

FALL 2022
SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CJUS-388-01 Deviance & Social Control

See catalog description under SOCI-339

Instructor: Craig Wiernik

ENVS-288-01 Soils & Sustainability

This course will examine the rich biology of soils and explore how soils are much more than just dirt. Students will explore the role soils play in sustainability, including food production and climate change. Students will use the scientific method to evaluate current threats to soils. Students will examine societal and governmental decisions in regards to soil sustainability. **Lens: EXIN**

Instructor: Matthew Reid

HIST-188-01 Fighting Sin and Social Vice

This course explores a variety of social movements designed to save American society from behavior deemed physically, socially, or morally harmful in the 19th and 20th centuries. Social movements formed to fight “sinful” or “wicked” behavior such as drinking and drug use, degrees of sexual depravity and even poor physical and mental hygiene. Through the study of social movements, the course reveals the political, social and economic anxieties that plagued American society in the 19th and 20th century and still may plague it today.

Instructor: Katharine Antolini

HIST-188-02 US History from 1945 to Present

This course provides an overview of the major events, movements, and issues in American history since 1945. The course content includes the Cold War, the civil rights movement, Vietnam, Détente, the women’s rights movement, the age of Reagan and Madonna, and the Iraq War. Additionally, students will learn how individuals, groups, and institutions shaped United States history. Through this course, students will develop a better understanding of key events and themes in modern American history.

Instructor: TBA

HIST-288-01 Occult America

This course explores the history of witchcraft, perceptions of death, traditions of mourning, spiritualism and views of the supernatural in American society to reveal the underlying societal tensions driving the fascination and fear of such beliefs from the 17th century to the 20th century.

Instructor: Katharine Antolini

HIST-288-03 WV Mine Wars

Perhaps the most violent and radical labor conflict in American history, the West Virginia Mine Wars had a profound impact on US labor relations and shaped the course of Appalachian history. This course will trace the conflict from the establishment of the coal industry in the 19th century to the culminating Battle of Blair Mountain in 1921 and aftermath. The course will also discuss the conflict over the Mine Wars in public memory, how it compares to ongoing labor struggle around the world, and its powerful legacy in Appalachia. **This is a hybrid course that includes an online mixture of synchronous and asynchronous work. Fulfills U.S. Cultural Studies**

Instructor: Katharine Antolini

HIST-388-01 US Women During War Times

The course explores the significant roles that women have played during war times both on the home front and the war front and the war front from the American Revolution through World War II. It traces the changing perception of women’s relationship with the historically male domain of the military and the multiple expressions of service and sacrifice during periods of war. **Fulfills U.S. Cultural Studies /Lens: CEXP**

Instructor: Katharine Antolini

PHIL-188-01 Philosophy & Film

Philosopher Hubert Dreyfus once wrote, "It has always seemed to me that the text of a thinker is only worth studying if reading it makes a significant difference in how we see the world and ourselves. Our job as commentators is to clarify the text and bring out its relevance." In this course, we will be watching, discussing, and writing about films that meet the same standard of making "a significant difference in how we see the world and ourselves." As philosophers and commentators on these films, we will clarify their important themes and insights and explore their relevance to modern life and the human experience more generally.

Instructor: Steven Matusic

POLS-488-01 Sr Capstone Social Science Careers

See catalog description SOCI-498/CJUS-498

Instructor: Travis Zimmerman

POLS-488-02 Sr Seminar Social Science Research Careers

See catalog description SOCI-499/CJUS-499

Instructor: Craig Wiernik

SOCI-288-01 Black Creators in the Horror Genre

Black creators use narratives of horror and suspense to create compelling stories that convey the uneasy and uncomfortable feeling of inhabiting blackness in an anti-black world. Such narratives in the hands of white creators often feature the racial or queer “other” as the specter that must be confronted by the white hero. Black creators use the genre to illuminate the terror of inhabiting a world organized by a racial hierarchy dominated by whiteness. This course explores that dynamic through a consideration of films and texts by Black creators who explore the implications of “getting out” or “fitting in.” **Lens: AEXP**

Instructor: Jessica Scott

THRE-288-01 Advanced Acting

This course gives advanced acting students an opportunity to explore techniques when approaching “heightened” texts of verse and other “period” pieces, particularly Shakespeare. The course builds upon previously-learned concepts of given circumstances, actions and objectives.

Instructor: Thomas Schoffler