

# Wabash.

## SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FALL 2026

### ART

#### **ART-210-01 Medical Arts Observation**

**Instructor:** Morton, Elizabeth

This course strengthens students' observational abilities and deepens their appreciation of the visual arts through close study of artworks depicting sickness, health, injury, and medical practices. Drawing on work from diverse cultures and time periods, it highlights the challenges of observing and diagnosing people of varied cultural, racial, and gender backgrounds. The course uses the power of visual art to cultivate the careful observation, communication, and analytical skills essential in medical professions.

#### **ART-225-01 Experimental Animation**

**Instructor:** Mohl, Damon

This course will provide students with the knowledge and tools to create their own animations using Adobe After Effects and Photoshop. Techniques covered include (but are not limited to) isolating objects and animating layers, working with masks and shapes, photographic/collage approaches, including distorting/animating with the Puppet Tools, and working with 2D images in 3D space. Sound design, composition, editing techniques, color grading, and other image-making principles will be explored through a series of short animation experiments. In each project, students will be challenged to develop aesthetically interesting, visually abstract approaches to their ideas. No previous video editing experience is required.

### ASIAN STUDIES

#### **ASI-112-01=HIS-260-01**

**Instructor:** Healey, Cara

This survey course introduces Chinese history and cultural traditions from ancient times to 1911, outlining historical trends such as Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, dynastic cycles, literati culture, traditional gender roles, and interactions with the West. We will analyze a variety of primary sources (in English translation), including poetry, fiction, philosophical writings, first-person accounts, and visual art.

#### **ASI-112-02 Martial Arts Film**

**Instructor:** Healey, Cara

This course traces major trends in Chinese martial arts cinema, including works from mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and beyond. We analyze films from multiple angles, including aesthetics, historical context, production, circulation, and adaptation. We consider how films articulate diverse identities, operating in relation to national and transnational cultural institutions. All films include English subtitles. Film screenings in class Wednesdays 2:10-4:00.

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## **ASI-277-01=PSC-240-01=PPE-238-01 Trade Politics**

**Instructor:** Ye, Huei-Jyun

Trade politics is a complex nexus of domestic and international politics, economic conditions, global and regional institutions, business interests, and civil society. This course provides students with both theoretical foundations and practical tools to analyze trade politics. We begin with the international trade system, focusing on policies for trade in goods and services, as well as tariffs and non-tariff barriers. We will examine how these policies shape international relations and connect them to current debates such as the trade wars. We then turn to the winners and losers of trade. Who benefits financially from trade, and who bears the costs? How do factors such as gender, race, political ideology, education, and occupation shape public opinion toward trade? We will consider how people from diverse backgrounds understand and react to global trade, and how public attitudes influence political, economic, and social policies. Finally, students will gain quantitative literacy by learning MS Excel for data management and visualization. Students will analyze trade data from international organizations and compare trade developments in the Global North and South. Students will also design, analyze, and present survey data. The course concludes by reflecting on trade's impact on development and equality. There are no prerequisites. Students should come prepared for active participation in student-centered learning

## **ASI-277-02=ECO-277-02 Economics of Asia**

**Instructor:** Saha, Sujata

This is an introductory course on the economic development in East and Southeast Asian Countries. The course explores the elements of emerging markets with a focus on the impact of capital flows, globalization, economic and financial development, social and economic inequality, social system, and poverty. Several Asian economies experienced speedy economic growth in the last sixty to seventy years. After World War II, Japan was the first high-growth economy in Asia. It was quickly followed by a set of very diverse countries, for example, China, India, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, and Vietnam. China and India had sudden emergence onto the world stage as active traders, investors, and consumers. Common characteristics of these countries' growth success are macroeconomic stability, relatively less inequality and investment in people, export promotion, etc. This course focuses on the economic characteristics and socio-economic development of these Asian economies to examine similarities and differences among them, how the Asian regions grew from an agricultural area into a newly developed area, and how the institutional environment supported the economic growth. Finally, it is worth noting that growth has also levied a toll on these countries' environment and has led to the rapid degradation of their natural resources. The goal of this course is to explore the key components and features of the rapidly growing/grown East and Southeast Asian economies and to analyze the development strategies and socio-economic conditions of the individual countries.

## **BLACK STUDIES**

### **BLS-270-01=ENG-340-01=GEN-273-01 Toni Morrison and the Novel**

**Instructor:** Lake, Tim

We will read the novels and literary essays of Toni Morrison. In the process we will explore the features of what Morrison calls the African American novel. We will also come to recognize and understand Morrison's mastery of craft and subject in the production of amazing stories that speak the "truth in timbre." The goals are to read, learn and grow in your understanding of the possibilities and limitations of rendering a people's lived experience.

### **BLS-270-02=ENG-370-01 Color TV: Black Folk on TV**

**Instructor:** Lake, Timothy

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This course will survey the proliferation of Black representation in television shows with particular focus on the 1970s through 2000s. We will review variety shows like Flip Wilson and Richard Pryor, sitcoms like Amos 'n' Andy and Julia and entertainment shows like Soul Train and In Living Color. Special focus will be devoted to Black family shows like The Jeffersons, Sanford and Sons, The Cosby Show and The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Students will be introduced to concepts in cultural theory and cultural criticism. This course will appeal to students interested in the intersection of popular culture and race relations. Caution: We will watch a lot of TV.

## **BLS-280-01=HIS-340-01 The American Revolution**

**Instructor:** Calhoun, Jacob

The American Revolution stands undeniably as a watershed moment in the history of global human societies. This historical period witnessed the emergence of a new republic principled upon radical ideas of social equality and the inherent rights of human beings while the architects of that same republic materially benefited from the forced labor of half a million souls kept in bondage. This readings-heavy, discussion-based course calls on students to familiarize themselves with writings and historical sources that emerged from the Revolutionary Era and Early National Period produced by both the traditional "founders" as well as those who levied sharp critiques and challenges to the uniquely optimistic and inequitable age the Revolution ushered into existence. Students will ideally walk away with both an extensive knowledge of the facts of the American Revolution, as well as enduring questions about the grand "experiment" that the Revolution birthed.

## **BLS-280-02=PHI-219-01=PPE-228-01 W.E.B. Du Bois**

**Instructor:** Montiel, Jorge

This course offers an extended study of the social and political philosophy of W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963). As someone who dedicated his life work to studying "the Negro problem" and "the program of Negro freedom," Du Bois's reflections on racial discrimination, social, political, and economic inequality, the possibility of racial integration, and the meaning of racial self-determination continues to inform how we think about racial justice and injustice in the U.S. The course focuses on three main questions in Du Bois's thought. The first question has to do with the psychology of race. That is, what motivates white racial prejudice? And how does racial discrimination affect Black people's relation towards the self and others? The second question regards social, political, and economic inequality. Do poor whites and poor Blacks suffer from the same kind of inequalities? Or are there specific social conditions that explain the unequal distribution of inequality in the U.S. Lastly, the third question regards integration and self-determination. Is racial integration possible in the U.S.? Is Black self-determination compatible with racial integration? While the course centers on Du Bois as a historical thinker, we will focus on how his social and political philosophy can help us think about our present racial relations.

## **BLS-280-03=HIS-200-03 Police, Investigators & Spies: Histories of Police, the FBI, and the CIA**

**Instructor:** Pliego Campos, Noe

Police, investigators, and spies have a coveted space within U.S. politics and cultural imagination. This is reflected in the budgets for these institutions at the federal, state, and local levels as well as their place in cultural texts such as films and television shows. In this class, students will be invited to explore the role of police, the FBI, and the CIA within the United States and the globe through an engagement with academic histories as well as primary source materials, including documents produced by and about the institutions.

## **CHEMISTRY**

### **CHE-371-01 Materials Chemistry**

**Instructor:** Porter, Lon

**2<sup>nd</sup> Half Semester Course.** Materials chemistry is one of today's most dynamic research fields, with a significant impact on social development and our way of life. Ceramics, polymers, semiconductors, superconductors, alloys, and composites are the materials of choice for a wide range of applications, from building materials and advanced microelectronics to food packaging and medical implants. To develop or select the proper material for a given application, scientists and engineers must understand the structure of various materials at the

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microscopic level. This is because macroscopic properties (density, chemical resistance, color, biocompatibility, etc.) are dictated by chemical structure. Today's chemists, engineers, physicists, and biologists are working diligently to develop exotic new materials to enable the revolutionary technologies of the future. The course will present a survey of the field and explore the frontiers (e.g., nanotechnology) of the field via the primary literature. Students must have completed CHE-241 in order to enroll in this class.

## **CHE-461-01 Nuclear Hormone Receptors**

**Instructor:** Novak, Walter

**2<sup>nd</sup> Half Semester Course.** Approximately 13 of the 48 known human nuclear receptors (NRs) have approved, clinically used drugs, accounting for roughly 15–20% of all pharmacological drug targets. These include drugs to treat cancer (breast, prostate, blood), autoimmune disorders, diabetes, high cholesterol, osteoporosis, and thyroid diseases. Nuclear receptors are proteins that modulate gene expression through the recruitment of repressor or activator complexes, ultimately controlling expression of downstream gene products. This course will examine the structure and function of the steroid, thyroid and retinoic acid receptors in the cell and drugs that modulate these systems.

## **CHE-491-01 Nanoparticle Chemistry**

**Instructor:** Porter, Lon

**1<sup>st</sup> Half Semester Course.** Nanoparticle chemistry is among today's most rapidly advancing and interdisciplinary research areas, with profound implications for technology, medicine, energy, and the environment. Nanoparticles, including metallic, semiconductor, polymeric, and ceramic systems, exhibit unique size-dependent optical, electronic, magnetic, and catalytic properties that differ dramatically from those of their bulk counterparts. These materials are central to applications ranging from targeted drug delivery and biomedical imaging to solar energy conversion, environmental remediation, and advanced electronics. To design or deploy nanoparticles effectively, scientists must understand how structure, composition, surface chemistry, and morphology at the nanometer scale govern macroscopic performance. Properties such as reactivity, fluorescence, conductivity, and biocompatibility are dictated by atomic arrangement, quantum confinement effects, and interfacial phenomena. In this course, students will explore the synthesis, functionalization, characterization, and application of nanoparticles, with an emphasis on connecting nanoscale structure to emergent properties. The course will survey foundational concepts and examine cutting-edge developments in nanoscience through analysis of the primary literature.

## **CLASSICS**

### **CLA-213-01=HIS-210-01 Art of Power in Ancient Rome**

**Instructor:** Hartnett, Jeremy

Immense power rested in the hands of Rome's emperors. And while their peccadillos tend to dominate our imaginations today, in antiquity emperors' public images were carefully curated in a way that would make Madison Avenue ad agencies proud. Key in this endeavor was the deployment of artwork and building projects, which ranged from musclebound portraits and gilded building complexes to infrastructure that we might initially consider mundane, such as aqueducts and sewers. This course travels back in time to investigate the strategies that the imperial court used to claim, justify, and maintain its power within the city of Rome itself. To that end, part of our consideration will revolve around the monuments' multiple audiences – rivals to power, traditionalists, and a cosmopolitan population drawn from every corner of the empire. Short papers, quizzes, and exams form the backbone of evaluation for the course.

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## COMPUTER SCIENCE

### **CSC-371-01 Intro to Computer Networks**

**Instructor:** Deng, Qixin

Intro to Computer Networks provides a rigorous, systems-oriented introduction to the principles and design of computer networks, emphasizing formal models, protocol analysis, and performance evaluation. We study layered network architecture through the TCP/IP stack and analyze the mathematical and algorithmic foundations underlying reliable data transfer, flow control, congestion control, and routing. Topics include application-layer protocols (HTTP, DNS), transport-layer mechanisms (TCP state machine, sliding window protocols, congestion control algorithms such as AIMD), network-layer design (IP addressing, subnetting, longest-prefix matching, distance-vector and link-state routing algorithms), link-layer protocols, error detection and correction, and fundamentals of wireless networking. If time permits, the course will also introduce fundamental concepts in network security, including basic cryptographic primitives and secure communication protocols.

## ECONOMICS

### **ECO-258-01=PPE-358-01 Seminar on James Buchanan**

**Instructor:** Snow, Nicholas

This course will explore the works of the Nobel Prize-winning economist James M. Buchanan. The course will delve into his role as the founder of two fields in economics: Public Choice and Constitutional Political Economy. The course will particularly examine the cross-disciplinary nature of Buchanan's work from an economic and political science perspective. Additionally, we will explore how Buchanan challenged the mainstream methodological approach in economics by examining his focus on subjectivism, his shift away from maximization toward an exchange paradigm, and related themes. The course will take a comprehensive look at Buchanan's work throughout his life and explore why it still matters for today within a PPE framework.

### **ECO-277-01 Economics of Popular Music**

**Instructor:** Byun, Christie

Rock and roll used to be a way for people to stick it to the Man. Is that still possible in today's highly corporatized and profit maximizing world? Does Ticketmaster facilitate easy ticket sales, or does it use its market power to crush competition? Do intellectual property rights matter in the digital era? And how has technology affected the way musicians create their work and how we experience it? This course will study the popular music industry from an economics and business perspective. We will look at how music is made, performed, and sold, and examine how musical creativity is affected by the business of music. We will also study how music media, technology, and musical venues shape and influence musical form and expression. The course may include an overnight field trip (pending approval) to music related sites TBA.

### **ECO-277-02=ASI-277-01 Economics of Asia**

**Instructor:** Saha, Sujata

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## **ECO-277-03 Introduction to Growth Theory**

**Instructor:** Mikek, Peter

The material well-being is central to many aspects of human existence. We frequently gauge it with measures of our living standard. However, in this course, we will ask what are the origins of this material well-being? How is it possible that it is higher in some countries and lower in some other ones? Why does the US have lower income per person than, say, Ireland? Will China overtake the US in income per person? Along with basic models of economic growth, we will consider possible policies that could help stimulate growth and assure better living standard for future generation. It turns out that improving our living standards is the central economic questions that affects even health of the population and ultimately happiness of individuals.

## **ECO-277-04=PPE-258-01 Crime and Punishment**

**Instructor:** D'Amico, Dan

This class will investigate the social phenomena of crime and punishment through the analytical tool kit of political economy. Students will learn a variety of theoretical approaches and apply them to understand and explain historic and contemporary trends. Theoretical approaches will include rational and strategic decision making, public goods theory, bureaucratic incentives, comparative institutional analysis, and industrial organization. Key applied topics covered during the semester will include criminal behavior, the historic origins of criminal law and law enforcement services, the potentials and limits of both public and private provisions of policing and punishment, and the historic and contemporary patterns of crime and punitive trends across social contexts. Finally, students will assess the viability of historic and current criminal justice reform movements.

## ENGLISH

## **ENG-180-01= GHL-177-01=HSP-107-01 Medical Humanities**

**Instructor:** Szczeszak-Brewer, Agata

Studies show that reading poetry and fiction about illness helps both doctors and patients. More and more medical schools in the U.S. require a "Narrative Medicine" course, recognizing that language has the capacity to comfort us in times of need. How do writers, poets, filmmakers, visual artists, and historians portray the sick? What social, cultural, psychological, and medical issues do they raise in these portrayals? We will read, watch, and discuss creative depictions of AIDS, Covid 19, Chagas disease, and other conditions as well as texts about mental health. How have societies around the world classified sickness and how have they treated bodies and minds that are unwell? How have communities of color, women, and LGBTQ patients described their hospitalizations and diagnoses? This is an interdisciplinary class that includes literary analysis, philosophy, history, political science, global health, epidemiology, and other disciplines. The class will host visiting speakers. It will also have a significant community engagement component.

## **ENG-340-01=BLS-270-01=GEN-273-01 Toni Morrison and the Novel**

**Instructor:** Lake, Tim

We will read the novels and literary essays of Toni Morrison. In the process we will explore the features of what Morrison calls the African American novel. We will also come to recognize and understand Morrison's mastery of craft and subject in the production of amazing stories that speak the "truth in timbre." The goals are to read,

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learn and grow in your understanding of the possibilities and limitations of rendering a people's lived experience.

## **ENG-370-01=BLS-270-01 Color TV: Black Folk on TV**

**Instructor:** Lake, Tim

This course will survey the proliferation of Black representation in television shows with particular focus on the 1970s through 2000s. We will review variety shows like Flip Wilson and Richard Pryor, sitcoms like Amos 'n' Andy and Julia and entertainment shows like Soul Train and In Living Color. Special focus will be devoted to Black family shows like The Jeffersons, Sanford and Sons, The Cosby Show and The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Students will be introduced to concepts in cultural theory and cultural criticism. This course will appeal to students interested in the intersection of popular culture and race relations. Caution: We will watch a lot of TV.

## **ENG-497-01 Senior Seminar: Immigration and Exile in Global Literatures**

**Instructor:** Szczeszak-Brewer, Agata

How do writers, poets, playwrights, and filmmakers imagine the global migration of people in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries? How do they respond to economically-motivated migration, political exile, eco-migration (caused by global warming and climate change), and other forms of resettlement? We will read texts that investigate problems faced by immigrant communities (e.g. racism, xenophobia, abuse of power by institutions, immigrant detention camps, separation of refugee families, etc), problems within the immigrant communities, and issues raised by anti-immigrant movements and legislation.

## **GENDER STUDIES**

## **GEN-273-01=BLS-270-01=ENG-340-01 Toni Morrison and the Novel**

**Instructor:** Lake, Tim

We will read the novels and literary essays of Toni Morrison. In the process we will explore the features of what Morrison calls the African American novel. We will also come to recognize and understand Morrison's mastery of craft and subject in the production of amazing stories that speak the "truth in timbre." The goals are to read, learn and grow in your understanding of the possibilities and limitations of rendering a people's lived experience.

## **GEN-279-01=THE-219-03 Queer Theatre**

**Instructor:** Rosa, Bai

In this course we will study the history of the queer theatre movement and how queer theatre makers were impacted by different moments in American theatre history. Students will be asked to examine how queerness and the societal acceptability of queerness impacts the work of artists, American theatre, and queer performance. Students will also be asked to examine their own biases in relation to different forms of queer performance.

## **GLOBAL HEALTH**

## **GHL-177-01=ENG-180-01=HSP-107-01 Medical Humanities**

**Instructor:** Szczeszak-Brewer, Agata

Studies show that reading poetry and fiction about illness helps both doctors and patients. More and more medical schools in the U.S. require a "Narrative Medicine" course, recognizing that language has the capacity to comfort us in times of need. How do writers, poets, filmmakers, visual artists, and historians portray the sick? What social, cultural, psychological, and medical issues do they raise in these portrayals? We will read, watch, and discuss creative depictions of AIDS, Covid 19, Chagas disease, and other conditions as well as texts about mental health. How have societies around the world classified sickness and how have they treated bodies and

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minds that are unwell? How have communities of color, women, and LGBTQ patients described their hospitalizations and diagnoses? This is an interdisciplinary class that includes literary analysis, philosophy, history, political science, global health, epidemiology, and other disciplines. The class will host visiting speakers. It will also have a significant community engagement component.

## **GHL-219-02=HIS-200-02 Drugs & Society in Modern History**

**Instructor:** Rhoades, Michelle

What is an illegal drug? This course examines the history of drugs in society by first asking what an illegal drug or intoxicant might be. The class will then consider how different cultures have accepted or rejected drugs based on their usefulness or danger to the social order. We will examine changing cultural attitudes toward drugs, the rise of modern drug regulation, and the development of pharmaceutical drugs. Key topics will include: The growth and regulation of the opium trade in the 19th century; Drugs and Sports; Alcohol policies in the 19th and early 20th centuries; The global war on drugs; Appreciation for Cannabis, Alcohol, Meth, Viagra, Chocolate, and Coffee; The use and administration of LSD and amphetamines by various governmental agencies. This course is suitable for first-year and advanced students interested in history, sociology, and public health. There is no immersion trip associated with this course, but to be blunt, in addition to short assignments, in-class experiments, and two exams, students will have a daily dose of reading and discussion.

## HISPANIC STUDIES

## **GHL-177-01=ENG-180-01=HSP-107-01 Medical Humanities**

**Instructor:** Szczeszak-Brewer, Agata

Studies show that reading poetry and fiction about illness helps both doctors and patients. More and more medical schools in the U.S. require a "Narrative Medicine" course, recognizing that language has the capacity to comfort us in times of need. How do writers, poets, filmmakers, visual artists, and historians portray the sick? What social, cultural, psychological, and medical issues do they raise in these portrayals? We will read, watch, and discuss creative depictions of AIDS, Covid 19, Chagas disease, and other conditions as well as texts about mental health. How have societies around the world classified sickness and how have they treated bodies and minds that are unwell? How have communities of color, women, and LGBTQ patients described their hospitalizations and diagnoses? This is an interdisciplinary class that includes literary analysis, philosophy, history, political science, global health, epidemiology, and other disciplines. The class will host visiting speakers. It will also have a significant community engagement component.

## **HSP-250-01=HIS-200-01 Digitizing Immigration History**

**Instructor:** Levy, Aiala

How has the Internet changed what we know about the past? In this hands-on course, we'll answer that question by focusing on the history of immigration. We'll roll up our sleeves and collaboratively play—and sometimes fail—with AI chatbots, online archives, and digital narration tools. Throughout, we'll think about the implications of doing immigration history on the Internet, including the ethical challenges of sharing immigrants' stories and reducing human lives to data. We'll conclude the semester with a Web-based research project. No experience in computer science, digital media, or migration history required, although an interest in at least one of these is recommended!

## **HSP-312-01=SPA-313-01 The Adventures of Don Quijote**

**Instructor:** Greenhalgh, Matthew

Gentlemen of Wabash, enter into Miguel de Cervantes' world of the (wannabe) knight. *Don Quijote* is the first modern novel and one of the funniest books ever written. No respectable critic or philosopher fails to mention, analyze, or interpret it. No other book in the world, except for *The Bible*, has been translated to more languages, undergone more editions and reprints, or generated as many books and articles about it. *El Quijote* is an icon to the Humanities, Spanish culture, and world literature. We will study the novel's cultural

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perspective, idealism versus realism, humor in response to seriousness, madness in relation to meaning, and modernity set against the nostalgia for medieval chivalry. This course will also explore *El Quijote* as an ever-evolving pop culture icon: literature, art, film, and television. Come acquire the ability to read and respond to a classic Spanish text in this student-centered course. Join us in studying Part I of *Don Quijote de la Mancha*, one of the most important books ever written.

## **HSP-312-02=SPA-312-01 Fantasmas on Film**

**Instructor:** Kozey, Patrick

Ghosts mark loss, repetition, and return, and Spanish cinema is filled with them. This course will ask why. Through in-class discussions, presentations, and written assignments, we will explore Spain's culture and history through "hauntings" in film, photography, and visual art. To do so, we will employ and interrogate methods drawn from trauma theory, the study of historical memory, art history, and film and cultural studies. The course will be conducted in Spanish.

## **HISTORY**

## **HIS-200-01=HSP-250-01 Digitizing Immigration History**

**Instructor:** Levy, Aiala

How has the Internet changed what we know about the past? In this hands-on course, we'll answer that question by focusing on the history of immigration. We'll roll up our sleeves and collaboratively play—and sometimes fail—with AI chatbots, online archives, and digital narration tools. Throughout, we'll think about the implications of doing immigration history on the Internet, including the ethical challenges of sharing immigrants' stories and reducing human lives to data. We'll conclude the semester with a Web-based research project. No experience in computer science, digital media, or migration history required, although an interest in at least one of these is recommended!

## **HIS-200-02=GHL-219-02 Drugs & Society in Modern History**

**Instructor:** Rhoades, Ann-Michelle

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## **HIS-200-03=BLS-280-03 Police, Investigators, & Spies**

**Instructor:** Pliego Campos, Noe

Police, Investigators, and Spies: Histories of Police, the FBI, and the CIA

Police, investigators, and spies have a coveted space within U.S. politics and cultural imagination. This is reflected in the budgets for these institutions at the federal, state, and local levels as well as their place in cultural texts such as films and television shows. In this class, students will be invited to explore the role of police, the FBI, and the CIA within the United States and the globe through an engagement with academic histories as well as primary source materials, including documents produced by and about the institutions.

## **HIS-210-01=CLA-213-01 Art of Power in Ancient Rome**

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**Instructor:** Harnett, Jeremy

Immense power rested in the hands of Rome's emperors. And while their peccadillos tend to dominate our imaginations today, in antiquity emperors' public images were carefully curated in a way that would make Madison Avenue ad agencies proud. Key in this endeavor was the deployment of artwork and building projects, which ranged from musclebound portraits and gilded building complexes to infrastructure that we might initially consider mundane, such as aqueducts and sewers. This course travels back in time to investigate the strategies that the imperial court used to claim, justify, and maintain its power within the city of Rome itself. To that end, part of our consideration will revolve around the monuments' multiple audiences – rivals to power, traditionalists, and a cosmopolitan population drawn from every corner of the empire. Short papers, quizzes, and exams form the backbone of evaluation for the course.

## **HIS-260-01=ASI-112-01 Premodern China**

**Instructor:** Healey, Cara

This survey course introduces Chinese history and cultural traditions from ancient times to 1911, outlining historical trends such as Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, dynastic cycles, literati culture, traditional gender roles, and interactions with the West. We will analyze a variety of primary sources (in English translation), including poetry, fiction, philosophical writings, first-person accounts, and visual art.

## **HIS-300-01 American Empires: US & Brazil**

**Instructor:** Levy, Aiala

How do empires emerge and endure? Is it guns, gold, ideas, or something else? This course offers a deep dive into the historical forces that built Brazil and the US into the global giants they are today. Focusing on points of comparison and connection, we'll examine the engines of empire—slavery, resource extraction, and culture—and how they propped up spheres of influence that spanned continents. Join us as we weigh historians' arguments and develop our own about the rise and survival of the American superpowers.

## **HIS-340-01=BLS-280-01 The American Revolution**

**Instructor:** Calhoun, Jacob

The American Revolution stands undeniably as a watershed moment in the history of global human societies. This historical period witnessed the emergence of a new republic principled upon radical ideas of social equality and the inherent rights of human beings while the architects of that same republic materially benefited from the forced labor of half a million souls kept in bondage. This readings-heavy, discussion-based course calls on students to familiarize themselves with writings and historical sources that emerged from the Revolutionary Era and Early National Period produced by both the traditional "founders" as well as those who levied sharp critiques and challenges to the uniquely optimistic and inequitable age the Revolution ushered into existence. Students will ideally walk away with both an extensive knowledge of the facts of the American Revolution, as well as enduring questions about the grand "experiment" that the Revolution birthed.

## **MODERN LANGUAGES**

## **SPA-312-01=HSP-312-02 Fantomas on Film**

**Instructor:** Kozey, Patrick

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teach them and 'respectable' concert halls wouldn't let them perform. They found a wider audience when people like Elvis Presley 'borrowed' their songs, recorded them, and made them famous. That music went on to define a generation defined by its counter-cultural ethos – and was brought back to Africa and the Caribbean (from whence it once came) where national heroes like Bob Marley and Fela Kuti used it to resist colonial oppression and dictatorship. Modern leaders listened and learned from this, which is why Korea promotes K-pop and Putin imprisons Pussy Riot. It's also why Bruce Springsteen objected to Ronald Reagan's use of "Born in the USA" – and why Ronald Reagan evidently didn't know (or didn't care about) the words. This course will focus on musical repertory related to specific regimes, societies, movements, and historical periods. The course will require students to examine music as propaganda and as protest. It will also invite students to engage with contemporary debates on such issues as censorship, cultural appropriation, political violence, and intellectual property. Of particular interest will be the role of music in the development of 19th Century European Nationalisms (as with Beethoven and Wagner); the inseparable relationship between music and politics in African and Afro-Caribbean Anti-Imperialism (as with Fela Kuti and Bob Marley); and the role of music in the American Civil Rights movement. Our goal is for students to understand the relationship between music and politics both historically and in their own lifetimes, equipping them to analyze music that is both political and politicized.

## PHILOSOPHY

### **PHI-109-01 Philosophical Arguments**

**Instructor:** Carlson, Matthew

Could a computer genuinely think? Are we in a simulation? Is there a God? Are we free to choose how we will act in the world? What do we owe to one another, and to ourselves? Is it really a good idea to think critically, or should we trust what experts tell us? Could a banana duct-taped to a wall really be a work of art? How would you go about answering these questions? Philosophers think through these questions, and many others, by developing and critiquing arguments for possible answers to them. This course will serve as an introduction to philosophy via an in-depth study of philosophical arguments such as these. In the course, you will learn to use argument-mapping software to clearly and precisely articulate the structure of philosophical arguments so that you can understand and evaluate them more effectively. In addition to introducing you to some fascinating philosophical topics, this course will greatly improve your skills in reading and writing texts (including articles and papers for other classes!) that contain arguments. I'd also like to describe what this course will be about by offering a point of caution about it. This course will be difficult. We will work slowly and pay close attention to the details. These are valuable habits that are very hard to practice in today's technological milieu. Be honest with yourself: When's the last time you *really* gave your *full* attention to something challenging? We're going to practice focusing on things that are very difficult, and you will get better at it throughout the course. But it will feel very slow, and very laborious at times. I hope you will trust me that the payoff will be worth it.

### **PHI-219-01=BLS-280-02=PPE-228-01 W.E.B. Du Bois**

**Instructor:** Montiel, Jorge

This course offers an extended study of the social and political philosophy of W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963). As someone who dedicated his life work to studying "the Negro problem" and "the program of Negro freedom," Du Bois's reflections on racial discrimination, social, political, and economic inequality, the possibility of racial integration, and the meaning of racial self-determination continues to inform how we think about racial justice and injustice in the U.S. The course focuses on three main questions in Du Bois's thought. The first question has to do with the psychology of race. That is, what motivates white racial prejudice? And how does racial discrimination affect Black people's relation towards the self and others? The second question regards social, political, and economic inequality. Do poor whites and poor Blacks suffer from the same kind of inequalities? Or are there specific social conditions that explain the unequal distribution of inequality in the U.S. Lastly, the third question regards integration and self-determination. Is racial integration possible in the U.S.? Is Black self-

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determination compatible with racial integration? While the course centers on Du Bois as a historical thinker, we will focus on how his social and political philosophy can help us think about our present racial relations.

## **PHI-269-01 Consciousness and AI**

**Instructor:** Carlson, Matthew

What is the relationship between the three pounds of wet biomass in your skull and the fact that you understand the sentence that you are currently reading? This question, as with many good philosophical questions, is simple to state but very difficult to answer. On the one hand, you are a thinking being: you have thoughts, feelings, desires, wishes, and a rich inner mental life to which you alone have access. There is something that it is like to be you. On the other hand, you are a physical being: you are composed primarily of water and carbon, and constitute a complex system of biochemical reactions. You are the sort of thing that can be studied, and whose behavior can be explained, by biochemistry, neuroscience, and psychology. What are we to make of these two aspects of ourselves? In this course, we will survey the major theories in analytic philosophy of mind as frameworks for understanding the mind and its place in nature. We will then bring these frameworks to bear on one of the most pressing philosophical questions of our moment: could an artificial system be conscious, and if so, how would we know? This question is no longer merely hypothetical. Contemporary AI systems are trained on vast amounts of data and develop from that training in ways that even their creators cannot predict. Is it possible that such systems could develop functional analogs to conscious states; internal states that influence their behavior in ways that parallel human conscious experience? Whether such states could constitute genuine experience, or merely its simulacrum, is precisely the kind of question that the philosophy of mind is uniquely equipped to address.

## **PHI-319-01=PPE-329-01 What is Capitalism?**

**Instructor:** Busk, Larry

Both capitalism's defenders and its critics have a difficult time defining it. Private property, markets, and for-profit commerce long predate 16th/17th century Europe, where capitalism is typically said to have originated. So, what exactly is it? When we defend it or criticize it, what exactly are we defending or criticizing? In this course, we will study texts from across disciplines (including philosophy, history, and political economy) that have tried to understand the system under which we live - in terms of its nature, benefits, drawbacks, origins, and possible futures.

## **PHI-449-01 Senior Seminar**

**Instructor:** Montiel, Jorge

Despite the political upheavals through which actually existing communism underwent during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Karl Marx's (1818-1883) philosophy continues to be useful not only for *describing* social relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but also for providing *norms* to criticize unjust social relations. However, while orthodox Marxism explained social relations along the single category of *class* oppression, contemporary thinkers from the global south such as Charles Mills (1951-2021) and Enrique Dussel (1934-2023) offer innovative interpretations of Marx's central ideas to describe and criticize racial and colonial forms of oppression. Common to Mills and Dussel is that their appeal to Marx aims to challenge *liberal* ethical and political conceptions of justice and injustice by accounting for the *material* aspects of the oppression. This Senior Seminar will introduce students to Marx's philosophy through a detailed analysis of Mills' and Dussel's interpretations, as well as to these thinkers' challenge to ethical and political liberalism. Among others, these discussions will require us to consider topics in the philosophical areas of social ontology, epistemology, and ethics.

## **PHYSICS**

### **PHY-277-01 Computational Physics**

**Instructor:** Brown, James

Many of interesting questions in physics are often best approached using computational tools. This half-credit

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course will be an introduction to simple methods of computer simulation, including Monte Carlo simulations, linear systems, root finding, among other topics. A student, having completed this course, will be able to create small programs in Python to simulate problems arising in physics or engineering, explain how the underlying numerical techniques function and how they are expressed in code, be able to document his code and explain it to others, and understand the advantages and disadvantages in time and complexity of various methods.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

### **PSC-210-01 Congressional Elections**

**Instructor:** Gelbman, Shamira

Will Democrats take control of Congress at the end of this year, or will Republicans manage to hold on to their slim margins in the House and Senate? How will political parties and candidates mount their congressional election campaigns, and how will voters, donors, and other political actors respond? What will the implications be for President Trump's agenda, the 2028 presidential election, and the future of American politics? Timed to coincide with the 2026 midterm elections, this course will address these questions and more. We'll examine previous political science research findings on the dynamics of congressional elections and conduct original research to explore whether and how these findings are playing out on the ground in real time this year.

### **PSC-220-01=MUS-204-01 Politics of Music & vice versa**

**Instructor:** Ables, Mollie; Hollander, Ethan

The defining element of a 'Wabash Man' is a song. If you met every graduate of our college, you would find rich people and poor people, black people and white people, athletes and klutzes, people from dozens of countries around the world, and even a few women. But you would be *hard pressed* to find a Wabash graduate who can't at least stumble through the words of "Old Wabash." Music is about inclusion. But by defining who belongs, it also defines those who don't. Most Americans struggle to sing the Star Spangled Banner. But even those who don't speak English can recite the first four words! If border patrol agents used the words to "Yankee Doodle" as a shibboleth for entry, it's hard to see how a non-citizen would ever get in. Music is inherently political. Even when it's not explicitly so, it reflects the society that produces it, the audience that listens to it, and the means by which the former finds the latter. Early German nationalists knew that Beethoven could help them define who was German. Later German nationalists knew that too. African Americans and Jews took music from the plantations and shtetls they left behind, fashioning it into Blues and Jazz when Classical conservatories wouldn't teach them and 'respectable' concert halls wouldn't let them perform. They found a wider audience when people like Elvis Presley 'borrowed' their songs, recorded them, and made them famous. That music went on to define a generation defined by its counter-cultural ethos – and was brought back to Africa and the Caribbean (from whence it once came) where national heroes like Bob Marley and Fela Kuti used it to resist colonial oppression and dictatorship. Modern leaders listened and learned from this, which is why Korea promotes K-pop and Putin imprisons Pussy Riot. It's also why Bruce Springsteen objected to Ronald Reagan's use of "Born in the USA" – and why Ronald Reagan evidently didn't know (or didn't care about) the words. This course will focus on musical repertory related to specific regimes, societies, movements, and historical periods. The course will require students to examine music as propaganda and as protest. It will also invite students to engage with contemporary debates on such issues as censorship, cultural appropriation, political violence, and intellectual property. Of particular interest will be the role of music in the development of 19th Century European Nationalisms (as with Beethoven and Wagner); the inseparable relationship between music and politics in African and Afro-Caribbean Anti-Imperialism (as with Fela Kuti and Bob Marley); and the role of music in the American Civil Rights movement. Our goal is for students to understand the relationship between music and politics both historically and in their own lifetimes, equipping them to analyze music that is both political and politicized.

### **PSC-240-01=ASI-277-01=PPE-238-01 Trade Politics**

**Instructor:** Ye, Huei-Jyun

Trade politics is a complex nexus of domestic and international politics, economic conditions, global and

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regional institutions, business interests, and civil society. This course provides students with both theoretical foundations and practical tools to analyze trade politics. We begin with the international trade system, focusing on policies for trade in goods and services, as well as tariffs and non-tariff barriers. We will examine how these policies shape international relations and connect them to current debates such as the trade wars. We then turn to the winners and losers of trade. Who benefits financially from trade, and who bears the costs? How do factors such as gender, race, political ideology, education, and occupation shape public opinion toward trade? We will consider how people from diverse backgrounds understand and react to global trade, and how public attitudes influence political, economic, and social policies.

Finally, students will gain quantitative literacy by learning MS Excel for data management and visualization. Students will analyze trade data from international organizations and compare trade developments in the Global North and South. Students will also design, analyze, and present survey data. The course concludes by reflecting on trade's impact on development and equality.

There are no prerequisites. Students should come prepared for active participation in student-centered learning.

## **PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS**

### **PPE-228-01=PHI-219-01=BLS-280-02 W.E.B. Du Bois**

**Instructor:** Montiel, Jorge

This course offers an extended study of the social and political philosophy of W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963). As someone who dedicated his life work to studying "the Negro problem" and "the program of Negro freedom," Du Bois's reflections on racial discrimination, social, political, and economic inequality, the possibility of racial integration, and the meaning of racial self-determination continues to inform how we think about racial justice and injustice in the U.S. The course focuses on three main questions in Du Bois's thought. The first question has to do with the psychology of race. That is, what motivates white racial prejudice? And how does racial discrimination affect Black people's relation towards the self and others? The second question regards social, political, and economic inequality. Do poor whites and poor Blacks suffer from the same kind of inequalities? Or are there specific social conditions that explain the unequal distribution of inequality in the U.S. Lastly, the third question regards integration and self-determination. Is racial integration possible in the U.S.? Is Black self-determination compatible with racial integration? While the course centers on Du Bois as a historical thinker, we will focus on how his social and political philosophy can help us think about our present racial relations.

### **PPE-238-01=ASI-277-01=PSC-240-01 Trade Politics**

**Instructor:** Ye, Huei-Jyun

Trade politics is a complex nexus of domestic and international politics, economic conditions, global and regional institutions, business interests, and civil society. This course provides students with both theoretical foundations and practical tools to analyze trade politics. We begin with the international trade system, focusing on policies for trade in goods and services, as well as tariffs and non-tariff barriers. We will examine how these policies shape international relations and connect them to current debates such as the trade wars. We then turn to the winners and losers of trade. Who benefits financially from trade, and who bears the costs? How do factors such as gender, race, political ideology, education, and occupation shape public opinion toward trade? We will consider how people from diverse backgrounds understand and react to global trade, and how public attitudes influence political, economic, and social policies. Finally, students will gain quantitative literacy by learning MS Excel for data management and visualization. Students will analyze trade data from international organizations and compare trade developments in the Global North and South. Students will also design, analyze, and present survey data. The course concludes by reflecting on trade's impact on development and equality. There are no prerequisites. Students should come prepared for active participation in student-centered learning.

### **PPE-258-01=ECO-277-04 Crime and Punishment**

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**Instructor:** D'Amico, Dan

This class will investigate the social phenomena of crime and punishment through the analytical tool kit of political economy. Students will learn a variety of theoretical approaches and apply them to understand and explain historic and contemporary trends. Theoretical approaches will include rational and strategic decision making, public goods theory, bureaucratic incentives, comparative institutional analysis, and industrial organization. Key applied topics covered during the semester will include criminal behavior, the historic origins of criminal law and law enforcement services, the potentials and limits of both public and private provisions of policing and punishment, and the historic and contemporary patterns of crime and punitive trends across social contexts. Finally, students will assess the viability of historic and current criminal justice reform movements.

## **PPE-329-01=PHI-319-01 What is Capitalism?**

**Instructor:** Busk, Larry

Both capitalism's defenders and its critics have a difficult time defining it. Private property, markets, and for-profit commerce long predate 16th/17th century Europe, where capitalism is typically said to have originated. So, what exactly is it? When we defend it or criticize it, what exactly are we defending or criticizing? In this course, we will study texts from across disciplines (including philosophy, history, and political economy) that have tried to understand the system under which we live - in terms of its nature, benefits, drawbacks, origins, and possible futures.

## **PPE-359-01=ECO-258-01 Seminar on James Buchanan**

**Instructor:** Snow, Nicholas

This course will explore the works of the Nobel Prize-winning economist James M. Buchanan. The course will delve into his role as the founder of two fields in economics: Public Choice and Constitutional Political Economy. The course will particularly examine the cross-disciplinary nature of Buchanan's work from an economic and political science perspective. Additionally, we will explore how Buchanan challenged the mainstream methodological approach in economics by examining his focus on subjectivism, his shift away from maximization toward an exchange paradigm, and related themes. The course will take a comprehensive look at Buchanan's work throughout his life and explore why it still matters for today within a PPE framework.

## **RELIGION**

### **REL-260-01 Economy & Ancient Christianity**

**Instructor:** Campbell, Warren

According to Paul, the only thing James and Peter asked of his strange work towards the 'uncircumcised' was to "remember the poor" (Gal 2:10). In this course, we will engage the tradition of remembering the poor in mostly Jewish and Christian texts from antiquity, as well as contemporary initiatives to address poverty. We will consider the degree to which the New Testament and early Christian texts 'speak' to economic issues, 'assume' economic issues, 'adopt', 'adapt', 'challenge', and 'carry forward'. Was Jesus part of the peasantry? What did the early Christian movement broadly speaking think about wealth? Was money shared? Were the rich welcomed? Was salvation tied to money?

### **REL-272-01 Christianity and Fatherhood**

**Instructor:** Baer, Jonathan

How have Christians understood and practiced fatherhood throughout church history? What principles and sources of authority have guided men and families as they have sought to live out their faith in this area? This course examines Christian convictions and customs in relation to fatherhood in Scripture and the early church and western church history, with particular focus on the American context. What has fatherhood looked like

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among Christians? How have they viewed and raised their children, and to what ends? What shapes might fatherhood take in the contemporary world?

## **REL-275-01 Religion and Cognitive Science**

**Instructor:** Blix, David

Do our brains make us religious? Does evolution? Yes, says cognitive science. But if so, how? And if so, then how can our religious beliefs be “personal”? How can God be real? These are our questions. The relatively new field of cognitive science is the scientific study of the human mind, drawing on fields like psychology, anthropology, archeology, linguistics, and neuroscience. The course has 3 parts. First, we’ll read what some cognitive scientists have to say about religion, e.g. Pascal Boyer, *Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought*. Second, we’ll read some critiques of these ideas. Third, in light of these critiques, we’ll return to our initial questions, and see what answers we get.

## **REL-296-01 Rel & Classical Chinese Poetry**

**Instructor:** Blix, David

“In the heart, it’s intention; coming forth in words, it’s poetry.” So says the “Preface” to the *Book of Songs*, the ancient classic of Chinese poetry. In this course, we will read selections (in English) from three classical Chinese poets: Wang Wei, Li Bo [Li Bai], and Du Fu [Tu Fu]. We will study how they use image and metaphor to convey their distinctive ideas about nature, religion, and human life. As background, we’ll also read some selections from the *Book of Songs*, and from Confucius and Buddhism.

## SPANISH

### **SPA-312-01=HSP-312-02 Fantomas on Film**

**Instructor:** Kozey, Patrick

Ghosts mark loss, repetition, and return, and Spanish cinema is filled with them. This course will ask why. Through in-class discussions, presentations, and written assignments, we will explore Spain’s culture and history through “hauntings” in film, photography, and visual art. To do so, we will employ and interrogate methods drawn from trauma theory, the study of historical memory, art history, and film and cultural studies. The course will be conducted in Spanish.

### **SPA-313-01=HSP-312-01 The Adventures of Don Quijote**

**Instructor:** Greenhalgh, Matthew

Gentlemen of Wabash, enter into Miguel de Cervantes’ world of the (wannabe) knight. *Don Quijote* is the first modern novel and one of the funniest books ever written. No respectable critic or philosopher fails to mention, analyze, or interpret it. No other book in the world, except for *The Bible*, has been translated to more languages, undergone more editions and reprints, or generated as many books and articles about it. *El Quijote* is an icon to the Humanities, Spanish culture, and world literature. We will study the novel’s cultural perspective, idealism versus realism, humor in response to seriousness, madness in relation to meaning, and modernity set against the nostalgia for medieval chivalry. This course will also explore *El Quijote* as an ever-evolving pop culture icon: literature, art, film, and television. Come acquire the ability to read and respond to a classic Spanish text in this student-centered course. Join us in studying Part I of *Don Quijote de la Mancha*, one of the most important books ever written.

## THEATER

### **THE-103-01 Improv for the Actor**

**Instructor:** Winters Vogel, Heidi

Improvise Theater emphasizes the performer and their wits for building stories and creating art. Whether

