

SPRING 2021 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AAS-290-101 Special Topics in African American Studies: Blacks in the Criminal Justice System

This course critically examines African Americans (males, females, and juveniles) as offenders, victims, and workers in the American Judicial System. Students will explore the history of the concept of race, discuss the criminological theories used to explain the race-crime relationship as well as examine the past and current status of race in the Criminal Justice System. This course will also address the topics such as corrections, punishment and treatment, courts, reentry/recidivism, drugs, mental and physical illness, the death penalty, racial and ethnic profiling, and social class. Students will also review prosecutions, sentencing and incarceration.

ART-290-001 Special Topics in Studio Art: Web Design

This hands-on course emphasizes foundational design principles and website management. Students will learn how to plan, produce, and operate both personal and professional websites. By incorporating user experience, design standards, and visual hierarchy, students will gain an understanding of leading web design applications and software, culminating in the creation of an interactive personal website. [CROSS-LISTED WITH COM-290-003 AND FMS-290-001.](#)

ART-290-002 Special Topics in Studio Art: Animation I

This course combines art and digital media, providing students with the tools and techniques to create original animations, starting from concept to completed animated film. Students learn the principles of animation, as well as drawing and storyboarding techniques, and become adept at using industry standard digital animation software (Adobe Photoshop, Animate, and AfterEffects). *Pre-requisite: Any 100-level studio art course or FMS-150.* [CROSS-LISTED WITH FMS-290-002.](#)

ART-290-003 Special Topics in Studio Art: Experimental Drawing and Digital Art

This studio art course combines conventional drawing techniques and digital media to explore the boundaries of drawing and the intersection of the digital and analogue. Students will work with various art mediums (black/white, color, wet/dry, found materials) and traditional and experimental modes of mark-making, which will then be manipulated and layered digitally to create thought-provoking works of art. Using these unorthodox approaches, students will develop practical skills and discover how experimentation can lead to unexpected and interesting possibilities. The work and art practices of significant historic and contemporary artists such as Sol LeWitt, Julie Mehretu, Wangechi Mutu, Vik Muniz, William Kentridge, and others will also be discussed and used as points of exploration. *Pre-requisite: Any 100-level studio art course.*

ART-290-004 Special Topics in Studio Art: Painting the Human Figure

Working from the life model, students will learn how to paint the human figure in a range of approaches and points of view, from super realism to abstraction. The course will cover the materials and techniques of painting the human figure in oils, as well as color mixing, anatomical landmarks and concepts, and related issues in painting the human figure in a variety of art historical contexts. **Additional art/film materials fee of \$100 is required.**

ART-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Studio Art: Interdisciplinary Studio Art

This intensive, advanced level studio art course focuses on idea-based approaches to interdisciplinary art. Students use an array of media, techniques and research to discover and implement ways to best communicate an idea and develop a voice. To advance their work and the work of their peers, students will engage in monthly group critiques. *Prerequisites: completion of 2 studio art courses, including one which covers digital media.* Additional art/film materials fee of \$100 is required.

ART-490-002 Advanced Special Topics in Studio Art: Animation II

This course further develops skills learned in Computer Animation 1. Students will expand their technical and conceptual expertise, learning more advanced animation methods to create both narrative and experimental animations using industry standard animation software. Students must acquire permission of instructor to register.

BIO-490A-001 Advanced Special Topics in Cellular/Molecular Biology: Genetic Engineering

Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the development of genome editing technology. Charpentier and Doudna repurposed CRISPR/Cas9, part of the bacterial adaptive immune response, as a tool to precisely edit genomes of a variety of different organisms. What are the applications of genetic engineering? Should we be concerned about designer babies? What do farmers think of genetic modification? In this seminar-style course we will learn the molecular genetic techniques and cutting-edge biotechnology used to genetically engineer an organism. We will examine several examples of genetic engineering including genetically modified crops, transgenic animals for xenotransplantation, genetically modified insects for vector-borne disease control, "designer babies," human gene therapy, and pharmaceutical production. In addition, we will touch on the ecological, environmental, ethical, economic, and political issues associated with production and distribution of genetically engineered organisms. Readings from primary literature, review

SPRING 2021 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

articles, and opinion and commentary pieces will guide our discussions. *Prerequisite: BIO-201. Additional science lab fee of \$100 is required.*

BIO-490B-001 Advanced Special Topics in Organismal Biology: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy Lab

Companion lab for BIO-490B AST: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy offered during last Fall 2020 semester. *Prerequisite: completion of BIO-490B lecture from Fall 2020. Additional science lab fee of \$100 is required.*

BIO-490C-001 Advanced Special Topics in Ecological Biology: Avian Ecology

This course will use fieldwork, literature, exercises, lectures, and interviews to explore the intersection of bird biology, ecology, and urbanization. Enrolled students will develop academic knowledge, field and publication skills, and familiarity with career paths. *Prerequisite: BIO-111 and BIO-201 both with C- or better. Additional science lab fee of \$100 is required.*

BIO-490C-002 Advanced Special Topics in Ecological Biology: Marine Biology and Global Climate Change

This course covers the unique challenges facing marine ecosystems in the face of global climate change. This course will focus on the ecology of marine ecosystems ranging from coral reefs to arctic systems through the lens of behavioral, population, and community ecology. After gaining an understanding of the system, students will learn the effects ocean acidification, warming, melting sea ice, and other factors have on these unique systems. *Prerequisite: BIO-201*

CHM-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Chemistry: Computational and Theoretical Methods

A project-based course that focuses on learning the principles of computational chemistry and molecular design. Both molecular mechanical and quantum mechanical models will be explored. Students will learn a variety of commonly used techniques and apply them to modern challenges in chemistry. *Prerequisite: CHM-202. Co-requisite: CHM-490L-001.*

CHM-490L-001 Advanced Special Topics in Chemistry: Computational and Theoretical Methods Lab

Companion lab for CHM-490-001 AST: Computational and Theoretical Methods. *Co-requisite: CHM-490-001. Additional science lab fee of \$100 is required.*

COM-290-001 Special Topics in Communication Studies: Sports Communications

This course examines the relationship between sports and media in today's society. Specifically, we'll examine how that relationship: (1) reinforces social values, (2) sometimes challenges social norms, and (3) draws on the cultural identification of race, gender, and class to link sports values with cultural values. Using theories of cultural studies, rhetoric, and media criticism, we will look closely at media's role in telling the story of sports and, in telling that story, how it shapes and reinforces cultural values. Students will study several critical approaches to sports and public discourse and will apply those approaches to sports organizations, the news media, and popular media. *Pre-requisite: COM-120*

COM-290-002 Special Topics in Communication Studies: Multimedia Journalism

Multiplatform Journalism is first and foremost a creative class. We will hone your mastery of the craft of journalism by applying its story telling principles on multiple platforms. You will be challenged to explore the role of journalism is in our democracy, situating its importance in a just society. The class will be a workshop format, and students will act as a newsroom to generate their own individual stories. Each student will write and produce five different original pieces of journalistic content. *Pre-requisite: COM-240.*

COM-290-003 Special Topics in Communication Studies: Web Design

This hands-on course emphasizes foundational design principles and website management. Students will learn how to plan, produce, and operate both personal and professional websites. By incorporating user experience, design standards, and visual hierarchy, students will gain an understanding of leading web design applications and software, culminating in the creation of an interactive personal website. [CROSS-LISTED WITH ART-290-001 AND FMS-290-001.](#)

COM-490-201 Advanced Special Topics in Communication Studies: Health Communication

This course in Health Communication is strategy-based. Students will learn about the role of communication in health promotion. The course will provide an introduction to health communication campaign planning and evaluation, through the application of health communication theories, research, and strategies. The course will also address emerging issues in health communication. *Pre-requisite: COM-101*

CSC-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Computer Science: Artificial Intelligence

An introduction to artificial intelligence. Topics include intelligent system design methodologies, search and problem solving, supervised and reinforced learning, and reasoning under uncertainty. *Prerequisite: CSC-201.*

SPRING 2021 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ECO-290-001 Special Topics in Economics: Economics of the Environment

This course provides an introductory exposure to economic theory with applications tailored toward environmental, natural resource, and agricultural problems. Students will learn how economic forces can lead to environmental degradation while also learning to think critically about the trade-offs associated with various management solutions. This course is aimed at students who have not taken a Principles-level Economics course at Oglethorpe and students with majors outside of the Hammack School of Business are particularly encouraged to enroll. This course does not serve as a substitute for a student's ECO 120 or ECO 122 major or minor requirements. This course can be used to satisfy the prerequisite requirement for ECO 325 (Environmental Economics).

ENG-240-001 Topics in Literary & Cultural Studies: Literary Modernism

Literary modernism is less a movement than a cluster of styles of writing, or a series of heated arguments. Modernism does not have a single clear meaning, but instead developed across a variety of fields and styles in reaction to cultural and political changes during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. This course will explore the aesthetic and cultural stakes in radically varied constructions of modernity by reading a number of texts that are labeled "modernist," and that include prose (Ford's *The Good Soldier*, West's *The Return of the Soldier*, Larsen's *Passing*, Toomer's *Cane*, Woolf's *Between the Acts*, Barnes' *Nightwood*), poetry (Pound, H. D., Eliot, Williams, Moore, Stevens, Stein, Loy), essays, and manifestos (on Futurism, Dada, and Surrealism, among others). To enrich our reading of primary texts, we will also look at recent scholarship to get a sense of where modernist studies is going. Roughly the last third of the course will be spent on the relation of the Harlem Renaissance to modernism, and representations of gender and sexuality in modernist texts. Course requirements include a demanding reading schedule, active participation, frequent critical questions, one short essay, one research paper, and an oral presentation. *Pre-requisites: COR-101, COR-102, and a 100-level ENG course.*

ENG-241-001 Topics in Genre Studies: Children's Literature

In this genre-studies-centered course, students will explore the works of twentieth-century canonical children's literature, including novels by C.S. Lewis, Astrid Lindgren, and Beverly Cleary, while also studying the elements of the traditional bildungsroman, or coming of age novel, as found in the works of contemporary transnational writers such as Sherman Alexie and Kazuo Ishiguro, and delving into newer narrative forms as well as developments in transgender YA fiction. We will probe into the nature of childhood and explore how authors critique dominant ideologies of the time (imperialism, global capitalism). *Pre-requisites: COR-101, COR-102, and a 100-level ENG course.*

ENG-340-001 Advanced Special Topics in Literary & Cultural Studies: Literary Modernism

Literary modernism is less a movement than a cluster of styles of writing, or a series of heated arguments. Modernism does not have a single clear meaning, but instead developed across a variety of fields and styles in reaction to cultural and political changes during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. This course will explore the aesthetic and cultural stakes in radically varied constructions of modernity by reading a number of texts that are labeled "modernist," and that include prose (Ford's *The Good Soldier*, West's *The Return of the Soldier*, Larsen's *Passing*, Toomer's *Cane*, Woolf's *Between the Acts*, Barnes' *Nightwood*), poetry (Pound, H. D., Eliot, Williams, Moore, Stevens, Stein, Loy), essays, and manifestos (on Futurism, Dada, and Surrealism, among others). To enrich our reading of primary texts, we will also look at recent scholarship to get a sense of where modernist studies is going. Roughly the last third of the course will be spent on the relation of the Harlem Renaissance to modernism, and representations of gender and sexuality in modernist texts. Course requirements include a demanding reading schedule, active participation, frequent critical questions, one short essay, one research paper, and an oral presentation. *Pre-requisites: COR-101, COR-102, a 100-level ENG course, and ENG-210.*

ENG-340-002 Advanced Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies: Marxism and Psychoanalysis

In this advanced theory seminar, we'll attempt to piece together the various ways in which contemporary critical theory has been influenced by the synthesis of Marxism and Psychoanalysis. Readings will likely include foundational works by Marx, Engels, Freud, and Lacan, as well as works by authors whose theories combine both Marxist and Freudian insights (including esp. Zizek and Marcuse). Topics will include: Ideology and Subjectivity, Desire and Society, and the possibility (or impossibility) of achieving a state of liberated freedom (whether through writing, sexuality, symbolic or literal death, or some other arrangement). While the readings will be dense, the aim is not to assign so much reading as to prevent deep engagement with the big ideas. We will emphasize clarity of understanding over breadth of reading. Students will write several medium length papers and give presentations. *Prerequisite: ENG-210. [CROSS-LISTED WITH PHI-290-002.](#)*

ENG-341-001 Advanced Special Topics in Genre Studies: Children's Literature

In this genre-studies-centered course, students will explore the works of twentieth-century canonical children's literature, including novels by C.S. Lewis, Astrid Lindgren, and Beverly Cleary, while also studying the elements of the traditional bildungsroman, or coming of age novel, as found in the works of contemporary transnational writers such as Sherman Alexie

SPRING 2021 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

and Kazuo Ishiguro, and delving into newer narrative forms as well as developments in transgender YA fiction. We will probe into the nature of childhood and explore how authors critique dominant ideologies of the time (imperialism, global capitalism). *Pre-requisites: COR-101, COR-102, a 100-level ENG course, and ENG-210.*

FMS-290-001 Special Topics in Film and Media Studies: Web Design

This hands-on course emphasizes foundational design principles and website management. Students will learn how to plan, produce, and operate both personal and professional websites. By incorporating user experience, design standards, and visual hierarchy, students will gain an understanding of leading web design applications and software, culminating in the creation of an interactive personal website. [CROSS-LISTED WITH ART-290-001 AND COM-290-003.](#)

FMS-290-002 Special Topics in Film and Media Studies: Animation I

This course combines art and digital media, providing students with the tools and techniques to create original animations, starting from concept to completed animated film. Students learn the principles of animation, as well as drawing and storyboarding techniques, and become adept at using industry standard digital animation software (Adobe Photoshop, Animate, and AfterEffects). *Pre-requisite: Any 100-level studio art course or FMS-150.* [CROSS-LISTED WITH ART-290-002.](#)

FMS-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Film and Media Studies: Professional Practices in the Entertainment Industries

The purpose of this class is to help students prepare for a range of careers in the entertainment industries. Students will examine the different branches of the entertainment industry, as well as work on developing a portfolio/reel and an online presence to highlight their body of work. In this course, we will explore topics related to common industry structures and business practices, including: employment terms, intellectual property rights, project development, professional writing/communication, entertainment management, contracts, entrepreneurship, business plans, networking, interview techniques, CV/resume writing, portfolio/reel creation, self-promotion, and branding.

HIS-290-001 Special Topics in History: Ancient Egyptian History: Pyramids & Power (Prehistory – c. 1750 BCE) (Service Learning)

Ancient Egypt was a mighty African civilization that flourished for more than 3000 years, but how was such a strong state created from groups of villagers along the Nile, and why was it so prominent and powerful? This class studies Egyptian history from its Prehistory to the end of the Middle Kingdom (the mid point of its 3000+ year history), covering the unification of Egypt under the first kings, the building of the pyramids, the 'collapse' of society, a civil war, its reunification, and finally its cultural golden age, the Middle Kingdom. Emphasizing both the written record and material culture, this course deals with the political events of this period and delves into topics such as kingship and power. This course not only highlights what happened and when, but the historical processes that led to these events. [This course has a service learning component in partnership with the Giza Project at Harvard University.](#)

HIS-290-002 Special Topics in History: Black Intellectual History

Why trace Black intellectual history? The short answer: why not? Why should we, in our universities, only foreground the positions of dominant groups? Even more interesting, the impulse to ask hints at structural and socio-historical barriers Black people have had — and continue — to face when it comes to measuring up to fully human status in dominant systems of Western philosophical thought. A fundamental question has dominated Western thought: What is the nature of man? This basic question leads to two others. Who is considered man (human)? How should we treat whomever measures up? In this course we trace Black intellectual activity through Black thinkers who demanded recalibration and reconfiguration of established norms and practices. The term Black covers not just thinkers here in the US, but key Black thought around the world. And surprise (!), there are differences *between* and *among* groups of Black people. The various forms of human affirmation are connected through significant historical and thematic links. We will look at U.S. cultural and intellectual history in comparative context, alongside the histories of other states founded by European colonists. When we validate Black thought, we counter the so-called norms that have been structurally ingrained in society and in university curricula and we also strengthen the whole fabric of intellectual thought by its contribution.

HIS-290-003 Special Topics in History: The Bible and Archeology

The Bible and Archaeology introduces students to the academic study of the Bible, with an emphasis on both textual and material evidence. Students will survey primary sources ranging from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament to extra-biblical texts and artifacts. We will survey excavation technology, and discuss how archaeologists move between archaeological method and interpretive theory. At the intersection of biblical studies and Levantine archaeology, we will address the implications of archaeological corroboration of biblical material as well as the implications of archaeological challenges to biblical accounts. Finally, we will consider the roles ^[P]_[SEP] archaeologists play in presenting the past, with a sensitivity to the fact

SPRING 2021 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

that archaeologists are not just excavating past things but past lives, and, concomitantly, our connection to the lived past. Our sources will be representative of a range of demographic groups, from elites to marginalized and excluded populations. Through a study of both text and artifact, students will be able to better situate the biblical writers within the cultural context that shaped the author's views.

HIS-290-101 Special Topics in History: The Origins of Government

This course will examine the ways in which the first states created and organized governments to exert control over populations and resources. We will study how and why early communities in North Africa (Egypt, Nubia, and Libya), the Near East (the Levant, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia), and the Mediterranean (Greece and Rome) created systems to be ruled by, and the mechanisms through which this was achieved. The course will include the study of divine monarchy, the segmented state, theocracy, timocracy, tyranny, oligarchy, democracy, and the republic. We will not only study the philosophy of these political systems, but the history of them, evaluating how they arose, how they operated, why they failed. Attention will also be paid to how the values and practice of ancient democracy impact modern democratic nations.

HIS-290-201 Special Topics in History: THINGS: Material History (Service Learning)

As Madonna astutely pointed out, "we are living in a material world." Every day, humans use objects to communicate, create, play, pray, and more. Despite the prevalent use of "things" in everyday life, historians tend to favor written sources when examining the past. This course aims to rectify this imbalance by examining how we can use objects from the past to inform our understanding of history. Employing theory from anthropology, archaeology, sociology, and museum studies, we will examine the materiality of objects and texts, and how societies imbue objects with meaning. By studying how and why "things" were used, we can gain insight into how people understood and interacted with the world around them, and with each other. [This is a Service Learning course in partnership with the Harvard Art Museums.](#)

HIS-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in History: Ancient Egyptian Literature

This seminar explores theology and philosophy in ancient Egypt, covering topics such as the nature of the divine, cosmology, the afterlife, personal and public religion, the monotheistic revolution of the New Kingdom, and ideas of morality and human nature. Tuesday classes will be asynchronous lectures, and Thursday classes will be synchronous, student-led seminars discussing ancient Egyptian religious texts (in English translation) and the scholarly debates and interpretations of these topics over the past century. Please note that this is not an intro course. Students who do not have prior knowledge of the ancient world and/or ancient Egyptian history will be expected to do additional readings in the first weeks to gain foundational background knowledge. *Pre-requisite: any 2 courses in either HIS or PHI at the 200-level or above.* **CROSS-LISTED WITH PHI-490-001.**

INT-290-101 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies: Black Resilience and Response

The purpose of the course is to provide an undergraduate-level understanding of resilience and responses to social problems by members of the African diaspora. Discussions of the origins of race classifications, rebellions (social and economic) and resilience in the face of health disparities and the social determinants that underlie these disparities will also be discussed. By viewing responses from protests, civil disobedience, literature, art, music and economics, the course is meant to approach the study of Black life from an asset-based perspective.

INT-290-201 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-290-202 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies: Latinx Resilience and Response

This course will highlight the historical and contemporary issues that shape the political, social and cultural practices and experiences of Latinxs in the United States. To do this, we will explore various approaches, including history, politics, and sociology to name a few. Latinxs are not a one-dimensional constituency, but rather, are representative of many different countries each with their own unique and complex culture. This course will examine topics ranging from colonialism, imperialism, race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, feminisms, migration, transnationalism, language, media representations and participation, and movements/fights for liberation. Students will be asked to engage with written text and various media that will then be used in a critical analysis through writing activities, group projects/presentations, class participation, and an

SPRING 2021 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

overall classroom environment where there is a collaborative engagement in the learning process. [CROSS-LISTED WITH SPN-290-201](#).

JPN-290-001 Special Topics in Japanese: Japanese Pop Culture in the Global Age

In recent decades, Japanese fashion, videogames, manga, anime, music and more have spread across the globe, shaping Japan's image in an age of digital networks and exuberant participatory culture. Fan gatherings such as Anime Weekend Atlanta draw tens of thousands, and the Crunchyroll streaming site has over two million paid subscribers. What makes Japanese popular culture so appealing, and what can it tell us about Japan? How are people from diverse backgrounds drawn into fan communities that cut across differences in gender, age, sexuality and ethnicity? This course will examine the ways in which Japanese popular culture is constructed, circulated and talked about. Students will become acquainted with methodologies drawn from a range of disciplines and will develop an awareness of how they themselves engage with Japanese popular culture. Course activities will include discussions of assigned readings and viewings, research papers, and presentations. No knowledge of Japanese is required.

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

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.

MUS-290-002 Special Topics in Music: Songwriting

In this course we will develop a set of practical tools for writing and performing original songs. Students will learn about songwriting both as a theoretical concern and as practice. Basics of melodic construction, harmonic processes, and text setting will also be taught. Students will collaborate with each other through regular feedback throughout the creative process, and adding their talents (vocal, instrumental, technical) in final recording projects in the Oglethorpe recording studio. Registration priority will be given to students who have been involved in prior Oglethorpe music classes in the case of a waiting list.

NPM-290-001 Special Topics in Nonprofit Management: Effective Nonprofit Leadership

Want to maximize your leadership impact? This course will equip you with theoretical and practical perspectives to serve in and interact with diverse types of nonprofit organizations. The course will incorporate case studies and interdisciplinary theories on leading and organizing from the fields of management, psychology, communication, and sociology.

PHI-290-001 Special Topics in Philosophy: Feminist Philosophy

By and large, feminists argue for the equal dignity of women and against the oppression of women. But, feminism does not consist of a singular theoretical framework, but includes a variety of different and often competing methodologies and strains of thought. In this course, we will examine a variety of divergent works by feminist philosophers and theorists with the aim of illuminating the multifaceted nature of feminism and its response to the historical devaluation and oppression of women. This course contains three broad components: The Portrayal of Women in the Philosophical Tradition, Feminist Critiques of the Philosophical Tradition, and the Intersection of Feminist Philosophy and Various Types of Feminism (radical, socialist, liberal, multicultural, "Third Wave," etc.). [CROSS-LISTED WITH WGS-290-003](#)

PHI-290-002 Special Topics in Philosophy: Marxism & Psychoanalysis

In this advanced theory seminar, we'll attempt to piece together the various ways in which contemporary critical theory has been influenced by the synthesis of Marxism and Psychoanalysis. Readings will likely include foundational works by Marx, Engels, Freud, and Lacan, as well as works by authors whose theories combine both Marxist and Freudian insights (including esp. Zizek and Marcuse). Topics will include: Ideology and Subjectivity, Desire and Society, and the possibility (or impossibility) of achieving a state of liberated freedom (whether through writing, sexuality, symbolic or literal death, or some other arrangement). While the readings will be dense, the aim is not to assign so much reading as to prevent deep engagement with the big ideas. We will emphasize clarity of understanding over breadth of reading. Students will write several medium length papers and give presentations. *Prerequisite: ENG-210*. [CROSS-LISTED WITH ENG-340-002](#).

PHI-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in Philosophy: Ancient Egyptian Literature

This seminar explores theology and philosophy in ancient Egypt, covering topics such as the nature of the divine, cosmology, the afterlife, personal and public religion, the monotheistic revolution of the New Kingdom, and ideas of morality and human nature. Tuesday classes will be asynchronous lectures, and Thursday classes will be synchronous, student-led seminars discussing ancient Egyptian religious texts (in English translation) and the scholarly debates and interpretations of these topics over the past century. Please note that this is not an intro course. Students who do not have prior knowledge of the ancient world and/or ancient Egyptian history will be expected to do additional readings in the first weeks to gain foundational

SPRING 2021 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

background knowledge. *Pre-requisite: any 2 courses in either HIS or PHI at the 200-level or above.* [CROSS-LISTED WITH HIS-490-001.](#)

POL-290-001 Special Topics in Politics: Totalitarianism and Memory (3 credit offering)

What was totalitarianism? How and why did it happen? What were its consequences for the peoples of central and eastern Europe from 1939-89? How is and how ought totalitarianism to be remembered? How does history effect current politics? These questions will be explored not only through reading and discussion of relevant works in political science and history, but also through literature and cinema. The primary emphasis will be on Germany, Poland and Hungary. If circumstances permit, an optional companion travel course worth one (1) credit will include in a tour of Berlin and possibly also Warsaw or Budapest, with emphasis on their museums, monuments and architecture.

Likely readings include: Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*; George Orwell, *1984*; Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago*; Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands*; Anne Applebaum, *The Iron Curtain*; Milan Kundera, *The Joke*; possibly also a novel by Peter Schneider or Christa Wolf.

Likely films to be watched and discussed: *Man of Marble* and possibly also *Man of Iron*; *Das Leben der Anderen*.

POL-290-002 Special Topics in Politics: The 2020 Election: Race, Class, & Power

This class will explore the 2020 election and the schisms of political thought, dissent, and schisms in political speech, policy, and perspectives displayed by the candidates, the media, and the American people.

POL-290-101 Special Topics in Politics: The Notorious RBG: Women, Law, & Leadership

This class will explore the life, legacy, and leadership of former Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. In particular, it will examine the inroads her politics, legal decision making and dissents made to create more inclusive applications of the law, to give both space and place to marginalized groups, as well as create groundbreaking inroads within American economic, social, and political culture.

POL-290-270 Special Topics in Politics: Totalitarianism and Memory Travel Course (1 credit offering)

This will be the companion travel course for POL-290-001 *Special Topics in Politics: Totalitarianism and Memory* to include a tour of Berlin and possibly also Warsaw or Budapest, with emphasis on their museums, monuments and architecture. Only students that are taking that course are eligible to take this travel component course. **NOTE: Additional travel costs will be assessed for this course.**

POL-441-001 Seminar in Political Philosophy: Tyranny: Ancient and Modern

In this seminar, we will examine one of the oldest questions in the history of political thought—the nature of tyranny. Beginning with a philosophic text—Xenophon's *Hiero*—we will study the profound debate to which it gave rise in the 20th century, considering above all whether modernity (and the ideologies characteristic of it) fundamentally alter how we can and should understand the character and agenda of tyrants. At the heart of this seminar, then, is this question: can ancient insights inform our understanding of contemporary phenomena and if so, how?

SPN-290-201 Special Topics in Hispanic Language, Literature, and Culture: Latinx Resilience and Response

This course will highlight the historical and contemporary issues that shape the political, social and cultural practices and experiences of Latinxs in the United States. To do this, we will explore various approaches, including history, politics, and sociology to name a few. Latinxs are not a one-dimensional constituency, but rather, are representative of many different countries each with their own unique and complex culture. This course will examine topics ranging from colonialism, imperialism, race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, feminisms, migration, transnationalism, language, media representations and participation, and movements/fights for liberation. Students will be asked to engage with written text and various media that will then be used in a critical analysis through writing activities, group projects/presentations, class participation, and an overall classroom environment where there is a collaborative engagement in the learning process. This course will be taught in English. [CROSS-LISTED WITH INT-290-202.](#)

THE-290-001 Special Topics in Theatre: Audition Techniques

This class will cover how to craft an audition that will allow for your best work and your most authentic self to be expressed when auditioning. Students will learn how to prepare for stage and on-camera auditions using prepared scenes, cold readings, and monologues. Through several mock auditions, students will gain experience auditioning so that they can become more comfortable with the process. Each student will also practice being on the other side of the table so that they can experience auditioning from the perspective of the auditors. Guest speakers will also provide their perspective on the audition process.

Pre-requisite: THE-105

SPRING 2021 EXPLORATIONS IN THE CORE, SEMINARS, & SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ULP-290-001 Special Topics in Urban Leadership: Leading & Managing Social Change

This class will explore the causes and effects of both organizational and individual ethics, beliefs, values and leadership on society and people. Specially, the class will explore the impact of management and leadership decision making in education, politics, and issues of race on social justice and society.

WGS-290-001 Special Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Human Sexuality

In this course, students will learn about the biological, psychological and social aspects of sexuality. Students will also learn about methods used in the scientific study of sex, and will gain an understanding of the diversity of human sexuality across age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and culture. [CROSS-LISTED WITH PSY-125-001](#)

WGS-290-002 Special Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Anti-Racism Activism

Utilizing an intersectional approach that situates gender as perpetually interconnected with other social markers-like race, class, sexual identity, age, and ability-we will explore White Fragility, Institutionalized Racism and the role of White Supremacy in everyday life. Students will be asked to lean into difficult/uncomfortable conversations so that we may better understand the spaces we occupy.

WGS-290-003 Special Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Feminist Philosophy

By and large, feminists argue for the equal dignity of women and against the oppression of women. But, feminism does not consist of a singular theoretical framework, but includes a variety of different and often competing methodologies and strains of thought. In this course, we will examine a variety of divergent works by feminist philosophers and theorists with the aim of illuminating the multifaceted nature of feminism and its response to the historical devaluation and oppression of women. This course contains three broad components: The Portrayal of Women in the Philosophical Tradition, Feminist Critiques of the Philosophical Tradition, and the Intersection of Feminist Philosophy and Various Types of Feminism (radical, socialist, liberal, multicultural, "Third Wave," etc.). [CROSS-LISTED WITH PHI-290-001](#)

WRI-331-001 Writing Prose, Fiction, and Nonfiction: Longform Essay

The long-form essay isn't a five-paragraph prison. It's nonfiction exploration, intimate toward the self, yet interrogative of the world. In this writing-intensive class, we will actively examine the intellectual and literary craft necessary to the long form essay, including works by Michel de Montaigne and Sei Shonagon, still fresh and insightful after centuries, and contemporary writing by authors like Ross Gay, Alexander Chee, Camille Dungy, and Ta-Nehisi Coates. We will interpret masters of the form's flexibility, such as Joan Didion, James Baldwin, and Jo Ann Beard. We will consider the question of the long form essay as "second class citizen" in the world of letters, as writer E.B. White claimed, and examine how content providers like Longreads and Narratively and podcasts/radio shows like *This American Life* revitalize this ancient form's flexibility and relevance in age of the internet. *Pre-requisite: COR-101, COR-102, and a 100-level ENG course.*

WRI-490-001 Advanced Special Topics in 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. *Pre-requisite: 3 courses from WRI.*