

Fun Spring Courses 2008

Course		Credits
AM ST 104	Introduction to American History	4
An introductory survey of the development of the United States since the Civil War.		
ANTHRI02	Comparison of Cultures	3
Introduction to cultural anthropology through ethnographies, or the descriptive accounts of anthropologists. Through readings and lectures, students acquaint themselves with a number of cultures from several parts of the world. The cultures range in form from those of small-scale tribal societies to those of state societies. Throughout the course, students attempt to make sense of exotic cultures in their own terms. Attention is focused on variation in cultural patterns as they are expressed in social, economic, and ritual practices. In this encounter, the principles of anthropology as a comparative enterprise that pose distinct cultural systems in belief are developed. Fiction, films, and exercises supplement the formal anthropological materials.		
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 161	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 260	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.		
ASIAN 212	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.		

ASTRO102 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 206 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 274 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.

BIOG112: Issues in Social Biology: Diet to Diseases, DNA to Deforestation 3

This course for freshmen is directed at current issues relevant to biology that are receiving media attention. Each of these “issues” will be introduced with the biology underlying the phenomenon. Topics include: nutrition, diabetes, heart disease, antioxidants, wine and the French paradox, the green revolution, organic produce, immunology, drugs and sport, DNA, genetic diseases, cancer, stem cells, animal cloning, genetically-modified crops, the agents of disease and diseases, bacteria, antibiotics, viruses, HIV, risk and epidemiology, global warming, invasive species, resource over-utilization, deforestation. Other topics may be added in response to suggestions or as topics become issues in the media. Readings will be from the New York Times and current magazines (such as Discover, Science News, American Scientist etc). Internet research is also encouraged.

COMM 201 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 203 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 fine - 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 101 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 101 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 170 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 240 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 281 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 201 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 by examining their evolutionary history, anatomy, development, feeding habits, life-history strategies, behavior, and their interactions with humans (both positive and negative) through history. Optional field trips and one open lab provide hands-on opportunities for examining these amazing animals. The 3-credit option will involve an additional class meeting per week.

FD SC 102 Exploring Food Processing 1
Series of seminars on current technological and regulatory developments in food science. Field trips to five commercial food manufacturing/processing plants are used to illustrate the application of current technologies. A course project, using the Food Science Alumni Network, is required.

GOVT 131 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 they probe the origins of democracy in Western societies and the reasons why communism and other forms of authoritarian rule have prevailed elsewhere. Finally, they explore the impetus behind and the obstacles to democratization in the Third World and the erstwhile Communist Bloc. Throughout this survey, problems of democracy are related to problems of economic development, efficiency, and equality.

H ADM 120 Personal Financial Management 2
Students are provided with an overview of personal financial planning, including money management, tax planning, use of credit, insurance, investing, retirement planning, and estate planning.

H ADM 274 Microcomputing 3
Students are introduced to business computing to develop functional computer fluency. Students develop their skills in the areas of text, spreadsheets, presentation and file management, and web site management. The course is entirely lab-oriented and students work using Windows 2000 software, which is the latest in word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, database management, and web design.

H ADM 290 Introduction to Culinary Arts 2
This course is a study of food groups and their methods of preparation, cooking and presentation. The course is designed specifically for non-Hotel students who are interested in learning the professional approach to food preparation and service with hands-on practice. Students are involved in food product identification, preparation and service methods and learning the professional language of food and cooking.

H ADM 430 Introduction to Wines 2
Students will be introduced to the major wine-producing regions of the world and what consumers need to know to purchase wine at retail outlets and in a restaurant setting. Lecture topics include: flavor components in wine; pairing wine and food; responsible drinking; selecting quality and value wine; and wine etiquette. Samples from a variety of countries, regions, and vineyards are evaluated.

- PAM 380 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 101 Introduction to Philosophy 3**
Introduction to some central philosophical debates. Covers four areas of philosophical debate: (1) whether there is a God or not; (2) how do we know about the external world, if we do; (3) the relationship between mind and body; (4) what actions are moral or immoral. Focuses as much on the tools philosophers use to advance these debates as on the resolutions of the debates themselves. The purpose of this course is as much to introduce students to how philosophers think about problems as it is to introduce them to the philosophical problems themselves.
- PHYS 204 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 201 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.
- PSYCH 205 Perception 3**
One of four introductory courses in cognitive psychology. Basic perceptual concepts and phenomena are discussed with emphasis on stimulus variables and sensory mechanisms. All sensory modalities are considered. Visual and auditory perception are discussed in detail.
- S&TS 201 What is Science? 3**
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.