**FALL 2023 SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**ANTH 389 Archaeology of Wild Rice in Michigan**

MWF 11:45am-12:50pm

Brad Chase

Albion College has recently partnered with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi’s [Tribal Historic Preservation Office](https://nhbp-nsn.gov/departments/tribal-historic-preservation-office/) and [Environmental Department](https://nhbp-nsn.gov/environmental/) on a [collaborative project](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pAXu7EolDhCUj47wxVohUZQ_WkQk9W6zNFOxjXhWPps/edit?usp=sharing) centered on **manoomin**(wild rice), a sacred plant deeply entwined with Anishinaabe history and culture.  This class contributes to this project by applying the findings and methods of the discipline of archaeology to develop academic research and public outreach efforts that will contribute to the cultural and ecological revitalization of manoomin in 21st century Michigan.  **In the first half** of the class, you will learn about the precolonial Indigenous ecological histories as known through archaeology and more recent histories of Potawatomi and other Anishinaabe communities in Michigan.  Then, **in the second half,** teams will 1) identify research questions and communications priorities in collaboration with representatives of the NHBP, 2) learn about the archaeological methods, theories, and findings relevant to these, and 3) develop a) an original research paper along with b) a proposal for future archaeological work, a public outreach project, or other public-facing intellectual product that will advance the project in some significant way.

**ARTH 289 Cross-Cultural Arts of the Silk Road**

**TR 10:30am-12:20pm**

**Nancy Demerdash**

This course offers students a chance to examine a host of ideas, religions, and artistic traditions that spread throughout and across a network of Silk Roads, stretching from Mediterranean basin to the shores of the Pacific in East Asia, from ancient times to the early modern period. While there is no such thing as a singular Silk Road, this course will offer students the chance to ask how certain artistic forms and cultural practices spread across this broad geographical expanse through mechanisms of trade, religious proselytizing/evangelism, conquest/empire-building and war. How is it that artistic traditions (e.g. porcelain production, manuscript illuminations, etc.), commodities (e.g. paper, foodstuffs, aromatics/spices, etc.) or luxury goods (e.g. silks, precious stones and metals), or religious-cultural practices (e.g. Vedic texts, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, etc.) become adopted, appropriated, or repurposed? How do peoples and cultures move across space and time, and how do such practices change as they are adapted in new geographies, amongst new peoples?  Fulfills MHC Mode.

**BIOL 389 RNA Sequencing**

**TR 2:15-4:05pm**

**Marcella Cervantes**

RNAseq is the sequencing and analysis of RNA molecules collected from a group of cells. The sequences represent each gene's expression level when the sample was collected. Comparing expression profiles can elucidate the genes important for a particular process, such as cancer development. We will work on our computers most of the time, with short lectures, and reading of primary literature.

Student Learning Goals:

1. Appreciate the diversity and adaptations of single-celled organisms

2. See the relationship between structure and function in molecules, cells, and/or

organisms.

3. Formulate a research question that RNAseq can answer.

4. Know the steps of an RNA Seq experiment from sampling to differential

expression analysis and interpretation.

**CHEM 289 Intermediate Organic Chemistry**

MWF 10:30-11:35am

Cliff Harris

Description**:** Intermediate Organic Chemistry is designed to bridge the gap from Chemistry 212 Organic Chemistry: mechanism and synthesis to Chem 350 - Advanced Organic Chemistry.  Potential topics include the chemistry of: carbonyls, radicals, organometallics, organophosphorus, organoboron, pericyclic reactions, molecular orbital theory, and contemporary chemistry such as recently announced Prizes.  It includes a 2-week anti-racist workshop and a presentation on the career and chemistry of a recent historical or contemporary chemist from a traditionally marginalized group.

**CHEM 289 Metabolic Medicine**

MWF 9:15-10:20am

Chris Rohlman

Metabolic Medicine will use tools from basic biochemistry and biology to develop a molecular understanding of how disruptions and imbalances in metabolism can impact human health and disease. Topic areas will include nutrients, toxicology, metabolomics, inborn errors of metabolism and cancer. We will explore perspectives from the clinical, public health and basic research communities. The course will be primarily discussion based and draw on current literature and database tools.

Preparation for the course:

CHEMISTRY 211 and BIOCHEMISTRY 337 are recommended.

Other potentially useful experiences include BIOLOGY 210 and Physiology.

Contact Dr. Rohlman if you have any questions: **crohlman@albion.edu**

**COMM 289 Intro: Biosensor Market Research**

TR 2:15-4:05pm

Dr. Karen Erlandson

This course will introduce students to bisosensor research methods.

More and more marketing firms are using biosensor research as part of their Integrated Marketing approach.  Biosensors can provide deep insights into human behavior by providing objective data to help predict campaign success, quantify attention, quantify emotional reactions, and much more.

Using the iMotions platform students will learn how to determine a customer's preferences through hands on experience with eye tracking and facial expression analysis software. These approaches determine the appealing aspects of a product that a consumer looks at, the length of time they stare at these aspects, and other reactions to the product.  Students will also learn about other bioresearch techniques available through the iMotions platform as well as basic survey creation and distribution using Qualtrics.

Among other projects, students will use both iMotions and Qualtrics, to design a study comparing different advertisements as well as analyzing the data and preparing a report for a “client.”

This course will count as a 300-level elective toward the Comm Studies Major and as an elective towards the IMC major.

**CS 289 Parallel Programming**

MW 2:15-4:05pm

Yuming Zhang

Parallel programming is central to high performance computing. Unlike the conventional serial program, a parallel program can fully leverage modern multi-core/multi-processor systems to achieve higher computation performance. This course provides an introduction to parallel programming. The topics include parallel hardware and software, distributed-and shared-memory systems, performance evaluation, SPMD programs, MIMD/SIMD systems, message passing, critical sections and mutexes, synchronization and semaphores, and three popular APIs for parallel programming: MPI, Pthreads, and OpenMP. Additionally, the basis of GPU programming and CUDA API will also be introduced.

**E&M 289 Strategic Management**

MWF 11:45am – 12:50pm

Stephen Young

To succeed in today’s oftentimes dynamic and global organization, managers and business leaders must develop the skills and capabilities needed to gain and sustain a competitive advantage.  The manner in which organization and organizational leaders develop this competitive advantage equates to the development of a strategy. The course explores the concept of strategic management through the analysis of cases and topics related to the basic direction and goals of an organization, the industry and environment in which it operates, and the strengths and weaknesses of the organization.  Emphasis will be placed on the development and successful implementation of strategy by exploring the following topics: strategic management, competition and competitive advantage, developing strategies, and implementing strategies.

**E&M 289 Project Management & Leadership**

MW 2:15-4:05pm

Stephen Young

Today’s fast paced, global businesses are constantly investigating new ventures to further their stance in their selected industry. This course analyzes the knowledge and skills necessary to be a successful project manager and team leader. Methods of planning, executing, managing, and evaluating complex projects are studied in detail.  Topics include project selection, project organizational structures, project scheduling and budgeting, workflow analysis, managing risk, and forming and communicating with team members.

**E&M 388 – Cost Analysis**

MW 3:30 – 4:20pm

Connie O’Brien

Cost Analysis uses the basic accounting tools to solve a specific type of business problems. Cost Analysis assists decision-makers in choosing preferred courses of action by evaluating alternatives on the basis of risk, costs, and benefits.

This course will utilize the basic concepts of Cost Analysis and Managerial Accounting. Students will apply these concepts to cases in order to improve the strategic position of the business. This goal can be accomplished by having a thorough understanding of which activities and costs support an organization’s strategic position and which activities and costs may weaken the company’s position or have no impact on it. Cost Analysis and Managerial Accounting concepts will be applied across a variety of functions of an organization throughout the course.

**ENGL 389 (Un)settling Homeland**

TR 2:15-4:05pm

Lauren Brown

The course is a consideration of the relationship between domestic practices and national projects (such as colonialism and imperialism) in literature. We will draw on feminist and postcolonial theory to examine novels and short stories by a diverse range of writers and study how gender, racial, ethnic, and national identities inform the histories and/of nation represented (and negotiated) in fiction.

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or higher or permission of the instructor.

**ETHN/MLAC 289 Latina/os in the Media**

MW 2:15-4:05PM

Lucia Soriano

Students will become familiar with the historical and cultural construction of Latino/as as a population in the U.S. as they watch various types of media that feature Latino/as. Some media discussed will be Bad Bunny, Dora the Explorer, Jenna Ortega (Netflix's Wednesday), and Black Panther: Wakanda Forever. Some themes discussed will be colorism, racial origins of reggaeton, and gentrification. Students can expect assigned readings, class discussions, short writing assignments, and watching media.

**HIST 289 Asian American History**

MWF 3:20-4:35pm

Joseph Ho

This course traces the evolution of Asian American experiences from the early 19th century to the present. We will explore how national politics and global empire, evolving racial constructs, and forms of oppression, resistance, and community-building shaped Asian American identities over time. We will focus on often-marginalized voices of Asian and Asian American groups as well as perspectives from non-Asian groups who were allies or creators of inequity (sometimes both, in different contexts). We will examine the diversity of Asian American experience across various ethnic, racial, and gendered lines. The course is built around multimedia works by and about Asian Americans, foregrounding not only how race and ethnicity complicates existing historical narratives about American experience, but also exploring and celebrating Asian American voices in doing so. We will discuss forms of empowerment and representation as well as the evolution of anti-Asian racism, in longer histories and the recent pandemic years. In analytical writing, media-based learning, and group activities, we will develop critical thinking skills about historical and cultural transformations that shaped Asian American experiences as well as what it means to be an American.

**PHIL 289 Feminist Philosophy**

**MWF 9:15-10:20am**

**Quinn Harr**

Feminist philosophy starts from observations about the differentiated status and treatment of women in society. Some may be startled by such observations and try to deny their reality. Others may accept them but take them to be natural and appropriate. Others may think them objectionable but unalterable. Feminist philosophy, on the other hand, asks us to challenge the assumptions underlying this social order, to critically reconsider its effects, and to imagine creative alternatives to it. In this class, we’ll explore feminist philosophy using the work of one of its most important and creative practitioners, bell hooks, as our guide.

**PLSC 389**

**Comparative Federalism**

MWF 1-2:05pm

Milkessa Gemechu

**Course Description:** *Comparative Federalism* is a specialized subfield in political science that bridges comparative politics and comparative constitutional law. It aims to introduce students to the theory and practice of federalism and federal political systems across the world by using a comparative methodology. In this course, students will be able to acquire basic analytical tools to critically and comparatively examine both functioning and defunct federal political systems. Students will act like policy advisors or politicians to debate in simulations and discuss in class on pressing issues of federal political studies.

More specifically, the relevance, concepts, approaches, theories and evolutions of federalism and federal political systems, common characteristic features of federations and consociations, multilevel governance models, power centralization, decentralization, devolution, secessionism and minority nationalism, resource control and federalism, intergovernmental relations and governance of federal capitals, institutions of constitutional interpretation, and pathologies in federations will be explored through comparative case studies of mature, emergent, hybrid and post-conflict federal experiments. In doing so, special emphasis will be given to assessing the experiences and dynamics of federalism in “mature” federations, mainly the United States.

**PSYC 289 Human Sexuality**

TR 7-8:50pm

Karen Groth

This course will explore current knowledge and research of human sexual behavior and sexual experiences from a psychological standpoint. Emphasis will be placed on understanding how psychological principles apply to relationships, sexual behaviors, sexual decision-making, sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual health, paraphilic disorders, and sexual exploitation.

**THEA 289 Props Design and Construction**

TR 10:30am-12:20pm

Kiah Kayser

This course will explore the different aspects of properties design for theatrical productions. Students will first learn various analysis and organizing techniques of props, then progress to creating and learning how to problem solve and make various props including paper props, breakables, found objects, sculpting and crafting.