

## Spring 2022 Special Course Descriptions

### **ANTC 170 Antioch Seminar: Devised Theater**

Devised Theatre is a method of creating a performance in which the final form of the work is developed through a collaborative, often improvisatory process that values the structure of consensus of those involved. The ensemble values the contributions of all participants and focuses on a process of generative collaboration, welcoming the participation of visual artists, composers, and choreographers, but does not limit itself to a recognition of specific roles. All are involved in every aspect of the work. The contributions of collaborating artists transcend a specificity of specialization and share in the agreement to common principles of improvisational development of the final piece, not only in the performative aspects of the work but in the creation of the performance as a whole. The work of devising recognizes that improvisation is crucial to the final development of the work, and includes all aspects of design, from performance to the environment in which it is presented. In the end, the development of the work is informed by the process of creation, collaboration, and a desire to present a fully formed work in a limited space of time. The course will focus on creating a fully formed work every two weeks, using a series of agreed-upon texts selected by the participants. It is a place of performative play and engagement with ideas that present themselves through a series of agreements of those involved. It is a DIY approach to creating performative work that values all contributions and recognizes the part we all play in sharing multiple visions of what is possible.

### **ENVS 450 Advanced Topics in Ecology: Field Methods**

Advanced Topics in Ecology: Field Methods is an experiential, methods-tagged course. Students will explore ecological theory through reading peer-reviewed primary science literature, and in the same week learn how to do field ecological measurements that align with those readings. Evaluation will be based on a portfolio of lab reports and active course participation.

### **FRAN 304 Special Topics in French and Francophone Literature: Late 19th Century Literary and Visual Art**

From a context of rapid industrialization, expanding colonialism, and consolidating nationalism, artists in France in both painted and written media expressed and reacted to the world around them in identifiable movements with enduring appeal. Realism, naturalism, hermetic symbolism, and the genres of short stories and sci-fi all see their birth or zenith during this period, along with impressionism, post-impressionism, and art-nouveau. This course interrogates literary forms stretching from the Paris Commune to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century through comparison and contrast with models and movements from the visual arts.

### **HIST 331 History of the American City: 1700 to the Present**

The course will explore the development of urban settlements in North America from the Native American city of Cahokia (near what is now St. Louis, Missouri) to the growth of urban settlements such as Boston, Philadelphia, and New York as British colonial centers, to the continued growth of urban areas as the United States attracted growing numbers of immigrants and expanded its territorial control. Students will study the shifting images of the city, as well as the economic, political, and infrastructural challenges that urban areas have faced.

### **HIST 335 The History of an Institution: The East India Company**

This course explores the history of the English East India Company, from its origins in the seventeenth century as a chartered trading company to its transformation as a territorial power in the eighteenth century, its apogee as a political power ruling its Indian territories on behalf of the British crown in the nineteenth century, and finally to its downfall and replacement by direct British rule in 1858. Through examining its activities in India and Asia, students will learn some of the connections between trade, military expansion, imperialism and colonialism that contributed to the establishment of Britain as the preeminent imperial and global power in the nineteenth century. The format of the course will be primarily discussion driven. Students are required to read the assigned material ahead of class in order to participate fully and contribute meaningfully to the class.

### **LIT 230 Introduction to a Form: Drama**

This course will provide a general introduction to drama by tracing various movements in theatre history and performance from the classical period to the present. From *Antigone* to *Angels in America*, students will analyze and compare generic forms of tragedy, comedy, farce, tragicomedy, romance, and melodrama, as well as elements of realism, naturalism, and magical realism. Together, we will investigate generic qualities of plot, character, setting, theme, dialogue, and monologue using various lenses of historical context and critical perspectives. We will also discuss how theatre “comes to life” through various methods of staging, direction, design, and critical interpretation from the page to the stage. We will ask ourselves: how do we read and interpret drama in historical context and over time? Further, how can drama adapt to address the issues of the present moment? Students will be afforded tools and strategies to think critically and interpret creatively, exploring methods of close reading, staged reading, and performance. Students will also be encouraged to write or adapt their own scene, act, or full play in collaboration with their peers.

### **LIT 350 Advanced Creative Writing: The Flash Fiction Novella**

This course is the study and production of a relatively new hybrid form of creative writing consisting of flash fiction (short bursts of stories typically less than 1000 words) combined with the narrative arc of the novella. The authors of *My Very End of the Universe*, the textbook used in this course, remark that the novella-in-flash “mixes the quick and the sustained into a single whole... allowing the author to build a world that is compact yet complex simultaneously.” This course will embark on a deep study of the form, the creation of your own novella-in-flash, workshop opportunities with peers, and a public reading. Previous experience reading and writing flash fiction is helpful, but creative writers who have already taken LIT 250 are welcome.

### **MEDA 365 Special Topics in Animation: Photoshop and AfterEffects**

An intermediate animation course focused on digital animation in Photoshop and After Effects. Students will explore a variety of animation techniques including frame-by-frame animation, motion graphics, and visual effects. Animation will be considered in its historical and contemporary context, as a means of experimental, commercial, and conceptual artistic expression. Strategies for visual communication and storytelling will be examined through exercises and projects.

### **PHIL 310 Special Topics in Philosophy: Buddhist Philosophy**

This course will be an in-depth introduction to Buddhist philosophies and practices. This 10-week study will include a variety of texts and traditions including the Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana traditions. We will begin with the study of Buddhism as it began in India with some of the earliest Buddhist texts and the words of the Buddha. We then study the development of Buddhist Dharma and Buddhist ideas in China, Korea, Tibet, and Japan. Topics covered include Buddhist metaphysics (the nature of reality, humanity and other beings); epistemology (questions of what is true and what is knowledge and how do we know); and axiology, or ethics and aesthetics (questions of value). We will also discuss Buddhism in its current state in the West and globally as well as modern philosophical and practical applications of Buddhist thought.