SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES FOR Summer and Fall 2023

SUMMER 2023:

PS 291-A Special Topics in Psychology: Group Work
Instructor: Professor D. Rossilli
Online
This course exposes students to various types of groups that are encountered when working in the Human Services field (including group therapy) such as primary groups, social groups, collectives and categories. Basic characteristics of groups are evaluated. Group dynamic and interpersonal skills are developed through observation and engagement in the process. Concepts that the course examines include goal setting, inclusion, identity, decision-making, power and control, conflict resolution, and leadership. Research done in the field of group dynamics is reviewed.

FALL 2023:

Capitalism and Revolution in the Global South
Instructor: Professor Malak
Gen Ed designations are UU, RR, W.
What is capitalism and why is it tied to revolution? Surveying the history of the Global South in the nineteenth century until decolonization, this course answers that question in two ways. It looks at how demands for political rights and self-determination intersected with class politics in the Global South. Second, it shows how different communities banded together around the world and made this a global fight.

Environmental history of Global cities
Instructor: Professor Palfreyman
Gen Ed designations are O, RR, WC
In 2010, for the first time in human history, more people lived in cities than lived outside of them. By 2050, the UN projects that 68% of humans on the planet will be city dwellers, with the largest growth in Asia and Africa. The ongoing urbanization of the global population represents one of the most fundamental and profound undercurrents shaping the modern world. This course will examine the opportunities and complications raised by the move to cities, especially in a world where the fallout of climate change has already become a daily reality. On the one hand, organizing people in dense urban clusters holds tremendous potential for living sustainably and reducing human impact on the natural world. On average, city residents take up less space, use less energy, emit less carbon, and consume less resources than their rural counterparts. At the same time, packing people close together also presents a number of problems. How to provide enough food, water, housing, and other necessities for large agglomerations of people in tight quarters? How to remove the garbage and sewage they produce? How to cope with rising sea levels, droughts, floods, wildfires, hurricanes, and other extreme weather events? What about the next pandemic? The aim of this course is to apply the lessons of the past in order to better and more efficiently organize the ways people live together in cities.
PS 291-01 Special Topics in Psychology: Speech & Language Development  
Instructor: Mr. D. Gravelle  
MW 9:40-11:10  
Research in social and cognitive processes involved in language development and early communication will be explored. Topics include listening to speech in the first year of life, babbling, word learning, grammatical development, the critical period hypothesis, and developmental language disorders, dyslexia, and autism.

PS 291-02 Special Topics in Psychology: Psychology of Play  
Instructor: Dr. C. Taverner  
TR 11:20-12:50  
Skills: C, O  
This course will examine the essential role of play across aspects of cognitive and social-emotional development in children. Particular emphasis will be placed on the creative aspect of play and its relationship to fantasy, emotional expression, and the structured experiences of children.

SO291: Special Topics Should Drugs Be Regulated Using the Criminal Justice System?  
Prof. Andrew Casas  
Monday, 6-9  
Skills: S, L, R  
Drugs have played a major role in the law. This course takes an historical approach to the criminalization of drugs, starting with the idea that possession of drugs is a legal fiction (and “victimless” crime), it examines the initial criminalization of drugs, the mandatory sentencing of the Rockefeller Laws, the role of pharmaceutical companies, and the recent push to decriminalize certain drugs and drug possession. Theoretically, it examines the intersection of the broken windows theory with other theories of prosecution.

TH 291-01 Special Topics in Psychology: Theatre Hair Styling for Stage  
Instructor: Instructor C. Super  
F 2:00 pm- 5:00 pm  
Skills:  
Students will learn professional hair design and styling practices for theatrical performance. They shall study the entire production process through research, script analysis, observation and physical skills needed to culminate with the design and execution of a professional wig/hair styling for stage.