

Creative Minds RAP

Course Information Booklet

Fall 2025

Course Information Organized Alphabetically by Course Categories

All students living in Libby Hall are
required to take one or more
CMRAP classes this academic year.



University of Colorado
Boulder



FALL OFFERINGS

- ARTS 1171 **Photography for Non-Majors** *Benjamin Nicholson*
TuTh 9:30am-12:00pm
- ARTS 1212 **Painting for Non-Majors** *Tyler Alpern*
MoWe 1:25pm-3:55pm
- DNCE 3014 **Inside the Groove: Developing Rhythmic Skills** *Maputo Mensa*
TuTh 12:30-1:45pm
- ECON 2010 **Principles of Microeconomics** *Dan Zuchengo*
TuTh 3:30-4:45 pm (lecture) & Tu 5:00-5:50 pm (recitation)
- HIST 2516 **America Through Baseball** *Martin Babicz*
MWF 1:25-2:15pm
- IPHY 2420 **Introduction to Nutrition** *Donna Louie*
MWF 10:10-11:00am
- LIBB 1133 **Exploring Art, Culture and Visual Literacy through Drawing** *Tyler Alpern*
MW 4:00pm-5:15pm
- LIBB 2800 **Horror Films in American Culture** *Karen Auvinen*
TuTh 2:00-3:15pm
- LIBB 2500 **Introduction to Cinema Studies** *Benjamin Nicholson*
TuTh 12:30-1:45 p.m. & Tu 3:30-6:30
- PHIL 2800 **Ethical Puzzles and Moral Conflicts** *Michele Simpson*
ThTh 11:00-12:15pm
- MUEL 2852 **Music in the Rock Era** *Michael Barnett*
MoWeFr 2:30 - 3:20pm
- WRTG 1150 **1st Year Writing & Rhetoric** *Catherine Kunce*
TuTh 2:00-3:15pm
- GEOL 1010 **Exploring Earth** *Lisa Barlow*
MoWeFr 12:20-1:10 p.m.

Detailed descriptions of each class & times offered follows this page.

Course Descriptions are organized by **Course Categories** and are *color coded* by the days offered:

ART COURSES

LIBB 1133 - 280R- Exploring Art, Culture & Visual Literacy through Drawing- 3 credits

Taught by Tyler Alpern, MFA

MoWe 4:00pm-5:15pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Distribution-Arts & Humanities

Instructor Description

Express yourself and make your mark! Learn to draw or draw better and be inspired by and be able to deconstruct and analyze images that bombard us on social media, in advertising, and from diverse sources such as street art and tattoos. Dive into the creative process and challenge yourself to develop ideas and strive for excellence no matter what your major or career choice. Risk taking, coping with and overcoming frustration, learning from failure, and creative problem solving are skills that will help you become more innovative, flexible, marketable and adaptable to navigate inevitable change and career challenges.

Student Testimonials

“Tyler was very engaging and he truly wanted to help students and push them to be their best. Going into this class I wasn't sure if my art skills were good enough to be successful in this class, but Tyler did an outstanding job of helping every student, no matter what level of art they were capable of, do their best, push them to strive for better, and help them see their potential.”

“I really enjoyed this class. I learned so much about drawing and pushing my limits. You are a great teacher and I like how you structured the class.”

“Tyler Alpern was an amazing professor. His passion for art was made clear during my time in his class, and this enthusiasm spread to every student in the room. He always came to class eager to teach us about his passion.”

“Professor Alpern was one of the most inspiring people I have ever met. He gave so much passion and value to his class and lectures. I loved having this class in person and being able to grow my understanding of the world through art. I would take this course again because I truly enjoyed it!”



ARTS 1171- 282R- Photography for Non-Majors- 3 credits

Taught by Dr. Benjamin Nicholson

TuTh 9:30am-12:00pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Distribution-Arts & Humanities

Instructor Description

This course aims to immerse you in the compelling, eclectic, and creative world of photography. During the course of this term, you will learn about the elements that create a well-composed photograph, the terms and tools used in photographic image creation, and techniques and tips to improve your photography. We will also explore the history of photography, the contributions and work of famous photographers, and the ways to critique works of photographic art.

Student Testimonials

"Professor Nicholson provided a great course that gave me insight into how to use a DSLR camera along with how to create the best photos possible."

"I think he's a great professor who shows a lot of care for his students and is very kind. He also obviously is very knowledgeable."

"I'd suggest this class to anybody who loves photography and wants to have a little more structure to their practice."

"This class was super fun and the professor did a great job facilitating discussion. I liked how we had the freedom to work on our projects over long periods of time."



ARTS 1212 - 280R- Painting for Non-Majors - 3 credits

Taught by Tyler Alpern, MFA

MoWe 1:25-3:55pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Distribution-Arts & Humanities

Instructor Description

Ideal class for both accomplished artists and complete novices. Explore color, innovation and self-expression in this introduction to the field of painting in contemporary art studio practice. A combination of technical work and creative projects will allow students to find their own artistic voice and original style and effectively express themselves in a visual manner. Students will gain valuable academic and life skills through exposure to the creative process, organized design methodology, idea production strategies, discipline, risk taking and coping with frustration and failure. Regular attendance is required.

Student Testimonials

“Like most people our age, I was so adamant that I sucked at art. I couldn’t draw, much less add color and paint. However I’ve seen so much improvement in my abilities just this year. With your creative inspiration and technique, I saw myself create things I was so proud of.”

“I had a lot of fun in this class. Tyler was very engaging and made sure everyone participated. He was always there for everyone when needed advice or criticism. The class was overall amazing and taught super well. I loved my experience in the class.”

“The class always had a very supportive environment where everyone's work and opinion was valued.”

“Thank you for being excited about painting and bringing energy to every class. I am very thankful I was able to share this class and painting experience with you and some other classmates. I was able to expand my creative brain and express myself.”

“You encouraged me to be creative and fostered my self confidence. Presenting my art to others and having them love it too felt so good, and it felt even better to have a trained eye look and give praise. Your honesty and support has made me not only a better artist, but a better person and student.”

“I really appreciate all you've done for me this year and the vast amount you've taught me, so thank you for being my professor this year!”



CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES COURSES

LIBB 2800– 280R Horror Films in American Culture – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Karen Auvinen

TuTh 2:00pm -3:15pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Distribution-Arts & Humanities
Arts & Sciences General Education: Diversity-U.S. Perspective

Instructor Description

This course looks at our fascination with American horror films by exploring the real cultural work they do. Identifying the iconographic features of cinematic horror, we trace the genre from its beginnings up to the present day to consider how horror functions to reflect not only ideology, but our fears and anxieties while also providing relief, antidote, and feedback about what's happening in our world.

Student Testimonials

“Being in such a close environment with a small amount of students, made me comfortable speaking in class and in getting to know you. Karen is accepting, funny, kind, and encouraged us to work hard. Learning about how films can shape our social environment has helped me in recognizing these themes and will be useful in my future academic career.”

“I enjoy having weekly film and reading assignments. The pace at which we have been taught in class is neither too slow nor too fast. I like how you give us the content that will be on our exams ahead of time so we can prepare as much as we can to succeed in your class.”

“I really really love this teacher. I can tell she cares so much about this class and her students. She makes class easy to follow and keeps it interesting. I enjoy the way she teaches and how comfortable she can make the room. I am never afraid to speak out in class or that my opinion may be wrong.”



CINE 1502- 280R Introduction to Cinema Studies – 3 credits

Taught By Dr. Benjamin Nicholson

TuTh 12:30pm-1:45pm & Tu 3:30pm-6:30pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Distribution-Arts & Humanities

Instructor Description

In this course you will be introduced to the technical and aesthetic principles behind the production, analysis, and interpretation of films. The purpose of this class is to help us understand and think about movies critically, as technological, cultural, and artistic products. We will study films in different contexts and discuss the importance of movies as cultural expression. Our purpose is to learn how to watch movies critically, understand basic concepts of media literacy, and become acquainted with historical, technical, and cultural issues in film culture.

Student Testimonials

“This was my favorite course because there was so much discussion and reflection that I feel as if I learned and grew most in this course and realized how much I am inspired by the film. My professor was the nicest and most inclusive, thoughtful teacher, and I could tell he was always interested in the class's perspectives.”

“I really enjoyed Professor Nicholson's class he taught very effectively and made an open and safe space for all students, cinema related and not.”

“I absolutely LOVED this course! All assignments were highly engaging, with content which was a great balance of challenging yet also being manageable (especially for a course which was taken during the first semester). Professor Ben is so wonderful! He cares very much about his students and is sure to provide the resources needed for them to succeed.”

“I thought that Ben effectively taught me core elements of film, and clearly explained everything so that I was able to learn with ease while also having fun. I never felt confused, as any questions I had were always answered.”

“I loved this class, I think the setup for the class is perfect, and a very good introduction to cinema studies.”

“Actually my favorite class this semester!! I loved your class and the content we watched, even though I said some of the movies were boring, I still think that the reflections you assigned helped me connect them to more in depth concepts. The reflections were always super fun and easy and I liked that your class wasn't as demanding with assignments and gave me a chance to relax from the rest of my classes! I'll miss your class Mr. Ben!!”



MUSIC & DANCE COURSES

DNCE 3014 -280R – Inside the Groove - 2 credits

Taught by Maputo Mensah

TuTh 12:30pm-1:45pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Distribution-Arts & Humanities

Instructor Description

In this experience and dance-based course, we learn to enhance rhythmic acuity through intensive rhythmic drills, analytical listening, drumming, notating and creating rhythm-based performance work. Course material explores non-Western rhythmic paradigms, irregular meters, mixed meters, polyrhythms, etc., and how to communicate clearly with a live accompanist in technique class and movement. We examine African culture for what it offers: not only how to move and play, but about life, such as issues of femininity and masculinity, race, and ethnicity. African dance + drumming gives you ways to express yourself and it heals you! Also, it gives you strength, happiness and the joy. In it, we learn to care for one another as family, to step out of our comfort zones and become better people and eventually, global citizens.

Student Testimonials

“It is a joy to move to live music.”

“This class changed my outlook on life.”

“I was fascinated to watch how simple gestures meant different ideas and concepts to different people. We all come from different walks of life, and our experiences shape us into the people that we are. That being said, when a group of people, such as our class, come together to communicate similar ideas to reach a common goal, making sure everyone is understanding what is being communicated is key.”

“I am happy that I came away from this class with a change that I did not expect to happen: I made friends outside my major.”



MUEL 2852-280R – Music in the Rock Era - 3 credits

Taught by Dr. Michael Barnett

MoWeFr 2:30pm-3:20pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Distribution-Arts & Humanities

Instructor Description

We will trace the development of rock as an art form as well as its cultural significance and saturation. We will consider technological advances, commercialism, record production, rock videos, concerts and festivals, and so on. We will also explore the influence that popular music, as well as other forms of popular culture, exert on various aspects of society such as social justice, human rights and individual liberties. These topics will be approached primarily from musical and cultural standpoints but also from philosophical, sociological, psychological and political standpoints. Additionally, you will be instructed on how to listen more effectively to gain a deeper appreciation for the music we will be studying and enjoying.

Student Testimonials:

"I truly felt the passion in Professor Barnett's voice. You could tell he had devoted his life to music and inspiring others with it. I was always intrigued in class and tried never to miss a day since everything he had to say was interesting! I truly enjoyed being in class with him and hope everyone else gets to experience it!"

"Great class. I appreciate your personal perspectives as they differ from the professors in the other disciplines I study at CU."

"Easily one of my favorite classes I have ever taken at CU. The teacher is extremely knowledgeable on the topic, in addition to including his own personal anecdotes, making the lectures very enjoyable to listen to. He supplements so many classes with real videos from rock and roll history. I have learned so much from this class. I never miss a lecture. Awesome class, I would absolutely take more like it! "



SCIENCE COURSES

GEOL 1010-280R – Exploring Earth – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Lisa Barlow

MoWeFr 12:20pm-1:10pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Distribution-Natural Sciences

Instructor Description

Geology is everywhere you look, especially if you know how to see! The Earth that we live with is a fascinating and dynamic planet with a rich history of tales to tell. Geology has inspired creatives of all kinds for millennia, and this section of GEOL 1010 will include works of art (sculpture, photography, painting, functional objects ...) to bring an artist's perspective to a conventional introductory Geology course. We'll learn how to recognize different basic mineral and rock types (e.g., alabaster vs. marble in sculpture) and rock types of large features (can you tell the difference between the sedimentary rocks of the Flatirons and the igneous rocks of Yosemite's Half Dome just by looking at images?), how to read topographic and geologic maps, and how to use plate tectonic theory to understand everything from why marine rocks are found at the top of Mount Everest to why some volcanoes are more dangerous (and more aesthetically pleasing) than others. We'll do a lot of armchair travel around the world seeing both beautiful outdoor geology and beautiful human expressions of this amazing planet we live with.

Student Testimonials

"Dear Dr. B, I can't even begin to express how thankful I am. Your classes were always the best way to start my day. I truly wish everyone shared your passion for the world we live in. I will forever take with me the knowledge I have acquired from your geology classes. Not only am I able to identify every rock I pick up with my mom, but I am incredibly inspired."

"Thank you Dr. B! I learned a lot in this class. Now I can point things out to my friends on road trips to annoy the (heck) out of them. I've always found rocks interesting so I am really happy to have learned so much about them."

"Dr. B, Thank you so much for being such a kind teacher and for always being willing to help me when I was struggling this semester. I'm very glad I took your class because I learned a ton through it! Thank you!"

"Put it this way – I don't need to put my headphones on to play music any more on the long ride to go skiing. I'm looking at the rocks."



IPHY 2420 – 280R Intro to Nutrition – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Donna Louie

MoWeFr 10:10am- 11:00am

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Distribution-Natural Sciences

Instructor Description

In this course, you will learn the biology and chemistry behind nutrition, including how your body works, what nutrients you need to stay healthy and perform well, and what happens when you do not eat right. You will learn to evaluate fad diets and maintain a healthy body that includes analyzing your food intake, lifestyle, blood pressure, heart rate, and a mock blood test. By the end of the course, you will have valuable information to share with your friends and family so that you and everyone around you can live a long, healthy life.

Topics discussed frequently in this course will include obesity, eating habits and methods, calorie counting, starvation mode, and other health issues related to nutrition.

Student Testimonials

“I loved this class, I found the topic interesting, and it was presented in a very understandable and detailed way to make sure I got the most out of the class. The mini reviews, chapter outlines, and Kahoot sessions were very helpful and allowed me to make notecards on what I should expect on the test. Amazing class and the teacher is so encouraging and always willing to help.”

“Dr. Louie does a very good job of explaining the material and providing opportunities for her students to review with herself and others outside of class time.”

“Dr. Louie is a very nice professor who makes it clear that she wants the best for her students.” “Professor Louie has illustrated that she genuinely cares about her students and the learning process. It is clear she puts a great amount of effort in her course and teaching efforts. She draws visuals and takes the time to further explain concepts if students do not understand. I learned a great deal in her class, and I can confidently say that she is an excellent teacher.”

“Dr. Louie is super positive and has the best attitude to students and course material. She demonstrates concern for student’s grades and participation, while pushing to further understand the course material and apply it to their everyday lives. I wouldn't change anything about the course.



SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES

ECON 2010-280R – Principles of Microeconomics*- 4 credits

ECON 1010 – 281R - Recitation

Taught by Dr. Dan Zuchengo

TuTh 3:30pm-4:45pm (Lecture) AND Tu 5:00pm-5:50pm (Recitation)

*Students must take both the lecture and the recitation for this class

Credit: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

Departmental Category: Theory and History of Economic Thought

MAPS Course: Social Science

Instructor Description

Economics is based on a very simple axiom; all actions are driven by some form of incentive or incentives. The course on microeconomics identifies the nature of these incentives and how they impact the behavior of individual consumers, workers, and firms in our economy. Since almost all economic action takes place in an aggregated market, we will address the institutional and regulatory frameworks behind various types of markets to understand how these markets function and why some items have much higher prices than other items. As regulatory policies are framed by government, we will also address the role and function of government in today's economy.

About the Instructor

Dr. Zuchegno is an economist with over twenty-five years of experience in both the academe and private consulting industry. He has been a faculty member at the Economics Institute in Boulder, Colorado where he was head of the Professional Development Program and later Director of the Graduate Preparation Program. Dr. Zuchegno's teaching record features such disciplines as Economic Theory, Mathematical Economics, Money, Banking & Financial Markets, International Economics, and Sports Economics. In addition to his teaching schedule, Dr. Zuchegno has been involved in a variety of management and administrative aspects of international education programs, including budgeting, curriculum development, student services, and advisory services to both students and faculty. While pursuing his academic interests, Dr. Zuchegno provided consulting educational services for projects to USAID, the World Bank, and the US State Department. Professor Zuchegno has also taught and designed training programs for a variety of government agencies and financial institutions around the world. Additionally, Dr. Zuchegno is a contributing author to several economics textbooks and also hosts a weekly live streaming radio program covering topics in economics, business, and finance.



HUMANITIES COURSES

HIST 2516 280R – America Through Baseball – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Marty Babicz

MoWeFr 1:25pm-2:15pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Distribution – Arts & Humanities Department

Category: United States: Topical Courses 1

Instructor Description

This purpose of the course is to arrive at a better understanding of the history of the United States through the history of baseball. This course examines American History since the Civil War and explores how the social, cultural, economic, and political forces shaping America were reflected in the national pastime. The course also examines the events and people who shaped baseball and looks at how they influenced American society at large.

Student Testimonials

“Professor Babicz is a very good professor. He goes in depth with the material and is very passionate about it as well. It makes the class fun and interesting and I have learned a lot from him. “

“Professor Babicz is one of the most caring and informed professors I have had at CU. Each and every class, I could tell that HE was interested in what he was teaching and was excited to be lecturing the students.”

“Thank you so much for your work this semester, Professor Babicz. I truly enjoyed this class and believe that the structure of the course corresponds well with the content. I value your knowledge of history and the connection baseball reflects with our past events. This has been a really great class.”



PHIL 2800 – Ethical Puzzles & Moral Conflicts – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Michele D. Simpson

TuTh 11:00am-12:15pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Distribution: Distribution-Arts & Humanities

Instructor Description

Complex issues call upon us to take into account ethical and moral considerations such as human rights, global and environmental justice, animal rights, and a menu of other rights and responsibilities. Ethics represents the moral code that guides a person's choices and behaviors. And the idea of a moral code extends beyond the individual to include what is determined to be right, and wrong, for a community or society at large. The course will consist of lectures, case studies, and extensive student participation, all in the service of thoughtfully reflecting on the nature of the right and the good, character, and agency. Students will develop analytical abilities, and acquire reading, writing, thinking, presentation, and argumentation skills that will assist them in Ethical Puzzles & Moral Conflicts and their other courses.

Student Testimonials

"I wasn't extremely interested in ethics but after having Professor Simpson, I found her to be one of the best I ever had and she made me like ethics."

"I loved this class. I changed my major to Philosophy halfway through the semester."

"The class pushed me to think differently on a range of topics. I always looked forward to class and was eager to listen."

"She made ethics exciting and fun for the whole class. I will taking another ethics class in the fall."



WRITING COURSES

WRTG 1150-282R – 1st Year Writing & Rhetoric – 3 credits

Taught by Dr. Catherine Kunce

TuTh 2:00pm-3:15pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Written Communication

MAPS: English

Instructor Description

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. For placement criteria, see the arts and sciences advising office. May be repeated up to 6 total credit hours.

Student Testimonials

“This course was challenging but provided me with a lot of lessons and growth as a classmate while reading peers pieces and writer.”

“Dr. Kunce is so sweet and is very clear she wants the best for all of her student. She was super encouraging my and my classmates to connect our personal experiences to our writing. This motivated me to do my best work and find something I was passionate about to write about.”

“Greatly enjoyed the class, loved how we would always get multiple perspectives when editing our paper”

“She is one of the nicest teachers that I have ever had in my life. If you put in the effort in this class you will be rewarded with a good grade.”

