Special Topic Courses Fall 2019

ANTH 306: Vikings: Myths & Legends (3). Investigate the Vikings of legend as they were a thousand years ago and their influence on today’s culture and media. Examine the material evidence scattered throughout Europe and the Mid-East.

ANTH 329: Living in the Anthropocene: Environmental Change and the Human Condition (4). Examine relationships between environment, health, and society, focusing on the effects of development and globalization on issues such as climate change, pollution, waste, energy, disasters, and related themes.

ANTH 390: Power & Resistance: South African Counterstories (4). Explore the themes of power/resistance in South Africa’s histories, peoples, and cultures through primary source materials (personal diaries, music, art, literature, comedy, legal testimony...).

ANTH 485: Anthropology Teaching & Leadership (1). Exploration of pedagogy for teaching and leadership within and beyond anthropology; students actively engage in teaching and/or leadership roles as an integral component of the course.

ANTH 485: Language & Society (1). Introduction to fundamentals of how language is studied from an anthropological point of view and theories of the biosocial nature of human language; identify patterns of language speech, and structure; and compare facets of language practice in a sociocultural context.

ART 301: Impressionism (3). In-depth examination of Impressionism, surveying its major artists and works, as well as the artistic, historical, cultural, and social contexts within which it evolved. [UD GE C.]

ART 301: The Museum (3). From Renaissance cabinets of curiosities to contemporary institutions such as the MOCA LA, examine the development and evolution of the Museum as a cultural and educational institution. [UD GE C.]

ART 301: The 70s (3). Examine art of the 1970s from Conceptual to Feminist, Performance to Earthworks, we will look at the ways our understanding of art was transformed in that decade. [UD GE C.]

ART 321: Drawing II: The Natural World (3). Create a series of drawings informed by a study of images and ideas about the natural world. [Prerequisite: ART 105B.]

ART 330: Printmaking: Woodcut (3). Create black & white and color woodcuts. [Prerequisite: ART 107 or Instructor Approval.]

ART 354: Introduction to Aesthetics (1). Read and discuss a variety of works addressing aesthetics theory and apply them through a series of critique methodologies on their own works.

ART 372: Animation (3). Explore the medium of animation through the application of digital media. Research the context of time-based art from stop motion animation to motion graphics. Explore experimental narratives, concepts and themes through the application of digital tools like Adobe® Photoshop and After Effects. [Prerequisite: ART 108.]

ART 396B: Guest Artist Workshop (1). Learn about casting resin in unexpected, forgotten, or derelict places with guest artist Rik Leopold.
ART 396B: Mold Making Workshop (1). Learn how to make several different types of molds. Students will experience casting plaster and wax into these molds.

BIOL 685: Seminar in Biology (1). Discuss current topics in biology, focusing on methodological advances and big datasets (emphasis on genomics). Weekly seminar attendance is required.

BIOL 685: Current Topics in Marine Mammalogy (1). Discuss current topics in the field of marine mammalogy.

BIOL 685: Bee Biology (1). Examination of recent journal articles with a focus on the natural history and conservation of native bees.

CS 480/CS 480L: Artificial Intelligence/Lab (2/1). Learn the fundamentals of the study and design of intelligent systems. These include expert systems, constraint satisfaction programs, propositional and first order logic and selected algorithms used for machine learning. [Prerequisite: CS 211; sophomore standing or greater.]

ENGL 240: Literature of North Africa and the Middle East (4). Modern Arabic literature in translation, with works focusing on regional history, Arab feminism, and encounters with the West.

ENGL 336: American Ethnic Literature: Multicultural Queer Narratives (4). Fiction, memoir, poetry, film and performances that subvert conventions of sexuality, ethnicity, identity, and narrative. Audre Lorde, Cherrie Moraga, Deborah Miranda, Tim’m West, Carla Trujillo, Zamora Linmark, the film Moonlight, and more. Course is also offered as ENGL 336 and WS 336.


ENGR 481: Drinking Water Treatment Engineering (3). Drinking water treatment systems: physico-chemical processes, reactor kinetics, applications to the design of specific water treatment operations. Engineering design applications. [Prerequisite: ENGR 322. Recommended: ENGR 416]

ENGR 481: Distributed Renewable Electricity Systems (3). Introduction to foundations and topics in the design and operation of electric power systems (the “grid”), integrating renewable electricity generation into the grid, and distributed energy systems that combine generation, storage, and demand-side management. [Prerequisites: ENGR 322. Recommended: ENGR 331, ENGR 333, ENGR 326 (C), and PHYX 315 (C).]


ES 480: Campus Dialogue on Race (1). Dynamic speakers, workshops, exhibits and screenings that relate to racial justice, civil rights, democracy, intersectional analysis, and strategies for transformation. [CR/NC.]

FILM 378: Cinematography (4). Explore the foundational creative and technical principles of cinematography for visual storytelling with a primary focus on lighting. Set safety and protocols, the working relationship with director and crew, and workflow will be further considerations.
HIST 391: Public History (4). Public history is a broad term for the methods that professional historians use to bring historical awareness to the general public. Examine the venues and methods used to facilitate this process.

JMC 480: News Parody: Theory & Practice (3). Explore the history and contemporary use of satire and comedic news presentations. Find and report cultural absurdities for a multimedia news parody.

PHIL 485: Philosophy of Language (3). Discover linguistic meaning; the relationship between language and thought; linguistic competence; the relationship between semantics and pragmatics. It is recommended (but not required) that students have basic familiarity with formal propositional logic.

PSCI 330: Conflicts in Settler-Colonial Societies (4). Focused on conflicts in Palestine/Israel, Ireland, and South Africa. Examine patterns and connections in settler colonial societies, including racial segregation, violence, citizenship, and nationalist political activism.


PSYC 480/PSYC 680: Social Neuroscience (3). Overview of the neurobiological mechanisms and evolutionary origins of social behavior, technical research methods, and societal implications of neurophilosophy. Discuss influential behavioral, neuroimaging, neurophysiological, and neuroendocrinological studies in both humans and nonhuman animals. [Graduate level: Evaluate key research topics in social neuroscience.]


PSYC 680: Single-Subject Experimental Design (1). Introduction to single-case research designs, a methodological approach to experimental investigation with one subject, described in the context of clinical and applied research. Learn measurement techniques that increase reliability and validity of behavioral data.

SOC 480: Crimes of the Powerful (4). Examine structures and institutions promoting and protecting crimes by those in positions of power. Though often ignored, white collar and state crime cause more harm than all street crimes combined.

SOC 480: Teaching Sociology Experience (1). Explore pedagogy, theories of learning, teaching techniques, and issues in sociology classrooms. Develop teaching philosophy and portfolio in relation to own teacher identity. (SOC 560 must be taken concurrently. Instructor Approval required.)

WS 336: American Ethnic Literature: Multicultural Queer Narratives (4). Fiction, memoir, poetry, film and performances that subvert conventions of sexuality, ethnicity, identity, and narrative. Audre Lorde, Cherrie Moraga, Deborah Miranda, Tim’im West, Carla Trujillo, Zamora Linmark, the film Moonlight, and more. [Also offered as ENGL 336 and ES 336.]

WS 350: Health & Body Politics (4). What constitutes “normal” versus “abnormal” bodies? How are disability justice, trans* activists, and intersectional feminists working to create a more just world for every-BODY? Examines ableism, genderism/transphobia at intersection of other systems of injustice.
ZOO 580: Origin of Amphibia (1). Explore the origin of the modern amphibian groups from an early tetrapod ancestor.