

## Special Topics Courses 2023/24

### Spring/Summer 2023

ARTH3991-Z (3 CR)

FILM NOIR

Prereqs: ARTH 2101 (or FINH 2101); ARTH/MUSE 2111 (or FINH 2111); or permission of the Department

This course examines the cinematic genre of film noir. It will consider films ranging from the genre's classic cycle of the 1940s and 50s to the "noir" revival of the 1970s and beyond. Topics will include noir's literary roots in hard-boiled detective fiction, its cinematic and aesthetic antecedents in German Expressionism, its social and political preoccupations, and its pervasive and enduring legacy in art and media. Questions about genre, visual style, narrative form, sexuality, gender, and race will be addressed through readings and discussions. Close textual analysis of individual films will be supplemented with critical, theoretical, and historical readings. [Note 1: This course is listed with DRAM 3991 Film Noir and

Art History program offerings. This course critically examines the role of museums, galleries, and galleries. The practical aspects regarding collection, display, and audiences, will be addressed and include current critical theory and decolonization. The course will be taught online, six weeks. Modes of delivery are Office 365 Teams, with Moodle. Students are encouraged to explore in depth the 'how' and 'why' of art in galleries. This course covers the theory and practice of art in galleries, activities with visitors. Classes will be interactive and hands-on. experiential learning and ongoing exchange between students. MUSE 3991 Museum Practices and may therefore be taken concurrently with MUSE 3991. Lecture, Scheduled Online Only)

BIOL3991-Z (3 CR)

CONSERVATION PHYSIOLOGY

Prereq: Third or fourth year standing; BIOL 2401; BIOC 2401 recommended

This course is designed for Mount Allison students to

interacting with the world we live, work, and play in. It reflects technologies, identities, values, beliefs,



This course is an overview of sexuality and sex education from a cross

Fall 2023

CEN1991-P (3 CR)

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ASSETS

DRAM3991-P (3 CR)

EDINBURGH FRINGE

Prereq: Permission of the instructor

This A Term course brings students abroad to Edinburgh's Fringe Festival for 8 days in August. Students selected for this course will see a wide range of theatre from across the globe. This international experience will provide students with global perspectives of the performing arts beyond what is possible in the classroom. The course will also include 3 days in London to visit Shakespeare's Globe, the Odeon Luxe Cinema, and attend a show in the famous West End theatre district. Students taking this course as a DRAM credit will spend a day researching the theatre archives in Edinburgh's National Library of Scotland while those taking it as a SCRIN credit will research the archives at the British Film Institute in London. The course will comprise a research project that will be completed on the Mount Allison campus during the fall term. [Note 1: This course is cross-listed as SCRIN 991 Edinburgh Fringe and may be taken as three credits in either discipline.]

ENGL4921-A (3 CR)

GRAPHIC WOMEN

Prereq: Third-year standing; permission of the Department. Preference is given to students pursuing a course-based Honours

This senior seminar examines a range of graphic novels by women, focusing on female experience. Authors studied include Marjane Satrapi, Lynda Barry, Alison Bechdel, Modan Ebony Flowers, and Kate Beaton. (Format: Seminar 3 hours)

GENS3991A (3 CR)

SKY EYES: READING LANDSCAPES

Prereq: GENS 1401; GENS 2441

The purpose of this course is to learn tools and techniques for identifying and interpreting landforms and landscapes. Remotely sensed data (e.g., satellite imagery) will be analyzed using one or more image processing software packages. The goals include being able to identify and characterize various landforms (e.g., estimate size) and being able to identify potential natural hazards (e.g., likelihood of a slope failure). Students who complete the course should be able to assess and solve actual challenges related to human interactions with landscapes, such as picking a landing site for an aircraft, picking a route for a hiking trail, avoiding a hazard area, etc.

HIST3991-A (3 CR)

Natural Resource Development and Indigenous Resilience in the Arctic >> BDC /e



beyond the western tradition (where a similar perspective may be found) that could include, depending on student interest, early Buddhism, Brahmanism, Daoism, and more. (Format: Seminar 3 hours)

PHYS4991A (3 CR)

GENERAL RELATIVITY

Prereq:



SCIE4991-A (3 CR)

SENSE OF BELONGING IN STEM

Prereq: Third or fourth year standing in a science program; permission of the instructor

Participants in this course will use the education literature to explore barriers to youth science literacy, sense of belonging, and hope. Together with the course instructor, individual participants can define their research topic broadly or focus on an underrepresented group of interest to the student and the community. Through ~10 hr of work integrated learning (WIL), students will partner with community members to explore barriers to the development of a sense of belonging in STEM, identifying needs in partnership with community members. Participants will be supported in the development of learning materials, science-themed literacy packs, that remain in the community following course completion.

SCRN8991-B (3 CR)

HORROR STORIES

Prereq: Third-year standing in the Interdisciplinary Drama Program; SCRN 1001; or permission of the Program Director

Horror is one of the most popular and enduring global genres across the history of film and television. With its roots in mythology, fairy tales, gothic literature, the supernatural, and psychoanalysis, horror both shocks and thrills audiences with stories about vampires, ghosts, zombies, werewolves, serial killers, and other “monstrous” beings. Horror has become a genre through which society explores cultural tensions about identity, global cultures, technology, religion, politics, diversity, Otherness, and the environment. This course will introduce students to the foundations of the horror genre on screen, including the basic forms, themes, and styles of both classic and contemporary horror films.

SCRN8991-C (3 CR)

TRAGEDY IN FILM: SOPHOCLES AND CINEMA

Prereq: Third-year standing in the Interdisciplinary Drama Program; SCRN 1001; or permission of the Program Director

One half of this course surveys several plays by the ancient Greek author Sophocles (496 BCE) to develop familiarity with the conventions of classical Athenian tragedy in the fifth century generally and the thematic preoccupations of Sophocles in particular. This latter focus will include: the failures of human knowledge, the individual's relationship to their communities, the inscrutability of the gods, and the relationship between fate and choice. Additionally, to enrich its reading of Sophocles, it spends the other half of class time reflecting on the enduring resonance of his tragedies in film. For each play, it examines the play's reverberations in cinema, accounting not only for direct adaptations but also for twentieth and twenty-first century iterations of Sophoclean character types, structures, and

a DRAM credit will spend a day researching the theatre archives in Edinburgh's National Library of Scotland while those taking it as a SCRN credit will research the archives at the British Film Institute in London. The course will comprise a research project that will be completed on the Mount Allison campus during the fall term. [Note 1: This course is cross-listed as DRAM3991 Edinburgh Fringe and may be taken as three credits in either discipline.]

UNST1991A, B, C, D (3 CR)

WICKED PROBLEMS

Prereq: Restricted to first year students

Designed for FIRST YEAR, INCOMING Faculty of Arts students, Wicked Problems (UNST 1991) explores how liberal arts learning empowers us to tackle everyday issues in our communities. These include environmental issues, persistent poverty, food insecurity, and mental wellness. Wicked problems are complex problems with multiple and diverse answers. In-0.005 Tc 0..2 (t2 (is3 (.))110.6 E0e99Orn)2.2 (g)5E(w)-

This course explores the interconnection of gender, sex, and sexuality with media and digital cultures. We explore how the production and consumption of mediated representations of gender, sex, and sexuality shape and are shaped by ~~over~~ experiences. We will begin by discussing feminist approaches to studying media and digital cultures before moving into several weeks focused on timely topics and debates related to gender, sex and sexuality in media and digital cultures. We will ~~also~~ consider objectification and “the gaze”; representation and visibility; the gendered politics and labour of ‘content creators’; the deplatforming of sex; and gendered audiences and fandoms. Beyond weekly readings focused on theory and media analysis, this course ~~will~~ ask students to engage with a range of media texts. One of our primary goals will be to develop competency and confidence in doing media analysis.

Winter 2024

ARTH



describing how people make decisions in an environment of scarcity. We will look at specific cases in which people face and respond to incentives in traditional economic environments. This will involve studying practical applications of empirical tools with occasional deviations to examine underlying theoretical issues. The readings are from the books Freakonomics and Super Freakonomics and the

will incorporate basic html coding to facilitate Website backend content editing and editing on a WordPress content management system. This course covers: Literary publishing on the web; Web writing principles; Editing with Content Management Systems; Writing for Social Media Marketing (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc.); Writing for government (Canada.ca); Interfacing book publishing with digital tools (Publish on Demand Espresso Book Machine); Digital Shopfloor management/ Digital vis-à-vis Book Publishing process; HTML/ Coding (for-backWordPress editing).

FINA3991-A (3 CR)

THE UBIQUITOUS IMAGE

Prereq: FINA 1921; FINA 1931; 12 credits from FINA at the 2000 level; 6 credits from FINA at the 3000 level; or permission of the Department

This course explores the use of “repeatable images” and “multiples” in student’s independent studio practice. The course will focus on developing technical, conceptual, and critical skills in approaching these media. Experience in print media is recommended.

(Format: Studio 6 hours)

FINA3991-B(3 CR)

CHROMOPHILIA

Prereq: FINA 1921; FINA 1931; 12 credits from FINA at the 2000 level; 6 credits from FINA at the 3000 level; or permission of the Department

This course explores the application of colour practices, materials, theories, and cultures of colour in a studio context. Development of students’ individual colour sensibilities and visual ideas in relation to their independent studio practice is emphasized. It provides exercises for various colour mixing systems, a brief survey of historical and contemporary theories of colour, and an examination of historical and cultural ideas about colour. (Format: Studio 6 hours)

FINA3991-C(3 CR)

CARE, SHARE, AND REPAIR

Prereq: FINA 1921; FINA 1931; 12 credits from FINA at the 2000 level; 6 credits from FINA at the 3000 level; or permission of the Department

This course explores “Care, Share, and Repair” as a conceptual theme and as a set of actions. Through readings, discussions, and studio work, this course investigates how students’ independent and collaborative studio practices can activate relations of caring, sharing, and repairing. This course is open to a range of media explorations. (Format: Studio 6 hours)

FINA3991-D(3 CR)

THE PHOTOGRAPH AS OBJECT

Prereq: FINA 1921; FINA 1931; 12 credits from FINA at the 2000 level; 6 credits from FINA at the 3000 level; or permission of the Department

This course explores alternative and historic processes that focus on the materiality of photography and the image’s objecthood. The course will focus on the development of students’ technical, conceptual, and critical skills in relation to reconsidering the potential of an image with a move towards not

photographs. Experience in photography is recommended. (Format: Studio 6 hours)

GENS3991A (3 CR)

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: FOREST RESPONSES

Prereq: Third-year standing; GENS 2421; or permission of the Instructor

objective of this course is to explore how present-day tree species have dispersed and organized into various forest communities throughout the Holocene (last 12,000 years) in response to a range of environmental changes. Methods of paleoforest analysis will be investigated, that provide evidence of forest ecosystem shifts during recent millennia. Cumulative effects of human activities throughout the Anthropocene will also be investigated to assess how forests have been altered, anticipated

This class provides students with an introductory exploration of the strategic, ideological, and political context surrounding the Second World War in Asia and the Pacific. Centered on the period between 1931 and 1945, students will observe and discuss Japan's pursuit of an increasingly violent and reckless "autonomous foreign policy" in East Asia helped set in motion a conflict which would come to engulf huge swaths of the globe, cost over thirty million lives, and change the course of world history in ways that are still felt in the present day.

MATH3991A (3 CR)

OPTIMIZATION

Prereq: MATH 2111; MATH 2221; 3 credits from MATH 1311, COMP 1631; or permission of the Department

This course will cover techniques for unconstrained and constrained optimization, and will include both local descent-based and global optimization. An





~~PSYC~~4991-D

**PSYCHOLOGY OF MEDITATION**

Prereq:Third-yearstanding; PSYC 1001; PSYC 1011; 6 credits from PSYC at the 2000 level; or permission of the Department

This advanced course in psychology focuses on how meditation affects the mind and brain. While meditation is documented to have been around for several millennia, this course will focus on recent scientific research on how meditation affects our thinking, feeling, attention, memory, and brain activity. The aim of this course is to help develop a deeper understanding of the influence of meditation on our psychology, while also advancing a critical analysis of research design and interpretation.

~~PSYC~~4991-E

**ADVANCED TOPICS IN COGNITIVE NEUROPSYCHOLOGY**

Prereq:Third-yearstanding; PSYC 1001; PSYC 1011; 6 credits from PSYC at the 2000 level; or permission of the Department

VMCS2991-A (3 CR)

### INTRODUCTION TO ANIME

Prereq: 3 credits from VMCS 1201, 1301; or permission of the Department

This course is an introduction to anime as a popular visual genre. Through a critical lens, it will examine its art styles, classification in subgenres, methods of animation, sources of inspiration, and production processes. Particular attention will be paid to plot themes such as the looping paradox, the inescapable fate, motivational goals, childhood fantasies, true love, and time travelling.

VMCS3991-B (3 CR)

### QUEER VMCS

Prereq: 3 credits from VMCS 1201, 1301; or permission of the Department

This course explores the interaction of queer communities with visual and material cultures to shed light on the visual representation of LGBTQ2S+ individuals as well as their multifarious connections to and impact on the images and objects of our world. It will examine the diversity of sexual and gender identities in relation to both historical and contemporary visual and material cultures. Topics may include historical LGBTQ2S+ artists and their visual expression, the impact of queer people on fashion and makeup, the rise in popularity of drag, visual and material responses to the AIDS crisis, and queer creators and representation in movies, TV shows, comic books, and video games.

WGST2991-A (3 CR)

### FEMINIST GAME STUDIES

Prereq: Second year standing; WGST 1001; or permission of the Department

This course introduces students to the fields of feminist, queer, and trans game studies. It begins by introducing students to game studies as a discipline and to the main analytic tool we will use in class: close playing. We will familiarize ourselves with feminist and queer theories of games and play before moving into several weeks focused on topical issues including representations of gender, race, and sexuality in videogames; failure as a game mechanic; sexual videogames; gamemaking as autoethnographic method; and utopias/dystopias. Students will play a short videogame each week. Assignments are centered around practicing close play, thinking critically about videogames, and writing analytically. They include weekly play logs, a game analysis paper, and a writing assignment focused on understanding the rewards and challenges of exploring feminist and queer issues through games.

Note: No experience playing or making games is necessary. Both experienced players and novices will be able to succeed in this class. While you will be expected to play a variety of short videogames, your videogame 'skills' will not be evaluated.