

Spring 2010 Course Descriptions:

MONDAY CLASSES (DALLAS)

HUMN 7208/How Lawyers See the World (HUM)

Instructor: Randy Gordon

2 Credits

Class # 6612

(7:50pm – 9:30pm)

This course is concerned with general theoretical questions about the nature of law and legal systems, about the relationship of law to justice and morality, and about the connections between law and the humanities. The question of whether law is an autonomous discipline is an animating theme, and part of our objective will be to consider this question from a variety of angles. As tools, philosophical and literary texts will be used, as well as, a number of representative cases.

SOSC 6344/Contemporary Economic Issues (FEI) (GLO)

Instructor: Dianne Betts

3 credits

Class# 6080

Economic topics are subject to intense political, philosophical and moral debate. How should we care for our poor? Is the current distribution of wealth and income fair? Should we allow our jobs to be outsourced? What is the role of government in restricting or promoting business objectives? This course examines “the market” in the context of efficiency, fairness, and moral justifications. Through a combination of lectures, readings, and class discussions, students will examine the theoretical basis of capitalism and its variations as a means of organizing and allocating resources.

HUMN 6115/Classic Texts: Short Fiction of Faulkner (HUM)

Dates: (Jan 25, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22)

Instructor: Janet Harris

1 credit

Class # 6189

TBA

SOSC 6309/The Struggle for Human Rights (PSJ) (HUM) (GLO)

Instructor: Rick Halperin

3 credits

Class # 6082

The course examines certain violations of human rights within their historical context. Attention also is given to the evolution of both civil and human rights as entities within global political thought and practice. Students learn to recognize the use of propaganda to justify or deny violations of human rights, from torture to terrorism and from slavery to genocide.

SCCL 6364/The Nuclear Age and Culture (REQ) (GLO) (PSJ)(NEW)

Instructor: Edward “Cas” Milner

3 credits
Class # 6083

Developments in nuclear physics have influenced many features of society, business, culture, ethics, government, medicine, health, literature, art and politics. Opportunities for analysis are plentiful and diverse, for example: the study of peace and disarmament movements, nuclear-themed film and literature, the roles of women in science (Marie Curie and others), and the role of Robert Oppenheimer. The course is a broad survey, rooted in qualitative understanding of nuclear science gained from lecture, reading and class discussion.

HUMN 6316/The Human Experience: An Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies (REQ)

Instructor: Nancy Cain Marcus

3 credits
Class # 6088

Examine issues of human existence using interdisciplinary perspectives, primary readings, large group presentations and discussion groups.

Objectives:

1. To understand the various disciplines of human thought and problems. Contribute to the overall knowledge of the many ways in which humans try to understand themselves and the world around them.
2. To study what it means to be human including a consideration of the nature of products of human activity, and the world in which humans find themselves... Study the human condition, human creations such as social institutions, art and literature and science.
3. Cultivate the ability to analyze, write, solve problems, think and read critically and synthesize ideas.

This particular section of the course considers certain foundational literary artifacts of Western Civilization. Operating on Aristotle's premise of *topos* as a metaphorical place in the mind, this course promotes understanding of the literary works according to their **kinds**, placing each in its context of the **tragic and comic genres**.

Consistent with a deliberately interdisciplinary approach to study, the texts on the syllabus include works from the disciplines of philosophy, literature, and literary criticism. Students will also view and discuss films during regular class hours, and members of the class will attend a theatrical performance off campus.

TUESDAY CLASSES (DALLAS)

SOSC 7313/Athens and Democracy: The Great Experiment (NEW) (GLO)

Instructor: Marsha McCoy

3 credits
Class # 6090

Athens invented democracy and it is one of the great stories of Western civilization. From its beginnings with the reforms of Draco to its height under Pericles to its fall and restoration at the end of the Peloponnesian War, the story is a riveting one that we will explore with primary readings and other texts, slide presentations, and ongoing discussions about the form and nature of ancient democracy, and its modern counterparts.

HUMN 6395/Consuming News in the Digital Age: From Traditional Media to Citizen Media (CMT)

Instructor: Yolette Garcia

3 credits

Class # 4447

This course examines the impact of digital technology on news, and the free flow of information in a democratic society. Students will learn the historical evolution of American journalism from its founding up to its current-day forms. The standards and practices of journalism for traditional media (print, radio and television), and new media (online reporting, blogging, video/audio podcasts, live streaming and RSS feeds) will be examined. A central question to deliberate is how do the different technological methods of news distribution affect who does the coverage, what gets covered, who is reached and why is this important?

FNAR 6301/Dramatic Writing in Practice (ACT)

Instructor: Gretchen Smith

3 credits

Class # 4445

This is a hands-on writing course that focuses on basic requirements for dramatic writing (film, theatre, solo performance): action, dialogue, narrative. It is geared for *both* beginners and people already writing screenplays or plays. Through a series of in-class exercises and homework writing assignments, students will be learn how to both “start from scratch” or rewrite work-in-progress. Scenes from classic plays will be studied and emulated.

HUMN 6338/The Fire of Transformation: Mystical Life (HUM) (GLO)

Instructor: Bill Barnard

3 credits

Class # 6091

In this course students explore how certain individuals throughout the world and during different periods of history came to have powerful and transformative spiritual experiences. Students carefully examine the ways in which different religious traditions understand mysticism. They investigate a variety of spiritual techniques designed to catalyze, deepen, and stabilize these alternate levels of consciousness. Students delve into philosophical and social-scientific analyses of the dynamics of mystical states of awareness; and they probe the metaphysical, ethical, and psychological implications of mysticism in the modern world.

SOSC 6343/Politics of a Capitalist Democracy (GLO) (FEI)

Instructor: Brad Carter

3 credits

Class # 6092

This course examines the special relationship between American democratic politics and the free market economy, as well as the rationale of free enterprise. Individuals interested in the political and philosophical questions raised by our system of democratic capitalism find the course particularly relevant. Current issues, problems, values, and criticisms of the free enterprise system are discussed.

SOSC 6337/Texas and Tejanos (ACT)

Instructor: John Chavez

3 credits

Class # 6093

This seminar examines the growing historiography on Mexican Americans, focusing on the relationship between Texas and their regional ethnic identity as Tejanos. Prior to 1980 few books specifically on Tejano history were written. However, the field has expanded rapidly in the last 25 years. Since social history has predominated during this period, the emphasis is on that branch of historiography, but other genres are included as well.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES (DALLAS)

FNAR 6322/Modern American and European Painting (ACT)

Instructor: Dianne Goode

3 credits

Class # 6094

Beginning with realism and impressionism, this course traces the development of the avant-garde through such "modern" styles as expressionism, cubism, futurism, Dadaism, surrealism, abstract expressionism, pop and op art, and photo realism. Readings about the works of representative artists and critics are stressed.

SOSC 6319/The Medieval City: from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance (NEW) (HUM)

Instructor: Silvio DeSantis

3 credits

Class # 6095

This course takes into consideration the historical importance and cultural creativity of the European urban tradition from the Roman Empire to the end of the Middle Age. The study of cities provides a singular perspective upon European history for within the urban environment have taken place the greatest achievements of human energy and talent. Following a chronological and thematic path the classes will lead the students through the evolution of the urban settlement system bearing in mind not only "the city of stones" but also "the living city."

HUMN 7313/Creating the Short Story (ACT) (NEW)

Instructor: Gary Swaim

3 credits

Class # 6096

Creating the Short Story is a course designed to explore and create both the short, short story (or flash fiction) and the longer short story. Conducted as a workshop, this course will involve students in the reading interpretation of a wide variety of short stories, the crafting of the student's generated short

stories, and the critiquing evaluation of those stories by both the faculty member and the student colleagues. The aim of the course is to move student work toward potential publication.

HUMN 6316/The Human Experience: An Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies (REQ)

Instructor: Jeremy Adams

3 credits

Class # 6089

Examine issues of human existence using interdisciplinary perspectives, primary readings, large group presentations and discussion groups.

Objectives:

1. To understand the various disciplines of human thought and problems. Contribute to the overall knowledge of the many ways in which humans try to understand themselves and the world around them.
2. To study what it means to be human including a consideration of the nature of products of human activity, and the world in which humans find themselves... Study the human condition, human creations such as social institutions, art and literature and science.
3. Cultivate the ability to analyze, write, solve problems, think and read critically and synthesize ideas.

SOSC 6333/Ideas Shaping the American Character II: 1877 to the present (FEI)

Instructor: Jody Potts

3 credits

Class # 4364

Through the biographies and writings of key Americans since the Civil War, the course explores the political, economic, religious, social, intellectual, and artistic ideas that have shaped the American character. Specific attention is given to the free enterprise system and democracy as twin pillars upholding the edifice of our republic. Key figures include Frederick Jackson Turner, Willa Cather, Eugene Debs, W.E.B. DuBois, Carrie Chapman Carr, Frank Lloyd Wright, Bob Dylan, Ronald Reagan, and Madeleine Albright. *NOTE: This course constitutes the second half of Ideas Shaping the American Character, but is self-contained; the first half is not a prerequisite.*

HUMN 7350/Special Topics: American Activism 1960-1980 (PSJ)

Time: 5:30 P.M. – 8:20 P.M.

Instructors: Bonnie Wheeler and Bill Beauchamp

3 credits

Class # 6062

TBA

THURSDAY CLASSES (DALLAS CAMPUS)

HUMN 6397/Troubled Youth in America: Educating the Young in America (WI)

Instructor: Bruce Levy

3 credits
Class # 6097

Through fiction, non-fiction, and film this course examines the paired "problems" of adolescence and education from historical and contemporary American perspectives. Expand your understanding of contemporary issues in adolescent development and education by grounding current concerns in historical perspective.

HUMN 7312/Islam, State and Society (PSJ) (NEW) (GLO) (GEN)

Instructor: Robert Hunt
3 credits
Class # 6098

The emergence of so-called "political Islam" as a movement to both reform dominantly Muslim societies and transform their relationship to non-Muslim nations has had a growing impact on American impressions of Islam and U.S. foreign policy toward Muslim countries. This course will examine the emergence of contemporary Islamic movements as they relate to the evolution of Muslim states and societies and the attitudes and roles of Muslim minorities in non-Muslim states and societies. This course will first explore the historical rise of Islamic states and societies, and the classical Islamic legal reasoning that both justified and shaped them. It will then explore the emergence of contemporary Muslim discussions about the relationship of Islam to state and society in the modern context. We will particularly explore the issues that surround Muslim minorities in the non-Muslim states and societies and the rights of non-Muslims in dominantly Muslim states and societies. Important to this exploration will be understanding human rights, gender, democracy, and economic structures in contemporary Islamic thought.

SOSC 6356/Civil Rights: An Unfinished Revolution (PSJ)

Off-campus: March 6-14, 2010
Instructor: Dennis Simon
3 credits
Class # 4452

This course will focus upon the history and politics of the movement that destroyed the system of racial segregation, dissolved barriers to political participation by African Americans, and influenced the culture and politics of the United States. The course combines readings and classroom discussion with an extended trip over spring break to historical civil rights venues.

HUMN 6335/Begettings and Beginnings: The Bible and Literature (HUM)

Instructor: John Lewis
3 credits
Class # 6099

This study approaches the Bible from the standpoint that it is, among other things, a literary anthology, providing its readers with a cosmic vision and models of literary forms. In that sense, it is both a product of, and a means of stimulating, the imagination. The course aims to raise Biblical literacy and awareness of the presence of the Bible in English and other Western literatures.

HUMN 6363/Philosophers Examine Religion II (HUM)

Instructor: Ben Petty
3 credits
Class # 6100

Continues study of notable philosophers about religion and its claims (see HUMN 6360). The second part focuses on problems of evil and human destiny. It is not necessary to take the courses in sequence; Part I is not a prerequisite for Part II.

SATURDAY CLASSES (DALLAS)

FNAR 6115/Classic Works: Manet at the Folies-Bergere (ACT)

1 credit
Instructor: Dianne Goode
Dates/Times: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 20 (1:00 P.M. – 3:50 P.M.)
Class # 4345

Focuses on a single, seminal text or work of art in music, drama, or the visual arts through close, directed reading, and seminar discussion. Topics can vary each semester. This study begins with the premise that there are more ways than one to "read" a painting by considering a variety of different scholarly interpretations of Manet's major painting, *Bar at the Folies-Bergere*. Critical readings will be supplemented by background lectures on Manet's significant place in the movements of Realism and Impressionism.

FNAR 6387/Inspiring Creativity through Original Art (NEW) (ACT)

Instructor: M. Carmen Smith
3 credits
Time: 10:00 A.M. – 12:50 P.M.
Class # 6101

Most encounters with works of art are limited to learning *about* them – when, where, why and by whom they were created. Seldom are visitors invited to spend time with the works and explore their complexities, nor are they encouraged to discover personal connections and construct their own meanings. This course will invite students to consider works of art in a variety of contexts, to learn *through* them and be inspired to think and respond creatively.

HUMN 6370/The Literate Mind at Work (HUM) (WI)

Instructor: Janet Harris
3 credits
Class # 4347

This course is designed to insure that beginning MLS students have mastered the critical academic skills - reading, discussion, and writing the researched argumentative essay -- required to succeed in graduate liberal arts studies. The course is writing intensive and includes drafting, rewriting, and editing as part of the writing process. Students are also responsible for learning basic research technique and styles of annotation, as well as a review of academic integrity and issues of plagiarism.

SCCL 6335/Little but Lethal (ENV) (GLO)

Instructor: John Ubelaker

3 credits
Class # 6609

The major parasitic diseases affecting humans, such as malaria, will be the focus of this course, with an emphasis on examining disease in the context of modern technological change. The effects of overpopulation, malnutrition, and pollution, as well as the role of modern medical technology in treating these diseases, will be considered.

MONDAY CLASSES (PLANO)

HUMN 6316/The Human Experience (REQ)

Instructor: Gary Swaim
3 credits
Class # 6102

Examine issues of human existence using interdisciplinary perspectives, primary readings, large group presentations and discussion groups.

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BHSC 6308/Introduction to Organizational Dynamics (NEW) (ORG)

Instructor: Harry Teitelbaum
3 credits
Class # 6104

Organizational Dynamics focuses on the problematic behaviors, challenges and/or concerns pertaining to change, conflict, communication, and team dynamics as well as leadership and staff issues interfering with individual productivity and work goals. Having this fundamental understanding of leadership, power, communication, and the dynamics of one's employee base may well help one apply strategies that not only prevent dysfunctional behavior and generational collisions in one's organization, but also allow one to become the best communicator and leader one can be. Students will learn that forming a basis for understanding human behavior contributes to successful implementation of goals and objectives; however, the effective practitioner of Organizational Dynamics is the Golden Rule: *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*