

New Course Descriptions for Spring Term 2018

Not Listed in 2016-2017 Catalog

(updated 5/1/17)

ART/ES 250: Special Topic: Green By Design: Sustainable Architecture and the Environment Hendricks

This course will explore Sustainable Architecture in the broadest sense: from the micro level of materials and technology, through the scale of buildings, to the macro scale of urban form and suburbanization. We will examine how environmentalism has informed architectural discourses, and how discourses on the built environment and urbanism have impacted environmentalism globally. We will be interested in looking at not only how the notion of Sustainable Architecture is conceptualized, interpreted and implemented at varying scales, but also how we might push the frontiers of knowledge toward new directions and dimensions. These new dimensions should challenge us to be conscious of resource use, ecological balance and minimizing environmental impacts, as well as the competing logistics of Green Buildings.

CLAS 130: Literature and Thought in Ancient Greece

Franko

We shall read and discuss outstanding and influential works from archaic, classical, and Hellenistic Greece, including selections from such authors as Homer, Sappho, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Herodotus, and Plato. We shall examine the defining qualities of different genres (epic, lyric, tragedy, comedy, history, philosophy, biography) and the social context to which the authors responded. (*f, w, x, PRE*)

CLAS/ES 250: Special Topic: Environmental History (4)

Salowey

The course examines the question, "how did the landscape of the Mediterranean influence the development of ancient Greek society?" New techniques and methodologies in environmental archaeology have created more opportunities to study human interaction with the landscape in antiquity and made possible more sophisticated investigations into the use of land, water, plants, and animals. These data, coupled with ancient historical, literary, and philosophical texts, allow the study of the environmental history of ancient Greece: how the environment affected human behavior, the consequences of human habitation, and human attitudes towards the environment

CMPS 245: DATA Science and Visualization (4)

Schrementi

Data Science principles and processes will be studied including gathering and transforming datasets, visualization methods and how models of data are developed and evaluated. Database concepts are introduced and the application of data analysis software to real-world examples is investigated. Prerequisite: CMPS 160

COMM 350: Special Topic: Visual Cult(ure) (4)

Richter

Some images and videos go viral. Others do not. Why? Can irony, fear, or power inequalities between groups be expressed without spoken or written language? If so, how? We address these and related questions in this course, which focuses on the symbolic use of images and things, especially in current day, western cultural contexts. Specifically, you will be introduced to explanatory theories of visual communication, learn to analyze/critique images and objects from a communication perspective, and even sharpen your own skills in producing persuasive visuals.

ENG 150: Special Topic: Whose House Is It Anyway?: Homeland & Crossing Borders in Literature (4)

Oladokun

In a time when political anxieties have dramatically escalated in our country, there is an even greater need for us to be thoughtful about how we perceive ourselves and others in our relationship to shared space. In this class, we will consider the following questions, among others: Who has the right to occupy certain spaces? Who has the right to determine *who* belongs *where*, and on what authority? What constitutes a "homeland" in the first place? Together, we will read works that trouble and respond to these larger questions of belonging and crossing borders—both figurative and geographic—through the lenses of memoir, fiction, spirituals, and poetry.

GREK 350: Special Topics: Greek Tragedy (4)

Salowey

This course will study the tragic plays written for the 5th century Athenian theater, investigating the tragedians, the physical remains of theaters, as well as the textual form of ancient dramas. One play will be read in the original ancient Greek, but a selection of plays from Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides will be studied in translation.

HIST 172: Making of the Modern Middle East (4)

Coogan

This class examines the major factors which have shaped the history of the Middle East in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Topics covered will include but not necessarily be limited to the role of western imperialism,

the origins and evolution of Arab nationalism, and the birth and growth of the Israeli state. The Main focus will be on the politics and diplomacy of the region, but economic and social history will be integrated as necessary.

PHIL 237/337: Philosophy of Law (4)

Downey

We assess philosophical and logical foundations allegedly underlying the very notion of laws and of certain types of law. Some hold that law rests on a moral foundation—on the consent of the people, or on God, or both. Is this true? “No crime without a guilty mind” is a principle which supposedly guides criminal law. But not all crimes require a guilty mind. What justifies this disparity? Some laws allegedly are un-Constitutional, yet some laws upholding “community standards” have been judged Constitutional despite being discriminatory. What should it mean to be Constitutional—found “literally” in the Constitution, implied by the Framers intentions, or what? What does the notion of a right mean, for instance in the right to free speech, the right to religious freedom, the right to work in other alleged rights? These topics and more. You will learn some logic, to think and to express yourself logically. In addition to fulfilling the 237 requirements, 337 students will also teach two classes on essays by philosophers of law, and will write a term paper. No prerequisite. Open to first year students at the 200-level. May not be taken twice by taking different levels. MOD

PHIL 250: Special Topic: Poverty and Human Capability (4)

Lowney

This course deals with one of the most important social problems of our era: poverty in the midst of plenty. We examine poverty as a problem for individuals, families, and societies. We focus on the United States, perhaps one of the most impoverished of any developed nation. How should we define and measure poverty? Who is poor and who is not? Are there different kinds of poverty? What is it like to live in poverty? What are the causes of poverty? What are its effects on individuals (particularly children), families, communities, and societies? What values does it undermine? What moral and legal rights should the poor have, and what obligations do societies, governments, organizations, and individuals have to the poor? Do the poor also have obligations to themselves, others and society? What are the plausible remedies for the negative aspects of poverty? Readings and lecture/discussions draw on economics, political science, psychology, philosophical and religious ethics, public policy analysis, sociology, journalism, and professional social work.

Courses with New Descriptions