

Hampshire College

January 2021 Course Descriptions

CSI-0220-1 **Ethics and the Common Good**

Professor: George Furlas

In this class, we will explore the field of ethics from the starting point of a primordial tension: the experience of being both an individual and a member of a collective social-political environment. This starting point places our exploration in stark contrast to classical approaches to ethics, which focus on the consequences of individual actions, universal rules, and individual habits. Instead, we will discuss ethics in terms of interpersonal relations, the various ways our relations become conflicted, and how we can work on our relations in order to transform ourselves as well as our circumstances. In this exploration, it will become clear that acting ethically is far more complicated than commonly assumed, but also an absolutely necessary practice for the proper functioning of a democratic society. The general goal of this class is to have a clear understanding of key theories and texts in ethics and social-political philosophy, but also a clearer sense of what one must do to act ethically in everyday encounters. (keywords: ethics, philosophy, politics, decolonial theory, commons)

This course is fully remote

Instructor Permission: NO Distribution: LC2 This course has a Prerequisite: NO

Time: MTWTHF 09:00AM-12:30PM

Location:

CSI-0225-1 **Reframing Youth Writers**

Professor: Rachel Conrad

For what and whose purposes do young writers write, and how are these purposes represented in our literary, cultural, and political worlds? How can works by young writers be read as literary texts, and how can adults facilitate opportunities for young writers? How do young writers engage with themes of injustice and oppression? This course integrates literary studies and critical youth studies in reframing young writers as cultural producers and participants in literary culture. We will focus on two case studies: young white Jewish writer Anne Frank whose *Diary of a Young Girl* was written in hiding in Amsterdam during World War II; and young Black poet Kali Grosvenor and other young Black poets who wrote in the US during the 1960s and 1970s. We will thus focus on diary/memoir in examining editorial decisions at play in presenting Anne Frank as a "young girl" writing a diary or a young writer crafting a memoir. And we will focus on poetry in considering Kali Grosvenor and other young Black poets writing

in the 1960s-1970s US in relation to literary and cultural/political projects. (keywords: children, youth, literature, poetry, memoir)

This course is fully remote

Instructor Permission: NO Distribution: LC2 This course has a Prerequisite: NO

Time: MTWTHF 01:00PM-04:30PM

Location:

CSI-0240-1 **Writing about Racism**

Professor: Laura Greenfield

With a particular focus on anti-Black racism in the contemporary United States, this reading and writing intensive course invites students to critically examine the work of nonfiction texts about racism published for and widely sold to general audiences. What role does public writing about racism play in disrupting white supremacy and inspiring meaningful social change? At the same time, how is white supremacy manifest in the inequitable distribution of publishing platforms and in the consumption and celebration of certain texts over others in a capitalist market? With the ultimate aim of deepening their racial literacy and cultivating their ability to analyze public writing through a critical sociopolitical lens, students will develop both theoretical and practical tools for becoming more ethical readers, writers, and activists. To these ends, students will read a selection of popular nonfiction books and critical essays (by writers such as Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin, Mia McKenzie, Eli Saslow, Robin D'Angelo, and Ibram X. Kendi, etc.) and theorize the racial politics at play in the production, sale, and reception of these texts (e.g. How does racism manifest in the navigations Black writers face to command a popular audience for their critical work? What texts claim to be revolutionary but implicitly cater to the comfort of white liberals? Should white writers profit from selling books on antiracism? Are the cautionary tales of reformed white supremacists instructive or do they re-center whiteness? How do we explain the recent outing of white writers posing as intellectuals of color?). Students will also examine their own racial identities as writers and readers, and craft their own substantial writing projects to be presented to the class. (keywords: writing, race, media, politics, social justice)

This course is fully Remote

Instructor Permission: NO Distribution: LC2 This course has a Prerequisite: NO

Time: MTWTHF 03:00PM-06:30PM

Location:

HACU-0218-1 **Writing About Music**

Professor: Rebecca Miller

This reading and writing-intensive course will explore various approaches to writing about music with a focus on African- and Anglo-American genres specific to the United States. We will draw from print journalism, fiction, literary non-fiction, and academic writing and we will cover a range of music, including rock/pop, rap, R&B, folk, traditional, and other genres. We will also read and try our hands at writing reviews of new album releases and live performances. Students will complete regular writing assignments and will workshop their writing during class, edit and revise their work. Students are expected to regularly participate actively in all class activities and attend classes with their video turned on throughout, unless occasional exceptions are made with the instructor beforehand.

This course is fully remote

Instructor Permission: NO Distribution: LC4 This course has a Prerequisite: NO

Time: MTWTHF 11:00AM-01:00PM MTWTHF 02:00PM-03:30PM

Location:

HACU-0235-1 **La Habana Virtual/Virtual Hava**

Professor: Michele Hardesty

"La Habana Virtual/Virtual Havana: intercambio y conversacion" (exchange and conversation) is a three-week, intensive seminar that will immerse participants in the past and present of Cuba, with a focus on the capital city of Havana, and life and culture during COVID-19. This seminar will be co-facilitated by Michele Hardesty at Hampshire and Roberto Garcia Suarez in Havana, and conducted in conversational Spanish. There will be some opportunities for translation and interpretation, and readings in English and Spanish. The remote seminar will feature a combination of asynchronous presentations and synchronous conversations-using Zoom and What's App-with intellectuals, educators, activists, performers, filmmakers, and artists living and working in Cuba. In the first week, students will gain a critical framework for understanding Cuba in historical context through presentations, conversation, and project work. In the second and third weeks, student teams will collaborate with community partners in Cuba to undertake and complete a collective project. Intermediate-level Spanish recommended. Non-Hampshire College students and community members are eligible to register for a fee depending on space availability. For more information, please contact geo@hampshire.edu This seminar will count as the prerequisite for the Hampshire in Havana semester study abroad program. (Spanish, Cuba, Latin America, history, culture)

This course is fully remote

Instructor Permission: NO Distribution: LC2 This course has a Prerequisite: NO

Time: MTWTHF 02:00PM-05:30PM

Location:

HACU-0256-1 **Design + Body**

Professor: Thomas Long

All designed objects share one thing in common--they are engineered interactions between objects and bodies. While each wholly unique, the central connection between all artistic and creative practices is the human experience. This course critiques object-centrism in design and explores the philosophical, physiological and experiential relationship between objects and bodies. This course covers topics of time/narrative, phenomenology/sensation, language, aesthetics and function through a non-disciplinary lens as a means to discuss, describe and apply a subject-centric approach to design. This course is predominantly theory-focused where students delve deep into a wide array of readings preparing for short response papers, daily discussion and short creative projects to put theories to the test. Students are expected to perform a significant amount of work outside of class time.

This course is fully remote. Prerequisite: Students are expected, to have taken, one, art/design/architecture studio prior to taking this course.

Instructor Permission: NO Distribution: LC3 This course has a Prerequisite: YES

Time: MTWTHF 10:00AM-01:30PM

Location:
