

## **SUMMER 2020 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **ART-290-330 Special Topics in Studio Art: Intro to Web Design**

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/film materials fee of \$100 is required.**

### **CSC-290-530 Special Topics in Computer Science: Cloud Foundations *2 credit course***

AWS Cloud Foundations prepares any student to understand the basics of the Amazon Web Services Cloud and cloud computing in general. We start with basic IT, command line, and business background then explore how Amazon's Cloud computes, stores data, creates networks, creates databases, and related topics. Students completing this course will be well-prepared to take the AWS Practitioner's Exam leading to a professional certification to enhance their employability. Note that this course is 2 credits and does not count towards the computer science minor.

### **HIS-290-530 Special Topics in History: Digital History: The Use and Abuse of Public History**

As a subsection of Public History, Digital History uses digital methods to collect, analyze, interpret, and share historical scholarship. But is digital technology helping or harming the study of history? This course seeks to answer this question by studying the intersection of ancient history and modern technology. We will examine how historians use digital technologies such as 3D scanning, machine-learning programs, and RTI photography to further the study of the ancient past. The course will also consider the means and ethics of using digital technology to present the past to the general public. How and why are online museum collections, video games, virtual reality, phone apps, open access publications, and research websites used as platforms for the dissemination of historical knowledge of the ancient past to the general public, and how successful are they? Throughout the course we will practice the creation of digital scholarship, culminating in a digital project to be shared with the public. By examining the democratization of historical knowledge made possible through modern digital technology, this course asks who has the "right" and ability to practice history, and whether knowledge should be closely guarded by those who study it professionally or shared widely for all to access.

### **HIS-290-531 Special Topics in History: Religion and Culture in the Ancient World**

Why have all human civilizations believed in beings they cannot see or prove to exist? This course studies the similarities and differences of ancient religions around the world up to the Christianization of the Roman Empire, paying special attention to how religion shaped ancient cultures. Topics will include creation, death, polytheism, the rise of monotheism, the nature of deities, the architecture of religion, divine monarchies, priests, women's roles in religion, local and private religions, religious festivals, and religious laws. Using primary sources, students will understand this topic through the words and objects created by ancient people themselves and learn to critically analyze historical sources. This course will concentrate on the ancient cultures of China, Egypt, Greece, Mesopotamia, and Rome to understand the place and role of religion in ancient societies.

### **INT-290-530 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies: Science and World Religions**

This course examines the conflicts, and conversations, between modern science and world religions, the role of belief-systems in science and religion, scientific discoveries supposedly paralleling mystical ideas, recent re-evaluations of the debate between science and religions, and the typologies of faith and theory.

Taught in an interdisciplinary format, this course is both a science and a humanities, exploring the nature of science, and how it works, as well as religions like Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism, and their claims to truth; this course also examines the scientific challenges to some of the major beliefs in all world religions, and points where science and religion may have common grounds.

### **INT-290-531 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies: Food and Culture**

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Food Studies. Using food as an interdisciplinary framework, students will study how food interacts with culture and society. Embodying the phrase "you are what you eat," the course will examine how food builds us both biologically and culturally while also exploring how food encodes our social and cultural identities and interactions. Drawing from a vast array of disciplines, students will gain an understanding of foundational Food Studies concepts and theories, and explore how food functions within diverse disciplines such as sociology, history, psychology, cultural studies and more.

### **POL-290-430 Special Topics in Politics: Introduction to Criminal Justice**

This class is an introductory course that examines the three components of the criminal justice system: law enforcement, courts, and corrections, independently and interdependently. The context of this examination will be established early on with discussions of theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of criminology and criminal justice. With respect to the substantive components of the field, we specifically will study the history of policing, the structure of law enforcement, and the

## **SUMMER 2020 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

functions and roles of police officers. We also will look at case law and procedures that define the boundaries of law enforcement, focusing on due process landmark cases. In the second section of the course, we will evaluate the agents of the criminal justice system as they function and interact in the courtroom. This part of the course emphasizes the role of legal geography and includes a critical analysis of the courtroom workgroup that challenges the traditional adversarial perspective. The third section of the class explores the corrections system, first looking at its history and then delving into sentencing philosophies and how they are manifested in specific penalties. Our exploration of these areas are structured around contemporary substantive topics within the context of the criminal justice system, such as special offender populations in jails and prisons, human trafficking, drug laws, and environmental crime and justice. We also will discuss the juvenile justice system, including its history, current purposes and practices, and contemporary issues (e.g., juvenile transfer).

### **POL-290-530 Special Topics in Politics: Contemporary Themes in International Politics**

This course aims to introduce the student to some of the key themes, actors and institutions that impact international politics, focusing primarily on the period from the events of 9/11 to the present. It will examine the intersection of security and humanitarian issues that currently affect the international order, emphasizing especially those that will have an increasing impact on global affairs in the not distant future. These include inter alia hard, soft, and smart power; cyber (in)security and big data; environmental change and global migration; alternative digital currencies and global trade; tribalism in an age of globalism; human rights and wrongs in autocratic states; UN Sustainability goals and basic human rights; Identity and ethics of the coming cyborg humanity.

### **SOC-290-530 Special Topics in Sociology: Drug Use and American Society**

This course is about drugs, but more specifically this course is about how we feel about drugs. We will talk about how, as a society, we classify what counts as a drug, which drugs are "good," which drugs are "bad," what kind of people use drugs, and what kind of people sell drugs. In some ways, this class is not about drugs at all, but rather about race, class, gender, and power. We will track the progression of certain drugs through the course of time and examine the ways in which society changes its conception about the drug as society itself changes. In this class you will be asked to reflect on the impact of drugs on your own life, on the lives of others, and on American society as a whole. The goal of this course is to critically examine the American narrative regarding drugs and drug use. *Prerequisite: SOC-101.*

### **WGS-290-530 Special Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Multicultural Women Writers**

This course will focus on the work of twentieth century women writers from various backgrounds and their struggles and perspectives on the issues of culture, ethnicity, and American identity in their writing. Class discussions will include: how the author and the characters struggle to create a sense of female identity within the conflicting influences of family and American culture, how the authors respond to stereotypes of their cultural heritage, and how they depict the history of their group within the larger context of American history. Readings include works by authors from various backgrounds and cultures from children's picture books to full length adult novels. *CROSS-LISTED WITH WRI-250-530.*

### **WRI-290-530 Special Topics in Writing: Multicultural Women Writers**

This course will focus on the work of twentieth century women writers from various backgrounds and their struggles and perspectives on the issues of culture, ethnicity, and American identity in their writing. Class discussions will include: how the author and the characters struggle to create a sense of female identity within the conflicting influences of family and American culture, how the authors respond to stereotypes of their cultural heritage, and how they depict the history of their group within the larger context of American history. Readings include works by authors from various backgrounds and cultures from children's picture books to full length adult novels. *CROSS-LISTED WITH WGS-290-530.*