

Fun Spring Courses 2009

Course

Credits

ANTHR 320 Myth, Ritual, and Symbol

4

This course examines how systems of thought, symbolic forms, and ritual practice are formulated and expressed in primarily non-Western societies. It focuses on anthropological interpretations of space, time, cosmology, myth, classificatory systems (such as color, totems, food, dress, kinship), taboo, sacrifice, witchcraft, sorcery, and rites of passage (birth, initiation, marriage, death). It will examine both the roles of specialists (spirit mediums, curer, priests, etc.) and nonspecialists in producing these cultural forms.

ART 1601 Photography I

3

Basic lecture-studio course in black-and-white photography for beginners. Emphasis is on basic camera skills, darkroom techniques, and understanding of photographic imagery.

ART H 2600 Intro To Art History: The Modern Era

4

Considers modern art in a historical and cultural context, from painting associated with the French Revolution through American pop art. The emphasis is on major movements and artists: Neo-Classicism (David), Romanticism (Delacroix), Realism (Courbet), Impressionism (Monet), Post-Impressionism (Van Gogh), Cubism (Picasso), Fauvism (Matisse), Surrealism (Miro), Abstract Expressionism (Pollock), and Pop Art (Warhol). Different critical approaches are examined.

“Great class.” “Excellent!”

ASIAN 2212 Introduction to China

3

Interdisciplinary introduction to Chinese culture especially designed for students not majoring in Asian Studies. Explores literature, history, religion, art and archaeology, and other aspects of China's rich and diverse heritage, from earliest times to the present.

ASTRO 1102 Our Solar System

3

The past few decades have seen incredible advances in the exploration of our solar system. In this course students learn about the current state and past evolution of the Sun and its family of planets, moons, asteroids, and comets. This course emphasizes images and other data obtained from current and past NASA space missions and how these data provide insights about the important processes that have shaped the evolution of solar system objects. General astronomical concepts relevant to the study of the solar system are also discussed. Critical focus is on developing an understanding of the Earth as a planetary body and discovering how studies of other planets and satellites influence models of the climatic, geologic, and biologic history of our home world. Other topics include impact hazards, the search for life in the solar system, and future missions.

B SOC 2061 Ethics and the Environment 4

Aims to acquaint students with moral issues that arise in the context of the environment and environmental policy. Our concerns about the environment bring to our attention the importance of economic, epistemological, legal, political, and social issues in assessing our moral obligations to other humans and the natural world. The attempt is then to explore how different factors come into play in defining our responsibilities to the environment and to examine the grounds for our environmental policy decisions. A background in basic ecology or environmental issues or ethics is helpful.

**BioEE 2740 The Vertebrates:
Structure, Function, and Evolution 4**

Introductory course in vertebrate organismal biology that explores the structure and function of vertebrates with an emphasis on trends in vertebrate evolution. Lectures cover topics such as the origin and evolution of various vertebrate groups, sensory systems, thermoregulation, life history, locomotion, feeding, size, and scaling. Laboratories include dissections of preserved vertebrate animals and noninvasive live animal demonstrations.

COMM 2010 Oral Communication 3

Through theory and practice, students develop self-confidence and competence in researching, organizing, and presenting material to audiences. Students give four graded speeches, write short papers, perform speaker evaluations, and engage in other speech-related activities.

COMM 2030 Argumentation and Debate 3

Students learn the principles of argumentation and debate. Topics emphasize Internet database research, synthesis of collected data, analysis of evidentiary quality, refutation of counter claims, identification of logical fallacies, risk evaluation, framing of issues, and coherent storytelling. Students are prepared to work with a great range of opinion and evidence. The course emphasizes different viewpoints, including those of different cultures. Assumptions are questioned and interrogated. (Student comments: *This class is really fun - the lecture format is really informal and often breaks down into discussion. Demonstrative debates are held in class. Many of the students enter the course without any previous experience in organized debate. Although, some previous debate/public speaking experience would be helpful.*)

**CRP 1101 The Global City: People, Production,
and Planning in the Third World 3**

Critical look at the physical and social development of giant cities in the Third World. Their origins, roles, contributions, and shortcomings are examined. Their place in world political economy is evaluated. Policy prescriptions for their principal problems are discussed.

D SOC 1101 Introduction to Sociology 3

Introduction to theory and research in sociology. Demonstrates how the insights, theories, and methods of sociological analysis can be brought to bear on major issues of social life. A primary goal is to convey a sense of the manner in which sociologists formulate theories and how the collection and analysis of data are used to evaluate those theories. Provides hands-on experience in analyzing sociological issues. Students undertake guided research exercises that involve using

computers to analyze actual data. No prior background is presumed; necessary skills are covered in class and section meetings.

EAS 1700 Evolution of the Earth and Life 3

Earth systems and their evolution; Earth history's astronomical context; plate tectonics, continental drift, and their implications for climate and life; co-evolution of life and the atmosphere; precedents for ongoing global change; dinosaurs, mass extinctions, and human ancestry. Includes laboratories on reconstructing geological history and mapping ancient geography. Fossil collecting on field trips.

EDUC 2400 The Art of Teaching 3

Exploratory course designed for students of all backgrounds and interests who have a desire to learn more about teaching. Teaching takes place in a variety of contexts from the family to the workplace and this course endeavors to examine the elements of teaching that transcend the typical school-teaching environment. Designed to guide students in reflecting upon their experiences to help them better understand the decisions they make as teachers. Students have the opportunity to pursue their own interests through a teaching fieldwork assignment. Possible field experiences range from large group to tutorial situations, from preschool to adult education, from traditional school subject matters to recreational and career and technical areas, and from school-based to nonformal situations. The course work and readings are designed to build on these experiences throughout the semester and provide concepts and skills to apply in the field.

ENGL 2810 Creative Writing 3

An introductory course in the theory, practice, and reading of prose, poetry, and allied forms. Students are given the opportunity to try both prose and verse writing and may specialize in one or the other. Many of the class meetings are conducted as workshops.

ENTOM 2010 Alien Empire: Bizarre Biology of Bugs 2-3

Insects are the most abundant and diverse animals on earth. This course explores the bizarre biology of insects and their interactions with humans. We will examine both the detrimental roles insects play (e.g., pests and vectors of disease) as well as their beneficial roles (e.g., pollination, edible insects, insect products such as waxes, dyes, silk). We will also explore the symbolic representation of insects in art, literature, and religion. Students taking the course for 3 credits will meet once per week (on Friday) for discussion and documentary films on the biology of insects.

FD SC 1102 Leadership & Career Skills in Food Science 2

This course will provide students with opportunities to learn more about their personality type and apply this information to leadership and team building skills, diversity and ethics issues, as well as career skills in the field of food science. Topics and concepts addressed in the course will be reinforced through presentations, interactive exercises and activities, case studies and networking with food science alumni. Students will be required to participate in a project utilizing the Food Science Alumni Career Link network.

GOVT 1313 Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics 3

Provides a survey of the institutions, political processes, and policies of contemporary states. Focuses on the conditions for and workings of democracy. Looking at Western Europe, students analyze institutional variations among liberal democracies, and their political implications. Then

problems faced by the diverse Latino groups. Groups studied include Mexican Americans, Dominicans, Cubans, and Puerto Ricans.

NS 2470 Food for Contemporary Living 2

During this laboratory course, the understanding of food ingredients and techniques of food preparation is applied to positive nutritional practices and health promotion goals. Course content includes food science principles, nutrition principles, food safety and sanitation, sensory evaluation, and social-cultural influences on food choices. The course explores basic food science principles through food preparation, recipe modification, and sensory evaluation (taste testing required). The course introduces students to basic cooking skills and techniques and recipe modification. Each student prepares assigned recipes during each lab. Assignments and projects introduce students to basic menu planning and meeting nutritional requirements while restricted to a budget. Lab performance and a lab practical factor into final student evaluation; thus attendance at all labs is expected.

NTRES 2010 Environmental Conservation 3

Our lives increasingly are touched by questions about environmental degradation at local, regional, and global scales. Business as usual is being challenged. This course stimulates students to go beyond the often simplistic portraits of the environmental dilemma offered by the mass media to gain a firmer basis for responsible citizenship and action on environmental issues.

PAM 2300 Introduction to Policy Analysis 4

Policy analysis is an interdisciplinary field that uses theories, concepts, and methods from disciplines such as economics, sociology, and political science to address substantive issues in the public policy arena. Students are introduced to the functions of and interactions between the major institutions (public and private) at the national, state, and local level involved in the policy making process. The course focuses on public policy analysis in the family/social welfare, health, and market regulatory areas and also includes an introduction to the technical skills required to undertake policy analysis.

PAM 3800 Human Sexuality 4

Provides students with an understanding of the interactions and interrelationships of human behavior that influence sexual development and behavior. Focuses on the evolution of sexual norms, cross-cultural customs, legislation within changing sociopolitical systems, and delivery of services related to sexual issues, needs, and/or problems. Addresses future trends in sexuality.

PHIL 1110 Introduction to Philosophy 3

A general introduction to some of the main topics, texts, and methods of philosophy. Topics may include the existence of God, the nature of mind and its relation to the body, causation, free will, knowledge, skepticism, and justice and moral obligation. Readings may be drawn from the history of philosophy and contemporary philosophical literature.

PHYS 1204 Physics of Musical Sound 3

Explores musical sound from a physics point of view. Topics include: how various musical instruments work; pitch, scales, intervals and tunings; hearing; room acoustics; reproduction of sound. Science writing and physics problem-solving skills are developed through weekly assignments. Student activities include hands-on investigations of musical instruments, and field

trips. Students write a term paper investigating a topic of their choice. At the level of *The Science of Sound* by Rossing, Moore, and Wheeler.

PL PA 2010 Magical Mushrooms, Mischievous Molds 2

Presentation of the fungi and their roles in nature and in shaping past and present civilizations. Emphasizes the historical and practical significance of fungi as decayers of organic matter, as pathogens of plants and animals, as food, and as sources of mind-altering chemicals.

STS 2011 What is Science? 3
An Intro to the Social Studies of Science and Technology

Introduces some of the central ideas in the field of Science and Technology Studies (S&TS). As well as serving as an introduction to students who plan to major in Biology and Society or in Science and Technology Studies, the course is aimed at students with backgrounds in either the sciences or the humanities who are challenged to think more critically about what we mean by science, what counts as scientific knowledge and why, and how science and technology intervene in the wider world. The course is a mixture of lecture, discussion, and other activities. The discussion sections are an integral part of the course and attendance is required. In addition, a series of written assignments throughout the semester and a take-home final during exam week compose the majority of the grade.