Fall 2013 Descriptions for Topics Courses

**20058 BUS 420-A, Topics in Accounting: International Accounting**  
Prof. J. Sacchetti  
This course will start off with an introduction to the nature and scope of international accounting, including issues relative to international trade and foreign direct investment. It will present examples of worldwide accounting diversity and the cultural and socio-economic reasons for this diversity. With this background, the student will be better able to understand the drivers behind the formulation of different accounting standards, and, as a result, understand the standards, themselves. The course will then discuss the arguments for and against global convergence of accounting standards and specifically focus on the IASB/FASB convergence project. The course will describe the differences between IFRS and U.S. GAAP with respect to recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure, and it will compare and contrast the relative standards of both.

**20252 COM 333-A, Topics in Mediated Communication: Media Regulation**  
Prof. R. Leone  
This course is an examination of how control, from government censorship to forms of industry self-regulation, is exhibited over the media.

**20175 CRM 352-A, Topics in Criminology: Policing**  
Prof. P. Kelley  
This course will explore the law enforcement component of the criminal justice system. It will include discussions on different policing models; police management and organization; the recruitment and selection process; the patrol function; the investigation function; as well as, special topics in policing like use of force and the impact of technological advances.

**20601 ENG 220-A, Introductory Topics in Literature: Space, Place, and Landscape**  
Prof. L. Scales  
How do the landscapes we inhabit mark our lives and shape the stories we tell? In a global, commercial, networked world, how do we define “space” and “place”? This course examines literature from a variety of American geographies, both built and natural: cities and suburbs, plains and forests, mountains and oceans.

**20605 ENG 306-A, Topics in British Literature, 1700-1900: Novel and Psychology**  
Prof. S. Gracombe  
It is no coincidence that the rise of the novel as a literary genre coincides with the rise of what we now call the discipline of psychology. Before there were Freud and Jung, not to mention Dr. Phil and Dr. Drew, there were a variety of philosophers, doctors, scientists, politicians, and religious figures concerned with psychological questions, ones that still preoccupy us today: what is the relationship between the mind and the body? How much control do we have over our own personality and behavior? Why do we repeat or repress certain experiences, especially the traumas of love and war? Where is the border between sanity and insanity? Who should be given the authority to treat mental illnesses and how? This course will examine the way British novelists from 1800-1920 engaged with these same questions. In particular, we will explore how novelists addressed problems of memory and sexuality. Our syllabus pairs each novel with at least one medical, biological, or cultural idea about the mind that was circulating in its era. For example, when we read Rebecca West’s *Return of the Soldier*, we will also read the work of a prominent WWI psychologist who treated actual soldiers suffering from amnesia and “shell shock.” Similarly, we will investigate the way both George Du Maurier’s bizarre blockbuster *Trilby* and Bram Stoker’s still-popular *Dracula* participate in debates about hypnotism, will power, and female sexuality. Throughout, we will also explore how writers struggled to develop new narrative techniques to capture the complex workings of interiority on the printed page.

**20609 ENG 342-A, Topics in Creative Writing: Poetry**  
Prof. A. Ross  
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.
ENG 343-A, Topics in Creative Writing: Beginning Fiction
Prof. J. Green
This intensive creative writing workshop is designed to help the beginning and intermediate writer develop his/her voice through a focus on what has come to be known as “micro fiction” or “flash fiction”. Micro fiction is an emerging and increasingly popular short story genre that challenges the author to construct a well-shaped story in under 1000 words. Even though our focus will be on reading and producing very short forms, we will work on all of the basic elements of the writer's craft, including plot, setting, characterization, dialogue, and narrative tension. The workshop format will balance spontaneous, energetic writing exercises with careful revision and thoughtful, constructive critiques that will assist each author in realizing the full potential of his/her work. Students will produce numerous very short prose pieces and a final story collection. Readings will include work by such authors as Joyce, Kawabata, Twain, Hemingway, Kafka, Eggers, Duras, Munro, Hempel, Paley, Keret, Barthelme, and Kincaid, among others.

ENG 345-A, Topics in Advanced Creative Writing: Advanced Fiction
Prof. A. Brooks
Contact instructor for course description.

ENG 367-A, Topics in Nineteenth-Century American Literature: Living American Literature
Prof. L. Scales
Early American literature was written and lived all around us in New England. In this course we will read early American literature in its historical context and visit the living sites of literary history. We’ll study American literature from its beginnings, through the formation of a new nation, to the start of the Civil War. Authors will include Bradstreet, Franklin, Equiano, Emerson, Fuller, Poe, Douglass, Hawthorne, Whitman, Melville, Dickinson, and Alcott. These texts will help us understand narratives of origins and encounter; Gothic haunting; visions of reform and revolution; ideas of nature, wilderness, and the “frontier;” and the changing meanings of domesticity, gender, and childhood.

Note: Field trips are expected to include: Concord, Plymouth, New Bedford, Salem, and Boston. Field trips will be held on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Sundays on dates to be determined.

ENG 391-A, Topics in Gender and Sexuality Studies: Engendering Theory
Prof. G. Piggford, CSC
An exploration of gender and sexuality in relation to the major currents of critical theory: psychoanalytic, ideological, deconstructive.

Note: This course fulfills the ENG 300 Critical Theory requirement for English majors.

ENG 422-A, Seminar: The Territorial Imagination
Prof. S. Cohen
For at least three decades, literary scholars have found productive lines of inquiry surrounding issues of space, place, and location in literature. This focus has allowed space to become a common trope for interpreting literary texts. This seminar will read and build on some of the best studies of space and place in order to sketch what might be called the “territorial imagination” in the novel. We will focus on how novels articulate and negotiate real and imagined boundaries. The seminar will be framed by several important questions concerning how literature treats real world imperatives to bound, confine, map, chart, and generally define space. This course will consider the role of the nation state in the novel and the parallel urgency to define geographical space for a variety of reasons as well as fantasies of deterritorialization. We will attempt to pursue a genuinely interdisciplinary focus, reading novels and theoretical texts alongside maps, historical documents, and the founding texts in the field of boundary making.

HIS 330-A, United States Seminar: History of Gender on America’s College Campuses
Prof. E. Belanger
“Coeds and Frat Boys: A History of Gender on America’s College Campuses.” This seminar takes an in-depth look at how the undergraduate experience has shaped notions of gender in America. Beginning with the rise of all women’s colleges in the 1800s and ending with the contemporary “hook-up” scene, the class explores such topics as student culture at the turn of the century, the tensions and challenges when colleges went coed, the GI Bill and Title IX. In addition to reading and discussion, students will undertake an original research project in Stonehill’s archives.

Pre-requisites: Sophomore, Junior, Senior standing.

Note: Course may be counted towards the Gender and Sexuality Studies and American Studies programs.
20676  NEU 200-A, Seminar in Neuroscience: Neurological Basis of Behavior
TBA
This course will focus on historical and current topics in Neuroscience. Examples of topics that may be discussed include: developmental disorders, such as those on the autistic spectrum, neuroimaging and the information that can be gleaned from various techniques, sex differences, neurophysiology, epigenetics, and learning and memory. The focus of the course may vary from year to year. Readings may be from several sources including the primary literature. Pre-requisites: BIO 101 and BIO 211.

20699  PHL 266-A, Topics in Philosophy: Media, Reality, Identity
Prof. E. McGushin
This course investigates the extent to which contemporary culture and media have transformed the way we live, think, and interact with each other and our surroundings. What happens to our identity, social relationships, and even our fundamental understanding of what is real, when media and cultural forms become so deeply integrated into our everyday experience?

20279  POL 357-A, Topics in Politics: Latin American Politics
Prof. K. Buckman
This course introduces students to politics and issues in modern Latin America as we develop a framework for understanding Latin American democracy. The semester begins with a consideration of the historical legacies of colonialism and transitions to independence. Most of the course is dedicated to exploring themes of authoritarianism, revolution, economic liberalization and democratization in the 20th and 21st centuries. We study the cases of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

20280  POL 357-B, Topics in Politics: Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Prof. A. Ohanyan
The course introduces the students to the theory and practice of conflict resolution. The theories covered focus on the sources and manifestations of various types of conflicts, ranging from inter-state to inter-communal, ethno-nationalist to civil wars. The practical dimension of the course examines the existing tools of local, national, regional and international interventions employed by state and non-state actors. The course will utilize case studies and simulations of some of the most protracted conflicts around the world.

20413  SOC 352-A, Topics in Sociology: Health and Illness
Prof. L. Carlson
This course involves an exploration of the social factors that influence the distribution and treatment of illness in society. The class will also include a critical examination of the American health care system and the evolution of the doctor-patient relationship in our society. You will be presented with cross-cultural views on a variety of health problems, and you will be expected to come prepared to think critically about these problems and to participate fully in class discussions.

20709  VPS 207-A, Special Projects: Experimental Media and Technology in Studio Arts
Prof. D. Kinsey
This class will explore various media and technology for the creation of artworks in the studio arts. The course will begin with visual fundamentals and apply those to emerging media. Those fundamentals will focus on elements and principles of design, such as: line, shape, color, texture, rhythm, variety, harmony, etc. and expand to more conceptual depth as the course progresses. Although digital media tools are central to our work, we will be incorporating elements ranging from drawing, painting, printmaking, to collage. These analog elements will then go through a digital process and worked back into with analog elements.(For example, one project will involve creating drawings with traditional drawing materials, scanned into the computer, manipulated in photoshop , printed out and then drawn back into the image). Experimentation will be key in how the class and individual students advance. It is recommended, but not required that students have some knowledge of technological components such as some use of computers, digital cameras, ipads and/or tablets, smart phones, etc.
This class will explore how scientific issues and advances over the centuries have been interpreted in the theater. Class will read and watch selected plays, and delve into the portrayal of their subject matter through discussion and analysis of scripts, public response, and long-term social change.

*Note: This course is part of LC 320-A The Big Bang Theory and Other Scientific Art Forms.*