

Summer 2017

Special Topic Course Descriptions

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

BI 199 ***Special Topic: The Biology of Cancer***

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

BI 199/BI 401 ***Study Abroad/ Intersection of Poverty and the Environment in Dominican Republic.***

An intensive survey of the causes of and possible remedies for environmental degradation in the Dominican Republic, contrasting the needs of the environment with the needs of the human population living in extreme poverty. Students will learn about the political history of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, from the time before European colonization, to the present day. They will also learn about environmental conservation efforts in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and be able to compare and contrast the results of the different policies. All of this, in the context of biogeography and the tree of life, including the branches of land plants, fungi, and eumetazoa.

BI 401 ***Special Topic: Study Abroad Ecuador/Amazon***

An intensive survey of the biodiversity of the Ecuadorian Amazon, together with a study of the culture of the Sarayaku people and their efforts to protect their ancestral lands, in contrast this with the pressure from petroleum prospectors. This course has a mandatory field trip to the Sarayaku for two weeks, which requires a separate fee. Counts as a Biology upper-level elective.

CJ 340 ***Special Topic: Social Media in CJ***

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

CJ 340 ***Special Topic: High Profile Crimes***

This course will explore a variety of high profile crimes such as domestic terrorism, hate crimes, crimes involving government officials as well as those crimes that impact large numbers of the general population. Both case studies and current events will be reviewed and analyzed as they pertain to public perception, media coverage, policy formation and social change.

EV 199 ***Special Topic: Environmental Science with Lab***

Interdisciplinary scientific study of human impacts on natural systems. Labs include spatial data analysis, Field Work on local streams and lake sampling by canoe. Students cannot get credit for both EV 199 AND EV 150.

HI 250/HI 990 ***Special Topic: Hitler and the Third Reich***

The meteoric rise of Hitler's NSDAP in Germany, the nature of Nazi rule, and the final collapse of the Third Reich. We will concentrate on the Nazis in power, their use of terror and propaganda, their ideological objective, everyday life in the Third Reich, the possibilities of resistance to the regime. Special attention will be devoted to Nazi Jewish policy and the step that led to the "Final Solution" and the Holocaust.

HI 285/HI 990 ***Special Topic: History of Baseball***

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the history of baseball in America, and relate the historical events and phenomena to American culture at large.

Course work relates class topics to historical and contemporary social, cultural, economic and political issues. Course content consists of online lectures, readings, group discussions, and video sources.

HI 350/HI 990 *Special Topic: History of Violence/Torture*

Throughout history, violence and torture has been used for multiple purposes: as a mechanism within formal legal systems, as a tool to control the lower classes, and as a covert tactic that has survived even when its practice has been contested or outlawed. Today, most democratic countries have outlawed torture and outwardly condemn it. However, even “civilized” states that denounce violence and torture widely practice it. In the past decade, torture has become part of the public discourse. Scholars are also increasingly studying the phenomena, particularly in the context of counterterrorism. This course will discuss the history of violence, torture and physical punishment, changes in the practice over time, and the problem of torture today.

HI 450/HI 940 *Special Topic: Teaching History with Film*

A study of history through film and media. This course will study the depiction of historical events on film and how they have shaped modern perceptions of history. Attention will be given to how films can depict the era in which they were made through an interpretation of historical events. Some of the key elements studied will be the portrayal of historical eras, world cultural groups, political and economic systems, social mores and a western interpretation of history through film. The last point of interest will be how certain films changed the nature of film-making and its interpretation of history. **3 credits**

HI 450 *Special Topic: Global Environmental History*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

HI 450 *Special Topic: Colonial New England*

This is a survey course covering the history of New England from the early seventeenth century through the very early nineteenth century. This course will move both chronologically and thematically from the arrival of the Pilgrims at Plymouth in 1620 through the early days of industrialization in the nineteenth century. Our primary focus will be on matters of social, cultural, religious, and intellectual history. We will begin with an analysis of the problem of competing cultures for limited resources between the European colonizers and the native population of New England. The relationship between the colonies and England will be addressed. The critical role played by religion in the politics and everyday life of colonial New England will be looked at. In particular, the influence of the Puritans will be scrutinized for its impact upon the formation of a uniquely New England cultural identity. The part played by New England in the American Revolution will be considered. Lastly, the very early stages of industrialization in New England will be analyzed. While all of New England will be considered in this course, our primary area of concern will focus on Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

HI 450 *Special Topic: World Since 1945*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

SO 199 *Religion in Local Contexts*

While there is much evidence suggesting the influence of religion as a social institution is waning, especially in the United States, it is also clear that religion continues to have significant influence among a variety of sub-populations in this country. This course seeks to provide a basic introduction to the World's Religions in the context of the Central Massachusetts region in general and Worcester City in particular. The course will give students an opportunity to understand the socio-cultural particularities, history and traditions of prominent and emerging local religious communities. Through lecture presentations, conversations with local religious leaders and opportunities to visit prominent religious sites in

the area, participants will have an opportunity to come to a deeper appreciation of the particular practices, historical roles, present states and possible future of religious communities in the Central MA region.

GRADUATE COURSES

BI 980 *Special Topic: Mammalogy*

"Mammalogy" is the scientific study of mammals and includes everything about them. This course deals with the classification, distribution, life histories, economic importance, techniques of field study, method of collection, and preservation of mammals. The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with the identification, systematics, life history, and adaptive strategies of the Class: Mammalia and to expose you to field techniques used in their study. The objective of this course is to survey the phylogenetic relationships, diversity, and biology of the mammals. This will include understanding the following topics among others:

1. Characterization of the orders and families of the extant mammals.
2. the evolutionary history of the various mammalian lineages
3. Morphological adaptations of mammals for feeding, locomotion, reproduction, etc.
4. Physiological adaptations of mammals for homeostasis and reproduction.
5. Behavioral adaptations of mammals for feeding, homeostasis, reproduction, etc.

BI 980 *Special Topic: Emerging Technology in Biotech*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

CD 987 *Special Topic: Executive Function*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

CD 987 *Special Topic: Counseling*

This course will review a few theories of counseling and counseling strategies. It will also provide opportunity for personal growth, a requisite for helping our clients change and grow.

CD 987 *Special Topic: Narratives*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

CD 987 *Special Topic: Pediatric Feeding*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

EN 998 *Special Topic: Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

EN 998 *Special Topic: Jack Kerouac & the Beats*

The Beats established a major post-World War II literary movement that challenged accepted social and political standards through their willingness to experiment with language and interpersonal relationships. Often identified as the heirs of Thoreau, Emerson, and Whitman, the anti-conformist ethos of the Beats proved to be a significant influence on 1960s literary, social, and political radicalism. This course will examine representative works from Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and other writers associated with the Beat Generation, such as William Burroughs, Peter Orlovsky, Gary Snyder, Carolyn Cassady, Joyce Johnson, and Elise Cowen. In addition, this course will explore the literary, political, and social precursors that gave rise to the Beats, as well as the influence that the Beats had on 1960s politics and popular culture. Finally, the writing of the Beats will be considered through the broader

contexts of gender, religion, social status, and economics of post-millennial America. (WAC credit pending)

HI 990 *Special Topic: Modern Latin America*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

HI 990 *Special Topic: American Revolutionary Period*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

HI 990 *Special Topic: US-Latin American Relations*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

HI 990 *Special Topic: US Since 1945*

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

MT 971 *Special Topic: Discrete Mathematics*

A survey of discrete mathematics, including combinatorics and counting techniques, graph theory, and trees.

SP 901 *Special Topic: Contemporary Latin American Poetry*

This graduate course will explore the aesthetic and conceptual evolution of Latin American poetry throughout the 20th Century. The discussion will begin with the end of *Modernismo*, by taking into account the break with traditional themes and forms that led to the emergence of avant-garde poetry (*Vanguardismo*). Since this course is a survey of Latin American various poetic movements, the conversation will cover also postmodern trends and an analysis of the poetic production of the 21st Century. Focusing on the tensions between tradition and innovation, we will review the work of canonic poets such as Vallejo, Huidobro, Borges, Pizarnik and Paz, but also of modern-day authors such as Galeano, Flores, and others. Class will be conducted in Spanish.