Social Justice Seminars

Social Innovation: How to Save the World (HONS H396) – Ms. Kate McCreery, TR 4:55-6:10
Is money truly the root of all evil? Do money and social good have to be mutually exclusive? Not at all. This course provides students the opportunity to learn about how to create change through entrepreneurship and approach social impact via international development, nonprofit leadership, impact investing, corporate social responsibility, and other pathways.

Punishment in the U.S. (CRJU H396) – Dr. Kelly Frailing, TR 2:00-3:15
The overall goal of this course is to better understand how the changing approach to punishment in the United States in the last 50 years has served to criminalize people with mental illness and drug users, the outcomes of criminalization and recent, ameliorative steps. Consistent with the overall goal of the course, the objectives of this course are to gain knowledge of deinstitutionalization, the War on Drugs, the effects of these processes on the most marginalized populations and the efficacy of programs and policies meant to reverse the trend of criminalization.

Ethics

Christian Ethics and Business (RELS H215) – Fr. Ed Vacek, TR 2:00-3:15
Economically productive work occupies a major part of the lives of most adults. It is odd in the extreme, then, that Christianity has had relatively little to say about the way that business should be conducted. The past 100 years have seen some significant Church reflections on macro-economics, but very little on the actual conduct of business. This course, drawing upon philosophical and theological literature, develops a Christian view of business life. It is an introductory course, surveying the complex relation of religion and fundamental ethics to economic life, capitalism, and work. We examine ethical issues such as those involved in personnel policies, working conditions, bribes, discrimination, wages, advertising, and environment. (This course will also fill a Religious Studies slot in the curriculum.)

The Ethics of World Poverty and Effective Altruism (PHIL H215) – Dr. Leonard Kahn, MWF 10:30-11:20
This course takes a hard look at world poverty and asks, What are our moral obligations to our fellow human beings who are most in need? One novel line of response to this question is provided by the Effective Altruism movement, which seeks for ways to shape the lives of people in economically developed countries in a way that maximally benefits the global poor. We will critically examine this line of response and try to gain greater insight into the ethics of world poverty. (This course will also fill a Philosophy slot in the curriculum.)

History

The American Left in the 20th Century (HIST H295 034) - Dr. David W. Moore, TR 11:00-12:15
Students in this course will read, reflect on, and discuss Leftist criticism of both the status quo and the change - that is, of both conservative and liberal ideas and activities - in America in the late nineteenth century and continuing through the twentieth. We will read and discuss the writings of, among others, Utopian novelist Edward Bellamy, Socialist ideologue Daniel DeLeon, Anarchist Emma Goldman, Share-Our-Wealth politician Huey Long, CPUSA President Earl Browder, and philosopher Herbert Marcuse. We
will also read and discuss the economic / social / political / cultural criticism of various feminists and black radicals as well as that of the SDS and the Yippies. This is more of a cultural history course than a philosophical one.

**Oppression and Resistance (HIST H295) – Dr. Patricia Boyett, MW 4:55-5:45**
This global survey challenges students to critically evaluate the roles that racism, sexism, and prejudice have played in shaping the modern world across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. By comparing and contrasting case studies of enslavement, persecution, subjugation, and genocide, and exploring the violent and nonviolent resistance of marginalized peoples, students connect specific struggles to the larger global narrative and achieve a deeper understanding of the historical forces underpinning conflicts that still pervade contemporary cultures and societies. Multidisciplinary and far-reaching in its approach, this study of prejudice, oppression, and resistance familiarizes students with significant developments in modern history and illustrates the efficacy of social justice movements to combat bigotry and mitigate suffering.

**Modern Iran (HIST H357) – Dr. Behrooz Moazami, TR 3:30-4:45**
This course examines the making of modern Iran from the inception of the Qajar dynasty (1796) to the present, tracing the development of the state structure from an ethno-tribal monarchy to a modern theocratic state through internal and international wars, civil wars, coups, revolutions, and reforms. The Islamization of the Iranian political and cultural sphere during and in the aftermath of the 1979 revolution is explored as a puzzle rather than the expected logical development of Iranian political processes. Critical questions are posed about Iranian history.

**American Trials (HIST H295) – Dr. Mark Fernandez, TR 2:00-3:15**
This course focuses on famous American trials and uses them as a means to examine the broader historical context in which they took place. Particular attention is given to why these trials captured the public’s attention at the time they occurred and why they still have a hold on the popular imagination today.

**Literature**

**Don Quijote in the Digital Age (HONS H295 033) - Dr. Eileen Doll, MWF 10:30-11:20**
The novel Don Quijote de la Mancha is a revolutionary work published over 400 years ago, still popular today. Why? In this course we will read this 2-part novel and some articles about reading itself, and compare different translations and formats of the novel, in an effort to examine our own perspectives on reading in the digital age. What does it mean to read this novel today? How does the format in which we read it impact us? Does our perspective shift if we read online, on a cell phone, on kindle?

**Renaissance Poetry (ENGL H295) – Dr. Hillary Eklund, MWF 2:30-3:20**
How do you make a poet? This is not a joke about English majors; it’s the central question of this course, which traces how poets imagine and structure their poetic selves through verse. We’ll explore how poets respond to the classical past and how they speak to their contemporaries. We’ll discover the strategies they use to write about themes as varied as desire, politics, religion, environment, and travel. We’ll learn the rules they master and then watch them break those same rules.
Religious Studies

Theology of Liberation (RELS H305) – Dr. Alvaro Alcazar, MWF 3:30-4:45
Liberation Theology, originally conceived by spiritual leaders doing social justice work within poor communities in Latin America, invites and challenges participants to examine the liberating power of faith — internally, from the “cages we have fallen in love with”, and externally, from the structures of cruelty, greed, and injustice that plague our cities and communities near and far.

Mediating Hindu Art (RELS H295) – Dr. Timothy Cahill, 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.

Philosophy

Greening the Real: Philosophy of the Eco-Crisis (PHIL H295) – Dr. Francis Coolidge, MWF 11:30-12:20
"Greening the Real" pursues fundamental questions about human beings and the natural world. It begins with an overview of the ecological crisis and then investigates how dominant modes of understanding the natural order have supported environmental destruction. The course then inquires: what interpretations of ourselves, the natural order, and our relations to nature are congruent with ecological vitality?

Being and Some Philosophers (PHIL H295) – Dr. Mark Gossiaux, TR 11:00-12:15
More than two thousand years ago, Aristotle called attention to one of the central problems of philosophy: "the question which was raised of old and is raised now and always, and is always the subject of doubt," namely, what is being? This course examines how various philosophers (Greek, medieval, modern) have tried to explain the nature of being. Among the topics to be examined are: what is it that makes something a being? how should we explain the multiplicity of beings? do all things have being in the same way? Does it make any sense to say that God is a being?

Natural Science

Faith, Science, & Religion (PHYS H230) – Fr. James Carter, SJ, MWF 9:30-10:20
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.
(Counts as: Natural Science)

Genetics and Society (BIOL H295) – Dr. Patricia Dorn, TR 3:30-4:45
This course addresses applications of genetics in society, and considers controversies surrounding contemporary issues, such as sex determination and genetic manipulation. Topics covered include genetic engineering, medical applications, and population genetics and forensics.

Chemistry and Art: Honors (CHEM H245 033) – Mr. Edouard Crago, R 5:00-7:35
The core of this course is a discussion of the application of the materials of art and the relation to their chemical properties. This is a hybrid course with lecture, writing, and Lab components. This course represents an integration of materials concerning both Fine arts and Chemistry. It discusses the synergistic relationship between the development of chemical processes and their effects on the
methods of artistic production. In pursuit of this goal, this course integrates the Chemical principles of matter and energy with the techniques and experiences of Art. The course offers extensive hands-on learning in a laboratory setting. Projects include foam art, photography, jewelry, ceramics, and much more. Lab fee $100

Astronomy (PHYS H295) – Dr. Thirthabir Biswas, M 6:20-9:00
The purpose of this course is to place the participant in one of the cultural mainstreams of mankind’s past, present, and future by making available the rich mines of historical and practical astronomy, as well as modern space age discoveries and theories, in a comprehensive form.

Creative Arts and Culture

Paris and the Arts (FREN H295) - Dr. Alice Kornovich, MWF 2:30-3:20
For centuries, Paris has been an inspiration and home to artists, writers, and performers, and a place where artistic expression is central to everyday life. In the course “Paris and the Arts,” we will study some masterworks of art and architecture, and we will read some brief literary excerpts that help define the intellectual and cultural context of our time periods. Our work will survey the art world in Paris, briefly for the Middle Ages, Renaissance, 17th and 18th centuries, and in more detail for the 19th and 20th centuries.

Making Shakespeare Into Opera (MUGN H295) – Dr. Alice Clark, 1:30-2:20
Shakespeare’s plays have served as subjects for many works of opera and musical theatre. We will look at a few paradigmatic examples of Shakespearian operas, as well as the plays on which they are based. The seminar will probably focus on readings of Shakespeare’s Othello (by the nineteenth-century composers Gioacchino Rossini and Giuseppe Verdi), Romeo and Juliet (by Charles Gounod and the creative team behind West Side Story), and A Midsummer Night’s Dream (by the seventeenth-century composer Henry Purcell and the twentieth-century composer Benjamin Britten). Students will also try their own hand at planning a reinterpretation for opera or musical theatre of another Shakespearian play. No musical background is required or expected--just bring your ears (and minds)!

Mathematics

Introduction to Linear Algebra: Honors (MATH H200 033) – Dr. Michael Kelly, MWF 8:30-9:20
This course introduces topics in matrix algebra for applications that are basic to future coursework in mathematics. Topics include vector spaces, determinants, matrices, linear transformations, and eigenvectors.

Intro to Programming I (COSC H211) – Dr. Andrew Wolfe, 033 MWF 9:30-10:20, 034 MWF 11:30-12:20
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. (Note that for those who have already taken Intro to Programming I, an Honors section of Intro to Programming II will be offered.)

Mapping Climate Change: Honors (ENVA H295 033) - Dr. Lynn Brien, MWF 1:30-2:20
This course will focus on the application of remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) for monitoring global climate change, with emphasis on climate change impacts. Topics will include the science underlying geospatial technologies and the role of remote sensing and GIS in data acquisition and analysis, and in climate change monitoring, prediction, and adaptation. The course will include
guided lab sessions designed to introduce students to analysis of remotely sensed data within a GIS environment.

Other

Beginning Greek II Honors (GREK H101 033) – Dr. Karen Rosenbecker, TR 11:00-12:15
This is an honors section of Greek which can count toward your language requirement (it requires Beginning Greek I as a prerequisite). It will not fill any specific honors curriculum requirements. Note that your language requirement, if you have one, is determined by your major program.