

CentreTerm and Spring 2025 – New Course Descriptions

ARS 170 – Intro to Graphic Design

This course provides an introduction to the art, history, and theory of graphic design practices as well as digital production processes. In addition to gaining a basic understanding of the graphic design industry, students will learn the foundations of design thinking. Specific topics include color, typography, layout, legal considerations, logo design, and branding. Technical demonstrations will be combined with presentations of the work of designer artists. Students will learn design software and participate in group critiques of each assignments.

ARS 238/338 – Clay, Fire, & Soda

During this hands-on studio course, students will learn how to create various forms of ceramic wheel-thrown pottery, and how to load and fire the soda kiln. Soda firing is a high-fire process of introducing sodium carbonate and bicarbonate into the gas kiln at temperatures around 2300 degrees Fahrenheit. The soda interacts with the clay and glaze surfaces in unpredictable but exciting ways. This course will introduce the history and science of atmospheric firing, contemporary applications and the artists using this method of firing ceramics. Students in this course can expect to spend time outside of class working on ceramic projects in the studio and firing kilns, this may include evening and weekend firing shifts. Students enrolled in ARS 338 will be assigned higher skill level ceramic projects and firing shifts.

ARS 337 – Ceramics: Material Science

Building from the foundational material science learned in intro ceramics courses, students will dive deeper into the glaze chemistry, clay-body formulation and firing practices in cone 6 electric and cone 10 gas kilns. With emphasis on acquiring an understanding of the technical skills needed to test and successfully create ceramic glazes, students will have the ability to create their own pallet of glaze/clay/firing to best meet the visual and practical needs within their art. Each project will focus on formulating and firing glazes on ceramics test tiles designed by each student. Production of ceramic art is not the emphasis in this course, however students will be graded on one final ceramic project displaying the research and development of the pallet created throughout the term. Pre-requisites: ARS 131, ARS 230, or ARS 233

ASN 170/CHN 370 – Ghosts, Gods & Cyborgs in China

From ancient tales of ghosts and gods to the futuristic visions of cyborgs and artificial intelligence, this course will take you on a journey through China's rich tradition of supernatural storytelling and science fiction. "Ghosts, Gods & Cyborgs in China" explores a wide range of Chinese literature, film, and television, from the classical era to contemporary popular culture. You will encounter demons and spirits in premodern texts, experience the haunting power of modern horror cinema, and venture into the speculative worlds of Chinese science fiction, where technology and humanity intersect in intriguing ways.

ASN 410/REL 413 – Ceramics and Spirituality in Korea

This course provides an overview of Korean philosophical, religious, and spiritual traditions and examines how such traditions have historically been incorporated into Korea's ceramic practices. Students will review ceramic pieces from the 10th century up to the present day in relation to the development of Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, and Neo-Confucianism and their respective continuities and discontinuities in Korea. The course will further situate Korea's ceramic history within the context of economic trade; cultural exchange; and Japanese imperialism. Students will have the opportunity to explore one of Korea's ceramic villages; participate in a pottery experience with a ceramic master; and further experience the many aspects of Korean culture.

BUS 230 – Decoding the Family Business

This course explores the unique challenges and opportunities faced by family businesses. Through a combination of theoretical frameworks, case studies, and practical applications, students will gain insights into the dynamics of family-owned enterprises, including governance, succession planning, stewardship, rising generations, and strategic management. Prerequisite: ECO 110

CHE 390 – Teaching and Learning in Chemistry

Designed for students serving as learning assistants in the chemistry classroom, this course invites students to consider their learning experience, study fundamental ideas of teaching and learning, and reflect on the implementation of current active learning techniques in the chemistry classroom. Pre-requisite: Permission from the instructor.

CRW 195 – Stories in the Cloth

In this course, students will explore the connections between the narrative arts and the textile arts. What is the difference between constructing a text and constructing a textile? In other words: how are the head and the hand connected? We will explore the historical, multicultural, and gendered roots that merge language arts with textile arts (i.e., quilting and other forms of sewing), arguing that both are figures of speech. In addition to assigned readings and in-class discussion, students will examine the above questions through hands-on "making" (writing and sewing). By semester's end, each student will have a portfolio of writing and a handful of small, hand-sewn objects. Every good artist conducts a dialogue between concrete practices and thinking; this dialogue evolves into sustaining habits, and these habits establish a rhythm between problem-solving and problem-finding.

CRW 233 – Writing the Self, Growth, and Change

In this class, students will read published works of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction by authors who have used the art of writing to explore stories of healing, recovery, growth, transition, and change. Students will also examine research addressing the benefits of creative writing for recovery and mental health. Working carefully with the instructor through generative exercises as well as drafting, revision, and review, students will identify their topic or topics to explore further, and learn to make choices about genre, structure, perspective, and style, to discover the best ways to shape their stories for themselves and for a reader at this time. By the end of the term students will have completed their own portfolio of work about the self, growth, and change.

CRW 283/FLM 283 – Film Adaptation

This course examines the relationship between literature and cinema by focusing on how prose genres, such as novels and short stories, are interpreted for the screen. Adaptation theory, the systematic study of film based on literary sources, will provide a foundation for our central question: How does the medium pages or a screen affect the transmission of a narrative to its intended audience? In addition to casual and formal responses to readings, screenings, and lecture-discussions, students will write their own screenplay adaptations.

CSC 110 – Iterative Game Design

This course delves into the iterative nature of game development, focusing on both design and evaluation through playtesting. Students will explore the process of creating compelling game mechanics, storytelling, and interactive systems. A major component of the course will involve playtesting prototypes at various stages of development, allowing students to observe how players interact with their designs. Feedback collection, playtest reporting, and analyzing user experience will be emphasized to refine games over time. By the course's conclusion, students will present a well-balanced and engaging game, demonstrating mastery of both design principles and the iterative testing process.

CSC 125 – AI in Everyday Language

This course introduces students to the foundational concepts of Artificial Intelligence (AI), with an emphasis on Large Language Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT. Students will explore AI's historical development, understand the basics of generative models, and engage in hands-on experiments, crafting prompts for LLMs. The course also examines practical applications, ethical considerations, and societal impacts. Designed to demystify AI for all students, this course encourages exploration of the scientific method through innovative AI technologies. No coding or mathematical background is required, making it accessible to all students interested in this exciting, rapidly evolving field.

DSC 335 – Bayesian Data Analysis

The Bayesian statistical paradigm is an alternative to the frequentist paradigm prevalent in most introductory statistics courses. This course examines Bayes' Theorem and the philosophy and history of Bayesian methods. It introduces Bayesian alternatives to frequentist inferential techniques. Topics include prior and posterior distributions, conjugate priors, hierarchical models, hypothesis testing, regression, and the Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method. The course emphasizes statistical computing as well as real-world data analysis and communication. Prerequisites: MAT 310, DSC 230, and MAT 165. Or, permission from the instructor.

EDU 272 – Educational Journey in Well-Being

Since our recent global pandemic, there has been a heightened awareness regarding overall well-being. Arguably, many organizations and workplaces have moved from not only awareness but to acting for the betterment of their constituents. While not all-inclusive of the many dimensions that contribute to an individual's well-being, this course will take students on an academic journey through the following four pillars: physical, mental, social, and spiritual. Students will examine the academic literature in each of these areas to develop a personal and lifetime plan for well-being. Through a critical lens, each plan will be researched-based. Students will expand on their newfound knowledge to develop a wellness plan for a particular group of interest outside their community (ex: K-12 students, local community members, elderly, etc...). Note: This class will include a low-impact physical component.

EGR 215 – Computer-Aided Design and Drafting

Introduction to the use of two computer aided design software programs. Introduction to 3D solid modeling software to describe and define mechanical objects using current industrial standards. Introduction to software for drafting, design, and modeling surfaces in 2D and 3D with documentation features.

EGR 320 – Mechanics of Materials

A study of stress, strain, and deformation of solids due to tension, compression, shear, torsion, and bending with application to linear elastic material behavior. Additional topics will include combined loading, stress transformation and column buckling. Pre-requisites: EGR 220

ENG 249 – The Weird Nineteenth Century

The nineteenth century contained the rise of industrialism, as well as the rise of celebrity culture, urban living, and the concept of "leisure." It was also frequently terrifying and weird as a result. This class looks at literature and texts from the time period that highlight the dark, bizarre, or delightfully strange side(s) of the 1800s, both in subject matter and in form. Topics of discussion include: Black vampires, how to go about establishing an insanity plea, spirit photography and spiritualism, and whether PT Barnum's American Museum actually contained a mermaid. Texts are from the Americas, rather than only the US.

ENG 251 – From Love to Death in Poetry

An introduction to poetry using two of the major themes of poetry, love and death and the connections between them. So much of poetry is either love poetry or elegy, and we will consider how those two major themes collide in various fascinating ways.

ENG 321 – Multicultural British Literature

While Britain's most popular cultural exports like *Downton Abbey* portray a society that is preoccupied with horse-riding and high tea, this picture of Britain as largely White and upper-class is deeply at odds with the reality of a multicultural society. This course will examine the literary productions of this world, combining historical analysis with this study of literature. While people of color have always lived in Britain, their current substantial demographic presence is the result of several major geopolitical shifts in the twentieth century, specifically, decolonization, World War II, and subsequent mass immigration from the colonies. The rich and varied literary tradition that resulted from this will be our object of analysis in this class. We will read this literature while considering the historically fraught relationship between the British state and its non-White populations. We will look at several evolving concerns: memory and homesickness, racism in the "mother country," finding a place in Britain's deeply entrenched class structure, integration versus multiculturalism, and the different positionalities of first and second-generation immigrants. One of our main objectives in this class will be to examine the unique preoccupations of each author while, at the same time, mapping the larger contours of multicultural Britain. We will look at a variety of texts—autobiographical non-fiction, short stories, and novels—by authors like Sam Selvon, Monica Ali, Hanif Kureishi, and Candice Carty-Williams.

FLM 268/HIS 268 – Hollywood in Depression and War

This course requires students to connect with the tumultuous history of the United States in the 1930s and the 1940s and with the most popular artform of the period – Hollywood film. The course will cover themes such as the Great Depression, the New Deal, 1930s morality and the Hayes Code, fascism abroad and in the United States, the efforts to shore up American democracy, U.S. participation in the Second World War, and the dawn of the Cold War through the lens of film. Over the course of the term, students will apply the historical and film studies approaches to draw out the connection between the artform and the broader society from which it developed.

FRE 290/FRE 490/HUM 229 – Yoga and Aquatic Community

Our course is centered on knowledge and experience from the student perspective of being abroad, as we will initially be in a foreign environment. We will work toward achieving know-how alongside intercultural and social skills to engage with the land, the lagoon, and the community. These activities are the focus and goal; it's our "yoga". Through careful structures and actions with local community partners, we re-center ourselves regularly to help them welcome us, which allows us to feel welcome in return. The type of aquatic activity, yoga, and meditation we will do is basic and inclusive. Being able to swim is recommended, although not necessary.

GER 150/450 – Re-Reading Fairy Tales

This course rereads German fairy tales, examining them through a critical lens. Foundational elements of literary analysis, the historical and cultural contexts of these stories, their impact on modern literature and media, and German Studies will be explored. Through a creative adaptation project, students will display their own understanding of the tropes, ideologies, and structures of German fairy tales. Taught in English.

HIS 476 – Puerto Rico: Identity and Nation

This course will examine the complex history of Puerto Rico both as a nation and as a culture. Puerto Rico has a rich and complex history built out of a long struggle as a colony, territory, and Caribbean nation. Since the first peoples, the Taínos, arrived centuries ago, the island has faced tremendous challenges and changes with the encounter of Spanish travelers, enslaved peoples from Africa, and U.S. soldiers after 1898. This course will examine the history of the island since 1492 and will also consider how Puerto Rican identity has been created outside of the island as Puerto Ricans moved to the United States in large numbers in the twentieth century.

HUM 209 – Heroines, Fighters & Survivors

In this course, we look at different facets of women's activism from the early-nineteenth century up to the present as expressed in literature, film, art, and media. We will study women who made history by examining the contributions they made to the world around them from their perspectives. We will do so by examining how their work intersected with questions of cultural and national identification, gender, class, and politics. We will use cross-cultural perspectives and approaches to examine how women from Germany, the African diaspora, East Asia, and Southeast Asia engaged with moral problems such as racial prejudice, the suffering of the innocent, the development of moral consciousness and social responsibility, and the role of solidarity. Students will connect their learning with their intellectual interests.

IST 382 – Global Kentucky

This course explores how Kentucky is connected to the world. Adopting an interdisciplinary and multimodal approach, we will explore the economic, social, and environmental connections that make the Commonwealth of Kentucky a site of global forces through such topics as bourbon, horse-racing, international commerce, and migration. The course will consist of readings, discussions, guest lectures, and field trips. A unique and special emphasis will be placed on developing career readiness skills for such global job opportunities in Kentucky and beyond.

LAT 283/383 – Lucretius and Horace

This course focused on two Classical Roman poets who advocated and embraced Epicurean philosophy. In his epic poem, Lucretius explains Epicurus' philosophy of materialism (atoms and void), pleasure (absence of pain) as the highest good, and strongly advises against the stress of politics, love, or fear of death. Also a follower of Epicurus, Horace describes how love, wine, politics, and poetry may be understood by way of lyric poetry. Nietzsche describes his delight in reading Horatian odes: "What is here achieved in certain language is not even to be hoped for."

MAT 120 – Algebra & Trigonometry for Calculus

This course combines the necessary elements of college algebra and trigonometry to prepare students for subsequent study of calculus, computer science, and the physical and life sciences. Topic coverage includes linear, quadratic and higher order polynomial equations, rational, logarithmic and exponential functions and equations, and trigonometric functions, with graphical representations of the above. Other topics may be included at the instructor's discretion. Prerequisites: This course can only be taken by students who were placed into MAT 110.

MAT 425 – Advanced Interpolation Methods

Traditional interpolation methods for data analysis can be challenging when dealing with complex or irregular datasets. This course introduces advanced mathematical techniques for data interpolation that are more flexible and efficient. Students will explore such methods for approximating and modeling data, focusing on practical applications in various fields. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the theory and gaining hands-on experience with techniques that handle scattered data in medical imaging. Pre-requisites: MAT 240

MUS 280 – Listening Live in London and Glasgow

Music is both omnipresent and a central component of every culture on Earth. However, truly understanding the music one hears and being able to describe, contextualize, converse, and think about it takes study and practice. During this course, we will learn how to identify foundational elements of music – melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, texture, and form – and then use the abundant varieties of live music in London and Glasgow as our laboratory to explore this new knowledge. Simultaneously, while acknowledging the vast complexities of British culture, we'll explore how a few important facets – such as a state religion (The Church of England) and rich histories with theatre and folk culture – often intersects the world of musical performance. Our listening experiences will take place in cathedrals, concert halls, theatres, pubs, and other venues that allow for a broad and diverse representation of musical styles. The first two weeks are held in London, with a day trip to Cambridge. The course culminates in Glasgow, where we will take part in Celtic Connections, a highly-renowned folk festival held annually in late January/early February. No prior musical experience is necessary.

REL 362 – Religion, Body, and Health

How does religion effect the treatment of and attitudes toward the human body? How have religious and philosophical assumptions about the body impacted the development of contemporary health care? This course explores these fundamental questions with a special focus on suffering. While introducing students to the study of religion, the course explores connections between religion, spirituality, the body, and health. Students will investigate a range of religious attitudes and practices designed to make sense of illness, suffering, and health. Students will also explore the challenges of integrating healthcare and religion in a pluralistic and multi-cultural environment.

SOC 155 – Coffeehouses and Public Life

The coffeehouse has long been a storied place for creating public life, from convivial social groups to intellectual salons to revolutionary cells. We will study the coffeehouse as a “third place” – not home, not work – where people from different social groups can meet and mix. Caffeine, especially in coffee, tea, and chocolate, has fueled a modern public sphere that promotes hard work and clear thinking. We will make several field trips to different kinds of coffeehouses. We will make ethnographic films to show how the coffeehouse can be an incubator of public life.

SPA 273 – Comida e identidad

This course explores the relationship between food and national and regional identity. We will examine staples in our diets and how these commodities arrived on our plates. Who harvested the food? How were their lives and landscapes changed by bananas, corn, coffee, and other crops? We will analyze works of fiction, CIA documents, gastro-narratives, films, photographs, and pieces of art as we examine the complex relationship between cuisine and roles of race, class and gender. This course will be taught in Spanish. Prerequisites: SPA 220 or equivalent, or permission from the instructor.

SPA 342 – La casa de papel

This course will analyze the Spanish Netflix thriller "Money Heist" [La casa de papel] (2017-2021) and answer questions relating to the socio-economic and political crisis in Spain and the indignados movement of 2011, as well as recent challenges posed by the neoliberal and capitalist market model. Pre-requisites: SPA 250

THR 327 – Devised Theatre

Devised theatre is a collaborative approach to making theatre that does not rely upon a preexisting script. Instead, the content of the play is made in the rehearsal room based on the contributions of all involved. Designers, directors, technicians, and performers move beyond their traditional roles as interpretive artists of a playwright's work to also act as generative artists creating the content. There are many techniques for creating devised theatre including Moment Work, Viewpoints Composition, Frantic Assembly, DV8, Lecoq, La Pocha Nostra, and many more. This course is open to people with a background in any area of theatre, music, or visual art, or anyone with an openness to creative exploration and growth.