

SPRING 2026

SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIOL-288-01 Tropical Rainforest Ecology (1 credit)

Instructor: Kim Bjorgo

Tropical Rainforest Ecology uses a multi-faceted approach to understand the interaction of humans and the Amazon basin; its waterways, flora, fauna, and the challenges faced by indigenous people. Our emphasis will be on developing foundational knowledge of biology, ecology, and social issues. We will integrate our knowledge with scientific principles and real-time observations of the Amazonian ecosystem. *Requires summer travel abroad and cost of travel/permission of instructor.*

BUSI-388-01 Entrepreneurial Leadership (3 credits)

Instructor: Tracie Dodson

This course explores what it means to lead with creativity, resilience, and purpose in entrepreneurial settings. Students will examine how to champion new ideas, inspire others, and shape effective teams, while also cultivating personal well-being as leaders. Drawing on leadership and organizational behavior concepts, the course emphasizes both innovation and human-centered leadership. In partnership with classes at other colleges, we will coordinate projects and activities that bring different perspectives together, offering students the chance to apply concepts in a collaborative, real-world context. This course is intended for students with a strong interest in leadership or entrepreneurship and the motivation to develop new ideas in a collaborative setting.

CSCI-388-01 Front-End Development (3 credits)

Instructor: Don Tobin

Web development has rapidly evolved, leading to highly interactive and complex applications. This course is intended to cover the essential skills to create dynamic websites and applications. It will cover HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, and the frameworks needed to develop responsive websites and applications. The end goal will be to build a strong foundation in front-end development. The course focuses on two aspects: 1) focusing on coding and interactivity, and 2) emphasizing user interface and user experience principles and visual design. Prerequisite: CSCI-150 or CSCI-210

DANC-188-01 Hip Hop (2 credits)

Instructor: Haylee Shires

No prior dance experience necessary. This fun, energetic class will focus on the basics of popping, locking, and groove. We will learn fad dances from the late 1970s through today.

EDUC-188-01 Seminar In Education (3 credits)

Instructor: Scott Biola

Replaces EDUC-110 in the Education curriculum

EXSC-388-01 Therapeutic Modalities (3 credits)

Instructor: Dan Martin

A study of therapeutic modalities in the treatment of injuries to athletes as well as other active individuals. Students will also gain hands-on experience with various modalities (e.g. electrical stimulation, ultrasound, therapeutic massage) currently used in a variety of rehab settings. The course will also introduce general principles of pharmacology as a therapeutic intervention. ***Prerequisite: BIOL-152; min grade C***

PHIL-288-01 (3 credits) Aesthetics and Philosophy of Fear (3 credits)

Instructor: Crystal Brown

This course explores philosophical, critical, and artistic/creative thinking through in-depth readings of various philosophers' works in dialogue with topics such as aesthetics, existence, knowledge, and ethics as understood through the lens of fear. ***Lens: AEXP***

RELG-288-01 Violence, Fascism & Christian Nationalism (3 credits)

Instructor: Debra Murphy

An exploration of the rise of Christian nationalism, an ideology embraced by many Evangelicals, Catholic intellectuals, and others, in which a particular vision of Christianity is fused with civic belonging and participation. In both Europe and the U.S., this growing movement is pro-fascist, with its leaders presuming the necessity of violence to achieve its ends. ***Lens: CEXP***