

Spring 2025 Experimental and Special Topics Course Descriptions

EDUC 394-99 – Assessment & Classroom Mngt. – Instructor, Christine Thornton 4 credit hours
TBA

HIST 394-01 – History of Humanity – Instructor, Katy McDaniel 3 credit hours

An examination of the long sweep of history, this course compares a variety of metahistorical approaches, focus.ing in depth on one or two in particular, while also exploring how such metahistories are conceived, developed and used to promote contemporary ideologies and actions. Students will analyze existing approaches while also constructing their own Big Histories.

MUSC 194-01 – Rock Band Ensemble – Instructor, Eli Chambers 1 credit hour

Students will use ensemble performance, independent practice/research, and critical listening as applied studies of Rock music, and of how this music is both a product of and influence upon interdisciplinary artistic media and intersectional cultural understanding.

PHIL 294-01 – Socrates and Plato – Instructor, Ken Itzkowitz 3 credit hours

An introduction to Socrates & Plato in an historical context, covering core works, themes, and concepts. This class will explore what the enormously influential achievements, similarities, and difference are between them. The big questions of the course: What did Socrates and Plato achieve in the world of an antiquity? What do they still have for us to learn from them in the context of our own lives, even in the very different science and technology-dominated world we now inhabit?

ENGL 362-01 – Top:19th Century Monsters – Instructor, Heather Sowards 3 credit hours

This section of 362 will delve into the historical contexts surrounding some of the 19th century's most famous monsters and criminals. We'll explore how the Victorians dealt with the prospect of a new century by confronting repressed fears, anxieties and even desires. We'll examine both fictional and nonfiction texts to help get to the core of inspiration for such stories, including but not limited to: Jack the Ripper, Amelia Dyer, The Bermondsey Murder, and the Thames Torso murders. This focus will help us to examine important questions about the concept of crime and how Victorians conceptualized it according to class and gender. Finally, we'll pay close attention to the ways in which these stories were impacted by real crime and the cultural upheaval of the new century, but also how *they influenced* criminals and shaped the new literary genre of the Crime Novel.

PSYC 301-01 – Top:Attitudes&Attitude Change – Instructor, Christopher Stockus 3 credit hours

A survey of the major theories and research findings in the field of attitudes and persuasion. Careful attention is given to the relationship between attitudes and behavior, affective and motivational processes of attitude change, and the effects of behavior on attitudes. Applications of attitudes and persuasion theories and research are discussed (e.g., health education).

Prerequisite

Complete PSYC 212 (Social Psychology)

PSYC 601-99 – Top: Psychology of Good & Evil – Instructor, Mark Sibicky 3 credit hours

This course exams a variety of behaviors most human societies characterize along a continuum ranging from “good, too bad, to evil”. Applying a bio-psycho-social perspective, the course takes an advanced and in-depth look at the research and theory behind a psychological understanding of topics that include: helping, love and happiness, excuses, gossip, prejudice, torture, murder and genocide.

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THEA 247-01 – Int.Top: Design for D & D – Instructor. Nathan Bradley 3 credit hours

This course introduces students to a specialized topic in design and technical theatre. This course will examine the relationship between design elements and storytelling in tabletop role playing games. Students will practice core design methodologies and refine collaboration/presentation skills.

THEA 350-01 – Top: Drama Lit. – Womens – Instructor, Casiha Felt 3 credit hours

This course provides an in-depth examination of dramatic literature written by modern female identifying playwrights and is concerned with issues related to gender, identity, and female experiences both inside and outside of majority cultures. The plays studied in this course are by mostly American and English playwrights from 1890 to present. The course will typically cover 2 plays per week plus additional readings.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing