



AMERICAN STUDIES MINOR

Contact: Dr. Mark Boulton

Email: mark.boulton@wcmo.edu

The American Studies minor is an interdisciplinary program of study which helps students think analytically and creatively about the U.S. while fostering reading and writing skills. The program explores the relationship of America with the Western cultural tradition, identifying points of commonality and departure. Students who major or minor in U.S. History, Political Science, English and/or Sociology may enroll in this minor but they may not select elective courses from their major or minor departments. Students enrolled in the Washington Seminar and the Chicago Semester programs may apply, as appropriate, one of their off-campus course electives, provided the course lies outside their major or minor.

You can find the course descriptions for all courses required for this minor by clicking on the following links:

- [English Course Descriptions](#)
- [History Course Descriptions](#)
- [Music Course Descriptions](#)
- [Political Science Course Descriptions](#)
- [Religion Course Descriptions](#)
- [Sociology Course Descriptions](#)

Student's Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Advisor

Date Minor Declared

Course #	Title of Course	Hours Required	Semester Completed	Grade
Core Courses: 9 credits required.				
HIS 103	US History to 1877	3		
<u>or</u> HIS 104	US History Since 1877	3		
ENG 238	American Literature to the Civil	3		
<u>or</u> ENG 239	American Literature since the Civil War	3		
POL 211	American Government & Politics	3		
<u>or</u> SOC 111	Introduction to Sociology	3		
Elective Courses: Choose 3 courses for 9 credits total from the following list.				
<i>Religion</i>				
REL 319	Recent Christian Thought	3		
<i>English & Fine Arts</i>				
ENG 315*	Literary Modes and Genres	3		
ENG 325*	Literary Movements	3		
ENG 330*	Visions and Revisions	3		
ENG 335*	A Sense of Place	3		
ENG/WGS 340*	Gender and Literary Expression	3		
ENG 345*	Ethnic Literature	3		
ENG 350*	Studies in the Author	3		
ENG 355*	Literature and the Other Arts	3		
MUS 303	Music History and Literature	3		
<i>Political Science & Anthropology & Sociology</i>				
POL 301	The American Presidency	3		
POL 304	American Political Theory	3		
POL 311	Parties, Voting, and Campaign Strategies	3		
POL 319	Public Administration	3		
POL 362	American Foreign Policy	3		
TOTAL HOURS FOR MINOR		18 hrs		

*Focused primarily on the United States

If any substitutions or waivers of requirements are allowed, please list below and initial.

ENG – English

ENG 103 Academic Writing (3 hrs.) A composition course designed to prepare students for writing in all academic disciplines. Based on the process approach to writing, the course treats reading, thinking, and writing as integrated skills. Writing Skills covered include summary, synthesis, analysis, argumentation, and research.

ENG 190 Literary Magazine: Janus (1 hr.) A course involving the production of a literary magazine. This course provides students with practical experience in evaluating prose and poetry for publication, and in the technical processes of producing a magazine, including graphic design and layout, typography, and printing methods.

ENG 204 Introduction to Literature (3 hrs.) An introduction to the study of literature, including poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction and drama. Emphasis will be placed on basic terminology used in discussing literature, on the study of a variety of critical theories, and on techniques for writing about literature. Offered consistently as writing intensive or writing intensive option course.

ENG 205 Topics in British Literature to 1800 (3 hrs.) A survey of English literature from approximately 750 A.D. through the end of the eighteenth century: the medieval period, the Renaissance, and the neo-classical age. This course looks at the intersection of literature and culture, tracing the development of each in order to understand how British literary culture changed over the years. Among the authors studied are Chaucer, Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Swift, and Johnson.

ENG 206 British Literature since 1800 (3 hrs.) A survey of English literature from 1799 to the present including the Romantic period, the Victorian period, Modernism, and the twentieth-century. This course looks at the intersection of literature and culture, tracing the development of each in order to understand how British literary culture changed over the years. Among the authors studied are Wordsworth, Keats, the Brownings, the Brontes, Joyce, Woolf, Yeats, Eliot, Lessing, and Larkin.

ENG 220 Janus and the World of Publishing (3 hrs.) This course will introduce students to the world of publishing through a variety of means. Students will take part in all aspects of editing, designing and producing Westminster College's literary magazine, *Janus*, using In-Design and a variety of collaborative and individual exercises. Moreover, students will explore other publishing topics and avenues including but not limited to: learning the fundamentals of copy-editing, writing book and article proposals, creating and maintaining blogs and other social media sites, writing query letters, investigating and managing submissions, writing and submitting book reviews, evaluating publication options, promoting published material, and establishing and maintaining a writerly presence. Prerequisites: ENG 103 and ENG 275, or permission of the instructor.

ENG 230 Play in Performance (3 hrs.) This course consists of a semester long study of the academic and artistic foundations of dramatic performance culminating in a fully staged production of a play. The course will include in depth play-analysis, acting, and technical theatre training as well as more traditional coursework and academic papers exploring the playwright, their other works, the performance history of those works, and the theatrical movements associated with that playwright. Prerequisites: Instructor Permission.

ENG 231 Play in Performance II (1 hr.) This course allows students who have already completed ENG/THE 230 - 'Play in Performance I' to receive credit for participating in the fully staged production associated with that class. Students will continue to develop an appreciation for the academic and artistic foundations of dramatic performance through the production process. This will include in depth play-analysis, acting, and technical theatre training as well as an academic exploration of the playwright and his work, the performance history of those works, as well as the theatrical movements associated with that playwright. Prerequisites: Instructor Permission and ENG/THE 230.

ENG 238 American Literature to the Civil War (3 hrs.) A survey of American literature from its beginnings among Native Americans through the middle of the nineteenth century. This course examines the emergence of literary culture over time, tracing changes in both literature and culture to determine what characteristics make American literature unique. Among the authors studied are Bradstreet, Whitman, Emerson, Thoreau, Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, Douglass, and Dickinson.

ENG 239 American Literature since the Civil War (3 hrs.) A survey of American literature from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. This course examines changes in literary culture over time, tracing currents in the literature and the culture it reflects from the emergence of an industrialized society to the segmentation of twentieth-century society. Among the authors studied are Twain, James, Chopin, Frost, Eliot, Moore, Hemingway, Faulkner, Miller, Baldwin, and Plath.

ENG 248 Topics in World Literature to 1800 (3 hrs.) A survey of masterpieces of world literature from ancient times to 1800. Readings are done in English, but only non-English authors are included. Works studied may range from pre-Biblical Mesopotamian literature, through Greek, Roman, Hindu classics, to the influential texts from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Offered at least every two years.

ENG 249 World Literature since 1800 (3 hrs.) A survey of world literature since 1800. Readings are done in English, but the authors studied come from all over the world including Africa, South America, and Asia, as well as Europe. Among the authors studied are Goethe, Tolstoy, Borges, Garcia Marquez, Kafka, and Soyinka. Offered at least every two years.

ENG 260 Introduction to Journalism (3 hrs.) A survey of the field of journalism, with particular attention to its history, ethics, and the responsibilities of the journalist. Much of the class work is the writing of typical examples of journalism. Students enrolled in this course will participate in a practicum as writers or editors for The Columns. Prerequisites: ENG 103.

ENG/JMP 265 Technical and Web Writing (3 hrs.) Technical Writing refers to any writing done by a professional in a field who is communicating specialized information to a specific audience. The field could be computer software or engineering, but it could just as easily be business, government, non-profits, finance, or education. This course focuses on writing, editing, and design skills that you can apply to any professional job. Because so much of today's workplace writing appears on the internet, this course will pay particular attention to how to write, arrange, and deliver information effectively on the Web.

ENG/JMP 270 Expository Writing (3 hrs.) A course in advanced composition, with emphasis on reasoning and organization, and with special attention to principles of style. Part of the course will consist of discussion of student work, as well as the study of trends of thought and the literary techniques of published essayists. Prerequisites: ENG 103.

ENG 275 Introduction to Creative Writing (3 hrs.) An introduction to the writing of poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and drama, with approximately equal time spent on each genre. Students will study the forms and techniques used by successful writers as models for their own work and will read and critique the writing of other students in a workshop format. Prerequisites: ENG 103.

ENG 290 Introduction to Literary Studies: Critical Approaches and Research Methods (3 hrs.) A seminar in the theory and practice of literary study. The course objectives are to examine key issues in literary theory, to develop an understanding of theoretical models in relation to critical practice, and to acquire research skills necessary for advanced literary study (e.g., the honors project). Prerequisites: A 200-level literature course or instructor permission. Offered in spring semester.

ENG 315 Literary Modes and Genres (3 hrs.) The study of literature focusing upon the distinct categories into which literary works are grouped according to formal elements – the novel, poetry, drama, autobiography, tragedy, comedy, the epic – conventions which both endure over time and are modified with every new work in the genre. Possible courses include Autobiography, Science Fiction, or The Country and City in Nineteenth Century British Poetry. Offered at least every two years. Prerequisites: a 200-level course in literature or permission of the instructor.

ENG 325 Literary Movements (3 hrs.) The study of a coherent period or movement in literature, based on the premise that literature written within certain time spans, and occasionally in a particular place, is often related by a series of literary norms, standards, and conventions, the introduction, spread, diversification, and disappearance of which can be traced. The course will usually be taught with particular attention to the relation between literature and the associated intellectual and cultural milieu. Renaissance Literature, Romanticism, British Modernism, the Jazz Age, and the Beat Movement are examples of possible courses that may be offered under this topic. Offered at least every two years. Prerequisites: a 200-level course in literature or permission of the instructor.

ENG 330 Visions and Revisions (3 hrs.) A reading of literature based on two premises: First, that literature is a product of culture arising from a web of historical conditions, relationships, and influences that in some measure determine literary form and content; second, that literature is at the same time an agent of culture that shapes social practices. Courses may include studies of the exchange between colonial and post-colonial fiction, the evolution of particular story lines (such as the Arthurian myth) through a variety of literary texts, and the relationship between classicism and romanticism. Offered at least every two years. Prerequisites: a 200-level course in literature or permission of the instructor.

ENG 335 A Sense of Place (3 hrs.) A study of the way various writers have detailed the complex and profound relationships between place – whether it be a physical or intellectual construct – the literary ethos, and construction of identity. Students will explore literary texts that invoke or evoke place as a significant literary or cultural trope. Course offerings may include Literature of the Environment, American Writers in Paris, or Rural/Urban Literature. Offered at least every two years. Prerequisites: a 200-level course in literature or permissions of the instructor.

ENG/WGS 340 Gender and Literary Expression (3 hrs.) A study of gender as a personal, social, and literary construction, this course examines literature in the context of contemporary social and cultural attitudes towards gender. Though poetry, fiction, or drama are usually included, this course often involves essays, journals, and letters as well. Course offerings may include Southern Women Writers, Women and Madness, or Theories of Gender in Literature. Offered at least every two years. Prerequisites: a 200-level course in literature or permission of the instructor.

ENG 345 Ethnic Literature (3 hrs.) The examination of literature by individuals belonging to various ethnic groups, including those in the United States (African-American, Native American, Chicano/Chicana, Asian-American or Jewish) as well as groups from other cultures. This course considers the aesthetic, cultural, social, and/or political aspects of literature and particularly how works by ethnic writers negotiate the boundaries of literary expression, how language use and assimilation affect one another, and/or how other aspects of culture mesh with and shape the literature. Specific courses may include African-American Literature, The Harlem Renaissance, or Langston Hughes. Offered at least every two years. Prerequisites: a 200-level course in literature or permission of the instructor.

ENG 350 Studies in the Author (3 hrs.) A study of a single author (e.g. Shakespeare, Melville, Joyce, Hughes, or Morrison) or two or more related authors who do not in themselves constitute a movement (Chaucer/Shakespeare, Faulkner/Hurston, Joyce/Woolf). Offered at least every two years. Prerequisites: a 200-level course in literature or permission of the instructor.

ENG 355 Literature and the Other Arts (3 hrs.) The study of the historical, cultural, and aesthetic relationships between literature and other modes of artistic production (visual arts, music, theater, film, dance), focusing particularly on the ways in which artists in various modes influence one another. Topics include Shakespeare on Film, Literature Goes to the Movies, the Photograph as a Literary Text and Jazz, Blues, and Poetry. Offered at least every two years. Prerequisites: a 200-level course in literature or permission of the instructor.

ENG 372 Creative Writing Prose (3 hrs.) A workshop course in which students study the work of successful fiction writers, identify and practice the forms and techniques they employ, and use those techniques to craft their own stories. Group discussion of students' writing plays a primary role. Offered every third semester in rotation. Prerequisites: ENG 103 and 275.

ENG 374 Creative Writing Poetry (3 hrs.) A workshop course in which students study the works of successful poets, identify and practice the forms and techniques they employ, and use those techniques to craft their own poems. Group discussion of students' writing plays a primary role. Offered every third semester in rotation. Offered every third semester in rotation. Prerequisites: ENG 103 and 275.

ENG 376 Creative Nonfiction (3 hrs.) A workshop course in which students study the works of successful creative nonfiction writers, identify and practice the forms and techniques they employ, and use those techniques to craft their own poems. Group discussion of students' writing plays a primary role. Prerequisites: ENG 103 and 275.

ENG/THE 378 Playwriting (3 hrs.) In this course, we will collectively work to develop and hone your ability to construct performance texts. We will use a selection of one-act plays written by some of the most accomplished playwrights of the 20th century, seminal works of performance art, and a few foundational texts on dramatic analysis to isolate the features of effective performance compositions. From there the course will increasingly focus on your original compositions, which will be workshopped by the class as a whole. This process will culminate in your completion of a polished one-act play. Prerequisites: THE 201, ENG/THE 230, or ENG 275.

ENG/JMP 380 Introduction to Digital Humanities (3 hrs.) Digital tools such as archives, data mining, data visualizations, and games are changing how students and scholars approach the study of the humanities. In this course, we will use digital tools to facilitate our own interpretation and research, with a particular focus on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and its enduring influence on popular culture. No technical proficiency is assumed--you only need to be willing to learn. Our projects will include many hands-on (and, I hope, fun) opportunities to make things in addition to the analytical writing assignments you are familiar with from other English courses. Prerequisite: A 200-level course in literature (ENG 204, 205, 238, 239, 248, 249).

ENG 398 Independent Study (1-4 hrs.) Systematic readings, guided by a member of the department, on a particular author, a particular period, or a special problem. Enrollment by permission of the instructor. Prerequisites: a 200-level course in literature or permission of the instructor.

ENG 420 Honors Project I (3 hrs.) The first course in the two-semester honors sequence. Students read extensively in the area selected by the student and approved by a thesis committee consisting of two faculty members. Students meet weekly with the thesis director, complete written assignments, and make presentations to the English Department and possibly to other members of the honors seminar. Prerequisites: Successful completion of ENG 290 and departmental approval.

ENG 430 Honors Project II (3 hrs.) The second course in the two-semester honors sequence. Students meet weekly with the thesis director as they write their thesis. Students present an oral defense of the thesis to their committee at the end of the semester. Prerequisites: A grade of "B" or better in ENG 420.

HIS – History

HIS 101 British History to 1800 (3 hrs.) An introductory course covering British/British Isles social, intellectual, cultural and political history.

HIS 102 Survey of British History from 1800 to the Present (3 hrs.) An introductory course covering British social, intellectual, cultural, and political history.

HIS 103 History of the United States to 1877 (3 hrs.) A survey course covering American social, intellectual, economic and political development from pre-colonial times to 1890.

HIS 104 History of the United States since 1877 (3 hrs.) A survey course covering American social, intellectual, economic and political development from 1890 to the present. A student may take this course without having had HIS 103.

HIS 109 World History I (3 hrs.) This course will emphasize the economic, cultural, and political interrelationships between different parts of the world as well as the global issues that define the modern era.

HIS 110 World History II (3 hrs.) This course will cover global history from the Enlightenment to the present. It will lay a foundation for understanding the breadth of human experience and how that experience has shaped the world we live in. Rather than focus solely on the separate development of civilizations, this course will emphasize the connections between cultures. In other words, we will look at cross-cultural interactions and compare global reactions to common problems. Additionally, this course will expose students to historical methods, thereby enabling students to discover the complexity of past and present events, to examine the interrelationship of such factors as politics, economics, race, gender, culture, and religion, and to reflect more thoughtfully on the national and international issues that face them today.

HIS 279 African Civilization (3 hrs.) A general survey of economic, political, and cultural world of sub-Saharan Africa from ancient times to the present. Offered in alternate years.

HIS 310 Topics in Public History (3 hrs.) Public History encompasses all the ways in which the study of the past is presented to the public in a non-academic way. In other words, it is the fun way of learning history. This course offers multiple ways for students to examine the theory behind different aspects of Public History and then allows them to gain practical experience of the discipline through either high-impact, project-based, or service-learning assignments or through dedicated travel courses.

HIS 335 Topics in U.S. Social, Cultural, or Political History (3 hrs.) This course explores an aspect of domestic U.S. History which sheds light on broader issues surrounding the nation's identity. Topics are selected based on the most pressing issues facing society today. Students will gain vital research, writing, and presentation skills while engaging with thought-provoking and often challenging subjects.

HIS 340 Topics in Diplomatic and Military History (3 hrs.) Beginning as a relatively small nation of thirteen states tied to the East Coast of North America, the United States rapidly ascended to a position of global preeminence through aggressive territorial expansion and through a series of military engagements. The policies and processes involved left a profound impact on the lives of those affected and on the course of world history. This class offers a deep examination of one aspect of U.S. Diplomatic or Military History to illuminate the causes and consequences of the United States' rise to superpower status.

HIS 350 Topics in Early World History (3 hrs.) This course uses a variety of different topics to explore traditions, change, and growing connections in the pre-modern world. Components of the course include seminar style discussions of primary sources and scholarly articles, research projects, and project presentations. Examples of topics include Medieval Pilgrimages (world religious and travel history) and the Vikings (Medieval Scandinavian, Islamic, Eastern European, and North American history with an emphasis on archaeology as history and modern political and cultural influences).

HIS 360 Topics in Modern World History (3 hrs.) This course uses a variety of different topics to explore the connections and themes of the post-1500 world. Components of the course include seminar style discussions of primary sources and scholarly articles, research projects, and project presentations. Examples of topics include Deviant and Degenerate Art (world history through culture from 1800-1980) and WWI and the Treaty of Versailles (military, diplomatic, and colonial world history from 1900-1960).

HIS 390 Historical Methods (3 hrs.) This course allows students to study the philosophy and methods of historical research, writing, and thinking. History majors and minors should enroll in this course in the Spring semester of their sophomore year. Prerequisites: Two 100-level history courses or permission of the instructor.

HIS 396 Applied History (1 hr.) This course is designed for History Majors and Minors to focus their practical and intellectual skills toward a rewarding career after graduation. The course will help students explore career/grad school options, connect them to graduates who have excelled in a variety of fields, help them find professional opportunities to present and publish their work, help them develop and refine a stellar cover letter and resume, and help them practice job talks and job market etiquette. Prerequisites: HIS 390, or with the consent of the instructor

HIS 397 History for the Public (1 hr.) This course is open to History Majors and Minors who have completed - or who are currently working on - their undergraduate thesis. It introduces them to the many ways they can present their work to the public including conference presentations, op-eds, journal articles, museum displays, documentary films, and more. Students will be expected to present their work in one or more of these outlets by the end of the course. In doing so, this course will enhance both their professional skills and profile. Prerequisites: HIS 390, or with the consent of the instructor

HIS 398 Independent Study (1-3 hrs.) Systematic reading, guided by members of the department, on particular historical periods, problems, or personalities. Enrollment by permission of the instructor.

HIS 422 Senior Thesis (2 hrs.) The practical application of the techniques of historical research preparatory to HIS 423. Required of all history majors in the fall semester of the senior year. Prerequisites: HIS 390.

HIS 423 Senior Thesis (3 hrs.) The practical application of the techniques of historical research, analysis, and composition culminating in a thesis. Students will defend their theses in seminar. Required of all history majors in the spring semester of the senior year. Prerequisite HIS 422.

HIS 424 Senior Thesis (1 hr.) Rewriting the senior thesis based on faculty and student critiques.

MUS – Music

MUS LB5 Churchill Singers (2 hrs.) The Churchill Singers uphold the mission of Westminster College and collectively embody the principles practiced by Churchill the statesman. Through choral singing the Churchill Singers consider issues of social, spiritual, and global significance and address these issues artistically, intellectually, and practically. Members of the Churchill Singers are not only recognized for their musical abilities but also for their campus and community leadership and the ways in which they personify the College values of integrity, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Membership in Churchill Singers is by audition only. Auditions are held at the end of every spring semester. If openings arise, auditions for specific voice parts will occur in December for the following spring semester.

MUS 101 Applied Music Instruction-Beginner (1 hr.) Designed for the beginning student in voice, piano, instrumental or guitar. Students will develop basic music reading skills and achieve a fundamental understanding of musical analysis, interpretation, and performance. Separate fee required. Offered fall and spring semesters.

MUS 105 Fundamentals of Music (3 hrs.) An introductory course in the fundamentals of music theory. Basic music theory principals from music symbols to simple analysis of melodic and harmonic material are introduced. Offered fall semester of a two-year rotation.

MUS 106 Theories and Practices of Musical Expression and Performance (3 hrs.) Musical performances entail far more than the accurate realization of a composer's notations. For a performance to reflect the intent of the composer and also communicate the sentiments of the performer, that performer must investigate the context within which the piece originated and make informed decisions regarding musical expression and interpretation. In this course, student musicians will learn a methodology that suggests appropriate steps toward musical interpretation and historical investigation of a composition; together, this interpretative and investigative methodology will suggest approaches for creating more expressive musical performances. At various significant junctures throughout the course, students will present "Inform-ances" (performances accompanied by appropriate musical information) to each other and the College community.

MUS 201 Applied Music Instruction-Intermediate (1 hr.) Private lessons for the intermediate piano, voice, instrumental and guitar student. Intermediate students already possess a fundamental ability to read and interpret music. Applied instruction is devoted to developing musical independence in preparation, analysis, and interpretation of various styles of music while continued emphasis on technique is addressed. Offered fall and spring semesters. Separate fee required.

MUS 205 Music in the Western World (3 hrs.) Investigation of the development of music and musical style from antiquity to the present day. Designed to build familiarity with major style trends in the history of music through an exploration of selected works and personalities as well as how such trends interact with and effect western culture. Offered fall and spring semesters.

MUS 208 Music Theory II (3 hrs.) In-depth analysis of Common Practice Period Music. Emphasis on the study of harmony will build upon skills learned in MUS 105. Prerequisites: MUS 105 or consent of instructor. Offered in spring semesters in rotation with other 300-level music courses.

MUS 301 Applied Music Instruction-Advanced (2 hrs.) Private lessons for the advanced piano, voice, instrumental, and guitar student. Applied instruction is dedicated to the synthesis of technique, analysis, interpretation, and critical judgment as students prepare for cumulative performance assessments. Separate fee required. Offered Fall and Spring semesters.

MUS 303 Music History and Literature I (3 hrs.) An in-depth study of music history and literature from the medieval period through the Baroque. Offered in the fall semester in rotation with other required courses.

MUS 304 Music History and Literature II (3 hrs.) An in-depth study of music history and literature from the Baroque period through the present. Offered in spring semesters in rotation with required courses.

MUS 312 Music of Resistance, Revolution & Liberation (3 hrs.) The role of popular song and its impact upon social and political change at home and abroad - from the American Labour Movement Wobblies to the Singing Revolution in Estonia, and from Civil Rights freedom songs to Apartheid protest songs in South Africa, we will explore how music has united people, raised awareness of controversial issues, and effected change in society and politics. In order to personally understand and experience one way in which music has functioned politically and socially, we will begin learning broadside ballads and ultimately writing our own broadside to share with members of our campus community. Also, by maintaining a course blog, we will not only share our understandings and opinions regarding course topics, but we will also strengthen research skills and familiarize ourselves with valuable sources for information. The concluding weeks of the semester will spotlight contemporary manifestations of music resistance, revolution, and liberation – in particular, expressions found around the world. The semester will culminate with presentations about these contemporary expressions that are open to the campus community. This course seeks “to integrate disciplinary knowledge and to explore its relevance to contemporary issues and problems.” This course seeks to demonstrate the intersection of communal music with social and political movements. Prerequisite: MUS 105 or MUS 205.

MUS/LST 335 Song and the Community (3 hrs.) Have you ever lifted your voice in song? Are you drawn to the notion of peace, justice, and equality for all people of the world? Do you believe in the power of grass-roots efforts to transform communities? MUS 335 is a crossroads where communal song will be used to build bridges across divides of ethnicity, race, gender, religion, social class, sexual orientation, and age. As we explore ideas of identity and community, we will employ the tradition of shared song as a tool to unite people of diverse backgrounds upon a common ground of song. Through song, we will extend our sense of common ground by sharing cultural codes of songs from folk traditions around the world. In this course, we will learn the art of “lifting a song” in small groups and large gatherings. We will study historical examples of song lifting as practiced among members of the Labor Movement, participants of the Civil Rights Movement, and the Folk Movement of the 1960s and 70s. We will analyze the work of song leaders like Pete Seeger, Odetta, Bernice Johnson Reagon, and Ysaye M. Barnwell and learn the songs that played pivotal roles in their work building communities and addressing issues of social, economic, political, and environmental consequence. Like these song leaders, we will develop the skills to build coalitions through shared singing and to promote unity and solidarity for specific, relevant issues. This course will be experiential: students will read music, compose song lyrics, sing, play instruments, and lead singing. The ability to read music is required. Also, there is a strong service-learning component to this course as students will lead in the making of music with various groups and organizations locally.

POL – Political Science

POL 112 Introduction to Political Science (3 hrs.) An introductory study of political action, institutions and argument. Some current controversies in American politics will be considered, together with the experience of other countries where comparison is helpful.

POL 211 American Government and Politics (3 hrs.) An introduction to American government and politics through an examination of interactions between citizens and political institutions in the formation and the execution of public policies.

POL 212 Introduction to International Relations (3 hrs.) This course explores key issues in the international system including war, terrorism, human rights, and international law, international institutions like the United Nations, and theories of international relations.

POL 301 The American Presidency (3 hrs.) A study of the modern American presidency in terms of its concepts and controversies. Prerequisites: POL 211.

POL 304 American Political Theory (3 hrs.) Focuses on the political philosophies expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Considers the viability of these philosophies in the context of contemporary American society and politics. Prerequisites: POL 112 or 205, or permission of the instructor.

POL 305 International Law and Organizations (3 hrs.) An analysis of the nature, sources, function and development of international law and organizations with special reference to the role and function of the United Nations' system for resolving international disputes. Prerequisites: POL 212 or permission of the instructor.

POL 306 West European Government and Politics (3 hrs.) A study of the foundations, structures and functions of the governments of selected major European countries. Offered every other spring semester. Prerequisites: GTS 201 or HIS 106 or POL 112 or POL 212 or SEC 201 or permission of the instructor.

POL 308 Post-Soviet Politics (3 hrs.) An examination of the history of the Soviet political system since 1917; the influence of ideology; the role played by the Communist Party, the bureaucracy, interest groups and other actors; political culture, socialization and participation; current economic and social policy issues; and the future evolution of the system. Prerequisites: GTS 201 or HIST 106 or POL 112 or POL 212 or SEC 201 or permission of the instructor.

POL 311 Political Parties, Voting and Campaign Strategies (3 hrs.) Reviews the evolution and role of political parties and elections in the American political system. Examines the decline-of-parties thesis and recent developments in campaign strategy. This course is offered in the Fall semester of even-numbered years and students are required to participate in political campaigns of their choice. Prerequisites: POL 112 or 211.

POL 314 American Constitutional Law and Politics (3 hrs.) This course, (1) explores how the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court have influenced the country's understanding of the Constitution, (2) considers the political forces that shaped the decisions, as well as the political effects of those decisions and (3) details the contours of the significant rights articulated in the decisions. Prerequisites: POL 211.

POL 316 American Jurisprudence (3 hrs.) This course, (1) introduces and critiques the major philosophies of law, (2) applies these philosophies to various issues and cases and (3) orients the student to legal reasoning and other legal methods of analysis and inquiry. This course should help prepare students for the study of law, or law-related topics. Prerequisites: POL 211.

POL 324 Central Europe (3 hrs.) This course will examine the unique problems of this region from an interdisciplinary perspective. Since the demise of the Cold War in 1989, and with it the collapse of the wall between eastern and western Europe, this region has become a crucible for a changing world order and a changing Europe. Analysis of a series of current themes from a political science and a historical perspective will form the backbone of the course. We will also look at the issues from both a regional and a national point of view. These topics will include: the reunification of Germany; the ethnic/nationality question; the legacy of communism; the rise of neo-fascism; diplomatic integration into NATO or the European Union; tensions over Ukraine. Prerequisites: HIS 110, GTS 201, or POL 212.

POL 325 Middle East and North African Politics (3 hrs.) An examination of political issues within and between the countries in the Middle East and North Africa. In this course, students will examine the role of religion in politics, the causes and consequences of military conflicts in the region, efforts to promote (and diminish) the rights of marginalized groups, and the wide diversity of political institutions that exist in the area. Prerequisites: GTS 201, SEC 201, POL 212, or permission of the instructor.

POL 326 Environmental Politics and Policy (3 hrs.) This course seeks to explore and understand four broad, interrelated topics: (1) the major political processes, actors, conditions and controversies involved in the formulation and implementation of environmental policies at the local, national and international levels; (2) some of the major pieces of legislation that constitute environmental policy in the United States and the world community; (3) some of the techniques and approaches that policy analysts employ to assess the effectiveness and costs of environmental policies and (4) issues that will shape environmental politics and policies in the immediate future, such as population growth, global warming, habitat destruction and resource depletion. Offered every other fall semester. Prerequisites: POL 112 or POL 211 or ENV 105.

POL 328 National Security Agencies (3 hrs.) To understand the politics and processes of national security, we must have an understanding of the national security labyrinth at the national level. The purpose of this course is to ensure the students' knowledge about the institutional design, oversight mechanisms and shortcomings, missions, and relationship of the varied institutions of the national security bureaucracy. Prerequisites: POL 211, SEC 201, or permission of the instructor.

POL 332 National Security Law I (3 hrs.) The purpose of this class is to provide an understanding of the sources, impact and limitations of laws that impact the national security of the United States. We will look at the three branches of government and the roles that each plays in the legal environment related to national security. Additionally, there will be discussion of international laws and their effect on the security of the United States. Prerequisites: Any of the following: POL 211; POL 301; POL 305; POL 314; POL 362; any Security Studies course (SEC designation); OR permission of the instructor.

POL 333 National Security Law II (3 hrs.) This class delves deeply into legal issues facing national security, including traditional legal frameworks, and legal questions in emerging areas of national security law. Prerequisite: POL 211, POL 301, POL 305, POL 314, POL 362, or any Security Studies Course.

POL 335 Politics and Security of Developing Nations (3 hrs.) In this course, students will undertake a comparative investigation of the political dynamics of the developing world. Looking across Latin America, Asia, and Africa, students will identify and contrast patterns of political behavior across regions and analyze models of economic development, governance, and security challenges that occur in the developing world. By taking a policy-making perspective, students will assess problems and analyze solutions to current issues in developing nations. Prerequisites: POL 112, 212, SEC 201 or permission of the instructor.

POL 337 Human Rights and Security (3 hrs.) This course examines the evolution of the international system of human rights. It will consider fundamental legal, moral, and political debates related to human rights and look for avenues to make progress in human rights protection. It will also examine the relationship between human rights and human security and the challenges associated with the provision of human security in the 21st century, with special attention paid to human trafficking and economic development. Prerequisites: POL 112, 212, SEC 201, GTS 201, or permission of the instructor.

POL 342 U.S. Supreme Court (3 hrs.) This course is intended to provide insight into the United States Supreme Court. It will cover subjects that include, but are not limited to: understanding Supreme Court opinions; how justices are chosen to sit upon the Court; the reasons why the Supreme Court makes the decisions it does; and the impact of the Supreme Court on the political and legal landscape in the United States. Prerequisite: POL 211 or permission of the instructor.

POL 343 Congress (3 hrs.) This course will broadly examine the legislative branch of the United States government. Topics include: elections, committees, inter-branch relations, and spatial models of voting. The roles of Congress in our political system are two-fold: 1) to represent issues and concerns of the citizenry; and 2) to make policy for the nation – "to govern." How does the structure of Congress impact the behavior of its members? What makes for "quality" representation? These questions, and more, will be discussed in this course. Prerequisites: POL 112, POL 211 or permission of the instructor.

POL 345 Politics and Film (3 hrs.) Film and visual images can help us understand contemporary politics. Films often shape and illustrate the public's perception of politics. This course will examine the portrayal of politics in movies. The course will have different themes each semester it is taught, including, but not limited to, the American presidency, race and gender, legislative politics, war, terrorism, and elections. Prerequisites: Any of the following: FAR 215, HIS 104, POL 112, or POL 211.

POL 351 Women and Politics (3 hrs.) This course explores the connection between gender and politics in America and in international contexts. Topics under investigation include political participation and the exercise of political leadership by women, the evolution of social movements in support of women's rights, critical social and political issues of concern to women such as health, employment, security, and education, and debates over relevant public policies. Prerequisites: POL 112, 211, 212, WGS 210, or permission of the instructor.

POL 362 American Foreign Policy (3 hrs.) A study of the diplomatic process designed to provide a realistic insight into the stresses and demands upon modern policy-making, including the roles of the president and Department of State. The course includes an analysis of postwar American programs, policies and difficulties in foreign affairs. Prerequisites: POL 211 or 212.

POL 370 Drugs, Politics and Public Policy (3 hrs.) Examines the response of the American political system to the use of psychoactive drugs. Class will consider questions pertaining to the explanation of human behavior, the structure and dynamics of American society and politics, the formation of public policy and fundamental issues of moral and political philosophy to encourage critical and sophisticated thought regarding the actual and desired relationship of American citizens with psychoactive drugs and possible political strategies for responding to perceived issues. Prerequisites: POL 112, or 212.

REL – Religion

REL 101 Introduction to the Bible (3 hrs.) Examines the historical context in which the Bible (including both the Hebrew Bible, Old Testament, and the New Testament) was written, the various types of literature found in the Bible and the important impact of the Bible on the Western cultural tradition. Some attention will be given to the questions of the Bible's relevance in addressing contemporary ethical issues. Typically offered every semester."

REL/PHL 102 World Religions (3 hrs.) One of the most pressing problems of the 21st century is religious pluralism: We live in a world, in a nation, and in an academic community that is religiously diverse. How will we relate to persons who are different from one another and from us in terms of religious orientation? Will we choose to relate in ways that are healthy or ways that are harmful? For unless we know what persons of faith believe and value and do, we cannot relate in positive ways to them. This course will strive to understand a number of the varied religious traditions of the world in a way that is fair, open-minded, objective, and kind. "Agreeing" with the various religions we will be studying is not required; however, "understanding" them is. Typically offered every semester.

REL 302 The Meaning of Life (3 hrs.) What is the meaning of life? Most of us have asked this question of ourselves and perhaps of other people we respected. For, in addition to understanding the world in which we live, we want to make sense of how to make our own lives as meaningful as possible—to know not only why we're living, but that we're living our lives with intention, purpose, and commitment. Through interesting and pertinent books, writing selections, films, and a community service/experiential learning project, this course will address this profound, abstract, and personal question. Prerequisite: One PHL or REL course, or permission of the instructors.

REL 305 Perceptions of Death (3 hrs.) No matter our gender, race, nationality, socio-economic status, and religious commitment, all of us shall one day die. And by whatever term it is referred—passing away, dying, croaking, giving up the ghost, passing, becoming fertilizer, succumbing to physical finitude, falling asleep (the euphemism in the time of Jesus)—not one of us shall be able to avoid death. Of course, death especially in Western, American culture, is not often discussed: Death is counter-cultural in that our society—with its obsession with youth, the new, and vitality—either dismisses death as an event that happens to someone else or denies death as an inevitable reality by emphasizing a false sense of personal earthly immortality. This interdisciplinary course will study the phenomenon of death in its biological, psychological, social, cultural, ethical, and religious dimensions. Topics will include the problem of defining death; the fear and denial of death; the institutionalization and secularization of death in the modern world; the dying person and the process of death; grief; funerals; suicide; beliefs concerning life after death; literary treatments of death; and ethical issues surrounding death (such as the artificial prolongation of life, euthanasia, capital punishment, cloning, and genocide). Typically offered every other year. Prerequisites: 3 hours of Religious Studies credit or permission of instructor.

REL 307 Social Justice in Modern Christian Thought (3 hrs.) With a focus on social ethics, this course will explore the moral implications of the Christian commitment, the formulation and development of the principles of Christian ethics for persons and within communities, and their applications to areas of contemporary life. The course will address issues such as economic justice, poverty and wealth, criminal justice and capital punishment, war and pacifism, as well as environmentalism and food consumption. We will give attention to Catholic Social Teaching, Liberation Theology, and Anabaptist thought, among others. Typically offered once every year. Prerequisites: REL 101 or REL 102.

REL 316 The Teachings of Jesus (3 hrs.) The emphasis of this course is upon developing a historical understanding of Jesus. The teachings of Jesus are examined, using the Biblical Gospels, parallel Jewish and Greek and Roman documents and early extra biblical Christian texts as source materials. Attention will be given to the interpretation of Jesus in the Gospels, Paul and other early Christian sources. Interpretations of Jesus throughout history and in the contemporary world which shape the reception history of the "teachings of Jesus" will be studied. Typically offered every other year. Prerequisites: REL 101.

REL 319 Recent Christian Thought (3 hrs.) An introduction to major themes, writers and movements in contemporary Christian theology, against the background of an historical overview of the development of Christian thought. Typically offered once every three-four years. Prerequisites: 3 hours of Religious Studies credit.

REL 333 Asian Philosophy and Religion (3 hrs.) The purpose of this course is to provide a detailed overview of the key thinkers and issues of the four major traditions of Eastern Philosophy: Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and Islamic. A variety of primary and secondary source readings are used to elucidate issues in metaphysics (including philosophy of religion), epistemology, ethics, political philosophy, and aesthetics. Prerequisite: Any ASN, PHL or REL course.

REL 335 Sex and Gender in the Christian Tradition (3 hrs.) This course is a critical study of sexuality and gender within the Christian tradition. Using biblical perspectives, theological positions, ethical reasoning, church traditions, faith commitments and empirical data as our guides, we will explore several realms of contemporary Christian conversation. Lenses for interpretation used within the course include Womanist ethics, Queer theory and theology, and Feminist biblical exegesis. It examines key ethical variables such as human nature, God, the church, love, justice and empowerment in such major issues of sexuality and gender as human eroticism, marriage, partnering, divorce, contraception, reproduction, sexual identity and sexual violence. Typically offered every other year. Prerequisites: 3 hours of credit in REL or WGS.

REL/PHL 342 Philosophy, Religion, and Science (3 hrs.) The common perception today is that, for centuries, science and religion have stood in conflict with each other – e.g. as demonstrated by conflicting perspectives between Charles Darwin and the Bible concerning the theory of evolution. Philosophy itself was foundational to scientific inquiry, though its approach differs from both science and religion and can also be seen by some as adversarial to each. This course explores three themes—cosmology and creation, evolution and providence, and genetics and human nature—from the vantage points of philosophy, religion, and science with the goal of presenting a fresh conversation between these fields which does not reduce to adversarial positions. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or religious studies or one course in the natural sciences, or permission of the instructor.

REL 345 The Writings of C.S. Lewis (3 hrs.) C.S. Lewis has been long recognized as one of the premier theologians and writers of the twentieth century. This course will examine Lewis' theology through the lens of his works of fiction, emphasizing religious themes such as the nature of belief, the problem of evil, temptation, conversion, and death. (Previously offered as PHL 410/REL 300).

REL 346 / GTS 300 Religion and Violence (3 hrs.) The Holocaust and Other Genocides: This course will investigate a number of large-scale outbreaks of violence among humans in the 20th and 21st centuries. The Holocaust will be studied first, and will then be used as a springboard to examine other genocides or atrocities.

REL 398 Independent Studies in Religion (1-4 hrs.) This course permits advanced study of areas in religion not covered by regular listings on a research-tutorial basis. The precise topic is defined by the student in conference with the instructor. Offered as needed. Prerequisites: six hours of religion and permission of the instructor.

SOC – Sociology

SOC 111 Introduction to Sociology (3 hrs.) This course provides an introduction to the theories and methods used by sociologists to understand society. It explores topics ranging from culture to social institutions, including education, the economy, and government. It also examines how social identities, such as race, class, and gender affect people's lives and life chances.

SOC 315 Gender and Society (3 hrs.) This course examines multiple aspects of gender, including how it is constructed through our social interactions, how it is challenged by people who do not conform to traditional conceptions of gender and sexuality, and how ideas about gender vary by culture. It will also explore the role of social institutions, such as the media, work, and family, in shaping our ideas about gender and sexuality. Prerequisites include any one of the following: SOC 111 or WGS 210.

SOC 317 Race and Ethnicity (3 hrs.) This course explores various aspects of race and ethnicity, including the social construction of racial and ethnic categories, theoretical perspectives on prejudice and discrimination, and how race and ethnicity are embedded in social institutions. The course includes discussion of some of the most pressing issues in American society, such as new forms of discrimination, racial inequality in the criminal justice system, and how the racial/ethnic system is changing over time. Although the course focuses on the United States, it draws on international examples for comparative purposes. Prerequisite: SOC 111.

SOC 318/ PSY 418 Adult Develop & Aging (3 hrs.) An investigation of theories and research in adult development, from young adulthood to old age. Emphasizes gains and losses in cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development as well as death and grieving. Offered occasionally. Prerequisites: PSY 112, 113, SOC 111 or ANT 115.

SOC 332 Prisons and Social Control (3 hrs.) This course offers a critical approach to the study of prisons and social control in society by focusing on prisons as complex social institutions that are shaped by social, historical, political, economic and cultural forces. The course examines such issues as the functions of incarceration and other forms of social control, the dynamics of the prison environment, and the effects of incarceration on prisoners and society more broadly. SOC 111 or ANT 115.

SOC 345 Sociology of Religion (3 hrs.) The course will endeavor to introduce students to the major thinkers in the field of the sociology of religion, to some of its central theories regarding the nature of religion and the relationship between religion and society, and to some applications of its theories to specific religions and societies. Prerequisites include any one of the following: SOC 111, ANT 115; REL 101, 102; CLA 215; HIS 105.

SOC 360 Sociological Theory (3 hrs.) This course will provide students with an overview of classical and contemporary sociological theory. Through a critical examination of primary texts, the course will explore fundamental questions concerning modern societies, including why societies change or remain stable over time, what are the forces that govern human interactions, and how can we explain some of the causes and consequences of social inequality. Prerequisites: SOC 111 or ANT 115.

SOC 363 Deviance (3 hrs.) Deviance is a fluid concept. How we determine what behaviors are "deviant" changes over time and varies according to context. This course will provide an overview of the sociology of deviance, including issues of labeling and stigma, the medicalization of deviance, and the politics that shape how deviance is defined and subject to sanctions. Specific areas of "deviance" that we will address include homosexuality, mental illness, and alcohol and drug use, among others. Prerequisites: SOC 111 or ANT 115.

SOC 375 Social Science Research Methods (3 hrs.) This course is designed to teach students how to collect and analyze data using the qualitative and quantitative methods most commonly employed in the social sciences, including surveys, ethnography, content analysis, qualitative interviews, experiments and focus groups. Students will acquire hands-on experience collecting data using four of these methods and learn how to interpret data presented in academic writing. The course will also address issues pertaining to validity, reliability, sampling, research ethics, and the use of secondary sources. Prerequisites: SOC 111, ANT 115, or POL 112.

SOC 398 Independent Study (1-4 hrs.) Topics of special interest on a tutorial basis, or supervised field research projects. Prerequisites: SOC 111 or ANT 115 or permission of instructor.

SOC 431 Sociology Honors Thesis (2 hrs.) An option for upper-class majors who successfully complete the theory and methods requirements. Students produce an original critical paper based on either library or field research in consultation with the members of the department.