Honors Fall 2019 Course Descriptions

Note: While we do not expect there to be changes to the course listings, adjustments may be made prior to the time courses are made available to students on LORA.

Social Justice Seminars

Exploring Urban Environments (HIST H396) – Dr. Eric Hardy, MWF 12:30-1:20

This course explores the process of urbanization and the ways in which the environment, ideas of nature, and cities have shaped each other. Though comparisons to ancient or contemporary European and Asian areas will occur, focus will remain primarily on city building in America from the colonial period to the present. Topics of study are: responses to industrialization and urbanization; the city-hinterland nexus; public health and safety; segregation and racial/ethnic/class tensions; environmental justice. This course can also count for History.

Ethics

Business Ethics (BA H415) -- Dr. Nicholas Capaldi, TR 2:00-3:15

This course examines the sources of societal pressure, business reaction, and the community’s expectation. The entire spectrum of corporate and government activities are discussed against the framework of the demands made on the firm and government by forces outside of the marketplace. More specifically, this course entails the study and practice of ethical practices in business environments. With an appreciation of the complex relation between the Ignatian tradition and commerce, future business leaders can transform the corporate world and provide vitality to our communities’ integrity and prosperity. Integrating theoretical and pragmatic approaches, this course examines personal, social, political, and business influences and reactions to what ought to be done in business operations. NOTE FOR NON-BUSINESS MAJORS: this course can count for your ethics check-off, but will only fill an elective slot.

Food Ethics (PHIL H215) – Dr. Joel MacClellan, MWF 11:30-12:20 and 12:30-1:20

If “you are what you eat”, what does that make you? The production and consumption of food is reflective of moral, aesthetic, cultural, religious, and other values. They are also regulated by laws and public policies. These issues are particularly salient in the present context where there is a mass exodus of farmers from our nation’s farms, an increasing variety of allegedly “ethical” food choices presented to consumers in the grocery store, and intrepid individuals attempting to reassert agency over their food in ways such as community and urban gardening and animal husbandry. This course provides students with the conceptual tools and arguments to assess various questions in food ethics. Beyond the ethical, the course also examines the political dimensions to food, including an understanding of what a food system is, and how public policies influence food’s production and consumption. Relatedly, the course will also explore contemporary food movements including animal welfare/rights, organic, fair trade, and local food movements in order to better understand how these movements shape and are shaped by the ethical and political dimensions of food. This course will also count for Philosophy.
History

Autobiography as History (HIST H295) – Fr. Robert Gerlich, MWF 1:30-2:20
This course gives students a firm grasp of autobiography as a distinct literary genre. The historical development of autobiography is presented and the distinctions are drawn between autobiography, memoirs, literary portraiture, and personal adventure stories. The bulk of the course treats the historical circumstances in which each autobiography was written and the contents of the individual autobiographies themselves. Attention is given to ancient, medieval, and modern autobiographies.

Exploring Urban Environments (HIST H396) – Dr. Eric Hardy, MWF 12:30-1:20
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1960’s in the Middle East (HIST H394) – Dr. Behrooz Moazami, TR 3:30-4:45
During the "global sixties" massive political movements shook the foundation of the political, social, and cultural history of the twentieth century. Now, with the perspective of fifty years, we are in a position to reflect upon this historical moment with a critical eye and study its origins and development. This seminar aims to expose the interconnectedness of the political contentions that swept through the world and the Middle East at this time and to trace its immediate and long-term consequences.

Literature

France & the Modern Experience (FREN H295) – Dr. Alice Kornovich, MWF 2:30-3:20
This course will examine what was happening in early 20th-century Paris, the cultural center of the western world at that time. We will study the way writers shaped the major cultural revolution which we call Modernism and produced a remarkable body of literature. We will also look briefly at some modern artists.

Dreams, Myths and Surrealism (LAS H295) - “Dreams, Myths and Surrealism” is an interdisciplinary course that will examine Surrealist aesthetics as a transnational and transcontinental movement. It will explore the two-way traffic of Surrealist aesthetic ideas and other cultural productions between Europe and Latin America. It will study Surrealist literature and art through art manifestos, essays, films, paintings, photography, and literary texts from the 1920s until the last decades of the 20th century. This course can also count for Creative Arts and Culture.
Religious Studies

Mediating Hindu Art (RELS H295) – Dr. Timothy Cahill, TR 4:55-6:10
The course will explore Hindu ideas on what it means to experience art, and how various media convey emotions. A few Hindu ways of knowing religious art will be the lens used to evaluate films, poems and images from a wide variety of sources.

Faith, Science and Religion (RELS H330) - Fr. James Carter, TR 9:30-10:45
This course will critically analyze various ways of knowing: faith, science, and theology (critical analysis of faith). The methods of the physical sciences and the life sciences will be discussed. Topics will include the epic of creation, evolution, and quantum theory. This course can also count for Natural Science.

Environment and Spirituality (RELS H295) – Dr. Alvaro Alcazar, MW 3:30-4:45
This course is a reflective-active and interfaith study of Pope Francis' encyclical (Laudato, Si) on the spiritual/moral implications of "listening to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth."

Philosophy

Freedom and Oppression (PHIL H295) - Dr. Constance Mui, TR 9:30-10:15
This course focuses on one of the main problems in philosophy: What does it mean to exist—and coexist—as an autonomous agent? It will take students through three prominent views on human freedom, as developed by three influential philosophers in the history of Western thought: Karl Marx, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Michel Foucault. We will explore how each thinker’s conception of freedom presents a unique philosophical framework for analyzing and understanding the nature of power and oppression, as well as appropriate and effective forms of individual and collective resistance.

Food Ethics (PHIL H215) – Dr. Joel MacClellan, MWF 11:30-12:20 and 12:30-1:20
If “you are what you eat”, what does that make you? The production and consumption of food is reflective of moral, aesthetic, cultural, religious, and other values. They are also regulated by laws and public policies. These issues are particularly salient in the present context where there is a mass exodus of farmers from our nation’s farms, an increasing variety of allegedly “ethical” food choices presented to consumers in the grocery store, and intrepid individuals attempting to reassert agency over their food in ways such as community and urban gardening and animal husbandry. This course provides students with the conceptual tools and arguments to assess various questions in food ethics. Beyond the ethical, the course also examines the political dimensions to food, including an understanding of what a food system is, and how public policies influence food’s production and consumption. Relatedly, the course will also
explore contemporary food movements including animal welfare/rights, organic, fair trade, and local food movements in order to better understand how these movements shape and are shaped by the ethical and political dimensions of food. **This course will satisfy the ethics check off.**

**Natural Science**

**Note on the natural science requirement:** The courses listed below will not fill the natural science requirement for majors in the natural sciences (except for Psychology majors). Psych majors and all majors outside the natural sciences can fill the natural science requirement with the course listed below or with any A-level natural science course at the 101 level or higher. Check your DPCL to determine your specific requirement.

**Human Ecological Science (BIOL H295) – Dr. Anthony Bucolo, MWF 10:30-11:20**

This course emphasizes the ecology of the human condition, specifically focusing on human activities that influence and alter environmental processes and Earth’s viability. Throughout each learning objective, the activities and discussions will introduce foundational ecological concepts and illustrate how humans and our actions affect those patterns and processes via relevant case studies.

**Faith, Science and Religion (PHYS H230) - Fr. James Carter, TR 9:30-10:45**

This course will critically analyze various ways of knowing: faith, science, and theology (critical analysis of faith). The methods of the physical sciences and the life sciences will be discussed. Topics will include the epic of creation, evolution, and quantum theory. **This course can also count for Religious Studies.**

There is also a **Summer 19** Honors Natural Science offering: Naturally N’awlins: Exploring the Wetlands (BIOL-H295-M01), to be offered in the May term (May 13 – 23, 2019), taught by Dr. Aimee Thomas.

Southeastern Louisiana’s wetlands are ecologically rich and environmentally important to our ecosystem. In this course, students explore the natural history of these wetlands firsthand, examining the different habitats that create this ecosystem, making observations and collecting data in different locations around the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. This course combines field trips, lectures, discussions, readings, and reflections.

**Creative Arts and Culture**

**Note on the CAC requirement:** This requirement can be filled by the course listed below or by a performance-based course. Contact Dr. Berendzen to determine if a particular course can count as “performance-based.”

**Dreams, Myths and Surrealism (LAS H295) - “Dreams, Myths and Surrealism” is an interdisciplinary**
course that will examine Surrealist aesthetics as a transnational and transcontinental movement. It will explore the two-way traffic of Surrealist aesthetic ideas and other cultural productions between Europe and Latin America. It will study Surrealist literature and art through art manifestos, essays, films, paintings, photography, and literary texts from the 1920s until the last decades of the 20th century. This course can also count for Literature.

Mathematics and Computational Reasoning

Note on the Mathematics requirement: The math requirement differs depending on one’s major (and potentially depending on one’s catalogue year). In general, all Natural Science majors (including PSYP, but excluding PSYC) and Business majors must take MATH A (or H)257 Calculus I. In general, all Humanities and Music/Fine Arts majors can fill the Math requirement with MATH A/H200+ or with one of the courses listed below. A small number of majors (including CRIM, PSYC, and SOCI) do not have a core math requirement because of statistics courses taken in the major (however, these courses may have math prerequisites). Check your DPCL to determine your specific requirement.

Intro to Programming I (COSC H211) – Dr. Andrew Wolfe, MWF 10:30-11:20 and 1:30-2:20

This course is an introduction to concepts and terminology in computer programming. Topics include interface builders and problem solving techniques in various programming environments. Emphasis is placed on the basics of software design and on elementary applications to Mathematics and other disciplines.