

New Courses for '20-'21

Arts

Practical Design and Production - Kelly Dowling (Fall and Winter Terms)

In practical Design and Production students develop basic skills in building, architectural painting and design, and historical research as they relate to creating practical objects. Materials/techniques will include woodworking, sewing, 3d printing etc. This is the first step for students with an interest in makers spaces and theatrical design.

Working Title: An Introduction to Visual Storytelling - Kelly Dowling (Fall)

Class participants will be scriptwriters, directors, and performers in a series of projects that will develop their understanding of how to influence an audience through short films. The class uses cell phones or tablets for filming which puts the focus on story development rather than technical elements of video production.

English

Art Cinema - Christian Bancroft (Fall)

The term “art cinema” is one of the most familiar in film studies, marking out simultaneously specific filmmakers, specific films, specific kinds of cinemas, and, for some writers, specific kinds of audiences. Art cinema is often defined as an artistic or experimental work expressing symbolic meaning through the medium of film. It is ambiguous, aesthetically rich, and complex. This class will discuss a number of art films from around the world, though its focus will be primarily on European cinema.

Throughout this course, we will revisit the very idea of art cinema and work towards creating our own definition of what art cinema actually is and how it has changed throughout the 20th century. We will watch a number of films by so-called auteurs and consider what art cinema’s relationship is to our larger, global culture. On average, students will watch about one film a week, and the course will have a number of readings about film theory and criticism.

Contemporary Poetic Theory: Shifting Landscapes - Ryan Tyree (Winter)

Just how does one go about writing an original poem? How about song lyrics? Spoken word? It’s time we explored these opportunities!

This course is both analytical and creative, and will offer students an open and earnest exploration of the craft of language that will become poetry, song lyrics, spoken word, or something else...

It is largely a short-form poetry course, but with emphasis on other creative avenues and possibilities available to the 21st century artist. We will read poems, listen to spoken word, share music lyrics, and most importantly, build some of our own.

Students will emerge with a stronger understanding and higher proficiency with poetic techniques, developments in poetry from the twentieth century to the present, and a portfolio with a combination of written analyses of other works and original creations.

Fantasy Literature - Matt Maurer (Winter)

This senior English term course will introduce students to the works of some of the best fantasy writers of the last half-century, focusing most specifically on those stories that involve either the intrusion of fantastic forces into the modern world, or on protagonists who unexpectedly find themselves drawn to or dropped into fantasy realms. The reading list for the course will boast a who's who of Hugo, Nebula, and World Fantasy Award winners. Students will also view an Academy Award-winning fantasy film or two, critically speak and write about these works, and pen one or more short fantasy pieces of their own.

Introduction to Professional Criticism - Ryan Tyree (Fall)

In this course we will read, discuss, and compose literary, dramatic, song, film, culinary, and product reviews, to name a few. Soundbite culture seems to have found a holding pattern, so in 200-800 words, we should find a way to inject careful and objective observation, analysis, and style into our writing.

Be prepared to develop the instincts of a critical reviewer, establishing your own criteria for each medium we investigate. Read samples of product reviews by professionals, amateurs, and of course, user reviews...

So just what types of material will catalyze our evaluations? We will read or experience short fiction, a live performance, television episodes, an entire film from a major studio, a full studio album, dozens of individual songs from a ton of different genres

Modern and Contemporary Queer American Poetry - Christian Bancroft (Winter)

A time of rage and ambivalence, of setbacks and triumphs, and of literary milestones and achievements—oh what a queer time it was! From the elegiac to the tragic, from the tragic to the comic, this course surveys some of the most memorable LGBTQIA2S+ poems written throughout the 20th and 21st centuries

Starting with major figures in Modernism such as Hart Crane and Gertrude Stein, we'll end in our contemporary period with writers like CAConrad and Jericho Brown. In our attempt to define what queer poetry actually looks like, we'll ask what these poets' work meant in their

own times, as well as what it means to us in our present era of expanding civil rights and changing sexual attitudes.

Poetry Forms Workshop - Christian Bancroft (Spring)

Rather than focus on traditional forms like the sonnet, villanelle, or sestina, this poetry workshop explores newer, more experimental poetic forms from the 20th and 21st centuries. The class will be structured around a series of writing experiments, collaborations, readings, and the production of portfolios (print or digital) for each student, and a performance of students' work. Each week, students will workshop the writing they have done as well as discuss the assigned reading.

The Little Magazines: Editing and Publishing - Christian Bancroft (Winter & Spring)

This course introduces students to a range of literary journals and magazines being published in the U.S. and throughout the world, both online and in print. Students will learn what editing and publishing look like at the collegiate and professional levels, and they will also learn what is required to produce a literary journal at multiple times throughout the year. During the course, students will also meet and share interviews with editors working at literary journals today. In addition, students will have the opportunity to review submissions received by prominent literary journals in the U.S.

Because this course is two-term lengths, it will be divided in the following way: the first half of the course will focus on the historical and contemporary landscapes of literary journals; the second half will emphasize editorial work and will culminate in students' conception and design of their own literary magazine

History

History of Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.: Foundations of Ethnic History in the Americas - Selas Douglas and Chris Howes (Fall)

This course may be taken individually, or in addition to the other two terms of History of Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.

Foundations of Ethnic History in the Americas, will provide the basis for an understanding of race and ethnicity in the United States by considering the development of identity, what informs said identity development, and how access to power, or lack thereof, helps to shape the experiences of groups and individuals alike.

History of Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.: The Immigrant Experience - Selas Douglas and Chris Howes (Winter)

This course may be taken individually, or in addition to the other two terms of History of Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.

History of Race and Ethnicity in the US: The Immigrant Experience, will build on the foundation built in the fall term and consider the range of experiences among immigrants to the United States, paying particular attention to the experiences of immigrants from Asian and Latin American countries.

History of Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.: The Civil Rights Era and Beyond - Selas Douglas and Chris Howes (Spring)

This course may be taken individually, or in addition to the other two terms of History of Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.

History of Race and Ethnicity in the US: The Civil Rights Era and Beyond, will consider the role race and ethnicity played in the battle for civil rights undertaken by a variety of groups in the mid-twentieth century through present day. An analysis of contributions made through artistic expressions in music, film, and television will be a consistent theme throughout this term.

Interdisciplinary

Springboard: Food for Thought - Maggie Howes and/or Michele Poacelli

In Food for thought, students explore these essential questions: How does food drive a curiosity for a deeper understanding of the self? How can food help us tell our personal stories? How does food shape identity and culture and build community? How can food sustain our bodies as well as our minds and spirits? How does food impact our relationship to the environment? What does our shared history look like when examined through the lens of food? This course is immersive and applied, theoretical and personal. Students share family food stories, cook family recipes, visit markets, farms, and restaurants. For enrichment, the course also brings chefs, restaurateurs, and food writers to campus.

Springboard: Mercersburg Online Radio Station - Todd McGuire

In Mercersburg Online Radio Station, the students curate music for online streaming; they produce public service announcements, commercials ,and interview podcasts; they collaborate with classmates, developing a variety of quality programming; and each student chooses a topic, researches it, and creates a multi-episode audio series. At some point during the school year, each student is wholly responsible for 24 consecutive hours of programming, which will be review by professionals in the field before it goes online.

Springboard: Scriptorium - Tom Thorne

Scriptorium allows students to create (or recover) knowledge by working with manuscripts that have never been made available to scholars, translating them, and publishing editions of them in English. Since many of these manuscripts are in reasonably accessible forms of Latin or proto-French, even students who are not highly skilled at speaking and listening in a

second language are able to work with the texts once they have learned scribal hands, scribal abbreviations, and other arcana of the field. Finally, although all language study is by nature interdisciplinary, Scriptorium allows language students to work on topics of particular interest to them, whether it be medieval anatomy, witchcraft prosecutions, music, science, or any other topic.

Languages

Advanced Studies: Francophone History, Literature, and Culture - Heather Prescott

Prerequisite: Advanced Studies in French Language and Culture, or in unique cases, French 4 and permission of the department.

This Advanced course is designed to introduce students with well-developed language skills to the formal study of a representative body of literary texts in French, couched in their historical context and resulting in culturally rich products such as art and music. One objective of the course is to learn the French «analyse de texte» for reading and examining French drama, prose, and poetry. Various French literary texts present themes from each historical period, from the Middle Ages to the advent of «La Francophonie.» Students learn the techniques of literary analysis as well as a basic vocabulary of critical terms, as they apply strategies for connecting historically significant events and people to the stylistic expectations of each work. Class discussion and essay writing in French are important components of the course. Another goal of the course is to examine contemporary culture, asserting declarative knowledge of the past events that informed current practices. The course will be conducted entirely in French, so students' skills in the three domains – interpersonal, presentational and interpretive – will be assessed to determine the suitability of this course for their cultural and literary study.

Advanced Studies: Survey of Hispanic Literature - Wendy Valenteen

Prerequisite: AS: Spanish Language or permission of instructor.

This survey which is comprised of three term courses will cover three distinct genres in Hispanic literature: the fable, the short story, and poetry.

With the fable, students will study how this genre originated within the culture and how it extended into the creation of cultural sayings which are still used today.

The short story will be presented from the viewpoint of how the Spanish and the Latin American versions of this genre differ, and the manner in which the Spanish publishing houses supported the fledgling Latin American short story writers after the colonial period. The group of Spanish writers will most likely include Don Juan Manuel, Pedro Antonio de Alarcón, Emilia Pardo Bazán, and Ana María Matute, while the list of Latin American authors could be composed of authors such as Rubén Darío, Horacio Quiroga, Jorge Luis Borges,

Gabriel García Márquez, and Isabel Allende. Historical connections within the Hispanic culture will be key.

The poetry term will be aimed at covering the works of a good mixture of both Spanish and Latin American poets like Juan Ruiz (Arcipreste de Hita), Adolfo Bécquer, Pablo Neruda, Gabriela Mistral, José de Espronceda, José Martí, as well as anonymous poems with strong historic background like the epic poem of “El cantar del mío Cid” and “Soneto a Cristo crucificado”. Students will be offered the possibility of trying their hand at writing their own poetry in the target language.

Mathematics

Foundations in Technology - Andy Brown (Spring Term)

This is an introductory course designed to give students knowledge and skills in technological problem solving, design, computer programming, electronics, machines, tools, and 3D modeling. This course is ideal for students interested in careers in STEM, engineering, computer programming, and robotics. This course qualifies as a prerequisite for Computer Science.

Religion

Understanding Religion: The Amish - Will Whitmore (Fall)

This course will engage students in the study of lived and formal religion. It will address various elements found in all religions, such as codes of belief, practices associated with a religion, religious ritual and how community is associated with religion. In focusing on these elements, students will gain a better understanding of how a religion functions. While examples will be used from various world religions, the course will consistently use the Amish as a case study for understanding various tenants of a religion. Students will wrestle with how the Amish balance life within their religious community and the wider world and how this affects their daily life. Students will also take a field trip to Lancaster County to visit the Amish.