

SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES FOR Fall 2024

AH 291H: ART IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY

Professor Laura Morowitz

M 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

The artworld today is incredibly diverse in approach, subjects and styles. Artists work in nearly every medium, from drawing to mass media to bio-engineering. In this course we explore a wide array of artists and the varied means of expression they use. We will navigate the contemporary art world by looking at a different theme each week such as: postmodernism, the body, time, space, identity, technology, consumerism, spirituality, political activism and more. We will also explore how the museum has changed in the 21st century. The course includes lectures, engaged discussions, readings, films, guest lecturers and first hand viewing of works of art.

PH291 Happiness and the Good Life

Skills: RR, WC, C and Knowledge H

Professor Sarah Donovan

MW 1:00 pm– 2:30 pm

Notable philosophers across many philosophical traditions, such as Epicurus, Aristotle, or The Dalai Lama, have characterized the study of philosophy as a practice in the art of living well. Philosophy is a way to create a good life. But what does it mean to live a good life? What is central to meaning and purpose? How do you find meaning and purpose? What attitudes and habits of mind lead to a good life? Is living well synonymous with happiness? Can we teach people how to be happy? In this course, students will explore different answers to questions like these through ancient and contemporary texts, primarily in philosophy, but also including the interdisciplinary lenses of psychology, religious studies, and neuroscience. Students will also complete a variety of assignments that invite them to understand how philosophers utilize practical tools, like self-reflection, habituation, and mindfulness, to cultivate a good and happy life. *No prerequisites.*

GE-291 Special Topic (in English, with option for credit in German)

Exploring German Cinema: From “Silents” to Surveillance and Beyond.

Instructor Kathryn Buck

MW 4:20 pm– 5:50 pm

This course explores German films themes of war, politics, division, identity, im/migration, exile and “Vergangenheitsbewältigung” (coming to terms with the past), sexuality and gender in 20th- and 21st-century German film, as well as the international importance of German film and the influence of and on Hollywood. From World War I to the present, these themes have influenced filmmakers from Pabst (Threepenny Opera), Murnau (Nosferatu), Lang (M; Metropolis) and Riefenstahl (Triumph of the Will) through Wenders (Paris, Texas; Wings of Desire), von Trotta (Rosenstrasse; Hannah Arendt), Fassbinder (Fear Eats the Soul; Marriage of Maria Braun), Herzog (Aguirre, the Wrath

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of God), Tykwer (Run, Lola, Run), von Donnersmarck (The Lives of Others; Never Look Away) and others.

We will also consider classic East German (1949-1989) films by makers such as Wolfgang Kohlhaase and Gerhard Klein (Berlin Trilogy) and Andreas Höntsch (Rhinestones), perhaps the last film made prior to the fall of the Berlin wall in November 1989.

JR291 Special Topic: Covering the Election MW 6:00 pm -7:30 p.m.

Fake news. Disinformation. Distortion. More than ever, journalists are needed on the front lines to cut through the information chaos of the upcoming presidential election. Can they report with accuracy, objectivity and restraint while holding the candidates accountable? This course will monitor and evaluate election coverage as it unfolds before and after America's decision. PolitiFact, the non-profit project operated by the Poynter Institute that rates the accuracy of claims by elected officials and others on its Truth-O-Meter, will serve as a centerpiece resource. Students will also be guided by the MediaWise Voter Project, a nonpartisan media literacy program that aims to teach college students how to be prepared and better informed as they vote for the first time in the 2024 election. The course is taught in real-time, with breaking news incorporated into the curriculum.

JR291 (section 2): Digital Media Writing MW 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm

Skills: TT, WW, L

Staff Wagner

Digital Media Writing is a journalism course where students learn how to make and use different kinds of digital technologies such as webpages, podcasts, video productions, and social media. In addition to writing and composing in these various formats, students will also reflect on the contexts for online journalism and other new forms of media including changing technologies, business analytics, and legal frameworks.

SO291: Special Topics Should Drugs Be Regulated Using the Criminal Justice System?

Skills: S, L, R

Prof. Andrew Casas

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 a "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.