

## **Fall 2020 Experimental and Special Topics Course Descriptions**

### **BIOL 294 – 01 – Sustainability**

**3 credit hours**

Sustainability means lasting into the long-term future and it refers to systems that are able to continue to operate on their own for long periods of time. Humans are linked with nature and sustainability recognizes this fact. One of the key perspectives is recognizing the interrelatedness of the ecological, economic and social dimensions as they relate to different topics. In this course we will examine a variety of topics from these three perspectives. In addition to the course content, we will also conduct research by collection opinion survey data on sustainability, and analyzing the data that we collect.

### **CHEM 194 – 01 Practical Chemistry**

**3 credit hours**

Practical Chemistry is an introductory level course designed for students not majoring in the sciences. One of the main goals of the course is to give students an appreciation of the molecular world and how chemistry is involved in daily life. Another goal is to assist students in understanding the major scientific, environmental and technological issues facing our society today so that as educated citizens, they can make educated decision now and later in life in topical areas that may overlap with the sciences.

### **ENGL 362 Top: Female Villains**

**3 credit hours**

In the middle of the Victorian period, approximately 1860, the Sensation Genre hit the book market, tantalizing some, frightening others, but definitely creating a stir for everyone. The novels representative of this style drew from a Gothic tradition, but instead of faraway, remote locations, these were set in the British home and often expanded upon true crime events found in newspapers and court documents. The fact that some of these sensational story lines were based in truth caused much anxiety for the public, and even more so when some of the most popular of this genre featured women as the villains. Because the Victorians had very prescriptive ideologies regarding women and femininity, any transgression outside of the chaste, passive, domestic was often quickly categorized as deviant, fallen, or even demonic. Although they often broke through boundaries and defied an oppressive system, at least for a while, by book's end, these women were all too often "replaced" into their appropriate societal sphere, rehabilitated, or excessively punished.

In this class, we will look at mostly Sensation novels in which a female character manifests as the lead transgressor or villain. We'll examine the cultural context surrounding her transgression, how it is received within the book and to what extent her specific "transgression" impacts our own understanding of concepts like criminal and/or villain. Additionally, we'll think about gender and the expectations for women throughout different eras, regions, and classes. We'll also pay close attention to the ways in which the author must deal with the female villain's ending. In what specific ways are her transgressive acts muted or assuaged by novel's end, and to what end? Finally, we'll consider a lasting legacy or transcendence for the female villain character. Is it enough to say that she existed and committed these acts or is her ending (punishment, death, etc.. .) all we'll remember?

### **ENGL 364 – 01 Topics in Film: Machine Mastery**

**3 credit hours**

Do we master machines or do machines master us? This in-depth analysis of cinematic portrayals of the relationship between people and machines will explore what these films suggest about culture, values, and the human condition. This course fulfills the General Education Literature (L) and Writing Proficiency (W) requirements or the Artistic Expression (AE) requirement.

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### **THEA 247 – 01 Interm. Top: Drafting**

**3 credit hours**

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of mechanical drafting. Students will start with basic hand drafting, becoming familiar with the universal language and symbols. Once proficient in hand drafting, students will be introduced to VectorWorks, an industry-standard CAD program. This is a project-based class, emphasizing growth and improvement regardless of starting point. Prior completion of THEA 210 or equivalent theatre experience recommended.

### **THEA 314 – 01 Adv. Top: Musical Theatre Performance**

**3 credit hours**

This advanced level acting course provides an overview of musical theatre acting methods with intensive focus on performance and rehearsal techniques. Students will engage in a range of performance activities inside and outside of the classroom in order to develop stylized acting skills specific to multiple musical theatre genres and continue establishing a personal methodology for approaching musical theater performance. The course assumes students have different skill and ability levels upon entering and challenges students to make conscientious and steady progress from that point.

### **THEA 350 – 01 Top: Musical Theatre**

**3 credit hours**

This course is an intensive survey seminar covering American musicals of the past 50 years from a literature perspective. Primarily a reading course, students will engage with the librettos of two to three musicals per week, plus additional readings which provide context and foundations for critical analysis. Materials covered will allow students to familiarize themselves with the structure of a musical, to explore how major writers change and grow over time by covering multiple works through their careers, and to examine how musicals have changed from the 1970s to today. The course assumes that students possess different backgrounds relative to the materials under investigation as well as different reading and analytical skills when approaching dramatic literature. The course challenges each student to make conscientious and steady skills acquisition progress