

FALL 2012 ISEM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Bargaining and Negotiation: The Art and Science of Conflict Resolution (2 sections offered #1 and #2)

Section 1 – TR 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Section 2 – TR 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Course Description: This integrated seminar introduces students to the various forms of conflict between and among humans and the conflict resolution techniques that are employed to resolve these conflicts. The conflicts explored range from the interpersonal to labor-management disputes to the outbreak of civil and international war. Students will then examine the major theories and practices of bargaining and negotiation as specified primarily in the fields of political science, economics, psychology, and sociology. The bargaining problem and its resolution are also explored via literary works and in film. The conceptual and theoretical foundations and tools of negotiation and bargaining acquired during the first part of the semester will then be employed by the students for use in an in-class simulation to resolve a complex negotiation problem.

Sacred Journeys into Human Communities and Beyond

Section 3 (HON) – TR 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Course Description: Sacred journeys have been at the foundation of providing spiritual and cultural significance and meaning, as well as creating community. Sacred journeys go to the heart of what it means to be "human." During this semester we will consider the sacred journeys embedded in Indigenous (Coeur d'Alene and Crow Indian), Hindu, Buddhist, and Taoist communities. Sacred journeys can be found at the personal level, including various "rites of passage," such as spiritual quests, initiations into religious orders or statuses, states of illness and healing, and the final rite of passage, death. Sacred journeys can also be found at the collective level, including groups of people on "pilgrimage" to "sacred places," such as traveling to Benares in India or to the Medicine Wheel in the Bighorn Mountains. While all sacred journeys travel over and through exterior landscapes, seeking to discover the divine in a temple or at a sacred site, sacred journeys are also focused on the interior journeys of the soul and spirit, realizing the divine within oneself. Equipped with an academic approach, we will explore the nature of sacred journeys and how they help build and sustain our human communities. For more information:

<http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~rfrey/101.htm>

Becoming Mexican-American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity

Section 7 – TR 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

This integrated seminar will focus on a deeper understanding the History of Mexican-Americans from colonial times to the present. Latinos/Hispanics have replaced African-Americans as the largest minority group and are an integral part of the social, cultural, political, and economic fabric of the United States. Students will learn how Mexican-American experiences have been represented and challenged in readings, films, maps and socio-political images

Manly Men, Womanly Women, and the Rest of Us: Performing (and Policing) Gender in the U.S.

Section 9 – TR 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Why do some parents get upset when their little boys play with dolls or express interest in dance lessons? Why do some companies market products with slogans like "math is hard" to teen girls or suggest to adult women that eating chocolate is "sinful" behavior to be indulged in with a secret feeling of transgressive pleasure? This course explores gender as one of the primary systems humans use to organize and understand their communities and their interpersonal relationships, focusing in particular on the shifting ways gender has been performed and policed in the United States at different points in the country's history. It introduces students to the gender ideologies that shape our lives, examines relationships between racial/ethnic/tribal identities and ideas about gender, explores the roots of anxieties about "incorrect" gender performances that can lead to censure or limit self expression, and invites careful scrutiny of gender patterns and gendered thinking. Course materials will include essays, films, theater, poems, songs, cartoons, science articles, news articles, advertisements, propaganda, and other cultural artifacts.

Human Communities on Earth

Section 11 – MWF 9:30 a.m. 10:20 a.m.

Course description: People live in communities on earth. A simple concept but easy to forget. Human communities derive their sustenance from the natural world, and it, in turn, influences peoples' identities. In short, by living their lives, human communities affect and are affected by the earth. The course uses an interdisciplinary approach to

examine how natural and human communities affect each other from the global to the local scale, and it asks how we might forge a sustainable relationship heading into the future.

Exploring Global Communities (2 sections offered #16 and #71)

Section 16 – TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Course description: Globalization is a major force shaping the world today, which includes economic, cultural, social and political exchanges on a global scale. This process has altered existing communities and created new global communities. The course will examine the role of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and various interests play in the formation of global communities. Also, what is the relation of these communities with the environment? It is a topic that evokes strong feelings from many people, although few fully understand and appreciate the complexity of the issues it raises. It is a phenomenon that truly demands a multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural perspective to understand.

Born in the USA: Music & Change in America (3 sections offered # 17, #52, #53)

Section 17 – MWF 1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Course description: This integrated seminar will introduce students to the power of popular music to influence the individual and human communities in the context of social and political upheaval. Students will explore the concept of human communities, and identify both communities of which they are a part and communities that challenge their principles. They will assess their personal values and the values of various human communities; they will identify music that reflects those values and music that has forced change in various value systems. Through reading, listening, analyzing lyrics, and studying the social and political context of 20th century popular songs, students will learn that music has the potential to transform public policy and affect social change. Students will study the history of conflicts that helped shape our current political and social landscape. Music will be presented that may test students' ideas about gender, race, sexual orientation, religion and politics.

Human Communities: Through the Camera Lens (3 sections offered #21, #36, #39)

Section 21 (HON) TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

ways in which human communities are documented and shaped by visual media. Developing students' skills in visual literacy, semiotics, and the ability to "read" images as complex visual texts, this course examines how image-based media contribute to the formation of a diverse range of communities and the maintenance of community identity. Possible subtopics to be covered by the course include indigenous media, political expression and visual media, commercial media and national communities, or media fan communities. By exploring these issues, the course will not only introduce students to the key issues and debates concerning community, diversity, and power relations but will also offer specific case studies in the use of image-based media as a tool in both individual and community expression.

Fire, Myth and Humanity

Section 22 – TR 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Course Description: Fire is humanity's most complex ally and adversary, an element that forges community. Fire shapes people's thought through myth and science, and through shared stories and an approach to nature. How do science and myth tap into humanity's need to make sense of the world in which we live? The Integrated Seminar Fire, Myth and Humanity explores how people, artists, journalists and others communicate about fire to help us negotiate an understanding of the world. Students will explore how we use metaphor and symbolism to help delineate fire's role in nature and our nature.

Sports and American Society

Section 31 – MWF 11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Course description: This course uses ethics, sociology, history, literature, film, political science, physical education, and cultural studies to explore the central role of sports in America. This integrated seminar examines the relationship of sports to gender, race, class, ethnicity, consumerism, media, and a number of other topics. Course materials include essays, documentary and feature films, short fiction and poetry, and historical, legal, and sociological studies.

Storytelling, Self and Society**Section 32 – MWF 1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.**

Course description: This integrated seminar explores the history, elements, and functions of Story-Telling in society, through mythological, religious, and cultural history. Artistic, educational, and commercial narratives will be applied to narrative theory, as students research, analyze, interpret, and create various stories, which will be performed in class. Students will be able to develop meaningful connections with their professor, peers, and a peer-mentor through discussion-based learning and interactive experiences. This will provide an understanding of academic expectations and an opportunity to develop meaningful educational and social networks at the University of Idaho.

Human Communities: Through the Camera Lens (3 sections offered #21, #36, #39)

Section 36 – TR 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Course description: An exploration of the ways in which human communities are documented and shaped by visual media. Developing students' skills in visual literacy, semiotics, and the ability to "read" images as complex visual texts, this course examines how image-based media contribute to the formation of a diverse range of communities and the maintenance of community identity. Possible subtopics to be covered by the course include indigenous media, political expression and visual media, commercial media and national communities, or media fan communities. By exploring these issues, the course will not only introduce students to the key issues and debates concerning community, diversity, and power relations but will also offer specific case studies in the use of image-based media as a tool in both individual and community expression.

The Individual and Community through Film**Section 37 – MWF 9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.**

Course description: This course is designed to introduce students to the ambivalent relationship between the individual and their community as mediated through film. Cinema by its very nature is interdisciplinary; and in this course students will learn about the ways film makers engage with ideology, gender, and ethnicity. As we do so we will practice communicating our ideas about the relationship between individual and their community as well as explore ways we as individuals can engage in our communities to affect change. As the theme of the relationship between the individual and their community is universal, we will use a variety of film texts from an international context.

Community, Conflict, and the Virtual World**Section 38 – MWF 10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to issues of how our engagement with war and conflict through virtual media affects our society and culture. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students will explore artifacts, events, and academic interpretations to learn how people engage in conflicts and how that affects society and culture. Students will explore the interconnected relationship between the military and gaming industry, virtual technologies and war, and the ways contemporary virtual communications help people create political change.

Human Communities: Through the Camera Lens (3 sections offered #21, #36, #39)

Section 39 - TR 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Course description: An exploration of the ways in which human communities are documented and shaped by visual media. Developing students' skills in visual literacy, semiotics, and the ability to "read" images as complex visual texts, this course examines how image-based media contribute to the formation of a diverse range of communities and the maintenance of community identity. Possible subtopics to be covered by the course include indigenous media, political expression and visual media, commercial media and national communities, or media fan communities. By exploring these issues, the course will not only introduce students to the key issues and debates concerning community, diversity, and power relations but will also offer specific case studies in the use of image-based media as a tool in both individual and community expression.

Tribal Cultures/Histories**Section 42 – TR 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.**

Course description: This integrated seminar was designed by students and faculty from the American Indian Studies Program to allow students to study American Indian culture and histories before and after contact with Euro-American culture. Readings, guest speakers, videos, and literature presenting the American Indian perspective are featured. Students focus their study on central aspects of American Indian culture including oral tradition, a sense of place, a holistic approach to all living things, and rituals.

Understanding Media (2 sections offered #43 and #44)

Section 43 – 10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**Section 44 – 9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.**

Course Description: This integrated seminar raises students' consciousness and comprehension of the vast array of media they inescapably encounter on a daily basis. The course begins with developing an awareness of the extent to which we live in a media saturated society. It places this situation in the CONTEXT of its historical development and its economic underpinnings. Of major importance here is the examination of role played by the dominant institution of the modern era, the corporation. Within this context, Understanding Media then focuses on analyzing the CONTENT of different forms of media. It examines the exaggerations and simplifications of entertainment media, the construction of the news, the techniques used by advertising and public relations as well those employed in the related arts of social and political propaganda. The final segment of Understanding Media explores some of the IMPACTS of all this media exposure on the construction of our self-identity. Specifically examined are the impacts on our gender identity – what it means to be a man or a woman; the development and expression of our sexuality; and, lastly, on our self-image – the feelings of our own beauty, adequacy and self-worth.

Born in the USA: Music & Change in America (3 sections offered #17, #52, #53)

Section 52 – MWF 1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.**Section 53 – MWF 2:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.**

Course description: This integrated seminar will introduce students to the power of popular music to influence the individual and human communities in the context of social and political upheaval. Students will explore the concept of human communities, and identify both communities of which they are a part and communities that challenge their principles. They will assess their personal values and the values of various human communities; they will identify music that reflects those values and music that has forced change in various value systems. Through reading, listening, analyzing lyrics, and studying the social and political context of 20th century popular songs, students will learn that music has the potential to transform public policy and affect social change. Students will study the history of conflicts that helped shape our current political and social landscape. Music will be presented that may test students' ideas about gender, race, sexual orientation, religion and politics.

The Creative Mind: An exploration of the creative process as a tool for critical thinking

Section 56 – MWF 12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Course description: Can thinking like an explorer make a difference in your future? Would answering a question such as "What if..." change the direction your life takes? Does curiosity have a top-off valve? By investigating such avenues through the lens of a Creative Mind, students will learn how to individually and collaboratively enrich their critical thinking skills to succeed at the University of Idaho and the world beyond. Humanities, social sciences, and the arts will be platforms to approach diverse interpretations and explore multiple perspectives for informative evaluation.

Jupiter, Venus & Mars: An Exploration of Gendered Communication

Section 57 – MWF 1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Course description: "Women are from Venus, Men, are from Mars" has become a catch phrase that crosses multiple gendered and generational communications. Add the planet Jupiter to this swirl as a symbol of the complex mix of identities that cultures have come to embrace. The success of every relationship we have is based on a foundation of articulating information. Through avenues from verbal language to visual images, humans are a species that thrives on telling our stories, yet our intentions are so often misunderstood. Students will come to embrace diversity, learn to understand each other better, and gain a stronger sense of the gendered Earth we live on.

Love and Happiness**Section 62 – MWF 10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**

Course description: Love. It's the thing we want most and scientists and sages down through the ages agree we can't live long or well without. And yet few of us have ever taken the time to figure out exactly what love *is*. When we do stop to think about love we're likely to find that our personal definitions were shaped largely by Disney, Cosmo and Lady GaGa, and yet who's to say these sources are wise, accurate or have our best interests at heart? Our task then is to analyze the cultural forces that have shaped our current definitions of love and then to combine perspectives from literature, philosophy and the sciences in an attempt to figure out what love actually is and isn't, and how loving well can help us lead happier lives.

Exploring Global Communities (2 sections offered #16 and #71)**Section 71 – TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

Course description: Globalization is a major force shaping the world today, which includes economic, cultural, social and political exchanges on a global scale. This process has altered existing communities and created new global communities. The course will examine the role of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and various interests play in the formation of global communities. Also, what is the relation of these communities with the environment? It is a topic that evokes strong feelings from many people, although few fully understand and appreciate the complexity of the issues it raises. It is a phenomenon that truly demands a multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural perspective to understand.

Understanding the Sacred in Diverse Communities (2 sections offered #81, #82)**Section 81 – TR 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.****Section 82 – TR 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

Course description: The purpose of this integrated seminar is to familiarize students with meaning and definition of the term "sacred," how it relates to all our lives, and how diverse communities vary as well converge as regards what is sacred. This multidisciplinary course will delve into materials from fields such as history, archaeology, anthropology, sociology, art and architecture, political science, literature, and religious studies. A variety of teaching tools will be used to understand these concepts including texts, lectures, films, music, and documentaries.