to women artists and their art.

COR-102-090 Narratives of the Self II Explorations: In or Out? Shift Happens in Literature

This Explorations section focuses on how authors resurrect disregarded voices from an historical context. You will continue to hone your writing in response to the constructions found in the selected narratives as you would in the regular Narratives 102. We read two of the three “canonical” texts in the course, therefore you have a common reference point with your fellow core-mates, but you will understand those texts in relation to the socio-historical context they were born of. What do the characters

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go through, how are they seen or not seen, heard or not heard in their respective contexts and how does the author show us these experiences? The texts are organized around a "theme" with multiple viewpoints and spaces; I ask who is "In" and who is "Out" and "Who Says?" when reading so that we can consider the perspectives shown by the author. I also ask you to think about the way these voices are presented because the writers' techniques are part of getting us to see and think differently than the status quo of their contexts. Together we examine the relationship between seeing/understanding another's perspective and shifting dominant cultural discourses. In this era of globalization and migrations across cultural and national frontiers, as a student today, you have grown up in a new complexity of diversity. One of our goals in reading these narratives will be to situate and address the paradigms of interaction between groups and their contexts (both socially constructed and physical). Other objectives will be to identify the fundamental source(s) of our various protagonists' life conditions and also the ways in which these narratives disrupt old configurations of hierarchical fixed structure in cultural imagination. Instead of old constructions that produce and perpetuate "fixed" systems of identity and beliefs which exclude and oppress, the viewpoints and the ways of telling provided to you by these narratives diffract absolutes; they point to the necessity of a re-structuring and show we are all in relation to one another on this earth.

COR-202-090 Explorations in the Core: Human Nature and the Social Order II: Human & Animal

For as long as philosophers have written about human 'truth' and 'justice', others have used fictional or mythical depictions of animals in ways that exemplify or ridicule these ideas. This section dialogues foundational modern philosophical writings on human nature and the social order with stories addressing the same issues through depictions of 'animal' nature and the 'animal' social order. Issues raised in the works of Rousseau, Smith, Marx, Weber, and others will be examined in conjunction with such texts as those discussing 'animal' nature in Aesop's Fables, self-interest in a 'Grumbling Hive', ranks in a Japanese 'Animal Court', egalitarianism in an 'Animal Farm', enchantment (as opposed to disenchantment) in Native American Indian animal myths.

CSC-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Computer Science: Machine Learning

After a brief review of relevant statistical information, this course examines the basic models that form the basis of modern machine learning. This includes decision trees, neural networks, unsupervised learning techniques, genetic algorithms, Bayesian networks, and more. There will be weekly short projects, two exams, and a final independent project applying machine learning techniques to a novel problem. *Prerequisite: CSC-201 or permission of the instructor.*

ENG-240-001 Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies: Freedom Seekers and Narratives

Offered under the African American Studies minor, this course will explore narratives that resist social displacement and racial oppression in texts ranging from classic enslavement narratives by Frederick Douglass to more contemporary black fiction by Alice Walker, Colson Whitehead, Jacqueline Woodson, and others. We may also study 1960s soul music, the comic book Black Panther, the new Marvel series Luke Cage, and the film Dear White People. *Prerequisites: COR-101, COR-102, and a 100-level ENG course.*

ENG-240-002 Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies: Contemporary Literature

Where does the canon of modern and contemporary literature come from? This course will entail serious and sustained reflection upon the two terms invoked in its title: "literature" and "the contemporary." We will build our reading list from a series of very recent literary prize winners, emphasizing prose fiction but spanning a range of established and emergent forms and genres. Our primary task will be a critical examination of the creation of cultural value by tracking ongoing shifts and mutations in notions of the literary. Together, we will ask how literary prizes work, how they influence what and how we read, and what they reveal about the shaping dynamics of our historical moment. Some of the authors we will read may include: Anna Burns, Tayari Jones, Richard Powers, Sally Rooney, and Olga Tokarczuk. Our final text (or two) will be selected after the announcement of major prize winners in October 2019. *Prerequisites: COR-101, COR-102, and a 100-level ENG course.*

ENG-340-001 Advanced Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies: Freedom Seekers and Narratives

Offered under the African American Studies minor, this course will explore narratives that resist social displacement and racial oppression in texts ranging from classic enslavement narratives by Frederick Douglass to more contemporary black fiction by Alice Walker, Colson Whitehead, Jacqueline Woodson, and others. We may also study 1960s soul music, the comic book Black Panther, the new Marvel series Luke Cage, and the film Dear White People. *Prerequisites: COR-101, COR-102, 100-level ENG course, and ENG-210.*

ENG-340-002 Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies: Contemporary Literature

Where does the canon of modern and contemporary literature come from? This course will entail serious and sustained reflection upon the two terms invoked in its title: "literature" and "the contemporary." We will build our reading list from a series of very recent literary prize winners, emphasizing prose fiction but spanning a range of established and emergent forms and

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genres. Our primary task will be a critical examination of the creation of cultural value by tracking ongoing shifts and mutations in notions of the literary. Together, we will ask how literary prizes work, how they influence what and how we read, and what they reveal about the shaping dynamics of our historical moment. Some of the authors we will read may include: Anna Burns, Tayari Jones, Richard Powers, Sally Rooney, and Olga Tokarczuk. Our final text (or two) will be selected after the announcement of major prize winners in October 2019. *Prerequisites: COR-101, COR-102, and a 100-level ENG course.*

ENG-340-003 Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies: The Godwins & Shelleys

In this course we'll investigate the major works, lives, and historical and social contexts of "England's First Family of Writers": William Godwin, Mary Wollstonecraft, Mary Shelley, and Percy Shelley. During the years in which the democratic spirit of the French Revolution seemed poised to spread throughout all of Europe, the Godwins and the Shelleys distinguished themselves as England's pre-eminent radical thinkers. William Godwin is the father of modern Anarchism; Mary Wollstonecraft demanded equal rights for women and defended the French Revolution at a time when both ideas were deeply unpopular; their daughter, Mary Shelley, is the author of *Frankenstein* and therefore the originator of modern science fiction; and her husband, the radical poet Percy Shelley, was an outspoken atheist, vegetarian, and defender of the working classes. Together, this group of writers embraced revolutionary change during a time of intense governmental repression. Their works, collectively, contain enormous moral courage and philosophical depth.

In addition to reading representative works from our four main authors, we'll likely look at some shorter works from figures with whom they were associated (including, especially, Lord Byron, who was with the Shelleys when the idea for *Frankenstein* was first hatched, and who was in the midst of his own creative flourishing). We'll read also recent scholarship to add philosophical and historical context to the primary sources.

Prerequisites: COR-101, COR-102, 100-level ENG course, and ENG-210.

FMS-290-001 Special Topics in Film and Media Studies: Mediterranean Cinema

Mediterranean Cinema will introduce students to the vast and rich cinematic history of both Spain and Italy. This course will take a chronological approach, giving students an introduction to the traditions of both Italian and Spanish filmmaking. Drawing on the unique histories of both countries, the course will put into context the common social, historical and economic issues that both countries faced during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries to highlight major movements and directors like neorealism, social realism, *La movida*, Fellini, Almodóvar, Rossellini, Bardem, Buñuel and more.

FMS-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Film and Media Studies: Documentary Filmmaking

This course will explore the theory and technique of creating a documentary film with a focus on the structure of documentary genres. With an emphasis on nonfiction field production, students will learn to consider audience, genre, and purpose in creating visual texts. Students will gain practical experience in planning a documentary film production by learning how to write a proposal, conduct research, write a script, produce, direct, shoot, and edit a documentary. Throughout the course of the semester, we will screen important documentaries as we observe and analyze technique and style. In addition, students will choose a well-known documentarian and complete a written report and an in-class visual presentation on the stylistic evolution and technique of their chosen documentarian throughout his/her career. **Additional video/film lab fee of \$200 is required.**

FRE-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in French Language, Literature, and Culture: The Human and Others in French-language Literatures and Media

Do you know that we humans are animals? In this course we examine the way constructions of the animal Other mask the reality (and necessity) of ecosystems on our planet. Writing about animals and other elements of "nature" is the modern quest for social justice and redefining the way we relate to each other and to our world. Is there a French way of asking the 'animal question'? We will think with animals by considering their representations as being Other (or object) in French-language literatures and other cultural products (film, documentaries, and exhibits), especially the interactions between "nature and "culture". These terms are themselves loaded with meaning that divides groups. Which groups get to be subject and which ones are objectified? Who deserves to be saved, to flourish, and who is excluded? Given the socio-environmental challenges we face now, in the Anthropocene, a close look at la condition animale illuminates the unsustainability of the human imprint - our current ways of interacting and operating in major industrialized societies. We need updated paradigms that rethink and change old mindsets of maîtrise et possession (mastery and possession) over nature. Be careful of what you wish for: theorizing the animal Other alters our sense of ourselves and our own species as well as how disciplinary fields organize "knowledge". *The course will be taught in English using translations and subtitles, and therefore aims to 'play nice' with other disciplines. Students are welcome from History, Gender Studies, Ecology, and Biology/Biopsychology through to Languages and Literatures and beyond. French majors and minors will read/view the original works in French as well as submit analyses in French.

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HIS-290-001 Special Topics in History: Ancient Warfare

War is a cross-cultural human phenomenon that has existed since the beginning of history. If “history is written by the victor,” how has war influenced our place in world history and perception of the past? In order to understand why humans have been unable to coexist harmoniously, this course questions what exactly war in the ancient world is and how ancient societies practiced warfare. This course emphasizes the critical study of ancient art, material culture, and texts (in translation) to understand ancient battles, logistics, training, arms and armor, recruitment, and cultural perceptions of war (among many other topics!) in ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Mesoamerica. Students will also be introduced to experimental archaeology, using hands-on learning to test various scholarly theories about the mechanics of ancient warfare.

HIS-290-002 Special Topics in History: Ancient Egyptian History: Empires and Expansion (1750-30 BCE)

This course explores ancient Egyptian history from the end of the Middle Kingdom (c.1750 BCE) to the death of Cleopatra (30 BCE). This period saw the zenith of ancient Egyptian power and culture with the creation of the New Kingdom empire and the famed reigns of Tutankhamun, Ramesses the Great, and the female pharaoh Hatshepsut. We will examine ancient Egypt's transition into a superpower, its spectacular decline, and its subsequent move into the wider multicultural and multiethnic world of the 1st Millennium BCE, contextualizing its place in the broader ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean worlds.

HIS-290-003 Special Topics in History: Through the Looking Glass: Modern Problems in the Ancient World

We study history in the hope that society will learn from the past, but the problems of the modern world are nothing new. This course examines the parallels between the modern world problems of today and those found in the context of the ancient world. *Through the Looking Glass* is a student driven course. In the first week, students research and pitch what they consider to be the biggest problems of the modern world. The syllabus will be completely constructed around these ideas, mapping how those modern problems are already visible in ancient world. Are we doomed to keep making the same mistakes? Let's study the ancient world to find out!

INT-490-201 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies: Cinema Espanol

This course will focus on the complexities of Spanish culture and society through the films of directors like Buñuel, Almodóvar, Uribe, Bollaín, and others. By discussing and analyzing the works of these directors, the course will explore how the following issues impacted and changed Spanish society during the twentieth-century: the Spanish Civil War and Franco Dictatorship, creating and contesting a narrow notion of Spanish identity, gender politics, the colonialist past, and immigration. This course is conducted in English. No knowledge of Spanish is required. All films are subtitled in English.

MAT-290-101 Special Topics in Mathematics: MCM Preparation Seminar (1 credit)

This is a seminar intended to prepare the student for the Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM), an annual team competition sponsored by the Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications (COMAP). Students will take turns in leading the discussion of problems and solutions from previous contests. This seminar will end right before the start of the competition on February 13, 2020. *Prerequisite: MAT-236 or permission of the instructor.*

MAT-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Mathematics: Complex Analysis

This course introduces participants to the fundamental theory of functions of a complex variable. Think calculus with complex numbers. Topics include analytic functions, elementary functions, conformal mapping, complex integration, and infinite series. *Prerequisites: MAT 233 and MAT 261 with grade of "C-" or higher, or permission of the instructor.*

MUS-290-001 Special Topics in Music: Symphonic Ensembles

The Symphonic Ensemble is a general curriculum course that includes all instruments. The ensemble studies and performs standard ensemble literature and is open to all students with instrumental experience.

POL-290-001 Special Topics in Politics: Civil Rights and Liberties

This is, in effect, the second half of a two-semester sequence in Constitutional Law, focusing on cases and controversies flowing out of the first ten Amendments (the Bill of Rights) and the Fourteenth Amendment (especially from its Due Process and Equal Protection clauses). Students need not have taken POL 201 to profit from this class.

Our purpose is to examine as thoroughly as possible both the Constitution and the efforts of the Supreme Court to expound its meaning in response to the disputes brought before it. We will try to think like constitutional drafters and like lawyers and judges, reading the Constitution and the case law with a critical eye.

POL-290-002 Special Topics in Politics: Understanding Political Islam

This course examines the historical, political and theological roots of today's political Islam in its manifold expressions. The course focuses largely on the greater Middle East and North Africa (MENA), but also includes other important regions, such as

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Pakistan, Indonesia, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The late Ottoman period and the development of nation-states will be the approximate starting point for the class, and will continue through periods of modernization, post-colonialism and independence movements, to communal identity clarification in the era of globalization. The West and its interactions with the Muslim world will also be a key focus, examining especially why Western hegemonic aspirations have led to anti-Western backlash and the birth and growth of non-state Islamist groups. Key Islamist concepts, thinkers, and movements will constitute core elements of the course. Readings will be a combination of both primary and secondary sources.

This course is designed for students who desire to know more about the world inhabited by more than two billion Muslims. No particular background in Islam or the history of the Muslim world is necessary, although this certainly would be useful.

POL-290-201 Special Topics in Politics: Politics and Protest

The seminar will use the histories and living legacies of Black protest, in the United States and worldwide, as an entrée into the study of politics and political science theories and methodologies. "Politics and Protest" will explore, among other questions: how political claims and identities are forged through protest; how political agency takes shape within relations of power, oppression, and domination; how moral and ethical values, principles, narratives, and traditions foment or suppress political conflict and change.

POL-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Politics: Nationalism and Populism

Nationalism and Populism remain dominant forces in world politics – witness Trump, Johnson, Xi, Putin, the list goes on – contrary to globalists predictions. This course compares and contrasts these two forms of 'people power,' theoretically and empirically, historically and today, in implicit dialogue with those adhering to a globalist vision of world politics. In addition to common class case studies that assess organizational rhetorical, and socio-economic explanations for nationalism and populism, students will develop and present case studies to enrich collective understanding of how these isms manifest themselves through discussion of places and times of personal interest to class members. *Prerequisite: COR-202*

PSY-290A-001 Special Topics in Clinical Psychology: Clinical Psychology

This course is designed to give students an overview of clinical psychology practice. Students are introduced to assessment procedures and the most prominent types of psychotherapy for children and adults. Students in this course will also learn about the process of pursuing graduate training in the field. In addition, this course will discuss the process of establishing and running a clinical practice. *Prerequisite: PSY-101.*

PSY-290D-101 Special Topics in Social Psychology: Social Networking

Social networking, or the use of internet-based social media programs to make connections with others, have come to play an increasingly important role in aspects of our lives. In today's world, the ability to grow, nurture, and leverage social networks can be highly influential not only in our personal lives but also in our career pursuits. This course will discuss Social Network Analysis concepts and techniques that are thought to provide a competitive edge. Through readings, class discussion, and visual-analytic demonstrations, you will discover, analyze, and learn how to better leverage your own social networks. *Prerequisite: PSY-101.*

PSY-290E-101 Special Topics in Psychology: Forensic Psychology

This course will review the application of clinical and abnormal psychology to criminal cases. Students will learn the many roles of forensic psychologists, gain an appreciation for the benefits and limitation of forensic psychology expert testimony, and have an opportunity to practice applying mental health concepts to forensic cases. Students will also be introduced to the research on controversial forensic techniques, such as the use of lie-detectors, handwriting analyses, and criminal profiling. In addition, we will investigate the use of mental health defenses in high profile cases, including the use of unusual defenses (e.g., Battered Spouse Syndrome, Dissociative Disorder). This class is different from, and does not overlap with, the department's course "Psychology and Law." Like the law class, this one is particularly relevant for those considering a career at the intersection of clinical psychology and the legal system. This class does not fulfill a specific area requirement for the B.S. Psychology Degree, but can serve as an elective for either the B.S. or BALS degrees. *Prerequisite: PSY-101.*

SOC-290-001 Special Topics in Sociology: Space, Place, and Community

This course examines the sociological concept of space as both physical and social, and its relationship to place-making and community through social relations and interactions. Examines theoretical perspectives and empirical studies of space and place, to include urban spaces, sites of production, consumption and leisure. *Prerequisite: SOC-101.*

SPN-290-001 Special Topics in Hispanic Language, Literature, and Culture: Cinema Espanol

This course will focus on the complexities of Spanish culture and society through the films of directors like Buñuel, Almodóvar, Uribe, Bollaín, and others. By discussing and analyzing the works of these directors, the course will explore how the following

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issues impacted and changed Spanish society during the twentieth-century: the Spanish Civil War and Franco Dictatorship, creating and contesting a narrow notion of Spanish identity, gender politics, the colonialist past, and immigration. *Prerequisite: SPN-301.*

SPN-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Hispanic Language, Literature, and Culture: Cinema Espanol

This course will focus on the complexities of Spanish culture and society through the films of directors like Buñuel, Almodóvar, Uribe, Bollaín, and others. By discussing and analyzing the works of these directors, the course will explore how the following issues impacted and changed Spanish society during the twentieth-century: the Spanish Civil War and Franco Dictatorship, creating and contesting a narrow notion of Spanish identity, gender politics, the colonialist past, and immigration. *Prerequisite: SPN-302.*

THE-290-001 Special Topics in Theatre: Sound Design

This course is an introduction to the art and craft of sound design for theater. It will examine the methods and tools essential for conceptualizing and completing a sound design from the basic sound system set up through the delivery of a finalized product.

THE-290-002 Special Topics in Theatre: Introduction to Musical Theatre Dance (2 credits)

This class is perfect for the actor/singer who is looking to feel more confident with stage movement, choreography and dance. Students will be introduced to the foundations of musical theatre and jazz dance styles, including technique, terminology, musicality and choreography. Balance, core strength, rhythm and coordination will be developed through warm-up exercises, across-the-floor phrases and center floor combinations. Upon completion of this course, students will feel more prepared and confident in dance auditions, as well as more versatile and agile on stage. This course is for any student interested in learning more about dance. It is not necessary to be a theater major to enroll in the course.

WGS-290-001 Special Topics in Women's and Gender Studies: Women & Power: Women Artists

This course is a survey of women artists from prehistory to the present. Throughout the semester, we will examine women's art with the goal of understanding the circumstances that shaped women's access to art education, patronage, and exhibition opportunities. We will also discuss social, economic, intellectual, and political developments as they pertain to women artists and their art.

WRI-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Writing: Advanced Creative Writing

This course provides the opportunity for an advanced, intense study of a topic in Creative Writing chosen by the student under the direct supervision of the instructor. Topics include but are not limited to a short story cycle, poem cycle, screenplay or theatrical playscript, novella, or essay collection. Written critical evaluation as well as a creative project are required. The student and instructor will collaborate throughout the semester to ensure the completion of a focused, individualized project. This course is suited for junior or senior students with a declared WRI minor. *Prerequisite: 3 courses from WRI.*