

Special Topics Courses 2020-2021

2020 Fall Term

ARTS 1991- A (3 CR)

THINKING THROUGH THE ARTS: CRITICAL AND CREATIVE PRACTICE

This course explores questions such as: how do poetry, language, art, music, and other creative practices help us think and to understand the world around us; how creative and critical thinking help us build our intellectual capacity and form our learning skills. The course primarily engages literature and literary questions, connecting literary practices to other creative and critical practices in Arts disciplines. It builds competencies and skills that transfer to studies across disciplines and that support life beyond university. The readings combine literary texts in English with texts from other disciplines, as well as materials from other media such as music, fine art, digital media, and performance. Discussions engage a broad range of topics including: personal ethics and the scholarly community; social and cultural engagement; and the relationship between intellectual life and the material/natural world. This course also aims to instill good work habits, study skills, and work-life balance so that students can achieve their goals in university. It develops higher-order thinking skills such as active reading practice, oral and written self-expression, memorization and other information management skills, collaboration, creative engagement in a range of media, and critical thinking skills. [Note: This course is recommended for first year students] (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

CLAS 3991 - A (3 CR)

ROMAN PORTRAITURE

Prereq: second-year standing; 3 credits from CLAS, HIST, LATI, GREK at the 1/2000 level; or permission of the Department

Portraiture is one of the most distinct forms of Roman art. In this course, students will engage with Roman portraiture from the Republic to Constantine. The course will involve portraits in many different media, from free-standing sculpture, relief, painting, coinage, etc. and students will learn the methods involved with the study of each. The stylistic evolution of the portraits as well as their social and political significance will be examined. By the end of the course, students will have learned techniques for identifying and analysing portraits of both known and unknown figures from the Roman world.

ENGL 1991 - A (3 CR)

CRISIS LITERATURE

The "crisis" in Crisis Lit refers to the context and content for the texts that we will study. Each week will be organized around one of the four horsemen of the Crisis Lit apocalypses: epidemiological, ecological, existential, and economic. How do storytellers represent crisis? What crisis represents, as we will discover, is a decisive historical moment, when our political grounding shifts towards the worse or the better-oppression or emancipation. As vital as they are, the poems, short stories, films, essays, and songs that we explore cannot resolve crises, but they can help us to better understand how we got there and what future crises we may be sowing. We will encounter a variety of inspiring figures working in genres such as horror, science fiction, dream pop, and creative non-fiction. The course will be structured with mini-lectures on a given crisis, artistic form, and cultural response, from Edgar Allan Poe, the short story, and the cholera epidemic to Parasite, film, and the global market collapse. Evaluation will be based on fun and critically engaging written assignments and interactive online discussion (Format: Lecture 3 Hours).

FINH 3991 - A (3 CR)

CANADIAN AND INDIGENOUS ART

Prereq: FINH 2101; FINH 2111; or permission of the Department

This course explores the various ways that Canadian and Indigenous art constructs and subverts popular ideas of national identity. By looking at the works of both mainstream and marginal artists, we will consider a variety of perspectives on what it really means to be Canadian. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

GERM 3991 - A (3 CR)

CULTURAL MEMORY IN POST - 1945 GERMANY

Prereq: Permission of the Department

This course explores the unique commemorative culture that became manifest in post-1945 German society. It investigates the literary production and cultural activities pursued in Germany after WWII, focusing in particular on the roles remembrance, responsibility and collective guilt play in a post-conflict society. A representative array of theoretical texts on topics pertaining to memory culture, commemoration and trauma studies will be included as an integral part of this course (Format: Lecture 3 Hours).

MATH 4991 - A (3 CR)

GROUP THEORY AND PHYSICS

Prereq: MATH 2111 and 2221. MATH/PHYS 3451 may be substituted for MATH 2221 with instructor permission

This course studies the application of the representation theory of Lie groups to problems in physics. In particular, we will deduce the structure of the energy levels of the hydrogen atom from mathematical considerations (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

MUSC 3991 - B (3 CR)

MUSIC, SCHOOL, AND SOCIETY

Prereq: MUSC 2211; or permission of the Department

This course promotes awareness and critical examination of music education philosophies and learning theories in teaching practice while also considering the political nature of music in school and society. Using a seminar format, this course explores music education philosophies and practices in relation to educational, social, cultural, historical and political contexts. Students will demonstrate their understanding of course concepts through spoken and written word and may also use creative modes of expression (Format: Seminar 3 Hours).

MUSC 4991

between culture, media, and language. Examples are drawn from textual, visual, and material cultures of the past, as well as contemporary mass media contexts (Format: Lecture/Tutorial 3 hours).

2021 Winter Term

ARTS 2991 (3CR)

ART & ATHLETICS

This course explores the intersections of art and athletics, considering how the two realms contribute to personal identity, community development, ethical engagement, and political discourse. Discussion topics will include physicality and intellectual life, ethical and aesthetic issues, and political and social contexts at the intersection of the arts and athletics. Artistic media will include literature, painting, photography, music, film and television, as well as some depictions in media from ancient cultures. Several sports will be included, with specific texts focusing on gridiron football, running, swimming, soccer, weightlifting, and possibly more. We will pay special attention to the way art and athletics engage in activism and social justice: how both can serve - and serve together - as agents for societal change.

BIOL 3991 - A (3 CR)

ECOTOXICOLOGY

Prereq: BIOL 2101 and permission of the instructor (jliefer@mta.ca)

This course examines how natural toxins and toxic pollutants like industrial waste or microplastics affect ecosystems. Major topics that will be covered include the sources and environmental transportation of toxins as well their effects on both individual organisms and ecosystem ecology. Much of the course is dedicated to in-depth case studies and practical application of course topics to help students understand how to assess the risks posed by emerging environmental toxins.

CENL 3991 - A (3 CR)

COMMUNITY CONNECT

Prereq: Second-year standing; or permission of the instructor (mfox@mta.ca)

Since the onset of COVID-19, there have been urgent calls to restore established social and economic systems, and to find our way back to 'normal'. Community Connect is an innovative approach to the pandemic and the long-standing vulnerabilities and deficiencies across social, political, and environmental sectors, particularly for vulnerable populations in rural communities. Students will explore the ways in which the pandemic has prompted a shift in research priorities for many community-based organizations exploring strategies for mitigating social isolation, advocating for evidence-based information, emergent health policy research, and understanding the differential impacts of COVID-19 on marginalized groups.

COMM 4991 - A (3 CR)

MARKETING ANALYTICS

Prereq: COMM 2211

This course focuses on practical approaches toward 3 key areas of marketing analytics: obtaining and analyzing marketing intelligence (customer, market, and competitor); determining market potential for

teaching and learning afforded by digital technologies, apps and online musical experiences. Students will learn through direct experience and experimentation with a range of representative technologies, and through reading current literature on music and technology. This course foregrounds the importance of creation/creativity in music learning. Our discussions will consider possible pedagogical and social issues related to technology-based music instruction, and will centre on student interaction/experience of and with technologies. Course activities will include readings, projects, music creation, class discussion and individual/group work. (Format: Seminar).

POLS 3991 - A (3 CR)

MARITIME PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Prereq: POLS 1001; 6 credits from POLS at the 2000 level; or permission of the Department

This course provides an intermediate introduction to the politics of the three Maritime provinces; New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. It focuses on the internal politics of the three provinces rather than their relationship to the federal government or federal activities in these provinces. The structure of the course provides students with the skills and knowledge to answer key questions that continue to preoccupy people in the Maritime provinces. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

POLS 3991 - B (3 CR)

SCANDINAVIAN POLITICS

The Scandinavian countries are generally admired throughout the world for a number of reasons including inclusive welfare states and high levels of gender equality. Is there more to Scandinavia than meets the eye in international media reports? This course provides an introduction to the study of Scandinavian politics. Students will gain a general understanding of the intricacies of Scandinavian politics upon successful completion of the course. The first and shortest part of the course focuses on polity. The second part introduces students to politics and issues prevalent in Scandinavia politics including how the Scandinavian countries have approached the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The third and final part of the course introduces students to a number of policy areas. This course examines a number of topics including the welfare state, climate policies, elections and parties, public opinion, social capital, immigration policies, and diplomacy. There is a particular focus on Sweden throughout the course. This is a writing intensive course.

POLS 4991 - A (3 CR)

NATIONALISM vs COSMOPOLITANISM

All across the world, from the US to Brazil, to Europe, Turkey and China, an aggressive nationalism is returning with a vengeance, often paired with far right populism and a tide of xenophobia and racism, pushing democratic systems to the brink and threatening a descent into majoritarianism and authoritarianism. Secessionism is on the rise, culture wars are raging, and white supremacists are scapegoating immigrants and racial minorities for perceived

colonization to the present day. It explores the engineering, social, and cultural factors involved with building structures and modifying the natural world, as well the role of individual skill and preferences in design choices. Central to the course is experiential learning, which will include labs on topics such as interpreting maps and aerial images, geographic information systems (GIS), traditional masonry, sketching, and field documentation methods of local heritage sites. The course will also cover the issues and challenges with conserving significant places for future study and public interpretation (Format: Integrated Lecture/Fieldwork 3 Hours).