

FALL 2015
NON-CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CIVT 202: PERTINENCE: NUMB3RS: MODELING THE ENVIRONMENT

We will learn to use data to construct mathematical models of our environment. These models can be used to identify patterns and predict future trends. We will learn about environmental challenges facing South Dakota and the world today, and use mathematical skills to analyze those challenges and suggest solutions. Through in-class discussion and analysis, lab activities, and a semester project students will apply mathematical skills to real-world problems. Analysis of data and understanding of environmental theory will be combined to provide a complete picture of how math and biology merge in applied problem solving. Cross listed with MATH 197. Non-Civitas students must have permission of instructor to register.

CIVT 203: JUSTICE: JUSTICE AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL

(See RELI 255)

CIVT 204: FREEDOM: POLITICS AND LITERATURE

(See GOVT 275)

ENGL 200 F: CHRISTIANITY AND LITERATURE

In this topics-based variant of "The Literary Experience," students will be challenged to understand how the Christian tradition shaped the cultural experiences of significant authors' lives, and thus their writing. Authors in this course may include notable historical figures, such as St. Augustine, Dante, Donne, Milton, Bunyan, Hopkins, and Dostoevsky. In order to demonstrate how Christianity continues to shape the literary experiences of the post-modern world, the course also will include a healthy range of literature from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries (T. S. Eliot, Flannery O'Connor, John Updike, and others).

GENS 297: TOPICS: GENDER, SEX, AND SEXUALITY

This course approaches gender, sex, and sexuality as social categories in contemporary life. Using sociological theories and methods, this course will examine how these categories are socially constructed and how they change, paying particular attention to intersections with other social categories, such as race, ethnicity, class, and nationality. Cross listed with SOCI 297.

MATH 197: TOPICS: NUMB3RS: MODELING THE ENVIRONMENT

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PHIL 297: TOPICS: FREE WILL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the first part of this course, we will study philosophical theories of the nature and extent of human freedom. We will consider such questions as: Is freedom compatible with determinism, or does our ability to act freely require us to be uncaused causes of our actions? If the natural world is indeterministic, does that leave room for freedom or simply make our actions a matter of chance? The nature and extent of human freedom will matter in so far as free choice is necessary for moral responsibility, so we will examine the relationship between these concepts, and the implications of various accounts of free will for practices of praise and blame, reward and punishment. In the second part of the course, we will consider what the natural sciences can tell us about human freedom and moral responsibility. After considering skeptical challenges to the claim that we are normally free and responsible for what we do, arising from neuroscience and psychology, we will look at some empirical work on such issues as addiction and psychopathy and discuss what philosophical theories of freedom and responsibility have to say about such disorders.

PHIL 332 SEMIAR: ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

An introduction to philosophical issues concerning nature and the environment. Topics may include: philosophy of nature, environmental ethics, environmental law and policy, animal rights, hunting and fishing, water use, land ethics and agriculture, forestry, ecophenomenology, deep ecologies, environment and social justice, new technologies, wilderness, sustainability, and biodiversity. Prerequisites: Philosophy 220 and 230, or permission of instructor.

PSYC 397: TOPICS: CURRENT ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY

This discussion-based seminar will explore some of the most important recent advances in psychology. Students will read a selection of best-selling books popularizing research conducted by top scholars in various areas of psychology (e.g., cognitive, developmental, social, clinical). In addition, students will read the original research articles upon which the books were based. Discussions will center on critical evaluation of the research, and how to apply research findings to students' intended careers and personal lives. Prerequisites: JR OR SR STANDING, AT LEAST 3 PSYC COURSES.

RELI 397 TOPICS: LUTHERAN HERITAGE: HISTORY (A4.2)

A study of the history and religious heritage of the Lutheran denomination, its origin with Luther's Reformation and expansion in continental Europe, and its beginnings and development in America. Prerequisite: RELI 110

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