

Special Topics Course Descriptions Spring 2022

CD-987 Symblic Play Cogntn Childr

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

CI-971 Improving Math Instruct

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

CJ-340 Cyber Criminology

Cyber Criminology will provide theoretical explanations for the phenomenon of cybercrimes. It will also explore the causation of crimes that occur in cyberspace and its impact in the physical space. To include the nature of criminal behavior of persons operating in cyberspace.

CJ-340 Family Violence

This course examines the causes and consequences of violence within the family and the latest research regarding the responses of the criminal justice system. Current issues pertaining to victims and offenders of family-based violence will be explored. Specific topics may include: Child Maltreatment, Intimate Partner Violence, Elder Abuse. This is an Honors Course, open to all students.

EN-998 LGBTQ + Narratives

This course approaches narrative as a key tool for LGBTQ+ individuals to create life-sustaining community, establish identity as artists and activists, and combat social discrimination and stigma. Students will analyze a diverse array of material from the last 40 years, including memoir, fiction, poetry, painting, film, and music. Collectively, we will ask what qualifies as a LGBTQ+ narrative: is it determined by the content of a piece, its formal manifestation, the identity of its creator, or something else entirely? Our discussions will be informed by a variety of important socio-historical contexts, ranging from the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980s to current debates about how Western conceptions of gender and sexuality continue to be imposed on other cultures and countries. The intersections of gender identity and sexual orientation with other components of selfhood—including race, disability, and class—will be essential to our dialogue throughout the semester.

Our course will be bookended by Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir *Fun Home* (2006) and the queer Afrofuturist vision of Janelle Monáe's *Dirty Computer* (2018); in between, we will encounter work by Eli Clare, Samuel Delany, R. Zamora Linmark, Audre Lorde, Janet Mock, Justin Torres, Joshua Whitehead, and others. No prior knowledge is necessary, though an anti-homophobic and anti-transphobic mode of inquiry will be expected of all students.

EN-998 Literary Themes World Rel

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

HI-450/990 Divided Germany

No course description available. Please contact the instructor for more information.

HI-990 US Latin American Relation

From the mid-nineteenth century to the present, the people of Latin America have had their fates inexorably tied to the USA. Global events, including their relations with the other countries of the hemisphere, have also shaped the decisions of US policymakers. This course will look at the political, economic, social and cultural relationship between these regions. We will explore examples as early as the war between Mexico and the US, however, we will focus primarily on events of the last seventy-five years, or since WWII, with a particular emphasis on the connection to contemporary situations.

Students will work on a semester-long project, and will have two options:

First, you can examine how globalization and neo-liberal policies create inequality for Central American and Caribbean people (focusing in particular on Salvadorans, Dominicans and Puerto Ricans) and at home and in their *diasporic* communities in the USA, particularly in New England and Worcester. We will also work to better understand and explain the reasons for immigration and how policy decisions impacted Central American and Caribbean immigrants overall.

This course will collaborate with and build on the work of the Latino History Project (LHP) of Worcester which has been collecting oral histories and artefacts and building an archival database for the last five years. The LHP is currently building towards a sizeable exhibit at the Worcester Historical Museum in 2023-24. My role as one of the historians on this team, is to contribute to chronicling the experience of Central American immigrants, especially Salvadorans, since the 1980s. Students in this class have the opportunity to contribute to and collaborate with those efforts, and those of the LHP overall. Below is their website.

<https://www.latinohistoryworcester.org/>

The second option is to write a term paper on a Latin American revolution (attempted, successful or failed), focusing on the political, economic and/or diplomatic relations between the selected country and the USA. I am under contract with Routledge for a textbook on gender and comparative revolutions, and you have the option on developing paper centered on issues of gender, and could “test drive” some material that is in draft form.

HI-450/990 Historic Preservation

This course serves as an introduction to the theory and practice of historic preservation. The course is designed to examine the history of the preservation movement in the United States, and explore the ways in which laws, public policies and cultural attitudes shape how we preserve or do not preserve the built environment in America. Throughout this semester we will examine the academic and theoretical aspects of historical preservation. Additionally, we will explore the practical applications of the field. Throughout this examination, we will immerse ourselves in the language, methods, philosophies, issues, and research skills of historic preservation. In doing so, this course will enable students to contextualize cultural landscapes, the built environment, vernacular architecture, and material culture within the practice of historic preservation. Our semester begins with an examination of the history and issues of preservation. We then turn our attention to the methodology and philosophy of historical preservation. We will end our semester with an exploration of specialized categories and themes within the field, emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of the preservation field and the public nature of its practice. The goal is to help prepare students for a career in the field of historic preservation, and/or graduate studies in public history, urban planning, cultural resource management, or environmental studies.

HI-150 World History through Film

A study of history through film and media. This course will study the depiction of historical events on film and how they have shaped modern perceptions of history. Attention will be given to how films can depict the era in which they were made through an interpretation of historical events. Some of the key elements studied will be the portrayal of historical eras, world cultural groups, political and economic systems, social mores and a western interpretation of history through film. The last point of interest will be how certain films changed the nature of film-making and its interpretation of history.