

SUMMER 2019 Special Topics Course Descriptions

Childcare Administration EDUC 460

This course will focus on the study of organizational management. Students will study the components for managing an early childhood program, including public and private settings. Study will include MA state licensing standards, NAEYC and QRIS standards, budgeting and family/community connections. At the conclusion of this class, students will have developed many of the documents and policies needed to start and govern an early childhood program. Satisfies Director 1 Licensure requirement through EEC.

Global Initiative in Management BADM 490 / MBA 695

Global Initiatives in Management (GIM) is an international course designed to provide students with a unique business management practices and market dynamics of the global industry. Students begin by working in small teams to research an issue, analyze a case study or design a business plan related to a specific country or region of the world. The course combines in-class lectures, reading discussions and case studies. Final presentations and written research reports are required for completion of the course.

Conversations on Race in American Society CCAP 300

Explores evolving conceptions of “race” in the United States, beginning in the antebellum period and extending into the present day. Draws upon a variety of disciplines including literature, history, law, sociology, and anthropology. Explores the dynamic power relationships that are engendered and sustained by American legal and cultural practices. Will chart the conversations about “race” as they emerge in literature, law, and society. “Race” is not a stable identity categorization, but an ideological framework through which power and domination, liberation and self-determination have been articulated and enacted throughout American history. This course will incorporate perspectives from a variety of writers, theorists, and community members. Special emphasis will be given to changing conceptions of “race.”

Food, Nutrition, and Culture CCAP 300

This course will integrate knowledge from several disciplines as an introduction into the emerging field of the sociology of food. We will critically analyze modern-day issues related to food. We will also work in groups as we examine the cultural meanings of food, its production, distribution, preparation, and consumption. Topics will include food and its relationship to historical and cultural factors, the thin ideal and the health-related risks of anorexia and bulimia, food and social class, food choices, the fast food industry, and food chain philosophies.

Representations of Nature CCAP 300

Considers various ways that nature has been represented over time, from prehistoric cave paintings to modern Hollywood films; analyzes and compares environmental representations to each other; examines the current scientific knowledge and environmental context related to particular representations of nature.

Abolitionism and the Berkshires HIST 320 / HSTE 601

This course will explore the development of African slavery in North America, the various movements against the practice of slavery, and the vital place of Berkshire County in these complex movements. We will be studying primary and secondary documents, as well as experientially-based learning through visiting local sites of interest.

Financial Literacy in Context BADM 290/ IDST 299

Students will explore behaviors necessary to make ethical and realistic financial decisions in changing situations and evaluate their collective societal impact. In a cultural and civic context, learners will develop lifelong strategic financial management skills to grow into responsible citizens, smart consumers and successful economic units.

American Immigration and Ethnicity HIST 320 / HSTE 601

This course examines the role immigrants from Europe, Asia, and Mexico and Latin America have played in the formation and history of the United States. Rather than attempt to cover all immigrant groups to the United States, this class focuses on select immigrant groups to explore the diversity of the American immigrant experience. We will begin the course by looking at the two great waves of migration from Europe beginning in the 1840s and continuing through the 1910s, then examine Asian immigration to the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and conclude by looking at the Latino immigrant experience in the twentieth century to the present. Within each of these groups, we will explore the reasons why immigrants left their homelands and the experiences they had when they arrived in the United States, the transnational ties they maintained with their home countries, the ways they reacted to their new settings, and their impact on the development of American society, culture, politics, economy, and law. We will also discuss the continuities and differences between today's immigrants and their counterparts from an earlier age.

Everyday Electromagnetism CCST 101

Designed for non-STEM majors, this course will examine fundamental concepts in electromagnetism and their applications in day-to-day life. Topics studied will include charge, electric fields, circuits, and magnetism. Simulations, discussions, and lab activities using household materials introduce principles of scientific reasoning, discovery, and invention.

Language and Culture in Society SOCI 395

Language is one of the most important things that define what it means to be human. This course presents a sociocultural approach to the phenomenon of language. It focuses on the relations between language and other factors in our culture and society. Topics include: the development of language; sub-cultural and contextual variations in language; non-verbal communication; the functions of gossip; and new technological language.

**BIOL 395 and BIOE 600 Special Topics: Coastal Marine Biology, 3 cr, July 8-21
online plus July 19-21 in Groton, CT.**

Introduces students to oceanology, ecology, environmental issues, and restoration strategies relevant to shoreline habitats. Habitats include rocky shores, sandy beaches, mud flats, estuaries, salt marshes, and mangrove forests; polar shores, seagrass beds, oyster reefs, and/or kelp forests may also be addressed. Environmental issues include ocean warming, shoreline development, aquaculture, invasive species and pollution. Prerequisite: A college-level introductory biology course. Must be able to hike for two miles across even terrain to reach field sites. The course will run from July 8-July 21. A weekend field component in Groton, CT, July 19 (5 pm) to July 21 (11:30 am) is mandatory. Extra fee estimated at \$500 includes two nights of lodging at the Project Oceanology hostel, field activities in Groton, CT, and five meals. This is a two-week intensive course; students should expect to spend a minimum of 4-6 hours per day on coursework.

ENGL 490 / ENGE 601 Chinese and the World Literature

The course will examine the long tradition of Chinese literature, from its genesis to the 21st century, looking into the diversities and richness of this tradition while tracing its dramatic historical changes. The focus of the course is on the important literary schools in Chinese, American, and European classical writers and their works. We will study classic poetry and fictions.

The course makes excursions into some important social and philosophical writings. A combined method of lectures, classroom discussions, and movie/video entertainment will be employed to help the students to form a general perspective of the development of Chinese, and World literature. The students are expected to learn the long and rich tradition, more importantly, to reconstruct it through the texts they are to read and papers they are to write.

IDST 350 The Art and Literature of War

This class examines the treatment of war in fiction, poetry, visual art and film. Explores a variety of cultural responses to war, including those of the soldier, civilian and nurse. Emphasis is on critical thinking and analysis of the subject matter, the creator and the artistic medium within which it is portrayed. Sample texts are *Apocalypse Now*, *The Things They Carried* and *Return of the Soldier*.

EDUC 634 and BIOE 634 From the Top of the Mountain to the Bottom of the Pond (K-8)

During the on-site week, participants will investigate the living laboratory of Western Massachusetts in the Berkshire Mountains. These ancient formations offer a unique opportunity to explore the geological and biological interconnectedness of the region through inquiry-based, “hands-on, minds-on” science. The Berkshires are one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world; through weathering and erosion, these ancient rocks have deposited Pleistocene-era minerals into the watersheds that have created and supported rare life forms. As geologists, we’ll walk the ancient bedrock and investigate glacial striations and formations to better understand geologic time. As hydrologists, we’ll identify and model the paths water takes through and down the mountains. During our investigations, we will collect samples of the minerals that have found their way into the local lakes, ponds and rivers below. Taking on the role of biologists, we will investigate how the local flora and fauna evolved as the region aged. We’ll learn to use 21st century tools like mobile devices for collection of data in the field, and return to the classroom to analyze and interpret that data. And finally, as artists, and for our “capstone” project, we will take our field data and create a digital art project that tells a story of how scientific processes have shaped the landscape of the Berkshires. Throughout the week, we will link all of our investigations back to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, including technology and the arts, and the revised MA Science and Technology/Engineering Standards. Participants will engage in science and engineering practices, and identify ways to integrate what they learn into their teaching and into their classrooms. Standards-aligned model curriculum units will be provided as a jumping-off point for them to develop their own lessons/units.

ENGL-265 Literary Theme: Animals in Literature.

Utilizes both primary and secondary literary and historical sources to explore ways in which a selected theme continually reappears in literature. Texts are examined, interpreted and evaluated within historical contexts; critical and comparative approaches are used to draw conclusions regarding content and context. The specific theme to be examined will vary and will be identified by subtitle. Course attributes: CHH.