Spring 2014 Descriptions for Topics Courses

CRN#

40164  BUS 420-A Topic in Accounting: Forensic Accounting
        Prof. M. McCall
        This course introduces students to the methodology of fraud examination. In the first half we focus on the elements of fraud and the different types of fraud schemes, including fraudulent financial statements, asset misappropriation, corruption, and money laundering. In the second half of the course we focus on how professionals respond to fraud, with an emphasis on the legal framework, document analysis, interviewing, and report writing. Through a case study students work in teams to investigate a fraud scheme, maintain a case file, and conduct live interviews of role players. The demand for fraud examiners and forensic accountants continues to grow in both the private and public sectors. Skills developed in this course will help students in multiple professions including forensic accounting, financial accounting, and general business.

40424  COM 323-A Topics in Film: Cinema of Martin Scorsese
        Prof. R. Leone
        A survey of the works of, and influences on, the legendary American filmmaker.

40426  COM 333-A Topic in Mediated Communication: Identity, Gender and Media
        Prof. W. Mbure
        This course examines the role of old and new media on the development of identity and societal roles associated with gender. Topics discussed include masculinity and femininity in the digital age, and the merging of online and offline identities among digital natives.

40427  COM 414-A Special Topics in Communication: Advanced Video Production
        Prof. M. Yusna
        Expanding production principals and techniques for high definition video production and new media applications through short, creative client projects. Students will work with campus clients. Prerequisite: COM 215.

40610  CRM 352-A Topics in Criminology: Terrorism
        Prof. A. Twyman-Ghoshal
        The aim of this course is to place terrorism in context, to better understand what terrorism is, the various manifestations of the phenomenon, and its root causes. The class looks at the historical origins of the concept and its use around the world, including an examination of state terror and domestic terrorism. Students are encouraged to think critically by examining some cutting edge criminological research, including understanding the internationalization of terrorism, terrorism finance, and counter-terrorism. The course culminates by looking at various due process issues that have arisen with the implementation of recent counter-terrorist tactics in the United States.

40611  CRM 352-B Topics in Criminology: The Jury System
        Prof. P. Dawley
        The constitutional guarantee to a trial by jury in the United States remains the hallmark of a fair and democratic justice system. This course will provide students with foundational knowledge about the participants, current issues, and rules of procedure, evidence, and law which govern trial by jury. After examining the historical and contemporary role of the jury system and comparing alternative foreign justice systems, the focus will be on the importance of the jury in the criminal justice system. Key issues may include: jury selection, the system of juror challenges, trial consultants, juror bias and pretrial publicity, the jury decision making process, juror difficulty in evaluating scientific evidence, the debate over jury nullification, and issues jurors confront involving capital punishment and insanity defenses. Texts used in class may include Jeffrey Abramson's We, The Jury: The Jury System and the Ideal of Democracy and Neil Vidmar's American Juries: The Verdict.

40295  ENG 304-A Topics in Early Modern Literature: Subversion and Scandal
        Prof. K. Bennett
        This class examines intertextual conversations among popular writers including Marlowe, Nashe, Shakespeare, Chapman, Middleton, and their classical sources, as well as the embodied exchanges arising in late sixteenth and early seventeenth-century England. We will first learn how to recognize conversational networks among multiple texts, and then study their literary and sociopolitical implications.
EN 342-A Topics in Creative Writing: Poetry
Prof. A. Brooks
The goal of this course is to help students strengthen and re-imagine their poetic voices and to consider aspects of the craft of writing poetry through close reading, writing and revising poems, and participating in writing workshops. We will read poets such as Emily Dickinson, Elizabeth Bishop, Philip Larkin, Gwendolyn Brooks, Seamus Heaney, Yusef Komunyakaa, and Gabriel Garcia Lorca, Robert Frost, and Louise Gluck (among many others) whose poems will serve as examples of the type of work that we are striving to create. In addition, students will attend at least one poetry reading during the course and compile a final portfolio of their work.

EN 343-A Topics in Creative Writing: Short Fiction
Prof. A. Brooks
This creative writing course is designed to give students the time and space to explore a wide variety of forms and styles, while also providing them with a sense of some of the major trends, currents, and controversies that are present in contemporary fiction writing. We will read shorts works by many contemporary authors that will in turn inform weekly writing experiments and projects that we will share in class, as well as critical discussion.

EN 344-A Topics in Creative Non-Fiction
Prof. A. Brooks
In this creative nonfiction course we will read distinct, recent, nonfiction meditations which we will use throughout as inspirations for our own writing. Our own writing experiments will explore the uses of memory, observation, and research with close attention to structure and form in creative nonfiction writing. We work with the goal of exciting interest and developing deftness in the construction of longer-form memoirs, meditations, or investigations. “We live entirely, especially if we are writers, by the imposition of a narrative line upon disparate images, by the “ideas” with which we have learned to freeze the shifting phantasmagoria which is our actual experience.”
- Joan Didion, The White Album.

EN 349-A Topics in Irish Literature: Nationalism, Religion, and Mother Ireland
Prof. G. Piggford, CSC
An engagement with the English-language literature of Ireland in the twentieth century, with an emphasis on the theme of "Mother Ireland" as it relates colonialism, nationalism, the Troubles, and relations between Ireland’s Catholic and Protestant communities. Literary texts include short stories, poems, and plays by major Irish writers including W.B. Yeats, James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Edna O’Brien, Eavan Boland, and Seamus Heaney.

EN 367-A Topics in Nineteenth-Century American Literature: Great American Novel
Prof. L. Scales
At the heart of this course will be four works that have been labeled Great American Novels: Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Herman Melville’s Moby-Dick, Mark Twain’s The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, and Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man. How has American cultural identity been shaped by its literature? What national narratives do these epic novels tell? We will consider how the form of the novel allows it to function as social protest, historiography, adventure tale, and study of psychological and spiritual states. We’ll also read some works that were considered “lesser” in their day in order to ask how different generations have defined literary greatness.

EN 390-A Topics in Modernism: The Pen of Light: Photography and the Literary Imagination
Prof. J. Green
Beginning in the nineteenth century with the photography and writings of the earliest photographers, including Henry Fox Talbot, Louis Daguerre, and Nadar. this course will examine how photography changed the course of literature even as literature challenged photography’s claims to unmediated truth. Exemplary photographs from across the history of the medium will be paired with classic and contemporary writing on photography from authors such as Honoré de Balzac, Walter Benjamin, Susan Sontag, Roland Barthes, and Erroll Morris, among others. In conversation with these materials will be fiction and non-fiction concerning photographers and the photographic image, such as Julio Cortázar’s “Blow Up”, Marguerite Duras’ The Lover, Richard Powers’ Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance, Michael Ondaatje’s Running in the Family, and W.G. Sebald’s Austerlitz. Other authors to be considered may include Poe, Hawthorne, Emerson, Baudelaire, Proust, and Isherwood.

NOTE: An iPad (second generation or newer) is required for this course. iPads will be used to deliver and create materials for the course. If you do not own an iPad and cannot purchase one for this course, the College will lend you a device for the duration of
the course. After you have registered for the course, you will need to stop by the IT Service Desk (Duffy 025) during the first week of classes to request a loaner.

40721 ENG 392-A Topics in Postcolonial and Global Literature: Postcolonial London
Prof. S. Cohen
During the twentieth century London was transformed from the center of the world’s largest empire into an international crossroads. Without question Britain’s imperial legacy contributed to making London an international city, a metropolis where former colonial subjects and new members of the Commonwealth migrated. People came to the city for a variety of reasons: to work in the reconstruction efforts following the devastation of WWII, to attend school in the city’s universities, to affirm their loyalty to the British Empire, and for many other reasons. Immigrants have radically changed the cultural fabric of London: its architecture, its music, its districts, its cinema, its public spaces, its cuisine, its commercial districts, and, of course, its literature. But the rich diversity that makes London a lively multicultural city has not come without bitter struggles. Even though the structures and attitudes of imperial rule have long since faded, a disturbing amount of animosity marks the racial politics of London and scores the daily lives of second and third generation immigrants. In this course we will study a wide array of texts that address London’s status as a postcolonial city. The former imperial center now faces many of the same issues that characterize former colonial possessions: the challenge of sustaining traditional communities in the face of globalization, the complicated politics of class and gender, the instability of living on the edges of dominant culture, and the promise and challenge of cosmopolitanism. Within the 600 square miles of modern urban London we can trace much of the history of British literature and culture during the twentieth century. We will look as far back as 43-50 AD, but our principle focus will extend from the middle of century with Sam Selvon and George Lamming’s novels from the “Windrush” years to the contemporary landscapes of Hanan Al-Shaykh and Gurinder Chadha. The work of postcolonial and cultural thinkers will provide a theoretical framework that will help us explore the shifting topography of what some critics have called the last colony of the British Empire.

40305 ENG 422-A Seminar: Romanticism and History
Prof. M. Borushko
This course examines the relationship between Romanticism and its historical context though a series of case studies: how the early histories of the French Revolution were written; how the pressures of history shaped Wordsworth’s formal poetics in his lyrics and in The Prelude; and how Shelley and Byron’s work partakes of an era-wide crisis of historical representation. We’ll also look very closely at the question of method: that is, we’ll read theory and criticism as a pathway to forming our own sense of a proper historical (or historicist) method in literary studies.

40310 GND 200-A Topics in Gender and Sexuality Studies: Gender and Young Adult Fiction
Prof. J. Howe
In this course, we will consider the relationship between young adult literature and gender. In recent years, this genre has become widely influential in mainstream media, saturating popular culture and producing some of the highest grossing film and book sales of the last decade. But what messages do these novels send their readers? What do they tell us about what it means to be a woman? A man? About love? About relationships? This course will focus primarily on popular contemporary young adult fiction with some attention placed on gender theory and film adaptations.

40658 GND 200-B Topics in Gender and Sexuality Studies: Lives for Sale
Prof. M. Dussault
Human Trafficking is the fastest growing global crime and often overlooked domestically. Students will engage in extensive research and study so that they have a comprehensive understanding of the economic, social, political, cultural, and familial factors that are the root of this crime.

40331 PHL 266-A Topics in Philosophy: Let’s Talk About Sex
Prof. M. Labinski
This course explores some of the questions philosophers have raised about sex using both text and film. For example, what does it mean to desire something sexually? What does a sexual body look like? What is the status of sex work? As these questions have been most passionately explored by feminist philosophers, this course also serves as an introduction to ‘feminist philosophies’ broadly construed.
40352  POL 357-A Topic in Politics: Immigration, Human Rights, and Equality  
Prof. E. Gallagher  
This course will consider the topic of immigration from a human rights perspective, particularly following the catastrophic events of 9/11. After offering students a brief overview of U.S. immigration law and those responsible for implementing it, weekly classes will examine the treatment and protection of “irregular and survival migrants,” challenges associated with Comprehensive Immigration Reform legislation, detention, deportation and civil rights, and the exercise of discretion by state, local and federal authorities.

40353  POL 357-B Topic in Politics: Political Campaigns: History, Practice, Communication  
Prof. S. Ferson  
This course will look at selected historical political campaigns to study what tactics and strategies, particularly communications have been successful and why. These case studies will serve as a foundation to examine today’s political races and to anticipate successful strategies in future election cycles.

40699  POL 357-C Topic in Politics: Campaign Management  
Prof. J. Walsh  
This course will teach students the essential elements and tactics of a successful political campaign. For students who wish to run for office or work in political campaigns, we will cover all aspects of managing a modern campaign.

We will begin with a discussion of the factors candidates must consider before making the decision to run. Our work will include how to develop the campaign’s message and overall strategy to win. We’ll proceed through each function or department in the campaign.

The focus will be the hands-on, practical decisions the campaign’s leadership will be required to make and the prism we’ll examine these through will be a local state or municipal race. The final will require each student to submit a formal campaign plan.

40589  REL 330-A Topics in Religious Studies: The Laity  
Prof. P. Beisheim  
An interdisciplinary examination, utilizing a models of Church typology, of the nature and role of the lay person in the Church and in Society.

40714  REL 330-B Topics in Religious Studies: Christianity in a World Come of Age  
Prof. P. DaPonte  
While imprisoned for his opposition to Nazism, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian and pastor, wrote extensively, mostly in the form of outlines for future theology papers and projects, and most importantly, in letters that indicate that he pondered deeply the question of the future of Christianity "come of age"—without the security of religion’s emphasis on metaphysics and its tendency toward privatized spirituality.

40635  SOC 352-A Topics in Sociology: Democratic Education  
Prof. C. Wetzel  
This course is linked with the Integrating Democratic Education at Stonehill (IDEAS) program and is limited to students who are facilitating courses. IDEAS is an interdisciplinary, student-centered program that fosters engagement and active learning by creating an environment for students to share their passions, wisdom, and knowledge with their peers in student-led one credit courses. This seminar will focus on innovative approaches to pedagogy, the changing landscape of higher education, and analyzing the potential roles for democratic education in Stonehill’s liberal arts curriculum.

40484  VPS 207-A Special Projects: Homemade Journals and Artists’ Books: Collage  
Prof. C. Walters  
This course explores alternative and traditional methods of collage and assemblage using unique materials from detritus to personal treasures. Elements of drawing, painting, mono-printing and writing will be included to create multiple, evocative, visual statements.