



## **SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **MAY TERM 2020**

#### **CJUS-388-01 A Case Study of the Death Penalty in America**

Instructor: Travis Zimmerman

Students will investigate the use of the death penalty in America by discussing the case of Walter Ograd. Mr. Ograd, a mentally challenged man, gave a questionable confession to the 1988 murder of 4-year-old Barbara Jean Horn and was subsequently convicted and sentenced to death. We will investigate the processing of this case and determine if the death penalty was fairly and judiciously applied.

#### **INDS-188-01 Mesoamerican Culture**

Instructor: Megan Leight

This course explores the cultural expression of Mesoamerica. Beginning with early Pre-Columbian history and working well into the Colonia Periods, this course examines the Olmec, Teotihuacan, Zapotec, Maya and Aztec cultures.

***Satisfies Non-Western Cultural Studies requirement for general education***

### **SUMMER TERM 2020**

#### **CJUS-388-01 A Criminal Justice Response to the Opioid Crisis**

Instructor: Travis Zimmerman

In this 4 part course, students will investigate the criminal justice response to the American Opioid Crisis. Students will investigate the current state of the crisis, and subsequently investigate the response of all three parts of the Criminal Justice System in responding to the challenges opioids present.

#### **HIST-188-01 History of WVWC**

Instructor: Paula McGrew

Exploring the history of WV Wesleyan College, the people who have dreamed us into existence and the giants who have made us who we are.

#### **RELG-188-01 Religion & Spirit of Punk**

Instructor: Michael J. Iafrate

Popular culture regularly engages religious belief and transmits "religious" ideas and practices. Punk rock, as a genre of music and as a social movement, has engaged religious belief since its beginnings and has arguably taken on a "religious" dimension itself as a context for meaning-making, discovery of self, and engagement with the world in order to change it. This course sketches a history and development of the movement, including its central "convictions" and approach to life, with an ear toward its resonance with religious traditions, especially religious expressions like liberation theology. We will also explore various modes of punk self-expression as an approach to learning, touching on such themes as self-authenticity, anger, blasphemy, hope/hopelessness, and social change.