

## **DLM 310 Section Descriptions FALL 2025**

### **DLM 310a Authoritarianism and Resistance (B. Weston)**

Authoritarian regimes are rising around the world. So is resistance to them. We will study how authoritarian regimes work, who supports them, who opposes them, and what course this movement might take. For context we will study authoritarian regimes in the past, especially fascist regimes of a century ago.

### **DLM 310b Sources of Self and Modern Identity (D. Williams)**

Is it possible to identify the complex, but largely unarticulated ensemble of factors that shape the idea of the self in the modern West? Who are you and how have your ideas about important life questions been formed? This interdisciplinary course uses the history of philosophy, politics, music, literature, and religion to retrieve the sources of the modern self-focusing on the concepts of inwardness, political freedom, and our place in nature to create a map of modern identity.

### **DLM 310c Visual Literacy in the Age of AI (A. Frederick)**

We live in a world saturated by images – from the screens with which we surround ourselves to computer-generated images to retinal projection – yet most of us struggle to interpret how we understand what we see. With the advent of AI, the intersections of history, memory, and truth represented in the form and content of an image are necessarily undergoing re-examination. Algorithms, central to the use of AI technologies, do not reflect reality automatically. Therefore, the role of images as a universal language in the digital age requires deep engagement with visual awareness. We will investigate and question our reliance on images as ways to understand the world at a time when the relationship between image and reality is imprecise and sometimes deceptive. This class approaches these issues on two fronts: First, we will trace contemporary visual technologies to their historical origins in multiple traditions of artistic practice. Second, students will work with visual technologies to analyze and produce a range of applied examples – from the development of 3-D images to virtual maps to short films.

### **DLM 310d Asian American Remix (M. Inouye)**

Explore the diversity of Asian American and Pacific Islander experiences in the United States. This project-based, interdisciplinary course will explore how East, South, and Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States are documenting their unique challenges and contributions to local, national, and global communities. Students will participate in gathering source materials ranging from literature, film, television, material artifacts, and other sources to make sense of the social, cultural, economic, and political experiences of an AAPI community of their choice. They will gain the invaluable skills of working in teams to design interview guides and conduct oral history interviews that will amplify emerging AAPI narratives the United States.

### **DLM 310e Cultures of Memory (I. Wilson)**

Telling stories about our past seems to be an essential human characteristic. What happens when a group of people work together to tell stories of their group? What modes can a culture use to tell such stories of its past, and what reasons might it have to do so? How do such stories (and the modes in which they appear) foreground certain interests while minimizing or ignoring others? Through investigations of theories of social or cultural memory alongside analysis of artistic, literary, historical, and other artifacts, we will explore how scholars from several disciplines have attempted to grapple with these questions over the last century as we work together to develop our own ideas and applications. From early notions of “collective memory” to more recent explorations of “multidirectional

memory," we will investigate a variety of existing theories, and work together to test theories out in projects of your own design, entering a dialog of memory scholars.

**DLM 310f The Arts for a Flourishing World (Z. Klobnak)**

It has long been understood and generally accepted that the arts -- in its varied forms -- hold great personal and societal value. However, an emerging field known as "neuroarts" or "neuroaesthetics" claims that new science helps us recognize how the arts can improve our health, enable us to flourish, and build stronger communities. This course will help us understand how our brains and bodies transform when we participate in the arts. Are we at a breaking point where the arts might be used to prevent, delay, or treat illness? How can the arts be used as therapy following disease diagnosis? How do the arts contribute to the strengthening of communities? This course will address these questions and more by understanding historical philosophies of the arts in society, exploring contemporary case studies, and developing an arts-related project addressing a cultural issue of today.

**DLM 310g Seeking Utopia (L. Hartmann)**

This course will explore the history, and political and social significance of utopian movements in the United States. Students will learn about people's motivations for creating these intentional communities, most often centered on addressing flaws in the social, political, and environmental order by imagining a more fair, just, and moral society. Based on class materials, research, and creativity, students will design a utopian community as their final project