

SPECIAL/SELECTED TOPICS

ART*202 ST Gallery/Museum Management

This course is designed for students interested in the management and display of cultural artifacts and art. We will explore theoretical concerns regarding the interpretation of art and historic objects as well as the practical issues of funding, conservation and exhibition design.

BIO*300 ST Cancer Biology

This is an introductory course that examines the basic biology of cancer and the approaches currently taken in cancer treatment. Basic principles of cell biology and genetics are explored to unravel the mechanisms of cancer development and the development of effective cancer therapy. Topics include the nature of cancer, carcinogenesis, tumor invasion and metastasis, oncogenes, tumor suppressor genes, cancer-causing viruses, epidemiology, tumor immunology and current therapeutic approaches to cancer treatment.

COMM*434 ST Food as Communication

While people consume it on a daily basis, food is much more than mere sustenance as it intersects with a whole host of other cultural, social, rhetorical, and political phenomena. This course examines and explores the ways in which food functions symbolically as a communicative and rhetorical practice. In examining food as communication, students will utilize a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches rooted within the discipline to consider how the subject of food operates in relation to some of the following topics such as identity, gender, environmental issues, hunger, ritual, taboo, power, and politics.

GER*310 ST Demons/Dragons/Dracula

This course will investigate how scholars think about the meanings and appropriations of magical powers found in belief structures of the pre-Christian and Medieval Germanic and Celtic worlds. Is there a medieval connection to dragon texts in Biblical apocalyptic literature or to giant stories from Gilgamesh? Why is St. George always portrayed with a dragon? What did dragons mean? How did sagas and lays incorporate such images? Readings will be of Beowulf, the Nibelungenlied, the Nordic sagas, monster woman Melusine and some ancient Eastern texts. Students will learn to analyze and deconstruct texts and images using text-critical approaches. The course will also investigate how fictional human figures of more modern times emulate good and bad principles, as in Dracula and the Golem. Excerpts of exemplary films retrieving these images will be studied for comparison with contemporary magical entertainment forms. Course open to all upper level students (juniors and seniors). Taught in English (some German language readings for German majors/minors).

HIS*360 ST History on Film

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the theory and practice of engaging the past in film. The first half of this course will focus on the theory behind producing and interpreting documentary films. Students will be exposed to a variety of both traditional and avant garde documentaries as they develop an understanding of the medium. The second half of this course will focus on the intersection of History and documentary. Drawing on skills acquired in the first half of the course, students will have the opportunity to compare and contrast academic and documentary film interpretations of the past. Documentary film may convey scholarly historical ideas, but it can also present alternative viewpoints, interpretations, and material from outside the conventions of academic history. Within the blurred intersection of documentary and History, where they reflect, compliment, or contrast each other, lies the opportunity for original scholarship as well as a more holistic understanding of what it means to engage the past.

HIS*360 ST Afghanistan

This course will serve to introduce students to Afghanistan, a unique country with a fascinating history and rich, diverse cultural heritage.

ITL*310 ST Italian Women's Voices

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to Italian women writers of the 20th century. Prose works by Grazia Deledda, Gina Lagorio, Francesca Duranti, and Clara Cardella accompanied by the writings of women poets from the Renaissance to contemporary times, such as Compiuta Donzella, Veronica Gambarà, Gaspara Stampa, Veronica Franco, Cristina Trivulzio Belgiojosa, Ada Negri e Sibilla Aleramo will be studied. For a better understanding of the material, each work will be placed within its respective political and social context, and cinematographic adaptation of some of the works will be screened in class.

MUS*416 ST Music & Healing

We will investigate the relationship between music and healing in cross-cultural and historical context, and the therapeutic role of music in both Western and non-Western cultures and communities. We will explore the new and fast-growing field of medical ethnomusicology by looking into the pioneering multi-disciplinary research (that is extending the fields of medical anthropology, ethnomusicology, ritual studies and performance studies). We will examine several approaches, including "conventional" MT techniques (e.g., creative music therapy, guided imagery) and "traditional" techniques (e.g., "healing" rituals, and shamanism).

SWK*341 ST Intl SWK Refugees & Immigrants

This course is designed to introduce students to international social work practice. Students develop knowledge and skills in culturally competent approaches to effectively enhance assets and empower individuals, families, groups, agencies and communities within an international context, specifically within developing countries, and with immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the U.S. This course provides a beginning knowledge base for international social work practice from a collaborative perspective to address the challenges of human rights, poverty, child abuse and neglect, physical and mental health, HIV/AIDS, environmental justice, and other social/political issues.

SWK*341 ST Qualitative Research

Qualitative Research Methods prepares students to use qualitative methods including appropriate theories, research designs, data collection, analysis and dissemination strategies. Content includes use of field research, participant observation, and interviewing. Examples of qualitative research in social work and related fields are examined and opportunities for applied research are provided.