Honors Spring 2020 Course Descriptions

Social Justice Seminars

Social Innovation: How to Save the World (HONS H396) – Ms. Kate McCrery
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.

Community Organizing (HONS H396) – Mr. Joseph Givens
Throughout our nation and the world, young leaders are speaking out and organizing around issues critical to the future of our communities, our nation and our planet. This course in civic engagement and organizing provides instruction in the art of effective community organizing and opportunities for students to engage the critical issues affecting their futures while assuming their role as ‘leaders of today’.

(CRIJU H396) – Dr. Kelly Frailing

Ethics

Ethics (RELS H215) – Fr. Ed Vacek
(This course will also fill a Religious Studies slot in the curriculum.)

The Holocaust (PHIL H295) – Dr. Jack Stetter
The study of the Holocaust involves many emotionally and intellectually difficult philosophical questions. Several are ethical in nature. Are bystanders of a crime complicit in the crime? What of the “ordinary Germans” who lived in Hitler’s Germany? Is the “strategic bombing” of Dresden, or the cruelty to women in occupied Berlin, morally justifiable? How are we to understand the phenomenon of survivor guilt as expressed by survivors like P. Levi? Last but not least, what are we to make of H. Arendt’s discussion of the trial of Eichmann and her theory of the “banality of evil”? Several aspects of the study of the Holocaust, however, bear less directly on moral philosophy and more on political philosophy. For instance, is there something distinctive and unique about Nazi ideology and statecraft with regards to other fascist or totalitarian ideologies and regimes? Additional issues raised by the study of the Holocaust include issues in the philosophy of art and the philosophy of religion, both within the Jewish tradition and outside of it. (This course will also fill a Philosophy slot in the curriculum.)

Religious Studies
Theology of Liberation (RELS H305) – Dr. Alvaro Alcazar

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.

Ethics (RELS H215) – Fr. Ed Vacek

(This course will also fill a Religious Studies slot in the curriculum.)

Literature

Medieval Romance (ENGL H295) – Dr. Elizabeth Watkins

Jane Austen and Fan Culture (ENGL H295) – Dr. Sarah Allison

Intermediality in Contemporary Theatre (SPAN H295) – Dr. Eileen Doll

How do the various arts interact on the stage? What happens when a famous artist becomes a character in a play? Or a painting becomes a protagonist? From text to performance, explore the intermediality of 20th and 21st century theatre from England, Spain, Poland, Latin America, and the U.S. In this class we will discuss why theatre is considered the sum of all the arts, and how that shows up in certain contemporary plays. How do other media inform and participate in these plays? By “other media” I mean the other arts (painting, music, installations, film) as well as technology, the internet, and social media. By reading play texts, watching film versions of some of them, going behind the scenes of a Loyola Theatre production or two (tentative!), and attending a performance, students should finish with a better idea of how the various art forms and media work together in a unique way to create contemporary theatre. In addition, there is a 20-hour Service Learning component for you to get hands-on with the arts in the community and bring those experiences back to class discussion.

Paris and the Arts (FREN H295) - Dr. Alice Kornovich

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. (This course will also fill a Creative Arts and Culture slot in the curriculum.)
History

Oppression and Resistance (HIST H295) – Dr. Patricia Boyett

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.

Law in Early America (HIST H295) – Dr. Mark Fernandez

This survey course examines the major developments in American legal history from the Colonial period to the Civil War.

Transnational Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality in the 20th Century US (HIST H295) – Dr. Rachel Wallace

The module introduces students to the ideas, methodologies, and problems surrounding gender and sexuality history. The module outline follows the traditional chronology of the twentieth century, but each week will provide new interpretations of well-known topics to add to their understanding of twentieth century history. The module situates the United States within a global history of sexuality. Students will learn about international connections, contrasts, and conflicts. The module considers how transnational organizing, immigration, tourism, war, and the media influenced the history of gender and sexuality in the United States. This course will incorporate film, music, posters, objects, and interviews alongside written documents as primary sources to engage students with the transnational history of gender and sexuality.

Philosophy

Skepticism, Free Will and Mind (PHIL H295) – Dr. Leonard Kahn

This course serves as an Honors-level introduction to several of the most important themes in philosophy. We begin by considering the difference between appearance and reality, and we investigate the way in which this distinction seems to leave us with serious skeptical worries about whether we can know anything at all. Then we turn to the question of whether humans are free to choose their own actions or whether we are the playthings of forces beyond our control. Next, we ask what it is to be the same person over time. We conclude by thinking carefully about what a mind is, and we will, try to imagine what it would be like for a super intelligent mind to exist. We will, of course, be reading classical philosophical thinkers such as Plato, Chuang Tzu, René Descartes,
and John Locke, as well as contemporary figures like Susan Wolf, David Chalmers, Charles W. Mills, and Nick Bostrom. But we will also make ample use of classics of science-fiction cinema to explore these themes. Among the films we will watch and discuss are *The Matrix Trilogy, Blade Runner, 2001: A Space Odyssey, Solaris, Annihilation*, and *Get Out*. The course will have short weekly writing assignments to be posted (and further discussed) on the class discussion forum, a midterm exam, a final exam, and a substantial paper.

**The Holocaust (PHIL H215) – Dr. Jack Stetter**

The study of the Holocaust involves many emotionally and intellectually difficult philosophical questions. Several are ethical in nature. Are bystanders of a crime complicit in the crime? What of the “ordinary Germans” who lived in Hitler’s Germany? Is the “strategic bombing” of Dresden, or the cruelty to women in occupied Berlin, morally justifiable? How are we to understand the phenomenon of survivor guilt as expressed by survivors like P. Levi? Last but not least, what are we to make of H. Arendt’s discussion of the trial of Eichmann and her theory of the “banality of evil”? Several aspects of the study of the Holocaust, however, bear less directly on moral philosophy and more on political philosophy. For instance, is there something distinctive and unique about Nazi ideology and statecraft with regards to other fascist or totalitarian ideologies and regimes? Additional issues raised by the study of the Holocaust include issues in the philosophy of art and the philosophy of religion, both within the Jewish tradition and outside of it. (*This course will also fill an Ethics check-off in the curriculum.*)

**Creative Arts and Culture**

**Paris and the Arts (FREN H295) - Dr. Alice Kornovich**

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. (*This course will also fill a Literature/English slot in the curriculum.*)

**Intermediality in Contemporary Theatre (SPAN H295) – Dr. Eileen Doll**

How do the various arts interact on the stage? What happens when a famous artist becomes a character in a play? Or a painting becomes a protagonist? From text to performance, explore the intermediality of 20th and 21st century theatre from England, Spain, Poland, Latin America, and the U.S. In this class we will discuss why theatre is considered the sum of all the arts, and how that shows up in certain contemporary plays. How do other media inform and participate in these plays? By “other media” I mean the other arts (painting, music, installations, film) as well as technology, the internet, and social media. By reading play texts, watching film versions of some of them, going behind the scenes of a Loyola Theatre production or two (tentative!), and attending a performance, students should finish with a better idea of how the various art forms and media work together in a
unique way to create contemporary theatre. In addition, there is a 20-hour Service Learning component for you to get hands-on with the arts in the community and bring those experiences back to class discussion.

**Natural Science**

**Chemistry and Art: Honors (CHEM H245 033) - Mr. Edouard Crago**

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

**Sociobiology (BIOL H295) – Dr. Craig Hood**

This course examines the evolutionary basis of human social behavior.

**Chemistry of the Crime Scene (CHEM H295) – Dr. Anna Duggar**

Chemistry of the Crime Scene covers basic crime scene protocol (documentation, collection, chain of custody); presumptive testing for drugs, primer (gun shot) residue, and body fluids; and the chemistry of latent print development. No science background is required, but scientific curiosity is expected, and fundamental chemistry concepts will be covered. Course fee $100

**Mathematics**

**Intro to Programming I (COSC H211) – Dr. Andrew Wolfe**

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.

**Intro to Programming II (COSC H212) – Dr. Scott McDermott**

This course is a continuation of COSC A211. Topics include object-oriented programming, software development, and data structures such as stacks, queues, trees, lists and the further exploration of
the applications of programming to Mathematics and other disciplines.

**Intro to Linear Algebra (MATH H200) – Dr. Michael Kelly**

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.