

## WRITING PROGRAM

### Research in the Disciplines

### 201 Course List —Fall 2009

Do you want to become an expert on a topic of your choosing? If you do, enroll in a 201 course in the Fall 2009 semester. In 201, students have the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of subjects from every field of study. They select their own research topic; pose their own research question; enter scholarly discussion; become experts on their chosen topic; and author a ten-page research paper. For updated courses offered and added information about the 2009 Fall semester courses, visit the Writing Program website at <wp.rutgers.edu> or the 201 Sakai site at <sakai.rutgers.edu> under the heading "WP 201 Research Course." For further questions, contact: Emily M. Renaud, 201 Coordinator; emr@rci.rutgers.edu.

#### Architecture, Design, and Public Space

---

355:201:B5 **37359** CAC (MW5 2:50-4:10) SC204 Instructors: D. Gioia & S. Harrington

---

From shopping malls to student centers, war memorials to community playgrounds, historic buildings to iconic structures, how we construct and design our physical surroundings reveals a great deal about who and what we are. In this course, taught by Dr. Gioia, an anthropologist, and Dr. Harrington, an art librarian, students will explore the relationships between "place and space" by examining artistic, cultural, social, geographic, and political factors, among others, that influence how we perceive and mold the physical world. Possible research topics include the politics of property rights and eminent domain; the redesign of urban centers, using concepts such as "defensible space"; and the representation of buildings, public squares, and monuments as historic memory, to name only a few.

#### The Body in Motion

---

355:201:S7 **31806** DC (TTH6 5:35-6:55) RAB209B Instructor: Erica Magnus

---

From traditional tribal dances to the rigors of ballet, the body in motion has served as a focal point of society's greatest joys, fears, and aspirations. Furthermore, the contemplation of the animate body has led to some of the most celebrated images in the history of painting, sculpture and photography from the sweeping grace of the "Victory at Samothrace" through the tangles of gamblers and dancers in the paintings of Brueghel, through the evocation of movement in Duchamp's "Nude Descending a Staircase" to the remarkable capture of the performative body in the photographs of Lois Greenfield. This course offers students the opportunity to contemplate and research a broad variety of topics including folk dance, the history of ballet, modern dance, labanotation, famous and not-so-famous dancers, and images of the body in motion.

#### Celebrity

---

355:201:L2 **24974** LIV (TF2 10:20-11:40) TIL123 Instructor: Emily Birx

---

The idea of celebrity began in the ancient world with powerful Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. Celebrity grew to include Olympic athletes, gladiators, mighty warriors, rulers, and religious figures such as saints and martyrs. Mass media have greatly expanded the list of celebrities to include the famous, not so famous, and the infamous. Possible topics include the cult of celebrity, celebrity culture, privacy, movie stars, heroes, athletes, royalty, daredevils, fictional characters, *nonebrities* [the famous for being famous], religious and political leaders, judges, chefs, artists, and entertainers. Inanimate objects like bridges, buildings, monuments, mountains, museums, and cities can also achieve celebrity status and hold a place in our imaginations.

#### The Civil War

---

355:201:B8 **31591** CAC (MW7 6:10-7:30) HHB2 Instructor: Ben Fisher

---

As the most formative event in American history, the Civil War course offers students a multitude of topics to examine, research, and investigate in both historical and contemporary contexts. Topics include Lincoln, Lee, Grant, Sherman's "March to the Sea," race, film, books, music, politics, regionalism, slavery, religion, weaponry, poetry, art, literature, battlefields, reenactments, secession, economics, westward expansion, medicine, prisons, retribution, southern tradition, and democracy.

## Climate Change

355:201:C1 **37801**

CAC (TF3 12:00-1:20) TIL123

Instructor: Paul Hammond

This new 201 course takes advantage of many media forms. Students will have the opportunity to approach questions about climate change by exploring a number of local projects currently underway at Rutgers: the solar farm on Livingston, the "greening" project on the College Avenue campus, and the transportation "gateway" building under construction in New Brunswick. Students will work in groups to compose idea-driven, visual essays that bring these examples into conversation with the larger challenges posed by climate change.

## Conspiracy

355:201:L4 **28716**

LIV (TF3 12:00-1:20) TIL123

Instructor: Emily Birx

From Jack the Ripper to JFK, conspiracies have always played a part in shaping history. But now with the widespread use of the Internet, anything can become a conspiracy and anyone can be a conspiracy theorist. This course invites students to explore the nature and roots of conspiracy, and to research a broad variety of topics. Possible topics include Lincoln's assassination, the moon landing, Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinski, secret societies, Princess Diana, the New World Order, "Judgment Day," UFOs, and 9/11.

## The Corporation

355:201:D2 **28001**

CAC (TTH4 1:10-2:30) FHB1

Instructor: Jeffrey Robbins

Corporate names, brands, and logos are everywhere. But what is a corporation, and how have corporations acquired so much power? A course on the corporation offers rich opportunities for students to investigate topics such as law, history, finance, ethics, competition, monopoly, advertising, marketing, branding, glass ceilings, chutes and ladders, unions, science and innovation, corruption, education, and outsourcing—a list of topics that barely scratches the surface.

## Education

355:201:B7 **26601**

CAC (MW7 6:10-7:30) FHB4

Instructor: Michelle Phillips

In this course students can explore all types and levels of education—public, private, nursery school, elementary, secondary, and college. Students can look at education in the United States, or examine education in other countries. Possible topics include No Child Left Behind, bilingual education, special education, federal and state policies, funding, testing, home schooling, charter schools, public and private schools, online options, Title IX, immigration, diversity, vouchers, study abroad programs, campus life, foreign exchange programs, and American universities abroad, just to name a few.

## The Environment

355:201:S2 **33189**

DC (TTH3 12:35-1:55) HCK207

Instructor: Debbie Borie-Holtz

355:201:S5 **25971**

DC (TTH4 2:15-3:35) HCK207

Instructor: Debbie Borie-Holtz

Have you heard that by the year 2050 Alaska will no longer have polar bears? Did you know that Glacier National Park will soon become a park without glaciers? Did you know that elephants are "cracking up"? Have you ever considered how Thoreau changed the face of environmental writing, or how Rachel Carson started the environmental movement with her book *Silent Spring*? In this course students will explore all things environmental: economics, science, technology, ecology, politics, policy, practice, activism, international relations, energy, and art.

## Ethics and Decision Making

355:201:B2 **26700**

CAC (MW4 1:10-2:30) SC 202

Instructor: Tisha Bender

Ethics—seeking to make the optimal decision between or among competing demands over scarce resources—extends to all fields, professions, institutions, and areas of everyday life. In this course students can investigate ethics and decision making in such areas as religion, academia, economics, pharmaceuticals, medicine, science, business, journalism, government, policymaking, human services, criminal justice, law, organizations, institutions, the workplace, sports, communities, neighborhoods, and the family.

## Fashion

---

355:201:J6 <b>24971</b>	LIV (MTH3 12:00-1:20) TIL123	Instructor: Letizia Schmid
355:201:K5 <b>24973</b>	LIV (MW5 3:20-4:40) LSHA137	Instructor: Ann Alter

---

How will Michelle Obama use fashion to help her define her role as first lady? How will the military's new digitally inspired uniforms affect warfare? Is not having a tattoo now more rebellious than having one? In this class we will explore what our fashion choices say about us. We will examine its role in defining us as individuals and how our culture dictates what we can and cannot wear. We will explore beauty, marketing, advertisement, luxury, burning bras, the faux-hawk, and much more.

## Film and Video

---

355:201:D7 <b>32412</b>	CAC (TTH6 4:30-5:50) MU204	Instructor: Paul Bielecki
355:201:D8 <b>26602</b>	CAC (TTH7 6:10-7:30) MU113	Instructor: Paul Bielecki

---

Over the course of a little more than a century, advances in technology have helped to create a visual culture that has created a new sense of the world and of the people who live in it. The moving image, and the viewer's interaction with it, has fueled this drastic change. Film, television, and more recently the Internet, have all contributed to this new sense of identity and, for better or worse, an altered understanding of the world. This course will use film and video to investigate how technology has affected people's understanding of art, entertainment, and reality.

## Food, Feast, and Famine

---

355:201:R2 <b>36292</b>	DC (MTH2 10:55-12:15) HCK202	Instructor: Assenka Oksiloff
355:201:R4 <b>31291</b>	DC (MTH3 12:35-1:55) HCK204	Instructor: Assenka Oksiloff

---

Look down at your plate as you eat dinner. The food you have chosen and the way you have prepared it says a great deal about who you are. In this course we will explore why we rarely eat pancakes for dinner, why milk is often found in the back of the supermarket, how newly arrived immigrants celebrate Thanksgiving, how we can alleviate famine in America, and why the Scots eat deep-fried chocolate bars. Possible research topics include food tables, the decadence of chocolate, organic food, the role of food in religious and national celebrations, famine, bioengineering, diets, and much more.

## Gaming and Sports

---

355:201:A4 <b>24967</b>	CAC MTH3 11:30-12:50) SC203	Instructor: Jordan Aubry
355:201:K8 <b>29369</b>	LIV (MW6 5:00-6:20) LSHB105	Instructor: Ann Alter

---

Students taking this course enter into a scholarly conversation about the controversies and questions in amateur, semi-professional, Olympic, and professional sports. They may also choose to investigate the many questions and controversies surrounding gaming. Topics include ethnicity, race, gender, economics, sexuality, violence, gambling, drugs, medicine, risk-taking, injuries, and fantasy as they relate to gaming and/or sports.

## Getting Medieval

---

355:201:E1 <b>24975</b>	CAC (TTH8 7:40-9:00) SC106	Instructor: Diane DeLauro
-------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------

---

Medievalism—the imaginative reinvention of the Middle Ages—is everywhere in modern popular culture. In this course students can explore our modern fascination by researching topics such as gaming communities from Dungeons and Dragons to Everquest, music from Celtic New Age to Viking Metal, or books and films from the Harry Potter series to the Lord of the Rings trilogy, the Chronicles of Narnia, or the legends of Beowulf and King Arthur.

## The Global City

---

355:201:M5 <b>26600</b>	LIV (TTH5 3:20-4:40) BE119	Instructor: Patricia Soliman
-------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------

---

Life in the big city has always had a certain allure, but now, more than ever, a city life equals a global life. The digital age and the ease of travel have closed the gaps between cultures and allowed for the growth of "global cities." In this course we will investigate how contemporary urban centers, such as New York, Paris, London, Hong Kong, Beijing, and Tokyo, play a part in the phenomenon of globalization. We will look at the opportunities and challenges of urban living and who benefits or struggles as a result of these issues. Possible research topics include urban violence and crime, diversity, economics, urban myths, poverty and prosperity, housing, education, immigration, discrimination, security, architecture, urban planning, and public space.

## Good and Evil

355:201:M1 **31292**

LIV (TTH4 1:40-3:00) TIL123

Instructor: Sharon McGrady

355:201:M7 **28715**

LIV (TTH6 5:00-6:20) TIL123

Instructor: Sharon McGrady

How do we define good and evil in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Are these concepts still relevant in today's world? This course will consider these questions in ways that allow students to pursue research topics from many angles, including historical notions of God, spiritual practices, cults, witches, psychics and the paranormal, war, genocide, politics, slavery, lynching, environmental activism, biomedical engineering, morality, evolutionary science, eugenics, poverty, torture, and consumerism.

## Happiness

355:201:D4 **25254**

CAC (TTH5 2:50-4:10) MU112

Instructor: Catherine DeLaurentis

Although we often hear that we have a "right" to happiness, how do we know when we've achieved it? What is happiness, anyway? What role, if any, do sadness and melancholy play in happiness? Have the media and corporate America portrayed happiness as a purchasable commodity? Or do religion, philosophy, and psychology more accurately ascribe it to doing good deeds and reaching a state of inner peace? This course explores the important role of happiness in such areas as history, philosophy, economics, psychology, spirituality, science, medicine, and technology.

## Humor and Comedy

355:201:C5 **28958**

CAC (TF3 11:30-12:50) SC203

Instructor: Amanda McDonnell

What makes people laugh? Has humor changed over the course of history? Is the one-liner really dead? In this course, students can research and analyze such topics as political satire, popular cartoons, stand-up routines, comedians—male and female—ethnic humor, sit-coms, YouTube antics, bloopers, slapstick, vaudeville, *The Simpsons*, *South Park*, *Family Guy*, film, video, cartoons, and comic books.

## Justice and the Law

355:201:J2 **24970**

LIV (MTH2 10:20-11:40) TIL123

Instructor: Emily Renaud

Students will examine how the law affects the lives of those living in the United States. The class will address such topics and controversial issues as the right of privacy, gay rights, reproductive rights, drug laws, separation of church and state, tort reform, discrimination in the workplace, voting rights, death with dignity, police brutality, sexual harassment, racial profiling, wiretapping, government surveillance, domestic violence, jury nullification, and rights of the criminally accused.

## Law and Order in the Media

355:201:B4 **26188**

CAC (MW5 2:50-4:10) FHA3

Instructor: M.J. Oltarzewski

In this course students explore our culture's fascination with media's depictions of crime, law enforcement, and the justice system. Students will discuss and research the glamorization of the pursuit of justice and the link between law and entertainment as seen in fiction and "true crime" literature, film, theater, television, and news media. Possible topics include Judge Judy, *CSI*, film super heroes, *Court TV*, network news, and 24-hour cable news channels.

## Love and Sex

355:201:A1 **26089**

CAC (MTH1 8:10-9:30) SC104

Instructor: Andrea Collard

355:201:J4 **32466**

LIV (MTH2 10:20-11:40) BE201

Instructor: John Manna

355:201:J5 **32467**

LIV (MTH3 12:00-1:20) BE119

Instructor: John Manna

Most songs, novels, and movies focus on the same theme: love. How can we define love? What is the difference between loving someone and being in love? In this course, students will investigate the ways in which love and sex affect cultural traditions, gender norms, and the human condition. We will look at controversial issues that arise when people defy, redefine, or revisit cultural and social norms associated with love and sex. Possible topics include acts of flirtation, gay marriage, public displays of affection, serial killers and necrophilia, sexuality in comic books, female genital mutilation, Internet sex addiction, sexual predators, and pornography.

## Murder and Mayhem

---

355:201:J1 **36304** LIV (MTH2 10:20-11:40) LSHA137 Instructor: Rosemary Moore

---

Murder and Mayhem presents students with many interesting topics to research and discuss. Possible research topics include murder trials, civil liberties, victims' rights, race, gender, the death penalty, prisoner exoneration, Innocence Projects, *Court TV*, celebrity attorneys, forensics, DNA, juries, judges, defendants, Supreme Court cases, jury nullification, celebrity/high profile murder trials, news media, sentencing, prisons, lynching, mercy killing, serial killers, drug cartels, film, docudramas, federal and state laws, plea bargains, insanity pleas, terrorism, civil war, and social upheaval.

## Music

---

355:201:S1 **31824** DC (TTH2 10:55-12:15) HCK130(T); HCK211(TH) Instructor: Liz Gardner  
355:201:S3 **31673** DC (TTH4 2:15-3:55) HCK202(T); HCK 211(TH) Instructor: Liz Gardner

---

Why can't you stop singing that terrible song? Why can't you get that advertising jingle out of your head? Why do some of your best friends love musicians that you can't stand? These casual questions can become the point of departure for a research paper that earns you college credits! This course explores all kinds of music from high art to low trash and everything in between. Possible topics include generic changes and fusions in classical, jazz, and world music, film scores, the psychology of listening, fan behavior, and the various effects of visual and commercial culture on music.

## MySpace, YourSpace: 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Communication

---

355:201:A2 **24966** CAC (MTH2 9:50-11:10) SC104 Instructor: Andrea Collard

---

Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter have changed the ways in which people perceive one another. YouTube and online dating sites like OkCupid have dramatically shifted how men and women relate to each other in real time. Students can explore how visibility in cyberspace, and informal virtual interactions with others, affect and influence current cultural mores, and social rituals in all aspects of human life. They can also research phenomena such as blogs, wikis, and other forms of cyber self-expression and how a concept like "Netiquette" disrupts and changes social interactions between individuals interfacing with one another in real time in areas such as dating, consumer behaviors, friendship, and professional relations.

## Performance

---

355:201:S6 **25947** DC (TTH5 3:55-5:15) HCK117 Instructor: Erica Magnus

---

Performance exists everywhere from the halls of Congress to Wrigley Field, from a Jay-Z concert to Carnegie Hall, and from the art of seduction to the act of flirtation. Performance occurs when a person or a group separates from the community in order to present a concept, deliver a message, or entertain. This course allows students to investigate performance as it appears in film, theater, opera, dance, sports, rock concerts, talk radio, inspirational speech, political and religious oratory, selfhood, social movements, and everyday life.

## Rebels

---

355:201:D6 **24969** CAC (TTH6 4:30-5:50) CAA1 Instructor: Jason Spiegel-Grote

---

This course studies Rebels—in all shapes and forms—and looks at theories, debates, and case studies of resistance, paying special attention to the often problematic and sometimes contradictory relationship between cultural challenges and political change. From the Diggers' seizure of St. George's Hill in 1649 to Hacktivists staging virtual sit-ins in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, from the retributive fantasies of Robin Hoods to punk rock and ska to the imaginary omnipotence of gangsta rappers, this course looks at the ways people have used—and continue to use—culture as a weapon of resistance.

---

### Science, Medicine, and Society

---

355:201:C4 <b>29368</b>	CAC (TF3 11:30-12:50) MU114	Instructor: A. Marcu-McGowan
355:201:B9 <b>27459</b>	CAC (MW8 7:40-9:00) SC104	Instructor: Ben Fisher
355:201:F2 <b>32248</b>	BC (TTH5 3:20-4:40) ARC324	Instructor: Karen Thompson
355:201:F3 <b>31032</b>	BC (TTH6 5:00-6:20) ARC324	Instructor: Karen Thompson

---

The course Science, Medicine, and Society focuses on ethical, social, and political controversies in a variety of medical and health fields. Research topics include biomedical engineering, nursing, pharmaceutical and insurance industries, health care, mental illness, alternative and experimental healing techniques, hospice, hospitals, and midwives. Students can also study aspects of medical training and the doctor-patient relationship.

---

### Science and Science Fiction

---

355:201:D5 <b>24968</b>	CAC (TTH5 2:50-4:10) FHB2	Instructor: Jason Spiegel-Grote
-------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------

---

This course will explore the relationship between hard science, culture, and science fiction from the 19<sup>th</sup> century until today. The course will include ways that flights of fancy have presaged actual scientific developments and cultural changes. Futurism, cyberpunk, and the relationship of the dystopian novel—*1984*, *Brave New World*, *Fahrenheit 451*—will also come into play and we will examine their effect on society. Attention will also be given to African-American sci-fi, including authors like Samuel Delaney and Octavia E. Butler.

---

### Sexuality, Gender, and Difference

---

355:201:R1 <b>32367</b>	DC (MTH2 10:55-12:15) HCK117	Instructor: Nika Hedges-Farley
-------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------

---

Sexuality has become central to self-definition and to the way people define others. We are male or female, straight or gay, in love or not. This class examines sex, sexuality, and gender as social constructs, biological phenomena, and as legal categories. In addition, students may wish to research such topics as the body, gay marriage, civil unions, pleasure, masculinity, femininity, internet dating, pornography, prostitution, and sex trafficking.

---

### The Sixties

---

355:201:M3 <b>25576</b>	LIV (TTH4 1:40-3:00) LSHB110	Instructor: Patricia Soliman
-------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------

---

Hope. Rage. Change. Music. Protests. War. Civil Rights. Drugs. Universal Love. Black Power. Social Movements. Baby Boomers. Assassinations. Social Upheaval. Black Power. J. Edgar Hoover. Radicals. Woodstock. Hippies. Counter-Culture. Television. Cold War. Vietnam. Military Draft. Cuban Missile Crisis. Malcolm X. JFK. LBJ. RFK. Chicago Eight. Resistance. Change. Dr. Martin Luther King. Great Society. New Left. Freedom Rides. These names and words conjure up just a few of the images that we associate with the sixties. To some, the sixties represent excess and rage; to others the sixties symbolize idealism and hope. Without a doubt, this decade provides a treasure trove of research topics for any student scholar.

---

### Taboos and Transgressions

---

355:201:J3 <b>32249</b>	LIV (MTH2 10:20-11:40) TIL127	Instructor: Letizia Schmid
-------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------

---

Engaging in pre-marital sex? Eating pork? Breastfeeding in public? Cross-dressing? Would any of these activities offend you? This course explores the origins of taboos and the social and religious consequences of transgressing them. We will examine how we decide what is decent and indecent in our society and what these codes of conduct say about us. We will explore the forbidden and discuss the unmentionable.

---

### The Universe

---

355:201:F1 <b>32247</b>	BC (TTH4 1:40-3:00) ARC324	Instructor: Lynne Healey
-------------------------	----------------------------	--------------------------

---

Have you ever looked up at the night sky and wondered how the universe came to be? Have you ever wondered where the universe begins and where it ends? In this class students can research such subjects as black holes, the big bang theory, unified theory, asteroids (one will come very close to Earth in the very near future), meteors, life on other planets, expansion theory, dinosaurs, *Star Wars*, Stephen Hawking, Carl Sagan, and space exploration. This list barely scratches the surface of the array of topics available for research and study in a course named "The Universe."

## The World of Work

355:201: F9 **36465**

LIV (MTH1 8:40-10:00) LSHB112

Instructor: Donna Cantor

What does it mean to work for a living in twenty-first century America? Does your boss *really* need a reason to fire you? This course examines the way work affects the employee and how employee concerns impact management. Possible research topics include the move toward consulting, living on minimum wage, the decline of labor unions, privacy issues, the global economy, corporate culture, childcare concerns, healthcare, retirement benefits, job security, sexual harassment, discrimination, outsourcing, small business, trade agreements, and government regulations.