

# Fun Fall Courses 2008

Courses recommended by previous Biological Sciences students

<b>Course</b>		<b>Credits</b>
<b>AEM 1210</b>	<b>Entrepreneurship Speaker Series</b>	<b>1</b>
<p>Seminars and guest lectures by faculty members engaged in the study and practice of entrepreneurship and by prominent entrepreneurs associated with the Entrepreneurship and Personal Enterprise program at Cornell, with a view to inform and inspire students. Evaluation includes attendance and written feedback on lectures. Intended as a companion to AEM 1200 but may be taken independently. (Student comment: <i>Large lecture. Sit and listen to successful entrepreneurs and business persons. Graded by attendance and short assignments.</i>)</p>		
<b>AIS 1100</b>	<b>Introduction to American Indian Studies</b>	<b>3</b>
<p>This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to American Indian cultures and histories from Precolumbian times to 1890, emphasizing the current relevance of traditional values and the ways the deep past continues to affect present-day Indian peoples. Course materials draw on perspectives from the humanities, social sciences and expressive arts.</p>		
<b>AM ST 2010</b>	<b>Pop Culture in the US 1900-1945</b>	<b>4</b>
<p>American Studies 2010 deals with American popular culture in the period between 1900 and the end of World War II. As we examine best-sellers, films, sports and television, radio, ads, newspapers, magazines, and music, we try to better understand the ways in which popular culture as “contested terrain,” the place where social classes, racial and ethnic groups, women and men, the powerful and the less powerful, seek to “control” images and themes. Topics include: Individualism in the 1920s; The Hays Code and the Balck Sox scandal; Mae West and the “New Women”, Gangsters and G-Men; and Jackie Robinson and the American Dilemma.</p>		
<b>ART 1401</b>	<b>Introduction to Sculpture</b>	<b>3</b>
<p>Series of studio problems introducing the student to the basic principles of artistic expression in three-dimensions, i.e., clay modeling, direct plaster, plaster casting, and construction in wood, metal, and other materials. (Student comments: <i>Great fun! Although it's difficult to wake up for the 8-11am studio times, for all who are able to make it, the contrast found in working with one's hands is of great wealth.</i>)</p>		
<b>ART H 2400</b>	<b>Renaissance and Baroque Art</b>	<b>4</b>
<p>Surveys major works of European artists from 1400 to 1700, including all arts, with an emphasis on painting and on analysis of the artworks. As a frame for interpreting these works, we will emphasize the social, religious, and political contexts in which artists worked and the role of patrons in the creative process. The course will also serve as an introduction to the art historical approaches through which we interpret these works today.</p>		
<b>ASTRO 1101/1103</b>	<b>Nature of the Universe</b>	<b>4</b>
<p>This course introduces students to the cosmos. The birth, evolution, and death of stars, the formation of the chemical elements, and the nature of white dwarfs, neutron stars, and black holes are discussed. An introduction to the theories of special relativity and general relativity is given. The course covers the search for other worlds outside the solar system and the possible existence of life and intelligence elsewhere in the universe. Modern theories of cosmology are presented, and the origin, structure, and fate of the universe are discussed. Most of the course notes as well as sample exams and simulations are made available on the web.</p>		
<b>BIOGD 4820</b>	<b>Human Genetics and Society</b>	<b>4</b>
<p>Presentation of some of the science and technology of human genetics, plus discussion of the ethical, social, and legal implications of recent advances in the field. Topics include assisted reproductive strategies, eugenics, genetic counseling, genetic screening (pre-implantation, prenatal, neonatal, pre-symptomatic, carrier, and workplace), wrongful life and wrongful birth, genetic effects of abused substances, genetics and behavior, human cloning, forensic uses of genetics, and therapy for genetic diseases. Students lead some discussions. There is a major writing component to the course. (Students comments: <i>Absolutely amazing and last time to take it with Rita Calvo is this Fall; <u>not</u> an easy class, but you learn a lot, and it's fun!</i>)</p>		

- BIOMI 4310 Medical Parasitology 2**  
 A systematic study of arthropod, protozoan, and helminth parasites of public health importance with emphasis on epidemiologic, clinical, and zoonotic aspects of these parasitisms. (Student comments: *Good course; be prepared to get goose bumps!; Too much work for a 2 credit class.*)
- BIONB 2210 Introduction to Behavior 3-5**  
 A general introduction to the field of behavior. Topics include evolution and behavior, behavioral ecology, sociobiology, chemical ecology, communication, orientation and navigation, and hormonal mechanisms of behavior. (Student comments: *Great honey bee lab component; not an easy class, but you learn a lot!*)
- BIOPL 2410 Introduction to Botany 3**  
 Introductory botany for those interested in the plant sciences. Emphasizes structure, reproduction, and classification of angiosperms and the history of life on earth. Laboratory emphasizes development of skills in handling plant materials, including identification. First and second weeks of laboratory are field trips, starting with the first day of classes. Those who register for an evening laboratory are still required to attend the afternoon field trips.
- B SOC 2051 Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine 4**  
 In today's rapidly changing world of health and medicine, complex ethical issues arise in many contexts—from the private, interpersonal interactions between doctor and patient to the broad, mass-mediated controversies that make medicine into headline news. This course examines ethical problems and policy issues that arise in contemporary medicine, health care, and biomedical research. Tools for ethical analysis are applied to a variety of cases and fundamental questions in bioethics. Perspectives from social science, history, and law also inform the course. The course explores ethical questions that arise in a number of substantive contexts, including the doctor-patient relationship, medical decision making near the end of life, human experimentation, genetics and reproductive technology, public health, and the allocation of scarce resources. (Student comments: *professor covers really interesting ethical issues; discussion sections are great!*)
- CLASS 2604 Greek Mythology 3**  
 A survey of the Greek myths, with emphasis on the content and significance of the myths in Mediterranean society, including the place of myth in Greek life and consciousness; the factors and influences involved in the creation of myths; and the use of myths for our understanding of Greek literature, religion, and moral and political concepts. (Student comments: *Large lecture class. 2 multiple-choice tests and an optional paper. Like the Greek myth you learned in high school, but a lot better; very entertaining lecturer.*)
- 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. (Student comments: *Fun class. You have to watch videos of yourself.*)
- 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: *Some previous debate/public speaking experience would be helpful. 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.*)

- 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. (Student comments: *very interesting material!*)
- D SOC 2200 Sociology of Health and Ethnic Minorities 3**  
 Discusses the health status of minorities in the United States. Specifically, we explore intragroup diversity such as migration, economic status, and the influence of culture and the environment on health status and access to health care. Although special attention is given to Latino populations, discussion encompasses other minorities who face similar problems.
- EAS 1101 Introductory Geological Sciences 3**  
 Designed to enhance an appreciation of the physical world. Natural environments, surface temperatures, dynamic processes such as mountain belts, volcanoes, earthquakes, glaciers, and river systems are emphasized. Interactions of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere (Earth System Science) are covered. Water, mineral, and fuel resources and environmental concerns are also examined.
- ECON 1110 Introduction to Economics (Micro) 3**  
 Explanation and evaluation of how the price system operates in determining what goods are produced, how goods are produced, who receives income, and how the price system is modified and influenced by private organizations and government policy.
- ECON 1120 Introduction to Economics (Macro) 3**  
 Analysis of aggregate economic activity in relation to the level, stability, and growth of national income. Topics discussed may include the determination and effects of unemployment, inflation, balance of payments, deficits, and economic development, and how these may be influenced by monetary, fiscal, and other policies. (Student comments: *Much more work than expected.; Good course. Teacher publishes a notebook that is very useful.*)
- 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 occupational 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.
- EDUC 3110 Educational Psychology 4**  
 Educational psychology is the application of psychological concepts to educational settings. This course examines the dynamic interaction between people as teachers and learners, schools as social and learning environments, and the sociocultural contexts that influence learning. The focus is on those interactions in cognitive, epistemic, social, moral, and personal domains in educational contexts.
- ENGL 2800 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. (Student comment: *Good class to fulfill requirements. Little time commitment as opposed to another English class.*)

- ENTOM 2120 Insect Biology 4**  
 Introduces the science of entomology by focusing on basic principles of systematics, morphology, physiology, behavior, and ecology of insects. The laboratory in early fall includes field trips to collect and study insects in the natural environment. Requires a collection emphasizing ecological, behavioral, and taxonomic categories.
- ENTOM 2150 Spider Biology 2**  
 Introduction to the fascinating world of spiders. Explores evolution, ecology, behavior, and physiology of spiders and their close kin from a modern perspective. Topics include identification of major spider families, spiders' unique use of silk, risky courtship, predatory behavior, diverse life styles, social spiders, and potential use in IPM.
- FD SC 1101 Science and Technology of Foods 1**  
 This course explores the application of science and technology to foods. Lectures will elucidate the role of engineering, biotechnology, chemistry, biochemistry, nutrition, toxicology, and microbiology in supplying the world with safe and nutritious food. An overview of food science as a discipline and career choice is given.
- HORT 2010 The Art of Horticulture 2-3**  
 Experiential survey course, two distinct units: plants used in/as art; plants as a subject of art. Unit 1: sculpture methods, such as turf-works, tree sculpture, Unit 2: drawing, botanical illustration, watercolor/pastel painting. Required: attendance; critical reflection in journals; original, creative final project. Optional third credit: pursue proficiency in drawing.
- LA 2610 Fieldwork in Urban Archaeology 4**  
 Urban archaeologists study American Indian, colonial, and nineteenth-century sites which now lie within the boundaries of modern cities. This course explores how urban centers evolve; what lies beneath today's cities; and how various cultures have altered the urban landscape. Students participate in a local archaeological excavation.
- LING 1101 Introduction to Linguistics 4**  
 Overview of the science of language, especially its theoretical underpinnings, methods, and major findings. Areas covered include: the relation between sound and meaning in human languages, social variation in language, language change over time, universals of language, and the mental representation of linguistic knowledge. Students are introduced to a wide variety of language phenomena, drawn not only from languages resembling English, but also from many that appear to be quite unlike English, such as those native to the Americas, Africa, Asia, Australia, and the South Pacific. (Student comment: *Fun and easy. Two tests, one 10-page paper.*)
- MUSIC 1341 Gamelan in Indo History and Culture 3**  
 An introduction to Indonesia through its art. Elementary techniques of performance on the Indonesian gamelan; a general introduction to Indonesian history and cultures, and the sociocultural contexts for the arts there. Several short papers and one longer research report are required. Instruction by visiting Balinese musician.
- NS 1150 Nutrition, Health and Society 3**  
 The course discusses the facts and fallacies concerning the role that nutrition, exercise, and other health behaviors play in preventing disease, maintaining good health, and maximizing athletic performance. Emphasis is on understanding the biological mechanisms through which good nutrition and regular exercise affect psychological and physical health.
- PSYCH 1101 Introduction to Psychology 3**  
 The study of human behavior. Topics include brain functioning and mind control, psychophysiology of sleep and dreaming, psychological testing, perception, learning, cognition, memory, language, motivation, personality, abnormal behavior, psychotherapy, social psychology, and other aspects of applied psychology. Emphasis is on developing skills to critically evaluate claims made about human behavior.

**PSYCH 1102      Introduction to Cognitive Science      3-4**

This course surveys the study of how the mind/brain works. We examine how intelligent information processing can arise from biological and artificial systems. The course draws primarily from five disciplines that make major contributions to cognitive science: philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, and computer science. The first part of the course introduces the roles played by these disciplines in cognitive science. The second part of the course focuses on how each of these disciplines contributes to the study of five topics in cognitive science: language, vision, learning and memory, action, and artificial intelligence.

**SOC 1101      Introduction to Sociology      3**

This course introduces students to the distinctive features of the sociological perspective, as opposed to psychological, historical, or economic approaches. First discusses the sociological perspective in the context of small groups and face-to-face interaction. As the course unfolds, the same perspective is applied to progressively larger social groupings, such as peer groups and families, formal organizations, social classes, racial and ethnic groups, and nation states. This approach also provides new insights into such topics as deviance, gender inequality, culture, and lifestyles. Whenever possible, class lectures and discussions illustrate these themes by exploring contemporary social problems and developments, including the rise of Generation X (and Generation Y?), the sources of current racial tensions, and the gender gap in the workplace.

**SPAN 1230      Continuing Spanish      4**

Provides language qualification. Prerequisite: SPANR 112 or SPANR 122, or an LPS score of 45-55 or SAT II score of 460-580. This is a lower-intermediate level course that provides an intensive grammar review in communicative contexts and practice in all skills. After this course, the student may take SPANR 200, 207, or 209.

**THETR 2800      Introduction to Acting      3**

An introduction to the actor's technique and performance skills, exploring the elements necessary to begin training as an actor, i.e., observation, concentration, and imagination. Focus is on physical and vocal exercises, improvisation, and text and character. There is required play reading, play attendance, and some scene study.