



Creative Minds RAP

Course Information Booklet

SPRING 2026

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



Class Registration Timeline

Why are you being asked to choose your Creative Minds Residential Academic Program (CM RAP) class now? What happens if you wait on choosing your CM RAP class? It helps to know the timeline for the campus registration process and how CM RAP fits into it.

October 13th Students who did not take a fall RAP course can complete the class selection survey for Spring 2026 RAP courses. We need several CM RAP choices from you, any one of which you'd be happy to take, in case your first choice is filled. CM RAP courses are first come, first served



October 20th All CM RAP students can complete the class selection survey starting on October 20th. We need several CM RAP choices from you, any one of which you'd be happy to take, in case your first choice is filled. CM RAP courses are first come, first served

October 27th We can officially register you for your RAP class beginning on this date

November 3rd – November 21 Based on times assigned by the Registrar, you can enroll for main campus classes. Check your enrollment appointment in Buff Portal. It's best if you have your CM RAP class on your schedule before you enroll for your main campus classes

January 2 – January 16 Enrollment continues for all courses. The longer you wait, the more likely CM RAP classes will be filled



January 8 First day of classes you can still drop add, but you'll have to work hard to catch up in classes you add



January 17 No more adds allowed drops are still ok until the campus drop deadline

- Only Joel can enroll you in CM RAP classes or change your CM RAP class for you
 - Submit the Creative Minds RAP Spring 2026 Course Selection Survey to be enrolled in a RAP class
 - Email creativeminds@colorado.edu to make a change to what you submitted.
- CM RAP classes are NOT in Class Search online; they are listed here (-285R sections)
- Please tell Joel any concerns or important information about your choices in the survey.

Know your CM RAP class requests for spring?
Complete the class selection survey starting 10/20!

Only Joel can enroll you in CM RAP classes or change CM RAP classes for you CM RAP classes are NOT in Class Search online; they're only listed here (-285R sections)



University of Colorado
Boulder

SPRING OFFERINGS

CINE 1502	Introduction to Cinema Studies	<i>Benjamin Nicholson</i>
ARTS 1171	Photography for Non-Majors	<i>Benjamin Nicholson</i>
ARTS 1212	Painting for Non-Majors	<i>Tyler Alpern</i>
DNCE 2501	African Dance	<i>Maputo Mensa</i>
ECON 2020	Principles of Macroeconomics	<i>Dan Zuchengo</i>
HIST 2516	America Through Baseball	<i>Martin Babicz</i>
IPHY 2420	Introduction to Nutrition	<i>Donna Louie</i>
LIBB 1133	Art & Visual Literacy through Drawing	<i>Tyler Alpern</i>
LIBB 2728	Sports & Its Economics	<i>Dan Zuchengo</i>
PHIL 2800	Ethical Puzzles and Moral Conflicts	<i>Michele Simpson</i>
MUEL 2051	Songwriting	<i>Michael Barnett</i>
LIBB 2800	Horror Films in American Culture	<i>Karen Auvinen</i>
SOCY 1001	Introduction to Sociology	<i>Robert Scott</i>
GEOL 1010	Exploring Earth	<i>Lisa Barlow</i>

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

ARTS 1171 Photography for Non-Majors - 3 credits

Taught by Dr. Ben 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

"I'm just appreciative of how involved you were with both me and other students, always very helpful patient and understanding. Can't really think of anything constructive, it was pretty great."

"Amazing professor. Extremely kind and always willing to give extensions if you are busy. He does an amazing job at focusing on presenting and obtaining work rather than testing."

"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. He was very helpful during studio time and gave us plenty of time to complete our projects within the class."

"I have thoroughly enjoyed photography for non majors as it allows me to pursue a passion of mine with a medium workload. Id suggest this class to anybody who loves photography and wants to have a little more structure to their practice."

ARTS 1212 Painting for Non-Majors - 3 credits

Taught by Tyler Alpern

MoWe 1:25pm-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!"

LIBB 1133 Exploring Art, Culture and Visual Literacy through

Drawing- 3 credits

Taught by Tyler Alpern

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 !”

CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES COURSES

CINE 1502 Introduction to Cinema Studies – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Ben Nicholson

MoFr 4:00pm-5:15pm (lecture) We 2:30pm-5:30PM (film screening)

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 as technological, cultural, and artistic products. With weekly screenings, 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."

"One of the kindest professors I have ever had. Gives really well thought out lectures of the material we will be watching and learning about. Always gives people to share their thoughts and gives a response everytime. Would recommend him no matter what class he is teaching."

"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 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."

"Really enjoyed this class and the structure. All of the films and assignments were engaging. Mr. Nicholson is by far my favorite professor I've had at this University so far."

LIBB 2800 Horror Films & American Culture – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Karen Auvinen

TuTh 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

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

Instructor Description

This course will look at classic and popular American horror films in an historical context in which we will examine the how horror films represent our culture's "collective fears." This course will also provide an analysis of the horror film genre. We will attempt to identify the defining features of the genre and account for the enduring appeal of horror films. We will also consider the contexts in which films are made and consider the reception of horror, studying the marketing of classic horror, the critical reception of the genre and tracing horror's relationship to both 'low-culture' and avant-garde cinema.

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.”

HUMANITIES COURSES

HIST 2516 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 understand 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 and Moral Conflicts – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Michele D. Simpson

TuTh 11:00am-12:15pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: 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."

MUSIC & DANCE COURSES

DNCE 2501 African Dance - 2 credits

TuTh 12:30pm-2:00pm in IN LIBBY HALL DANCE STUDIO (Room 05)

Taught by Maputo Mensah

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

Instructor Description

In this experience and dance-based course, we look at how African dance and music teaches us not only to move, but about life, such as issues of femininity and masculinity, race, and ethnicity. African dance 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 2051 Introduction to Songwriting Techniques - 3 credits

Taught by Dr. Michael Barnett

MoWeFr 12:20pm-1:10pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences GenEd: Arts and Humanities

Instructor Description

Songwriting is one of the most richly expressive and enduring forms of human creativity. The primary focus of this course will be to introduce students to the art (emotional elements) and craft (intellectual elements) of songwriting. The course is designed to offer a depth of music study typically reserved for undergraduate music majors to the non-music major student. It is tailored to the amateur musician, of which there are many, who wishes to take their musical experiences in college to a level deeper than can be obtained by way of the typical music appreciation course.

If you have any questions at all about how this class fits for you, please contact Dr. Barnett at michael.barnett@colorado.edu to discuss your questions and concerns.

This course requires very basic skills and for you to perform for your peers.
Please read the information below to understand these expectations before requesting this class.

Dr. Barnett reserves the right to ask you to drop the class if he determines it's not a good fit for you.

If you have to drop the class, other CMRAP class selections may be limited at that time.

To avoid this, please read the expectations above before requesting this class.

- Dr. Barnett works very inclusively with any student who is motivated to learn about songwriting and is willing to perform for others.
- You need to be able to keep a basic beat and be willing to experiment with making music.
- You should have a passion for music, but you do not need to be an accomplished musician.
- You do not need to read music.
- Students will be grouped into bands of 2-4 members for the semester, will develop songs as a band, and each band will get to perform their songs in a concert in Sewall at the end of the semester. The concert will be professionally recorded.

SCIENCE COURSES

IPHY 2420 Intro to Nutrition – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Donna Louie

MoWeFr 10:10am- 11:00am

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

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."

GEOL 1010-280R – Exploring Earth – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Lisa Barlow

MoWeFr 12:20pm-1:10pm - **Located in Baker Hall *not* Libby Hall**

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.”

SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES

ECON 2020 – Principles of Macroeconomics*- 4 credits

ECON 1010 - Recitation

Taught by Dr. Dan Zuchegno

TuTh 3:30pm-4:45pm (Lecture) AND Tu 9:40 am – 10:40 am (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

“Principles of Macroeconomics” provides an overview of the economy, examining the flows of resources and outputs and the factors determining the levels of income and prices. Explores policy problems of inflation, unemployment and economic growth.

“This was such a great course! The professor did an amazing job at connecting what we were learning in class back to what is happening in the real world!”

“Professor Zuchegno did a really good job at covering macro-econ content and preparing students for the quizzes and midterms/finals”

“Mr. Zuchegno was always interacting with the class so students could understand better at that moment. He would ask the class questions and wanted to hear students outputs/responses. It was easy to understand micro and macroeconomics to connect to real world examples we understood.”

“Professor Zuchegno provided a fun and engaging class and used real-world examples within his lectures, keeping them entertaining and interesting. He was also very nice and passionate about his teachings.”

SOCY 1001-170R - Introduction to Sociology * - 3 credit hours

Taught by Dr. Robert Scott

TuTh 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences GenEd

MAPS course: Social Sciences

Instructor Description

This course highlights how social forces shape human behavior and everyday experience. It examines the history of sociology, how to conduct social research, and key theoretical perspectives and debates in the discipline. Students will analyze and evaluate ideas from various areas of specialization, including economic sociology, animals and society, the sociology of death and dying, and the sociology of mental health. In their course assignments, students will apply sociological concepts to past and current events and extend the concepts. They will learn how sociology can influence policy and practice here and now.

About the Instructor

Robert Scott received a PhD in sociology from the University of Colorado Boulder. One of his teaching objectives is to develop students' reading, writing, and thinking skills so they can make positive contributions for humanity. He tries to inspire within students a desire for life-long learning.

Student Testimonials

“He's very understanding, and you can tell he simply wants us to succeed in his class. He explains topics in ways that really help us learn and be curious and seems to know the right balance of lecture vs. activities in class...I really like that after we get notes done there's always an activity where we can talk to others. He really seems to understand students' lives.”

“The instructor shows us many different ways to understand content. For example, we will watch videos, do group activities, write notes off of slides, and read articles to fully understand material.”

“I think the teacher does a great job of teaching us. Everything is very engaging. I thought the topic today about how our society perceives death was especially interesting.”

“He listens to our feedback about how the material is presented, which really helps us understand it in the best way possible. He also changes up the class format between lectures and group activities, giving everyone a chance to learn in the way that suits them best and show their strengths.”

“He is a great teacher!! I like watching the videos and doing group projects.”

UNIQUE ELECTIVE COURSES

LIBB 2728 Sports & Its Economics: The Relationship between Sports Teams, Markets, and Local Communities – 3 credits

Taught By Dan Zuchengo.

TuTh 2:00 am-3:15 pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Elective

Course Description

Economics and business models have increasingly been used to analyze a wide range of issues in professional sports and collegiate athletics from trying to understand wages in US professional sports leagues to the global appeal of futbol. We will look at wages paid to athletes as well as the level and sources of profits and revenues to teams and clubs. We will also look into the organizational structure of leagues and the role of government in professional sports.

On the collegiate level, we will address NCAA rules on scholarships and eligibility, and the ever increasing role that name, image, and likeness is playing in intercollegiate athletics. We will also look into the revenues generated in college sports and the sources of these revenues. Additionally, we will address the impact of television revenues on the ever changing structure and alignment of athletic conferences in the US.

Student Testimonials

“He was a fantastic teacher who made his lectures fun while still being informative. I had a great semester with him.”

"Fun and interesting course. I felt like this course was a little unstructured, but that is understandable given its a special topic that's not offered often. I wish there would have been a rubric or clearer grading criteria for the essay and a few other items."

"He was interesting and passionate"

"I thought this class was an awesome class. Super interesting and super informative good teacher and very smart guy"