

# FALL 2023 SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **ART-288-01 Posters for the People**

This course will explore printmaking's ability to disseminate information with a focus on social issues and grassroots movements.

**Lens: AEXP**

**Instructor: Robert Howsare**

## **ART-288-02 Understanding Film – Honors**

This class will introduce students to film theory and criticism. We will view, discuss and compare a variety of foreign and arthouse films through the lens of identity. We will explore how film allows us to empathize with characters and to question our own identity. We will also examine the formal elements of film form: mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, sound, narrative structure, and performance. The last third of the semester will apply what you have learned by writing and producing your own short film. The course is encouraged for both film buffs and casual viewers who are new to film study.

**Prereq: Honors**

**Instructor: Jon Benjamin**

## **CJUS-388-01 Criminology (Formerly CJUS-241)**

An exploration of the classical and contemporary theories of crime causation, prevention, and punishment.

**Instructor: Craig Wiernick**

## **COLL-188-01 Growing a Career, 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr (One Credit)**

This course encompasses the second module of the Career Skills Leadership Certificate program and continues to equip students in the basic areas of career development for the sake of personal growth and effectiveness in vocational settings. The content of this course centers on "Growing a Career". Students engage a variety of career advancing skills including, but not limited to, team development, conflict resolution, communications, social media management, and more.

**Instructor: Justin Bowers**

## **COLL-188-02 Financial Literacy 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr (One Credit)**

Learn about the fundamental concepts of the financial planning process; budgeting; taxes; insurance; and investing.

**Instructor: Michael Ervin**

## **COLL-188-03 Investing For Your Future, 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr (One Credit)**

Over the next several decades you will need to accumulate several million dollars to retire comfortably. Now is a great time to learn where/ how to start. This course will discuss introductory financial topics to get you on your way financially.

**Instructor: Michael Ervin**

## **COMM-388-01/02 Social Media & Society**

This course asks students to think critically about the role of social media in their lives and communities. Students consider how various social media platforms impact their physical and mental health, the wellbeing of our societies and democracies, and how we communicate and connect with others. By the end of this course, students are able to articulate an evidence-based persuasive argument on a topic of their choice related to social media.

**Lens: PSWB**

**Instructor: Alexis De Coning**

## **FYEX-488-01/02/03 Final Year Experience**

[Replaces INDS-401 and 402] Required for December 2023 and May 2024 grads under new general education curriculum. **Not offered spring 2024**

**Instructors: Zimmerman/Wiernick/Clever**

## **HIST-288-01 Modern Africa**

This course is a study of the development of African society since 1800. We will conduct a review of African society prior to contact with the West. Then, we will analyze the colonial period, decolonization and independence. As we uncover Africa's rich history and deep traditions, we will examine how experiences in the global arena helped shape modern Africa. During this investigation, we will address the impact of World War I, World War II, the Cold War, civil and regional wars on Africa. **Lens: CEXP**

**Instructor: Tamara Bailey**

## **HIST-288-02 American Covert Operations Cold War**

This course will provide an overview of the essential movements, events, and issues with the United States government's covert operations during the Cold War. The course content will include the expansion of the Cold War, the Central Intelligence Agency's involvement in this global struggle for power, and how each president's foreign policy influenced clandestine operations. Additionally, the class will learn in-depth about each covert operation that the Central Intelligence Agency implemented that ousted government regimes, such as in Iran, Guatemala, the Congo, and Vietnam. This course will assist students in developing a clearer understanding of the Central Intelligence Agency's influence in the history of the Cold War.

**Instructor: Ethan Hull**

## **HIST-288-03 World War II in Europe**

A study of the Second World War with a focus on the European and Mediterranean Theaters. Emphasis will also be placed on the prewar rise of totalitarianism in Europe as well as the social, cultural, economic, and political impacts of the conflict.

**Instructor: Charles Kenney**

## **INDS-188-03 Introduction to Sign Language**

This course offers an introduction to the basic skills in production and comprehension of beginning basic conversational American Sign Language (ASL) level one. Through instructional material, manual instruction and classroom interaction, you will receive instruction in Beginning Conversational sign language and Deaf culture awareness. This will include the manual alphabet and numbers. Video material will provide students with the necessary understanding of Deaf cultural norms and language grammatical markers.

**Instructor: Dawn Smith**

## **PHIL-288-01 Political Philosophy**

This course is a basic introduction to themes, movements, and historically important figures in political philosophy, exploring questions such as: What is the goal of politics? What is justice? How do modern/post-modern/contemporary answers to these questions differ from ancient and medieval ones? What is the relationship between political and moral philosophy? How have different figures from modern political philosophy answered this question? What does it mean to be a good citizen? **Lens: ETSP**

**Instructor: Scott Williams**

**POLS-388-01 Political Science Fiction**

**Instructor: Coty Martin**

This course examines political systems, issues, and events through the lens of political science fiction from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Students will engage in discussion of contemporary domestic and international political issues through various sub-genres of science fiction (dystopian societies, superheroes, fantasy, space opera, etc.). One of these will be the theme for the course during each offering. **Lens: AEXP**

**PUBS-188-01 Introduction to Public Service (PUBS-188-02 Honors)**

**Instructor: Coty Martin**

An overview of the meaning, purpose, and practices of public service within the areas of government administration, public policy, and nonprofit organizations. Emphasis on principles of ethical and effective leadership, civic responsibility, and the roles and responsibilities of government, business, and non-profit sectors.

**RELG-288-01 Climate Grief**

**Instructor: Debra Dean Murphy**

With increasing alarm, we are discovering that climate collapse brings other kinds of breakdowns: existential crises that can leave us both bereft of language and brimming with questions: What does it mean to acknowledge a dying world? Where do we find hope? How do we mourn with purpose in such a time as this? And how do we resist the urge to universalize our experience of climate grief, especially if we occupy spaces, socially and geographically, of relative safety and privilege? This course explores such questions by engaging climate science, spiritual writing, poetry, and speculative fiction. **Lens: PSWB**

**SOCI-288-01 Black Creators of Horror Genre**

**Instructors: Jess Scott/Dedriell Taylor**

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**