

DLM 120 Section Descriptions

DLM 120a & b Anthropology of Disney (Ja. Shenton)

This course analyzes Disney as a cultural artifact and influencer. Students will critically analyze classic Disney films, a few films that break the classic mold, and Disney theme parks in order to understand the ways in which Disney has the power to contribute to and shape social and cultural norms and values, that is, to create and sell what is normal or aspirational. Using Disney as a case study, students will gain new insight into how anthropologists engage with human societies and their cultural meanings, including those human societies that may produce as well as be produced by our wildest imaginations.

DLM 120c End of History (J. Harney)

We will examine the history of the world between 1986 and 2001, a fifteen-year period that saw waves of democratization sweep the planet, the end of the Cold War, prolonged economic success in the West, and the deadliest terrorist attack in human history. This course has been designed for students to develop abilities in verbal skills, particularly making presentations to larger groups. Students will practice the following core skills: choosing a specific topic; conducting research; forming a unique argument; presenting your argument in an informative and engaging manner

DLM 120d & e Religious Fundamentalism (M. Pierce)

Religious fundamentalism is often blamed for many of the problems in society today. But what is religious fundamentalism? This course will explore the origins of the modern idea of religious fundamentalism and the visions of society that undergird them. We will look comparatively at different forms of religion that are often called “fundamentalist” and reconsider the role that they play in the world and in our imaginations of the world we desire.

DLM 120f Spirituality and Art (B. Bae)

The connection between ‘religion,’ art and spirituality has been pervasive throughout histories of various cultures around the world. However, with the advent of ‘Modernity’ in the West and the shift towards disenchantment, spirituality had been relegated to the margins. In a fragmented, fractured, and seemingly discontinuous world, the meaning-making capacities of spirituality are making a resurgence in the contemporary art world. This course aims to explore this “return” of spirituality while acknowledging the persistent connections of spirituality to art in non-western cultures. The course will encourage students’ artistic practices and strive to facilitate the development of a meaningful praxis of art.

DLM 120g Shadows on the Wall: Plato’s Republic Through Film (D. Williams)

In this course, students will engage in an exploration of Plato’s Republic through the lens of contemporary film. By juxtaposing ancient philosophical themes with a diverse range of cinematic narratives, we will examine justice, the nature of reality, the role of art, and the vision of an ideal society. Pairing textual analysis of Plato with cinema provides a dynamic and immersive medium for understanding and appreciating the profound depth and breadth of his philosophy and its resonance in today’s cultural landscape.

DLM 120h Political Speech in Ancient Rome (D. La Londe)

What is the relationship between public speech and political violence? How can studying political speech in ancient Rome help us understand political speech in America today? In this course we explore these questions through analyzing political speeches from the late Roman republic (ca. 80-30 BCE). Rome’s leaders were both generals and politicians, educated to lead armies and persuade crowds. As competition for political and military supremacy escalated, so too did the political rhetoric. Public speech and political rhetoric are never just words—they have the power to overthrow governments and incite violence. We examine speeches from Roman politicians and historians to learn what made these speeches powerful and to practice our own ability to persuade through speech.

DLM 120i Love and Sex under Socialism (K. Bahr)

This course offers an introduction to the short story as a literary genre. Our reading spans much of the 20th century and travels across the globe. We will approach each story from various angles engaging with questions such as: How do dialogue and dialect create mood? How are trauma, memory, gender or identity represented by language? What can a story teach us about the many dimensions of global culture at a particular time and place? How do important historical or political shifts affect the lives of the people in a culture or society? How does fitting in, or clashing with, the cultural values of a society affect the individual? What does reading about the culture and society of a different global area teach us about our own culture and society? By discussing each short story, we will analyze in what ways the stories differ and speak to one another, establishing themes that can serve as unifying concepts for the overall arc of the course.

DLM 120j Chinese Cinema and Hollywood (J. Cai)

Facing worldwide competition, how does Hollywood maintain its dominance of global culture? Does Hollywood cinema dictate its reception across the world? Are there clear-cut boundaries between non-Hollywood cinema’s submission and resistance to Hollywood? This course examines such questions by focusing on the nuanced negotiations between Hollywood films and diverse Chinese-language cultures, including China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Students will gain insight into Chinese-language films,

literatures, and cultures as well as their own culture shaped by Hollywood-dominated media. This course seeks to help students situate filmic texts within their social and cultural contexts and learn to respond to films critically. All films screened for the course have English subtitles, so knowledge of Chinese is not required. Students will be evaluated on class attendance, in-class discussion participation, mini-presentations, film terminology presentations, film terminology quizzes, Moodle discussion contributions, and final paper.

DLM 120k & l The South in Song, Story, and Film (M. Lucas)

This course is a three-car collision of literature, film, and music from the American South. Bessie Smith, Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton, and Beyoncé are in the Terraplane. The Corvette has Tennessee Williams, Scarlett O'Hara, and Tyler Childers. Edgar Allan Poe, Zora Neale Hurston, and Natasha Trethewey are in the stretch Caddy, Faulkner driving. Books and films include *As I Lay Dying*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *O, Brother, Where Art Thou*.

DLM 120m & n Detective Stories (K. Kundu)

"Whodunnit?", "the butler did it", "Elementary, my dear Watson"—the popular cultural recognition of these phrases, all originating in detective fiction, point to the enduring appeal of this genre. In this course, we will examine the origins of the detective figure and its various transformations from its inception in the nineteenth century till the current day. Our class will read detective fiction within its historical and cultural contexts— the rise of industrial capital, women's rights, the modern city, and colonial fears and fantasies. We will analyze the detective story as a barometer for the preoccupations of the world it belongs to. The course will examine short stories, novels, films, and TV to trace the development of this genre.

DLM 120o Science on Stage (Goff/Demoranville)

This class uses dramatic literature as an entrance to understanding scientific principles, and scientific exploration as a conduit to theatrical expression. By analyzing play texts alongside scientific theories, histories, and personalities, we will build a set of tools to interrogate creativity and discovery across disciplines, and explore the common ground and complementary worldviews of the arts and sciences.

DLM 120p Communication and Collaborating (D. Tobin)

What are the skills that engineers, designers, scientists, architects, doctors, and poets all need to have? Clear communication and effective collaboration. We will all spend the rest of our lives working and building with other people. Come expand your understanding of these important skills through applied theatre. No theatre experience necessary! In this course, we will use creative projects to improve situational awareness, intrapersonal and interpersonal awareness, audience engagement, effective storytelling, and team creativity. We will explore how to communicate information ranging from the personal to the historical to the scientific and how to work with people who have expertise in many different fields.

DLM 120q Afrofuturism in the Arts (J. Van Niekerk)

The connection between 'religion,' art and spirituality has been pervasive throughout histories of various cultures around the world. However, with the advent of 'Modernity' in the West and the shift towards disenchantment, spirituality had been delegated to the margins. In a fragmented, fractured, and seemingly discontinuous world, the meaning-making capacities of spirituality are making a resurgence in the contemporary art world. This course aims to explore this "return" of spirituality while acknowledging the persistent connections of spirituality to art in non-western cultures. The course will encourage students' artistic practices and strive to facilitate the development of a meaningful praxis of art.

DLM 120r & s Gambling: Mathematics and Impacts (L. Wigglesworth)

In this class, areas of probability and discrete mathematics will be used to examine the lottery and several casino games (roulette, poker, blackjack, craps, keno). Students will also explore the social and economic impact of the gaming industry, as well as the ethical controversies centered around gambling. A strong emphasis will be placed on developing the ability to professionally communicate the mathematics and strategies of casino games as well as consequences of the gaming industry.

DLM 120t Migrant Childhoods

This course is an exploration of art and literature about migration. Our primary focus will be the experiences of Central American children and young adults and their journey to the United States. We will look at films, memoirs, poetry, and performance art to examine the political, social, and human dimensions of migration today.

DLM 310 Section Descriptions

DLM 310a Designing your Life: Family, Work, and Public Duty (B. Weston)

What work should I do? What kind of family do I want? How can I give back to society? We will approach each of these questions as a design problem. Each student will explore alternative plans for each of these aspects of life, geared to that student's specific interests. Our aim will be to try to form plans for a life that each student will find coherent and meaningful. Students will form design teams for each other to test out these possible designs.

DLM 310b Local Roots, Global Routes (L. Jefferson)

This course intends to examine the creation of cultural identity through the lens of food, religion, music, and art/literature. We will use our local context of Kentucky and the American South as a baseline (our "Local Roots"), to examine how cultural identity is shaped by global foodways, music ways, religious paths, and artistic contexts. Each of these spheres that we take for granted as "local" all have a global historical influence and context. Be it Nashville Hot Chicken, Kentucky bourbon, or Bluegrass and Blues music, each has an influence that goes beyond the borders of a region, and yet each is deeply entrenched and informed by its local context. Students will hopefully realize that there are manifold global contributions that create what people think of as "Southern" or "Kentucky" identity, and that the fiercely local borders themselves are actually quite porous. This can be realized through engagement with local chefs, artists, and musicians that all hail from diverse backgrounds.

DLM 310c Breaking the Law (D. Hall)

When is it permissible to break a law? And on what foundations (if there are any) does legitimate law-breaking rest? This course addresses these questions drawing on three political-philosophical traditions – the civil disobedience tradition, radical revolutionary politics, and anarchism – each of which offers a particular understanding of law, its foundations, and principles for when legal authority should be defied.

DLM 310d World Hunger and the Environment (R. Axtell)

An analysis of the intersections between world hunger and issues of environmental concern such as climate change, agriculture, resource consumption/depletion, population and ecological footprint. The course is highly integrative making use of competing discourses in ecology, economics, international studies, philosophical and theological ethics, sociology and social justice. Students will 1) examine alternative economic theories and related theories of development on issues of poverty and the environment, 2) compare and evaluate underlying ideological presuppositions that shape perception of causes and judgments about effective solutions and strategies, 3) Conduct onsite visits to groups working on these issues in Kentucky, and 4) Develop resources for practical, responsible, and compassionate action in the midst of widespread global poverty and environmental degradation.

DLM 310e Asian American Cultural 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 310f 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 310g Sharing Science Through Art (D. Tobin)

Climate change, disease, and mass extinction are but a few of the large-scale and pressing problems confronting our planet. Scientists across the globe are conducting research and proposing novel solutions to these sticky problems. Yet the last few years have shone a light on the massive gap between researchers and the general public. So, what role can artists play in helping to bridge this divide? We can breathe life into these scientific data, theories, and discoveries, connecting people with cutting-edge scientific research. In this course, we will explore the Dance Exchange Toolbox, a selection of choreographic tools that allow artists to create engaging performance pieces based on scientific research. While we will primarily approach this through theatrical and

performance-based techniques, the lateral and metaphorical thinking skills we will engage make this course a great fit for any visual artist, musician, writer, or person simply interested in how to better communicate scientific research.

DLM 310h Seeking Utopia: Past, Present, and Future (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.

DLM 310i Animal Ambassadors (M. Burns-Cusato)

In collaboration with the Louisville Zoo, students will develop crucial teamwork skills as they delve into topics related to Animal Ambassadors, individuals chosen to represent a species for educational purposes. Students will explore ethical considerations, review primary literature to identify scientific approaches to assessing well-being, participate in monitoring ambassadors at the Louisville Zoo, and determine how to effectively communicate relevant information to the public.