

Special Topics Course Descriptions
Winter 2025

Undergraduate

CJ 340-IL ST: Psychological Profiles of Sex Offenders (with Hyesun Kim)

This course provides an in-depth examination of the psychological, behavioral and criminological aspects of sex offenders. It covers theoretical frameworks, the conceptual background of profiling, risk assessment and case studies. Students will learn to understand the complexities of sex offender behavior and develop skills for effective profiling and intervention. (3 credits)

CJ 340-IL2 ST: Serial Killers and Infamous Murders (with Mark Beaudry)

This course provides an interdisciplinary approach to the study of multiple murders, using known cases. Its core aim is to answer the “Why” behind the actions of serial killers of the past, highlighting theoretical explanations grounded in a diverse field of anthropology, psychology, sociology, and criminology. Presenting a conceptual framework for explaining the violence serial murderers commit. And, to learn about serial killer stereotypes surrounding race, gender, religion, and social status. (3 credits)

CJ 340-IL3 ST: 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. (3 credits)

CJ 340-IL4 ST: Sex Offenses (with Robert Brooks)

This course explores the criminal justice system’s regulation of consensual and nonconsensual 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. (3 credits)

EN 450-IL ST: 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 the intersections of class, gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and religious belief—shape representations of identity and experience in the work of contemporary writers Danzy Senna (*Where Did You Sleep Last Night?*), Isaac Fitzgerald (*Dirtbag, Massachusetts*), Augusten Burroughs (*Running with Scissors*), Caroline Knapp (*Pack of Two*), and Michael Patrick MacDonald (*All Souls: A Family Story from Southie*).

We will also consider excerpts from twentieth-century narratives by Miriam Levine (*Devotion*), Malcolm X (*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*), and Elizabeth Bishop (“The Country Mouse”) that focus specifically on writers’ experiences of Boston and Worcester.

The course includes weekly written lectures and discussion prompts from the instructor; students’ weekly discussion posts and responses; and, for undergraduates, two formal three-page papers. Graduate students will write one seminar-length (8-10 page) paper, due at the end of the course. The instructor offers weekly optional Zoom cafes for additional discussion of the readings and individual consultations for course assignments. (3 credits)

Graduate

EN 998-IL ST: Massachusetts Memoirs (with Heather Treseler)

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We will also consider excerpts from twentieth-century narratives by Miriam Levine (*Devotion*), Malcolm X (*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*), and Elizabeth Bishop (“The Country Mouse”) that focus specifically on writers’ experiences of Boston and Worcester.

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