Spring 2015 Course Descriptions

ANTH 1200-130R (3). Culture and Power: Drug Policy T/Th 11:00am–12:15pm; Dr. Carol Conzelman
This cultural anthropology course will survey the controversial policies and impacts of the "war on drugs" in both domestic and international contexts through a diversity of readings, films, guest speakers, and media outlets. Drugs studied include alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, MDMA, ayahuasca, and others. Countries studied include the U.S., Mexico, Colombia, Bolivia, Afghanistan, Thailand, and others. The history, economics, and politics of drug prohibition and legalization are embedded in and representative of both culture and power. Approved for A&S core curriculum: Contemporary Societies.

ANTH 2020-130R (3). Introduction to Physical Anthropology 2; T/Th 3:30pm–4:45pm; Dr. Paul Sandberg
Examines human evolution, human variation, and human adaptations to environmental pressures. Our focus on human biology will span from genetics and organismal biology to human populations. In terms of human variation, will we investigate human body shapes, skin colors, and topics of race, sex and gender, and intelligence. We will discuss human growth, development, and the evolution of the human life cycle. Lastly, we will examine issues of human health, nutrition and epidemiology and the human diseases found throughout the world. Meets MAPS requirement for natural science: non-lab. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: Natural Science.

ECON 2020-130R, 131R (4). Principles of Macroeconomics; MWF 9:00am–9:50am, Recitation: W 10:00am–10:50am; Dr. Vijaya Sharma
Introduces principles of economics related to performance of an economy; discusses methods of measurement and determinants of performance, especially the national output, income, inflation, unemployment, and international trade and balance of payments; presents a model framework for analyzing fiscal and monetary policies and compares and contrasts economic theories and views on methods of stabilizing and/or accelerating growth of economic activities. Special emphasis is given to the discussion of current U.S. macroeconomic issues. Meets MAPS requirements for social sciences: general. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: Contemporary Societies.

GSAP 1000-130R (3). World Politics and Society: 9/11 and After; T/Th 12:30pm-1:45pm; Dr. Jessica Martin
Explores 9/11 and its geopolitical legacies: What did 9/11 engender, in terms of world affairs? Why was it seen as a watershed moment in U.S. foreign relations and international affairs? Should it have been? What’s the meaning of 9/11, in terms of America’s global position? In terms of Islam and the Islamic world? In terms of the future of international society? Overall, this course is designed to give you background and context for one of the most important issues of our time.

GSAP 2010-130R (3). Introduction to National Security; MWF 2:00pm-2:50pm; Dr. Michael Kanner
Security is about being free from threats, but what are those threats? Why are they threats? This class tries to answer those questions. Starting with a look at different security theories, the course examines how the answers to these questions have changed. In addition to traditional threats, such as war or nuclear weapons, we will explore recent threats such as genocide and terrorism as well as emerging threats such as poverty and environmental issues.

HIST 2166-130R (3). The Vietnam Wars; T/Th 9:30am-10:45am; Dr. Douglas Snyder
Traces the causes, course, and outcome of the wars in Vietnam from 1940 until 1975. Explains the successes of the revolutionaries and the failures of the French and Americans. Analyzes the development of Vietnamese nationalism, French colonialism, and U.S. intervention. Examines the portrayal of the U.S. war in American popular culture and political discourse since 1975. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: contemporary societies or United States context. Prerequisites: History (HIST) majors are restricted from taking this course. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: United States context or Contemporary Societies

HIST 2220-130R (3). History of War and Society: The Iraq War; T/Th 11:00am-12:15pm; Dr. Jessica Martin
This course seeks to explore the history, events, and repercussions of America’s 2003-2012 war in Iraq through a targeted study of both American and Iraqi perspectives. We will begin with a brief study of America’s relationship with Iraq during the 20th century and an examination of life in Iraq under Saddam Hussein. From there, we will investigate the events and legacies of the Persian Gulf War (1990-1991), the end of the Cold War, and the events of 9/11 as they related to policymaking decisions related to Iraq. The main focus of the class will be the 2003-2012 Iraq War. We will look at the war from a variety of perspectives, including but not limited to the experiences and decisions faced by American policymakers, Iraqi civilians, American soldiers, the international community, the women of Iraq, the media, and American anti-war activists. Recommended for non-history majors and assumes no prior knowledge. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: Historical context
LIBB 2013-130R (3) Film and the quest for Truth; T/Th 2:00pm-3:15pm; 6:00pm-9:00pm; Dr. Tiel Lundy
We will study films from a variety of national cinemas, exploring cinema’s role in shaping cultural ideals, values, and practices. Students will acquire a working critical vocabulary specific to film and understand the medium’s formal characteristics. In addition, we will emphasize the development of academic writing skills. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: Ideals and Values.

PHIL 1400-130R (3). Philosophy and the Sciences; MWF 1:00pm–1:50 pm; Dr. Thomas Metcalf
Explores the following philosophical questions and more: What is science? Why do we trust it? What are its limits? Do social values influence scientific discovery? Can we make unbiased scientific observations? Are we living in a computer-simulated reality? Is time travel possible? Are there parallel universes? Does quantum theory imply that everyone is immortal? (No science background required or expected.) Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: Natural Science.

PSCI 2004-130R (3). Survey of Western Political Thought; MWF 12:00pm-12:50pm; Dr. Horst Mewes
The course will study the foundations, the guiding principles, and the necessary preconditions of modern democracies—the freedoms and responsibilities, the attitude and skills required of democratic citizens in a modern democracy. Students will also be introduced to some of the major problems confronting democracies today both in the US and Europe. As background to all of this, we will study the fundamental ideas of the American Constitution at its founding in 1787, the origins of individual rights (as found in John Locke, for instance), the economic and military powers democracies require, their defense against dictatorships, etc. Some of these issues have been discussed by major political thinkers in the past, discussions which still apply today. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: Ideals and Values.

PSCI 2012-130R (3). Introduction to Comparative Politics; MWF 11:00am-11:50am; Dr. Sarah Sokhey
Most countries confront a variety of common political problems, including how to gain popular support, what kinds of political institutions are most appropriate, and how to distribute burdens and benefits to different segments of the population. Concentrates on learning how to compare different political systems and provides illustrative examples from several countries in both the industrialized and non-industrialized world. Approved for GT-SS1. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: Contemporary Societies.

RUSS 1010-130R (4). Beginning Russian; MWF 1:00pm-2:10pm; Dr. Galina Siergiejczyk
This fun-filled course introduces the fundamentals of communication in Russian language through linguistic and cultural immersion, featuring journeys into the majestic vaults of Russian visual and performing arts, literature and history, in a focused, however cursory, overview of Russian culture. Students will master invaluable language skills that will allow them to confidently venture into study-abroad programs in Russia and Russian-speaking countries, as well as equip them with handy conversational language to express themselves in basic Russian at ease in other environments (i.e. greeting CU-trained and speaking-Russian astronauts returning to Earth from space missions, such as Steve Swanson). Fulfills MAPS foreign language requirement.

SCAN 2201-130R (3). Introduction to Modern Nordic Culture and Society; T/TH 9:30am-10:45am; Dr. Tamar Larsen
Provides a comprehensive introduction to modern Nordic culture and society. Surveys the history of Nordic countries and examines their culture using art, architecture, literature, and film. Studies social issues, environmental concerns, and political patterns. In profiling aspects of culture and society unique to Nordic countries, students arrive at a conception of a collective Nordic identity. Taught in English. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: Contemporary Societies.

SPAN 2150-130R (5). Intensive Second-Year Spanish; MWF 10:00am–11:20 am; Scott Spanbauer
This accelerated course is designed to cover two semesters of Spanish (SPAN 2110 and SPAN 2120) into one semester. Begins with a quick review of past tenses and commands, then the student moves on to master more advanced grammar topics, read real-world short stories and texts, improve writing skills, and expand speaking and listening abilities. Credit not granted for this course and SPAN 2110 or 2120. Prerequisite: SPAN 1020 or placement and departmental approval. Fulfills MAPS foreign language requirement.

WRTG 1150-130R (3). First-Year Writing and Rhetoric; MWF 9:00am-9:50am; Dr. Nathan Pieplow
Rhetorically informed introduction to college writing. Focuses on critical analysis, argument, inquiry, and information literacy. Taught as a writing workshop, the course places a premium on invention, drafting, and thoughtful revision. Meets MAPS requirement for English. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: Written Communication.