

Experimental and Topics Course Descriptions

ENGLISH AND MEDIA STUDIES

LIT 397 Cultural Studies and the Environment

In this course we engage with the interdisciplinary field of “ecocriticism.” This means that we use a variety of theories and critical frameworks to analyze the relationship between cultural texts—literature, film, the visual arts—and the physical environment. Our aim is to understand how those texts reflect and articulate evolving concepts of nature and the nonhuman through engagements with a range of cultural studies discourses on race, gender, class, etc. We also look at how theories connect with the practice of environmental activism.

MC 320 001 Advanced Producing: Directing

Everyone has an image of a film director. Many of us picture a man or woman in a beret with a bullhorn, sitting in a “director’s chair”, barking “action!” and “cut!” But – beyond being in charge - what does a director actually do in the real world of filmmaking? What are his or her responsibilities? In this course we will attempt to define the role of the director both through study and through hands on experience. The topics will include visualization & storyboarding, script breakdowns, casting & working with actors, location scouting, shot planning and film grammar, on-set procedures and the director’s role in post-production. The first half of the semester will give students a foundation in directing through readings, lectures, film analysis and exercises. In the second half, students will form small production teams. Each student will get a chance to direct their own short script while the other members in the group serve as crew. Whenever possible, the class will engage with the greater Boston film community, including the opportunity for Bentley students to direct professional actors and speak with members of the local media industry

FINANCE

FI-402A 001 and 002: Mutual Fund Operations and Management

PREQ: (FI 320 or FI 306) & (CC5 or WP).

This course will provide students with a broad understanding of the mutual fund industry as well as the organizational infrastructure necessary to offer retail investment products (mutual funds) to shareholders. Students will first develop an understanding of the history of the industry, the evolution of products offered and how mutual fund advisors are generally organized. We will then focus on fund qualification requirements and explore the differences between a variety of fund offerings (ex: taxable vs. tax exempt funds, diversified vs. non-diversified, etc.). Students will learn how investment advisors have had to adapt to recent regulatory developments, the financial crisis and various industry scandals. The role of the Valuation Committee and the complexities of the nightly fund valuation process will be a theme throughout the course. Finally, students will end the semester with a group project where they will analyze several funds and present the relevant facts for investment advisory contract approval to a Board of Trustees.

FI 402C 001 Sustainable, Responsible, and Impact (SRI) Investing

PREQ: FI 305

SRI is an investment discipline that considers environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) criteria to generate long-term competitive financial returns and positive societal impact. According to the US SIF Foundation’s 2016 report, there has been 33% growth in SRI investing over the past 2 years, and a 14-fold increase since 1995. This course would focus on various ESG considerations such as climate change, air & water pollution, waste management, community & employee relations, human rights, human capital management, board composition, disclosure, accounting risk, executive compensation, and learn about incorporating these ESG issues in investing. In addition, students will learn about various metrics and databases (e.g., Bloomberg, CDP, Sustainalytics) that are used in SRI investing, and utilize them to identify investment opportunities that provide competitive financial returns as well as positive impact on the society at large.

With many notable responsible investors in the Boston area (e.g., Trillium Asset Management, Boston Common Asset Management, Walden Asset Management, Zevin Asset Management, etc.) in addition to growing ESG teams within traditional asset managers (e.g., BlackRock, Vanguard Asset Management, State Street Global Advisors, Fidelity Investments, Eaton Vance, etc.), this course hopes to expand your career opportunities in this exciting new field.

HISTORY

HI 299 001 History on the Road: EXPLORING MASSACHUSETTS IN FIVE FIELD TRIPS

Class meets on 5 Saturdays 10/13 – 11/17. No class on 10/20. Pre-session is 9/29.

Bentley University is located in a small New England region that has historically exerted a disproportional influence across the entire United States. Since the first English arrival and settlement upon these shores in 1620, important aspects of American history have played out just a few short miles from this campus. This experiential history course transports students beyond lecture room limits to those places for five Saturdays in February and March. You will visit important historic locations here in Waltham, and at nearby Concord, Salem, Cambridge and Plymouth. It was in these towns that talented and energetic men and women established and developed

the political, cultural, industrial, educational, scientific and maritime innovations that ultimately shaped our entire nation. Come and join us and get to better know and understand these talented individuals, where they lived and worked, and how in many ways they invented America.

HI 392 001 Nazi Germany

Nazi Germany remains one of 20th Century's most horrific experiences. This class probes deep into its formation and politics. It explores the final years of the Austro-Hungarian Empire as they shaped Adolf Hitler's thinking and his anti-Semitism. The course will also examine the Nazi occupation of Europe, its racial policies and the Holocaust.

HI 393 (H) History & Culture of N. Korea (honors Program only students)

Information in the West about North Korea tends to be sketchy and cartoonish. We will conduct our own research to get past the caricatures and create our own "Guide to North Korea". In doing so, we will learn to distinguish different kinds of bias, including propaganda from all sides, and learn how to gather the most reliable information available.

HI 395 001 The History of the Future

This course examines the different ways societies have imagined the future, from the ancient past to the modern era. We will focus on a wide variety of historical, social, and cultural developments from around the world, including ancient oracles, apocalyptic fears, eugenics, Marxism, nuclear dreams, and dystopian fiction. The core of the course will center on understanding the human fascination with the world of tomorrow and its influences on the present. By doing so, we hope to gain a better understanding of the human condition.

INTERDISCIPLINARY

ID 399 E01 Multidisciplinary Studies in Healthcare Systems

This course introduces and describes the health delivery system and the resources that comprise it. The theoretical basis for the system as well as the principal means of system organization and evaluation are discussed.

Specifically, this course introduces and describes U.S. and global healthcare systems, addressing the components and complexities. The historical basis for the system's organization will be discussed, as well as the various modes of healthcare delivery and the ways healthcare is organized, financed and delivered. In addition to presenting the foundations of healthcare organization, the course will include an overview of healthcare delivery, health insurance, policy, public health, healthcare finance and purchasing, and current challenges to innovation in the system. Each section of the course presents general principles, followed by an in-depth examination of a timely issue in healthcare. Students who complete the course will gain a basic understanding of the organization, functions, and delivery of healthcare.

INFORMATION DESIGN AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

IDCC 390 001: Concept Development

PREQ: EXP I

The course structure will concentrate on the essential skills necessary to understand how visual communication design is important in all areas of business best practices, that includes marketing, advertising and promotion. The course will teach real-world application skills to be able to develop concepts and actual finished visual communication design projects. The student will also learn the importance and proper use of client brand identity. The skills learned in this course will allow the student to evaluate and critique professional visual communication materials to determine that the design is the best solution for the client's message. The skills learned in this course will allow the student to create smart design solutions using typography, color, image style, brand identity, visual alignment, balance and information hierarchy. The design tools used in this course are accepted as industry standards and are used in all professional fields of visual communication design.

LAW

LA 199 001 Law and Film

PREQ: GB 110

This course explores the impact and consequences of the ways lawyers and the legal system are depicted on film. Law affects every area of our lives, yet most people know little about the legal system apart from what they see in movies and on TV. In this course, we take a closer look at the impact of those depictions on our understanding and expectations of the legal system. How do those depictions color our views of law and its place in society? How do movies about law and lawyers shape our understanding of the relationship between the legal system and justice? How is justice defined in those films? Through a combination of selected films,

textbook readings about the history behind and techniques used in those films, class discussions and written assignments, this course takes a deep dive into the social impact of law and film. In doing so, it identifies and clarifies common misperceptions about the legal system that those films tend to perpetuate.

LA 402-001 1st and 14th Amendment Constraints on University Admissions and Speech Policies

PREQ: LA 108 and Instructor Permission

This seminar explores the impact of the 14th Amendment on university admissions programs raising questions related to equal rights. Important recent cases including *Grutter v. Bollinger* and *Fisher v. Texas* among others will form the basis of our study. The seminar will also discuss a supplementary issue related to admissions, academic freedom, and free speech under the 1st Amendment. Materials for the course include U.S. Supreme Court and Appellate Court decisions relevant to the 1st and 14th Amendments. Students work in groups and teams. Many class meetings require student oral argument. At the conclusion of the course, students participate in a regional moot tournament sponsored by the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMA) and may qualify for the national tournament.

MODERN LANGUAGE

MLFR 398 001 Advanced French Conversation

Advanced French Conversation is a course for students who have completed MLFR 202 (or have received permission from the instructor), and are interested in improving their spoken French as well as their listening comprehension, while continuing to learn about the culture of France and the Francophone world. In addition to offering students intensive practice in oral expression and conversation, the course builds on the grammar and vocabulary covered in MLFR 202, through targeted written exercises designed to hone grammar skills in communicative contexts. Class conversations will be based on assigned readings on diverse topics (from history to French business culture), the films from our textbook, songs, commercials, recipes, news articles and programs (both television and radio), podcasts, debates, and Skype conversations with Francophone individuals.

MLCH 402 001 Chinese for Cinema

Chinese for Cinema is designed for students whose Chinese proficiency is beyond intermediate levels. Six Chinese movies in different categories will be introduced in class. There will be a group discussion on the Chinese culture, history and philosophy that are related to the movie. The discussions will be conducted in Chinese. The goals of the class include the development in students' skills in using authentic Chinese and the enhancement of students' awareness of the Chinese culture, history, and perspectives compared to those of the students. Moreover, having the discussions in Chinese provides the students with opportunities to improve their fluency and organization of thoughts.

NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCE

NASC 199 001 and 002 Environmental Science & Sustainability

This course is an introduction to environmental sciences, highlighting issues in environmental and ecological sustainability. This lab-based course places a strong emphasis on developing critical thinking skills to assess questions such as: how do we decide what to "believe" about environmental issues? How are humans linked to the environment, and can we modify our interactions with the environment? How can we learn from past environmental problems to solve environmental dilemmas of the present and future? How can sustainable business practices address environmental challenges?

By the end of this course students should: Understand the interconnectedness of natural ecosystems and the role of humans in the environment; Through processes of scientific inquiry, explain environmental impacts of human activities and prevent/minimize future problems; Be introduced to different perspectives on environmental policies and problems (e.g., political, economic, and societal) in order to define potential solutions; and arguably most importantly, as a scientifically informed individual, be able to make responsible decisions about environmental practices in business and society.

We will achieve these course goals through in-class lectures and class activities, laboratory exercises, and field trips. This class will be field-intensive, meaning that we will spend much of our time outdoors (weather permitting).

NASE 398 H01 Biological Fate of Drugs (Honors Program students only)

This course will look in detail at what actually happens when an oral medication is taken – both what does the body do to the drug, and what the drug does to the body. An understanding of what drugs are on a chemical level will be used to

understand and predict how a drug will interact with the body, and an understanding of biology will be used to understand and predict how drugs can cause variable effects in different people. A knowledge of the chemical and physical properties of drugs and how they act in the body will help us to understand how to more effectively treat disease, and how to more rationally design drugs in the future. The course will use hands-on approaches to understand basic properties of drugs, and to predict likely biological interactions.

PS 301 H01 (H) Behavioral Health: Natural Disaster Zones. (Honors Program Students only)

This undergraduate course will explore the behavioral health issues, proactive preparedness measures, intervention strategies and the associated implications for governing agencies, business, actuarial and insurance industry. The course will introduce the unique behavioral trauma characteristics for children, adolescents, adults and the elderly. Concepts from social psychology will be applied to understanding community psychological identity disruption.

PS 299 001 Understanding Learning Differences and Disabilities

In this course we will investigate the nature of learning differences/disabilities, how they are diagnosed and treated, and how they affect the lives of learning disabled people as well as their relationships with family members, friends, and colleagues. We will study a range of different types of learning disabilities (such as dyslexia, mathematics disabilities, attention deficit disorder and autism spectrum disorder) and explore how they affect the individual in a variety of social contexts. We will also investigate how these disabilities affect the individual's sense of self and explore the types of communication and workplace problems that may emerge through these disabilities.

PHILOSOPHY

PH 135: Special Problems in Business and Professional Ethics: Feminist Theory

PREQ: PH 101

What is the nature of sex-based oppression, and how can we successfully recognize and resist it? This course aims to introduce students to feminist theoretical approaches to the above and related questions. Through readings of contemporary feminist philosophical texts, we will explore the social-structural source of sexist oppression, as well as the impact of such oppression on the self, knowledge, and values.

PH 254 001 Groups, Minds & Responsibility

PREQ: PH 101

We often employ mental terms to explain social phenomena. For instance, we might talk about a corporation's intention to become a market leader, or we might explain supply and demand in the marketplace in terms of individuals' preferences and choices. In this course, we are going to ask whether we are justified in making these assertions by exploring the connection between group action and the mental lives of the individuals who constitute them. We will start by reading texts in the philosophy of mind and social philosophy, and will conclude by considering the issue of collective responsibility.

SOCIOLOGY

SO 402 001 LGBTQ in the US

Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered people have become increasingly visible and vocal in the United States, especially during the past forty years. Members of these communities have left important imprints on American politics, art, literature, music, and fashion. Nonetheless, they have largely remained invisible and silent in most U.S. history textbooks and courses. This course seeks to shed light on the experiences of LGBTQ people in the United States. This course will cover the history of modern, western ideas about sexuality and sexual and gender identity through a variety of texts and videos across a range of disciplines and methodologies. We will examine self-identifications of gay men, lesbians, and transgendered individuals as well as the constructs of these sexual and gender minorities identities and the resultant prescribed roles.

Sexuality and gender will be considered not as "natural" or consistent phenomena, but as sets of cultural beliefs that have changed over time. Students will discuss controversies in the contemporary period in the US while being tolerant and respectful of differing viewpoints. Issues of gender, race, class, geographic setting, and ethnicity will merit appropriate attention, particularly as those categories relate to differences in power and privilege, leading to inequality and injustice. The course is designed to familiarize you with the some of the best current scholarship in the field and challenge you to think critically about the role of LGBTQ people in American history and society.

