

SPRING 2017
NON-CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ASL 397 TOPICS: DEAF HEART

CIVT 202 PERTINENCE: LEWIS AND CLARK: THEN AND NOW

This course uses the Dakota portion of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-06) to explore the environmental changes that have occurred in the region over the past two hundred years focusing on the prairie and the Missouri River. Most the changes are “man-made” and they result from a particular mindset—about what a proper environment looks like. This mindset also affects how the environment is organized spatially, environmentally, and socially. Comparing what Lewis and Clark noted in their journals with today’s landscape one can begin to consider the consequences (perhaps good and/or bad) of the changes wrought to the region. This course culminates with a weekend exploration of the Missouri River and its surrounding environs where Lewis and Clark wintered in 1804.

CIVT 203 JUSTICE: CHE GUEVARA, THE NEW MAN AND TRANSNATIONAL JUSTICE

Ernesto “Che” Guevara practiced guerrilla warfare as a method to achieve the liberation of Third-World countries and the installation of communist regimes that would purportedly guarantee social justice. We analyze Che’s ideas and his trajectory from his wandering years as a leprosy doctor in Latin America to his rise as a Cuban Revolution “Comandante,” his fight in Congo, and his final defeat in Bolivia. We also study the influence of his life and ideas in Spanish America, paying particular attention to his conception of the New Man, who would incarnate ideals of social equality and individual sacrifice. Besides Che’s own writings, this course incorporates the study of scholarly research from diverse political perspectives as well as fictional, artistic, and commercial representations of Ernesto Guevara by followers, critics, and detractors.

CIVT 204 FREEDOM: THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR

This course will examine the century-old tension between the freedoms assumed by creative artists and producers in the American film industry and the criticism of and limitations placed on those freedoms by those concerned about the effects of movies on American society and culture. We will examine numerous films that have been altered or withheld from distribution because of their content and potential effects, as well as historical and theoretical essays addressing the relationships between films and their viewers, to understand how freedom plays out on screen...and on the cutting room floor. This course is rated MA: Mature audiences only.

CLAS 297 TOPICS: TRACING ROOTS OF WESTERN CIVILIZATIONS

This course will attempt to trace one of the many strains in the development of Western Civilization by paying close attention to the Golden Age of Ancient Athens (478-404 BC). This brief but dynamic and creative period in a small ancient city shaped our modern world. We will examine the historical and cultural conditions that gave rise to the Golden Age as well as those that led to its collapse. Along the way we will also discuss several questions of historiography: how should we preserve the past, and what can we learn from it? Enrollment in this course is by invitation only.

MUSI 397 TOPICS: ADVANCED THEORY

This course will explore analysis and music theory at an advanced level. Application of traditional methods of analysis will be extended to incorporate multi-level observations of traditional musical styles, including micro, middle, and macro analyses. The objective will be to establish and practice guidelines for stylistic analysis of compositional techniques that will result in a better understanding for listening and performing.

PHIL 297 TOPICS: TRACING ROOTS OF WESTERN CIVILIZATIONS

This course will attempt to trace one of the many strains in the development of Western Civilization by paying close attention to the Golden Age of Ancient Athens (478-404 BC). This brief but dynamic and creative period in a small ancient city shaped our modern world. We will examine the historical and cultural conditions that gave rise to the Golden Age as well as those that led to its collapse. Along the way we will also discuss several questions of historiography: how should we preserve the past, and what can we learn from it? Enrollment in this course is by invitation only.