

## SPRING 2024 SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **ANTH 289: The Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and the Near East**

This course explores the archaeological and textual evidence for the rise of ancient states and empires in the Nile Valley and the Near East. In particular, this course will look closely at the political, social, ideological, and economic foundations on which civilizations such as Ancient Egypt were built, as well as the ebb and flow of their fortunes and regional influence. Anthropological interpretations of the political, social, religious, and economic systems of these civilizations and the interactions between the various peoples and cultures will be emphasized through themes including daily life, mortuary practices, settlement patterns, monumental architecture, and language and writing.

### **ANTH 389: Forensic Anthropology**

In this course students will explore how human skeletal remains are analyzed to assist in modern forensic investigations. Students will learn the foundations of forensic osteological examination, such as identification, sex, age, and ancestry estimation, and collection of osteometric data, beginning with an overview of human osteology. Topics will include the history of forensic anthropology, establishment of forensic context, forensic taphonomy, trauma, archaeology, and construction of a biological profile.

### **ARTH 189: Global History of Architecture**

This class will examine architectural monuments and urban forms of cities throughout the world, from ancient times to the present day. In addition to examining buildings, floor plans, their contexts and the people who made them, we will emphasize the connections, contrasts and influences of architectural movements throughout history and around the world. You will come to understand how social, political, and cultural forces--like trade, the spread of religions and ideas, wars, colonialism/imperialism, and globalization--all came to shape the built environments of the globe. *This course is open to all students, with no prerequisites.*

### **ARTH 189: Islamic Art & Architecture**

In this course we will be looking at art and architecture from regions of the world heavily influenced by the religion of Islam: Southern Europe, North/West Africa, the Middle East, and Central/South Asia, from the late 6th/early 7th century CE to the present day. Because of the vast geographical spread of Islam, this artistic output is defined by diversity, trade/conquest, cultural exchange, and artistic hybridity. And while much of this artistic work might have been created for Muslim patrons by Muslim artisans, many of the portable objects and architectural sites we will be examining were created by non-Muslim craftsmen (e.g. Christian, Sassanian/Zoroastrian, Hindu, etc.). Moreover, many objects fashioned in Islamic lands were intended for secular use. Given these complexities, the prime question we will be asking in this course is, "What is Islamic art?" *This course is open to all students, with no prerequisites.*

### **COMM 289: Sports Leadership**

The culture of sports provides athletes with unique opportunities to observe and enact a variety of leadership skills. Through this course, students will have the opportunity to identify and evaluate leadership styles to which they've been exposed and to cultivate new skills that will aid in decision making, conflict management, innovation, and more. Students will analyze past and present leaders in sports, and a strong emphasis will be placed on developing skills that can be used on and off the playing field.

### **E&M 389: Entrepreneurship**

Do you have a great idea for a business? Have you ever wondered what it takes to own your own business and be your own boss? Whether you plan to become a founder, investor, partner, or early employee of a startup company, this course will take you through the entire journey of the new venture or idea. Students will learn what entrepreneurship is all about, develop a business idea, conduct varying analyses to promote the business, and develop a business plan. The course utilizes a project-based approach to provide an overview of the entrepreneurial process and give you practical hands-on experience. By the end of the course, you will have a better understanding of what it takes to create a successful startup, as well as proven techniques for identifying and testing new market opportunities and converting your ideas into a successful business.

### **GERM 389: Dragons in Medieval German Culture**

We are living in an age of dragons. Turn on the television or open a book, and dragons are everywhere, from George R.R. Martin's suspenseful series *Games of Thrones* to the mythical world of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. The dragon, a mythical creature in Germanic literature, is repeatedly reimagined by popular culture. This course is designed to help students reflect on the evolution and significance of mythological creatures. Whether it be the dragon in *The Nibelungen Saga* or the water fairy *Melusine*, we will journey together as we discover the origins of these fantastic creatures and test our own imaginative limits.

### **HIST 389: Women & Gender in Medieval Europe**

The Middle Ages have a bad reputation with respect to women, but the roles of male and female were more complicated and malleable than popular opinion suggests. This course explores the history of women and gender relations in medieval European society and culture from roughly 500 to 1500, a period that includes the rise of successor states to the Roman Empire, the development of serfdom and feudalism, the Crusades, economic expansion and the revival of urban life, and the evolution of the medieval Church.

### **INTN/JAPN 189: Language and Culture Essentials**

This course prepares students to be able to navigate in Japan using basic Japanese with cultural understanding. The class covers the following three topics:

Basic Japanese: pronunciation, commonly used phrases in conversation, basic writing, basic grammar, basic *Kanji* (Chinese Characters), honorifics (respectful language).

Culture: history, customs based on Shinto and Buddhist religions, and Confucian philosophy, proverbs, bedtime stories, pop culture, music, sports, manga and anime, and video games. Honorific language (when and to whom to use).

Practical skills/tools: Relevant geographical information such as asking for directions; Using public transportation via an app; Ordering food especially in case of dietary restrictions; Accessing medicines and visiting hospitals/clinics; Responding to emergencies (natural disasters, getting help from police, U.S. Embassy and Consulate Generals).

### **Phil 189: Meaning in Life**

Many of us seek to engage in activities that give our lives meaning, but what exactly are we aiming at when we seek this? Is there some true universal account of what living a life filled with meaning requires? Does it ultimately depend upon the truth of some religious worldview? In this class we consider such questions as we explore prominent theories philosophers have developed on this topic.

### **Phil 289: Philosophy through Fiction**

Philosophical issues are often explored in classical and contemporary fiction. In *Philosophy through Fiction* we will read and analyze literary works that treat issues such as personal identity, truth, knowledge, freedom, and justice. We will also consider the merits and costs of developing a philosophical thesis in literary form in contrast to the methodology associated with a treatise. (*Phil 289 may be used to satisfy an upper-division (300 Level) requirement toward the philosophy major or minor.*)

### **PLSC 289: Politics of Identity**

This course examines the role of collective identity in domestic and international politics, and asks why nationalism (both majority and minority nationalisms) as a particular form of group identity continues to be so powerful ideology? Is it possible to reconcile liberal individualism and collective nationalism? The course enables students to explore the dynamics of collective identity formation and politics of its recognition, ethnicity and ethnic conflicts, nations and nationalisms, race and racism, religious pluralism and fundamentalism, and multiculturalism. Further, it identifies theories and approaches to explain the politicization of collective identity; and also explore how states are regulating and managing domestic ethnocultural diversities as they forge common national identity, integration and unity—(multi)nation-building. Finally, this course examines the status of minority rights under international human rights laws and the impact of ethno-nationalisms on global politics and vice versa. Our secondary aim will be to place American identity politics and multiculturalism within comparative context to give students new analytical perspectives.

**SOC 289: Sociology of Health and Illness**

Description: The sociology of health and illness, also known as medical sociology, is a broad field examining the social production of health, wellness, illness, and mortality. Students will examine how the topics of health and illness include a variety of social, political, economic, and cultural forces as well as biological phenomena and medical knowledge.

**SPAN 289: Coming of Age Cinema in the Spanish Speaking World**

This course explores Spanish-language films depicting an individual's transition into adulthood. These coming-of-age films intertwine character growth with social commentary about changing societies and cultural norms. Much of the course content and discussion will focus on issues of cross-cultural communication, as well as gender, racial, and ethnic identities. Along with watching films and learning about the societies depicted on screen, students will strengthen their Spanish-conversation skills through class discussions, group work, and online presentations.

*Expected level of proficiency: Placement into Spanish 300 or Spanish 301 or higher, or completion of at least 1 semester of a 200-level Spanish course or higher, or permission from the instructor.*