

Special Topics Course Descriptions
Summer 2024

UNDERGRADUATE

Full Summer

CJ-340-SL Cyberterrorism (with Mark Beaudry)

This course covers the types of cyberterrorism acts committed using computers, networks, and both the Internet & the dark web. Techniques of hacking deployed by terrorist organizations and the use of the Internet to disseminate ideologies and terrorist tactics.

Summer Session 1

CJ-340-AL Animal Cruelty (with Aimee Delaney)

This course will provide students with an examination of the relationship between animal cruelty and criminal justice. Topics will cover crimes against animals and circumstances of criminal/victimization acts involving animal cruelty (such as child abuse, interpersonal violence, and juvenile delinquency). The goal of this course is to offer students a more thorough comprehension of the impact animal cruelty has on the criminal justice system and within society.

CJ-340-AL2 Cyber Networking (with Mark Beaudry)

This course provides the basic tools needed to understand and manage networking and security. Students will learn about network tools and security products used by organizations.

CJ-340-AL3 Sexual Offenses (with Robert Brooks)

This course explores the criminal justice system's regulation of consensual and non-consensual sexual behavior, with an emphasis on the legal and sociocultural context within which sexual offenses are defined and prosecuted. Attention is also paid to sexual offenses committed by professionals within the criminal justice system.

CJ-340-AL4 Hate Crimes (with Hyesun Kim)

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of hate crimes, delving into their underlying causes, societal impact, and strategies for prevention and response. Students will gain a deep understanding of the motivations behind hate crimes, the various forms they can take, the targeted communities affected, and the hate crime trends. The course adopts an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on insights from criminology, sociology, psychology, law, and human rights studies.

CJ-340-AL5 Intelligence in Criminal Justice (with Stephen Morreale)

Used in military and international applications for decades, intelligence is growing in the criminal justice system. Students will explore the difference between information and intelligence, and experience intelligence gathering and analysis methods. The course will also explore civil liberty and privacy concerns, the historical roots of intelligence and its utility in policing at the federal, state and local levels.

EN-190-AL Graphic Novel (with Donald Vescio)

Far more than just comics, graphic novels are a compelling literary medium that interweaves visual and textual storytelling. In this course, we'll explore the evolution, diverse traditions, and creative potential of graphic novels. Together, we will closely read classic transformative works like *Maus* and *Persepolis*, along with contemporary graphic novels that both represent and rebel against the conventions of the genre. In our readings and conversations, we will discover how graphic novels can convey complex and meaningful narratives in entirely unique ways.

Additionally, we'll gain insight into how graphic novels present a unique perspective into many of society's most challenging issues. By the course's end, we will see how graphic novels have substantively shaped representation in literature and why they deserve serious consideration as an impactful storytelling form.

In this class, we'll use digital tools to explore graphic novels in new ways as part of an approach called digital humanities. We'll experiment with AI chatbots and image generators. AI chatbots (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc.) can enable us to engage in literature in ways that never before were possible, while tools like DALL-E can help us create our own artwork. These AI tools open fascinating possibilities for studying and making graphic novels. An important part of our class conversations will explore perspectives on if and how AI could change literary studies and graphic novel production. Drawing inspiration from our readings, discussions, and exploration of AI tools, you will produce your own graphic short story, learning to apply these technologies creatively and responsibly.

Students from any major or class standing are welcome to enroll.

EN-450-AL Massachusetts Memoirs (with Heather Treseler)

Massachusetts has been a hive of literary activity since its beginnings, and it remains one of the most educated, literate, and literary states in the nation. This course focuses on memoirs by writers who have written specifically about their lives in Massachusetts and featured its settings in their accounts. Thus, we will consider how the particularities of place—as well as class, gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and religious belief—shape identity in the work of contemporary writers Danzy Senna (*Where Did You Sleep Last Night?*), Isaac Fitzgerald (*Dirtbag*, Massachusetts), Augusten Burroughs (*Running with Scissors*), Gail Caldwell (*Let's Take the Long Way Home*), Caroline Knapp (*Pack of Two*), and Michael Patrick Fitzgerald (*All Souls: A Family Story from Southie*). We will also consider excerpts from twentieth-century narratives by Malcolm X (*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*), Miriam Levine (*Devotion*), and Elizabeth Bishop ("The Country Mouse") that focus on writers' experiences of Boston and Worcester.

The course includes weekly written lectures, notes, and discussion prompts; journaling; a discussion board (of more formal responses); and a final paper. Graduate students will consider theories of autobiographical writing in auxiliary readings and write a seminar length paper. The instructor offers weekly optional Zoom cafes for additional discussion of the readings and course assignments.

HE-400-AL Sexuality, Gender and Public Health (with Shaylynn Shuler)

This course is an in-depth examination of health disparities in the United States, with a specific focus on marginalized populations. This course will use a social ecological framework to provide an overview of health disparities in the U.S. as well as an examination of the multi-level factors influencing those disparities. We will also examine social and cultural determinants of health, including race/ethnicity, geography, socioeconomic position, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, migration status, age, religion and spirituality. This course is interdisciplinary and is situated contextually within the historical record of the United States, reviewing social, political, economic, cultural, legal, and ethical theories related to health disparities.

HI-150-AL Global Environmental History (with Martin Fromm)

This course examines twentieth century world history through an environmental lens. Topics include the ecological dimensions of the second industrial revolution, globalization, imperialism and colonialism, war and ecocide, natural and human-made environmental disasters, as well as efforts to address ecological issues such as the "green revolutions" and eco-feminisms.

HI-250-AL Hist of World Religions (with Michael Gesin)

This course explores the nature and function of religion in human life by investigating the diversity of religious experience and expression across several cultures. The emphasis of this course is equally placed on comparative and historical religion. Thus, we will attempt to understand both the specific contexts and conditions in which a variety of religious traditions arose and exist, and also the common religious elements in the specific historical manifestations of individual religions.

HI-250-AL2 Wilderness, Parks, & Forests in America (with Joshua Koenig)

This course explores the history of various efforts to conserve nature and culture. This course focuses on the evolving relationship between nature and American society, emphasizing the social, cultural, and political forces that have influenced protection of parks, forests, and wilderness. Students will develop an appreciation of the changing cultural meanings of nature, and the environmental ethics of wilderness protection and management.

Summer Session 2**CJ-340-PL Dark Web/Cryptocurrency Investigations (with Mark Beaudry)**

Investigate criminal networks on the dark web. The course will cover techniques such as link analysis, deanonymization of threat actors, and the use of software tools. This course will also offer a fundamental understanding of virtual currency, cryptocurrency, and blockchain technology. Students will learn about investigating cryptocurrency-related crimes and secure digital assets.

CJ-340-PL2 Juvenile Delinquency (with Francis Olive)

This course will provide an introduction, overview, and examination of juvenile delinquency and the juvenile justice system. The course will cover theories of delinquency, analysis of the juvenile justice system, and focus on problems of co-offending and patterns of youth crimes. We will learn several major theories of delinquency and apply these to delinquency today. We will explore juvenile delinquency from a broad perspective that examines youth cultures, music/style, status offenses, and crime; and consider delinquency in its historical, structural, cultural, and political dimensions. We will study the creation, operation, and reform of the juvenile justice system in the United States, not only as systems of social control, but also as social constructions that reflect dominant images of youth and the place of youth in society.

CJ-340-PL3 Social Media & Video in CJ (with Stephen Morreale)

The rise of Social Media in our world has changed the way we communicate and distribute information. Social Media and Video is being used in CJ organizations to provide information to citizens and also used for investigative purposes. The course explores the platforms used, the pros and cons of Social Media, and the future of this medium.

EN-190-PL Dystopian Literature (with Donald Vescio)

Dystopian literature projects a negative perspective on the future, providing cautionary tales, as well as prompts for individual and collective preventative action. Our reading list for the course focuses on more contemporary dystopian texts that center on concerns that are central to today's public and political discourse. In our reading, we'll explore such topics as environmental degradation, religious fundamentalism, artificial intelligence and machine learning, virtual reality, and information control. Our goals for this course is to map features that mark dystopian literature as a discrete genre and develop strategies to situate dystopian literature within contemporary contexts.

In this class, we'll use digital tools to explore dystopian literature in new ways as part of an approach called digital humanities. We'll experiment with AI chatbots and image generators. AI chatbots (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc.) can enable us to engage in literature in ways that never before were possible, while tools like DALL-E can help us create our visual representations of the themes that we cover.. These AI tools open fascinating possibilities for studying and making graphic novels. An important part of our class conversations will explore perspectives on if and how AI could change literary studies and graphic novel production. Drawing inspiration from our readings, discussions, and exploration of AI tools, you will produce your own dystopian short story, learning to apply these technologies creatively and responsibly.

Students from any major or class standing are welcome to enroll.

HI-250-PL The Crusades (with Michael Gesin)

The Crusades continue to cast a long shadow over the history of the world. Recent political events have highlighted the importance of this conflict between Muslims and Christians has had on world events. This course will contextualize the Crusades in the medieval world by examining the following questions: Why did medieval people go on Crusade? What were the motives and experiences of the Crusaders? How did the Muslims view the Crusaders? How have scholars interpreted the Crusades? We will be examining these questions from the perspective of both the European Crusaders and the Muslims living in the East at the time of the Crusades.

SO-199-EP Yoga and Mindfulness (with Penelope Herideen)

This course weaves social theory and contemplative mind-body practice. It involves critical inquiry into the historical and socio-cultural root causes of stress and dis-ease in our everyday lives. Students read classic and contemporary sociological works as well as engage in, learn and experience mindful-based practices, such as meditation and gentle yoga.

SO-299-PL Sociological Imagination of Grey's Anatomy (with Cara Powers)

In this course, students will use episodes of Grey's Anatomy to engage sociological theory and writing to consider the question of how pop-cultural media can expand our sociological imagination and what the potential social-political impacts of such expansion can be. Through critical media literacy, discussion, and creative production, students will develop their own theories of change through storytelling.

GRADUATE

Summer Session 1

ED-971-AL Diversity & Children's Lit (with Sarah Young)

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

EN-998-AL Massachusetts Memoirs (with Heather Treseler)

Massachusetts has been a hive of literary activity since its beginnings, and it remains one of the most educated, literate, and literary states in the nation. This course focuses on memoirs by writers who have written specifically about their lives in Massachusetts and featured its settings in their accounts. Thus, we will consider how the particularities of place—as well as class, gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and religious belief—shape identity in the work of contemporary writers Danzy Senna (*Where Did You Sleep Last Night?*), Isaac Fitzgerald (*Dirtbag*, Massachusetts), Augusten Burroughs (*Running with Scissors*), Gail Caldwell (*Let's Take the Long Way Home*), Caroline Knapp (*Pack of Two*), and Michael Patrick Fitzgerald (*All Souls: A Family Story from Southie*). We will also consider excerpts from twentieth-century narratives by Malcolm X (*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*), Miriam Levine (*Devotion*), and Elizabeth Bishop (“The Country Mouse”) that focus on writers’ experiences of Boston and Worcester.

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EN-998-AL2 Graphic Novel (with Donald Vescio)

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EN-998-AL3 Advanced Memoir (with Elizabeth Bidinger)

This course is designed to acquaint you with the fascinating literary genre of memoir. It will expose you to a variety of approaches to life-writing and familiarize you with elements of effective autobiographical prose. It will also provide you with opportunities to practice the craft, share your work, and receive feedback.

EN-998-AL4 Fiction Writing (with Elizabeth Bidinger)

In-depth study of the essential elements of prose fiction, including plot, scene-building and character development. Readings include expert advice on craft as well as professional works of fiction. Exercises to stimulate ideas and practice skills, culminating in each student's composition of an original short story (or novel chapter).

EN-998-AL5 Irish Literary Revival (with Dennis Quinn)

What is known as the Irish Literary Revival is in many ways an Irish Literary Renaissance too. The major literary figures at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century were richly talented. They may have been united in their evocation of Irish sensibilities, but they differed in their responses to the nationalism sweeping Ireland. William Butler Yeats and Lady Gregory and John Millington Synge hoped by establishing the Abbey Theatre to provide a forum for Irish plays by Irish writers about Irish subjects. To varying degrees, they embraced a kind of cultural nationalism that in correspondence with the political nationalism prevalent in the years leading up to the Anglo-Irish War and the emergence of the Irish Free State (and, tragically for some, a divided Ireland) privileged the Irish experience, historically, socially, aesthetically, and artistically. Writers of fiction such as James Joyce explored Dublin life in the prose of naturalism, whether in short stories, the bildungsroman, or experimental novels. In later years, among dramatists such as Brian Freeland and Hugh Leonard, Irishness remained no less a significant marker in the creative DNA of the island. This course explores representative works of the Revival in three major genres—poetry, fiction, and especially drama.

HI-990-AL Hist. of World Religions (with Michael Gesin)

This course explores the nature and function of religion in human life by investigating the diversity of religious experience and expression across several cultures. The emphasis of this course is equally placed on comparative and historical religion. Thus, we will attempt to understand both the specific contexts and conditions in which a variety of religious traditions arose and exist, and also the common religious elements in the specific historical manifestations of individual religions.

HI-990-AL2 National Parks and the History of Conservation (with Joshua Koenig)

This course explores the history of various efforts to conserve nature and culture. This course focuses on the evolving relationship between nature and American society, emphasizing the social, cultural, and political forces that have influenced protection of parks, forests, and wilderness. Students will develop an appreciation of the changing cultural meanings of nature, and the environmental ethics of wilderness protection and management.

Summer Session 2**CD-987-EP Medical Considerations in SL (with Matthew Frederick)**

This course will provide an overview and some considerations in the hospital based speech-language pathology consult service model. The course will encourage students to think critically when making patient care decisions. It is comprised of lecture, literature review, demonstration, and review of vignettes and case histories. Selection of objective measures and analysis of specialized populations will also be reviewed. These special populations include tracheostomy, ventilation, laryngectomy, oncology, surgery, and intensive care patients."

CD-987-EA Ethics in End of Life Care and Cultural Considerations (with Irene Brettman)

This course introduces students to foundational ethics and palliative care concepts within the health professions community and examines decision-making surrounding ethics in medical speech-language pathology. Specific ethics-related topics will be explored, including palliative care, tube feeding, interprofessional work, cultural humility, COVID-19, and the post-polio syndrome population. Analysis is delivered through case-based problem-solving and theoretical terminology through interactive, synchronous lectures and guest speakers. Students identify and develop strategies for difficult ethical situations in various healthcare settings. Action plans for navigating bioethical issues as a professional are explored.

EN-998-PL Creative Writing Poetry (with Heather Treseler)

"Poetry is the way we help give name to the nameless so it can be thought," wrote Audre Lorde, suggesting that poetry is often composed in the borderlands of experience, imagination, and language. This workshop class focuses on generating original poems to give expression to what, for each of us, might otherwise remain nameless or unwritten.

Each week, we will study and annotate two of "Twelve Great Hits" in American poetry to include poems by Chen Chen, Martin Espada, Joy Harjo, Carmen Giménez Smith, Frank Bidart, and Lisel Mueller. We will also compose and revise an original poem of our own making each week, and offer critiques to classmates' poems. Experimenting with the main modes and forms of poetry, we will add to our creative toolbox and knowledge of the genre.

The class meets asynchronously online and all poems are available in a free course packet and on the Poetry Foundation website. Graduate students will complete auxiliary readings in craft and lyric theory, and all students will receive guidance on preparing their work for performance and publication—in literary journals and with book presses.

While no previous experience with poetry is required, students should enjoy reading poems, writing creatively, and collaborating with peers.

EN-998-PL2 Travel Writing (with Jamie Remillard)

In this highly collaborative advanced writing course, you will draw on your first-hand experiences to craft nonfiction travel narratives. Through writing exercises, journaling, discussions, and workshops, you will work on: developing a distinctive voice, weaving narrative texture with context, reporting ethically on the places, people, and cultures you encounter, and infusing your interpretations with nuance and complexity. A rich travel experience can be found minutes from your doorstep in your own town or city, so airfare, pricey hotel accommodations, trendy luggage, fancy climbing gear, and high-adrenaline adventure are NOT REQUIRED. Assigned readings may include book-length literary nonfiction, travel memoirs, quest narratives, travel journalism, features, nature writing, travelogues, travel blogs, and/or destination guides. This is a highly collaborative course in which you will share your writing, at various stages, with your classmates and instructor as part of regular writing workshops.

EN-998-PL3 Women and Literature (with Elizabeth Bidinger)

This course introduces you to representative works by and about women from historical, social, and literary perspectives as it seeks to inform you about gendered identities.

HI-990-PL The Crusades (with Michael Gesin)

The Crusades continue to cast a long shadow over the history of the world. Recent political events have highlighted the importance of this conflict between Muslims and Christians has had on world events. This course will contextualize the Crusades in the medieval world by examining the following questions: Why did medieval people go on Crusade? What were the motives and experiences of the Crusaders? How did the Muslims view the Crusaders? How have scholars interpreted the Crusades? We will be examining these questions from the perspective of both the European Crusaders and the Muslims living in the East at the time of the Crusades.