

Fall 2025 – New Course Descriptions

ARS 203 – Sculpture I

This beginning level course introduces students to the methods of creating sculptures using the broadest possible range of techniques and concepts. Students will be exposed to traditional sculpting methods using materials such as clay, plaster, steel as well as materials found in nature. Construction methods utilizing adhesives, welding and fabricating will be covered in this class.

ARS 245 – Hot Glass Sculpting

This is a beginning level course which introduces solid sculpting of glass as a fluid material for artistic expression. The student will be guided in familiarizing themselves with various material properties of hot glass and basic methods for manipulating the material and translating it into a visual image. Emphasis will be on the development of an original and personal imagery made from sculpting molten glass. Students will work with each other and individually explore established working methods and traditional design applications of glass for the purposes of developing new and unique concepts with the material. Studio work will be exhibited in the classroom and evaluated in a series of group critiques.

ARS 248 – Glass Casting

This is a beginning level course which introduces cast glass as a material for artistic expression. The student will be guided in familiarizing themselves with various material properties of cast glass and basic methods for manipulating the material and translating it into a visual image. Emphasis will be on the development of an original and personal imagery made from casting molten glass from a furnace and melting of glass into a mold in a kiln. Students will work with each other and individually explore established working methods and traditional design applications of glass for the purposes of developing new and unique concepts with the material. Studio work will be exhibited in the classroom and evaluated in a series of group critiques.

CHN 380 – Chinese Pop Culture

This course explores contemporary Chinese popular culture through music, film, television, social media, food, and fashion. Students examine how these cultural forms shape national identity, consumer trends, and global influence while engaging with critical discussions on youth culture, digital media, and the Tang Ping movement. All materials are provided in English or with English translation. No prior knowledge of Chinese required.

CSC 162 – Mobile Apps for Good

In this course, students will assume the role on a team of socially-aware developers. Students will interview clients, research solutions, develop a design, and implement their solution using App Inventor software. Students who have taken CSC 180 may not register for this course.

CSC 166 – Making Video Games

This course introduces students to video game development theory and programming. No previous programming experience is expected. Students will learn basic programming concepts and develop their own game over the course of the semester. Students who have taken CSC 180 may not register for this course.

DSC 360 – Building AI-Powered Applications

This course explores the development of AI-powered applications with a focus on generative AI, large language models (LLMs), and intelligent systems in data-driven contexts. Students will learn to integrate AI models into data analytics workflows, interact with APIs, and work with both structured and unstructured data. Topics include retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), embeddings, prompt engineering, database integration, and security considerations. The course emphasizes hands-on development, including deploying local AI models and building intelligent applications that process and analyze data. Pre-requisites- DSC 270 or CSC 270 or permission of the instructor.

EGR 322 – Dynamics

Study of the motion of bodies. Kinematics: Cartesian and polar coordinate systems; normal and tangential components; translating and rotating reference frames. Kinetics of particles and rigid bodies: laws of motion; work and energy; impulse and momentum. A study of the motion of particles and rigid bodies including kinematics and kinetics, work, energy, impulse, and momentum in two dimensions. Pre-requisites: EGR 220

EGR 374 – Fluid Mechanics

This course provides an introduction to the principles of fluid mechanics, covering fluid properties, statics, dynamics, and applications in engineering systems. The focus is on developing a fundamental understanding of fluid behavior and applying mathematical models to analyze real-world fluid flow problems. Pre-requisites: MAT 360

ENG 208 – Sports and Literature

This course explores the cultural significance of sports and the role sport and leisure play in our society. We will do this by looking at several literary and non-fiction texts that contain depictions of athletes or athletics/sports, practicing close reading and interpretive skills, and critically engaging with the psychological and sociological importance of watching, participating in, and rendering accounts of sports performances.

ENG 328 – Literary Scandals

Why is it very important to stay on the good side of your editor? What possibilities are there when a pen name is involved? Is it ethical to use your friends' lives as writing material inspiration? Is it a homage, or is it plagiarism? How factual does "based on a true story" need to be? These are some of the questions we will investigate in this course by adopting a material studies approach to learning. This means we will read literature involved in some of these scandals (fiction and nonfiction/creative nonfiction) along with contextual primary texts such as media coverage, author correspondence, and archival relics (digital and material). Students should prepare to complete an independent research project, as well as shorter reflective and/or methodological written essays.

ENS 380 – Geomorphology and Earth Materials

This course examines the properties of Earth materials like rocks, minerals, and soils and the dynamic nature of Earth's surface. Students will explore Earth processes such as weathering, erosion, mountain building at global, regional, and local scales and learn to identify Earth materials and how they play a role in creating different landscapes. Topics include river and coastal systems, glaciation, karst landscapes, and desert processes. The lab will include examining rock and mineral specimens, analyzing topographic maps, and conducting sediment experiments. Pre-requisites: ENS 215, ENS 290, or permission from the instructor.

ENS 382 – Hydrogeology and Hydrology

This course explores the movement, distribution, and quality of water on Earth, integrating surface water and groundwater processes across spatial and temporal scales. Students will analyze the hydrological cycle, drainage basins, stream processes and morphology, and aquifer systems using topographic maps, Google Earth, and hydrological datasets. Key topics include streamflow mechanics, sediment transport, flood risk analysis, groundwater flow and chemistry, and contamination. Through hands-on lab activities, such as permeability experiments, hydrograph interpretation, and contaminant plume mapping, students will develop skills in water resource assessment. The course also addresses human impacts, hydroengineering, and water policy issues related to hydropolitics and sustainability. Pre-requisites: ENS 215, ENS 290, or permission from the instructor.

HMS 320 – The Epidemiology of Disparities in Health

Students will understand that when it comes to health and the healthcare system, we do not all start at the same place and we are not all given the same resources. There are systematic issues that impede certain groups while advantaging others. Students will begin to understand public health, epidemiology, and health disparities through pragmatic examples.

NRO 310 – The Gut-Brain Axis: Linking Gut Microbiota and Brain Health

This course explores the complex relationship between the gut microbiome and brain function, emphasizing how these interactions influence neurological health and behavior. Students will delve into cutting-edge research on the gut-brain axis, examining the bidirectional communication pathways that connect microbial ecosystems in the gut to cognitive and emotional processes in the brain. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and hands-on projects, students will engage deeply with primary scientific literature and interdisciplinary perspectives to uncover the intricate biological mechanisms driving this connection. Pre-requisites: PSY 110 or PSY 111, NRO 200, NRO 215

PSY 333 – Psychology of Cults

When people hear the word “cult”, images of robed delusionnaires dancing in unison flash in their minds. Cults and the things they make people do can feel foreign and bizarre, but the reality is that high control social dynamics are all around us. Students in this course will explore how human psychology predisposes our species to extreme personal, relational, and group influence. They will be introduced to classic cult topics like why people join high-control groups, how they are kept there, and the costs of leaving; but they will also investigate how contemporary social influence mechanisms transform our everyday thoughts, feelings, and behaviors from the normative pursuit of basic needs to extreme dedication, admiration, and sacrifice. From parasociality and celebrity to toxic relationships and cult-followed product brands, students will dissect cultishness using sharp tools from the approach of social psychology to understand how human social behavior becomes greater than the sum of its parts. Pre-requisites: PSY 111 or PSY 110 or equivalent Intro to Psychology credit

REL 256 – Sustainable and Spiritual Economies

This course will consider what it means when we view our relationship to the earth, our environment, and others through alternative economies of interdependence, abundance, mutuality. Drawing on a variety of religious and ethical traditions—Native American, Buddhist, Jain, Hindu, Taoist, Feminist, and Jewish—we will explore different approaches to our environment and the economies of sustainability, sustenance, care, and compassion that animate them.

SPA 222 – Business Spanish

This course explores business terminology and concepts in Spanish in addition to cultural awareness and etiquette in doing business in Spanish speaking countries or with Latinos in the United States across various contexts such as management, banking and accounting, goods and services, and marketing. Important skills are fostered such as speaking professionally, composing professional emails, applying for jobs, and interviewing and hiring, among others. Cross-cultural communication skills and geographic literacy are also emphasized. Pre-requisites: SPA 210

SPA 374 – Environmental Challenges in Latin America

This advanced Spanish course explores the multifaceted impacts of climate change in Latin America through an interdisciplinary lens. Students will analyze academic articles, films, and literary works in Spanish, focusing on environmental, social, political, and cultural dimensions of the environment. The course integrates readings by contemporary Latin American authors with indigenous perspectives and includes documentaries, fostering a comprehensive and critical discussion on current environmental challenges. Pre-requisites – SPA 250