New Course Descriptions for Spring 2016
Not Listed in 2015-2016 Catalog
(updated 2/26/2016)

DANC 350: Special Topic – Contemporary Hip Hop Dance Forms (4) Hurd
Contemporary Hip-Hop Dance Forms will focus intensely on traditional Hip-Hop styles including Breaking, Popping, and Waacking, plus various social and popular dances. The students will also learn the basics of and be able to identify various forms such as Locking, Krumping, House, Jitting, Vogueing, New Jack Swing, and Bone Breaking (Flexing), among other styles. Hip-Hop is mutually physically demanding and musical, so the students will be working on their strength and endurance while working on rhythms, groove, and musicality. Because Hip-Hop was created in freestyle, dancers will work to find their own voice within the styles each class through open cyphers and structured improvisation. Additionally, there will be a focus on the history of the movement shared through text and videos. No prerequisites.

DANC 350: Special Topic – New Work Repertory (4) Chandler
This course is designed to engage students in Jamie Chandler’s choreographic process and dance making with a strong emphasis on performance and practice. This course will integrate advanced and intermediate students into a professionally oriented working environment in dance. Chandler will lead weekly rehearsals, encouraging investment in both the group and individual’s direct relationship to the movement research during rehearsals. This course will require active participation, active listening and embodiment through rigorous rehearsal and performance processes. Chandler’s research will manifest as a group work, which will be shared throughout the semester in open rehearsals as the work it develops (in process), this work may be a part of the Spring Dance Concert (TBD). Enrollment by special permission only (see Jeffery Bullock, Chair of Dance).

ES/HIST 150: Special Topic – Introduction to Environmental History (4) Donnally
A historical overview of the interactions between people and their environments since the 1300’s. This course explores the influence of nature (climate, topography, plants, animals, and microorganisms) on human history and the reciprocal influence of people on nature. Topics include the biological consequences of the European encounter with the Americas; the environmental impact of technology; and the roots of the current environmental crisis.

ENG/THEA 350: Special Topic – Madness in Shakespeare (4) Moriarty/Blunt
Jealousy, hysteria, melancholy, demonic possession, and love—all kinds of madness will be the object of our study. Agreeing with Hamlet’s Claudius that “Madness in great ones must not unwatched go,” we will also view some DVD performance to observe different styles of performing madness. Plays may include Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and Macbeth as well as some sonnets. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission.

FILM/INTL/PHIL 250: Special Topic – Visual Culture & Modernity in the Weimar Republic (4) Renault-Steele
Before the advent of modern fascism, a group of prescient German Jewish intellectuals began to take film and popular culture seriously. Known as "The Frankfurt School," they theorized possible connections between their own visual landscape and the social, political, and economic conditions of the Weimar Republic. This course revisits key writings about film from The Frankfurt School in their historical specificity and seeks to reopen the potential of their thought more generally. In a time of swiftly evolving digital media, what theoretical tools, flickers of insight, or provocation can these early scholars of popular culture offer us today?

GWS 216: Women in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (4) Derrick
This course involves a critical analysis of women, sex, and gender issues in the religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We examine the androcentric history of each monotheistic tradition. Although the principal focus of this course is not comparative in design, we discuss similarities and differences between the experiences of women in these religions in the antiquated and modern contexts. No prerequisite. Also, listed as REL 215.
GWS 350: Special Topic – Girlhood Studies (4)  
This course will explore the interdisciplinary field of girlhood studies. We will consider the cultural representations and productions of girls and girl cultures, both academic and popular. Themes of investigation may include: gender socialization, racialization, sexuality, self-esteem, identity formation, media, consumption, empowerment, agency & activism. Discussions will be grounded in feminist intersectional approaches that investigate the diversities and commonalities of girls’ experiences as well as the larger structures of power that shape girls experiences. Students will have the opportunity to learn about girls’ experiences and organizations at the local, national and global levels. Texts: Girls’ Studies (Lipkin), Hear Our Truths: The Creative Potential of Black Girlhood (Brown), plus others TBA

MUS/THEA 150: Special Topic – Musical Theatre Dance Styles (2)  
This studio course will expose students to various dance styles often found in musical theatre choreography, including but not limited to jazz, ballet, tap and hip hop. Students will learn basic techniques, while acquiring a vocabulary and awareness of the styles frequently used in musical theatre.

Courses with New Descriptions

ENG 230: The Textual Construction of Gender(4)  
Beginning with the premise that sex (biological difference) differs from gender (the significance attributed to sexual difference), this course historically and thematically surveys various models of gender construction. Readings are drawn from the classics, the Bible, Freud, and contemporary writers. Prerequisite: one semester of college work or permission. (AES, PRE)

HIST 216: The New South (4)  
The South from Reconstruction to the 1980’s, including different visions of the South in the late 19th century, industrialization, urbanization, and changes in race relations. Did southern distinctiveness persist in the late 20th century? Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. (o, DIV, MOD)

HUM 213: France & The French: Contents in Cultural Understanding (4)  
This course offers a multimedia examination of socio-cultural contrasts between France and the U.S. Students use video, audio, CD-ROM, print, and Internet resources coupled with computer applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Front Page, and Access) to investigate and discuss representative situations and cultural artifacts that illuminate the differences between the French and American experiences. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: q.(i, w, x, Q, GLO, MOD)

POL 217: Politics of the Middle East(4)  
The history and politics of the Middle East. Special emphasis given to the cultural background of various countries of the region, as well as nationalism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the politics of oil. Prerequisite: POLS 101, 102, 103, 104, 131, or permission. (I) (o, GLO, MOD)