Creative Minds
at Libby

Creative Minds RAP

Course Information Booklet

SPRING 2027

All students living in Libby Hall are *required* to take one or more CMRAP classes this academic year.
If you did not take a course in the Fall, you *must* take one in the Spring.

Creative Minds RAP

Spring 2027 RAP Course Registration Calendar

October 5th	Students that requested a specific spring RAP course during the fall registration window will be contacted to confirm their course choice - students must reply to be registered
October 12th	All students that did not register for a fall RAP course will be able to request their spring RAP course
October 19th	All students will be able to request their spring RAP course
October 26th	Students will begin to be registered for their spring RAP class - students cannot be registered before this date
November 2nd	Deadline to submit the RAP Course Selection Form
January 7th	Spring 2027 first day of classes

All students are required by the University and their signed housing contract to take a RAP class. If you did not take one in the fall, you MUST take one in the spring. All students are welcome to take a 2nd RAP course.

creativeminds@colorado.edu

Check out our Spring 2027 Courses here!

University of Colorado Boulder

SPRING OFFERINGS

ARTS 1212	**Painting for Non-Majors**	*Tyler Alpern*
DNCE 3014	Dance + Rhythm	*Maputo Mensah*
ECON 2020	**Principles of Macroeconomics**	*Dan Zuchengo*
HIST 2110	**Topics in Early Modern History - Renaissance Cities, Culture, & Commerce**	*Nicole Jobin*
HIST 2516	**America Through Baseball**	*Martin Babicz*
HUMN 2100	**Arts, Culture, and Media - Pop Culture**	*Karen Auvinen*
IPHY 2420	**Introduction to Nutrition**	*Donna Louie*
LIBB 1133	**Art & Visual Literacy through Drawing**	*Tyler Alpern*
LIBB 1600	**Gender and Film**	*Karen Auvinen*
MUEL 2852	**Music in the Rock Era**	*Benjamin Nicholson*
PHIL 2800	**Ethical Puzzles and Moral Conflicts**	*Michele Simpson*

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 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 brining 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 & 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

HUMN 2100 – Arts, Culture and Media: Pop Culture – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Karen Auvinen

TuTh 2:00 pm-3:15pm

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

Instructor Description

Culture and Art are BIG terms most often used to indicate something that is great, lasting, and monolithic. In this course, we'll deconstruct this idea by focusing on the division between socalled high- and low-art and culture through an exploration of Popular Culture. From pop stars to cult movies and superheroes to social media, we'll examine pop culture as an accessible, democratic force in the world. Along the way, our fundamental question will be how do we understand who we are as individuals and as Americans, and how are our values shaped as a result of our interaction with popular culture forms (images, comic books, films, video, TV, social media, etc.)?

Student Testimonials

"This has been my favorite class I have taken at CU and Karen is an amazing teacher."

"I really enjoyed this class and learned about a lot of new aspects on subjects I have heard of but never went in depth talking about."

"I have thoroughly enjoyed this class and learning from Karen. She structures the class in an efficient way that allows for students to be engaged and reflect on what they are learning, while also incorporating other activities. I always feel very prepared for our exams and she gives specific feedback that helps us improve for the next time."

"She is a very caring person that has demonstrated lots of empathy for us as students and is someone who I look up to as a role model because she is such a great teacher and person. I have truly learned a lot from this class and enjoyed my experience."

LIBB 1600 Gender and Film – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Karen Auvinen

TuTh 9:30-10:45am

OR TuTh 11:00pm-12:15pm

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

Instructor Description

This course examines depictions of the construction of gender, gender identity, and sexuality in film. We begin by exploring the formulaic Hollywood film and its massive influence by first looking at the kinds of stereotypes it circulates about specific people and/or groups, and then by examining films that shatter these stereotypes and seek authentic expressions of identity, human

diversity, and experience. Students will learn the ways in which film influences our perceptions about each other and will expand the range of each student's understanding of the experience of individuals and groups who have been marginalized in society.

Student Testimonials

"I really liked this class and how the class discussions were set up. They really helped me understand different perspectives and ideas I wouldn't have had myself."

"I think that the most effective part of this course is that it is very interactive. I feel that I am always involved in the conversation and welcome to speak my opinion. I think that a conversation-based class allows for multiple ideas to be discussed and is a more effective way to get everyone learning."

"Dr. Auvinen provided me and peers a great opportunity to reflect on and discuss diverse POVs and lives in a time where empathy and compassion is increasingly important. I was very grateful for her willingness to open up debate and communication about topics we may have disagreed on, and she held a respectful atmosphere for anyone who wanted to speak out and learn more about or clarify something she addressed."

"I think this course was one of the most eye opening, group bonding, and interesting classes I have taken thus far in university."

"Karen was a valuable resource throughout this course. She outlined expectations clearly and set up this course to work for and with first year students. Her daily discussions, consistent checkins and course load all have the student's wellbeing and learning experience in mind."

HUMANITIES COURSES

HIST 2110 Topics in Early Modern History: Renaissance Cities, Culture, and Commerce 3 Credits

Taught by Nicole Jobin

MoWeFr 2:20pm-3:30pm

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

Instructor Description

Every era seems to have a place where things are happening. From Florence during the Italian Renaissance to Shakespeare's London or the court of Louis XIV at Versailles, the history of the Early Modern Era is full of places where people, events, and ideas sparked the birth of our own modern world. As a window into the period between 1350 and 1700, this course seeks to identify the places, personalities, ideas, and events that shaped the path we traveled to our modern existence.

• How did we become people who view the arts and artists as a measure of our humanity?
• How did exploration and conquest set the stage for relationships between Europe and the rest of the world that still echo in today's international relations?
• How did the increasing divide between the countryside and the city begin to influence our political and social structures?
• How did science and the sharing of knowledge set Europe on the path towards a dramatic shift in our understanding of who we are and how we fit into the world and the universe?
We will find answers to these questions by examining biographies, works of art and science, maps, letters, and plays of the people who lived in these Early Modern societies. This course will include visits to Special Collections in the Norlin Library and hands-on opportunities to act as "historical detectives" uncovering the past.

About the Professor

Absolutely everything has a history. That simple fact is one of the main reasons I choose to study, and teach, this subject. Being a historian allows me to connect my love of languages, music, economics, archaeology, technology, and more by focusing on big questions about how we got to our present from our past. Holding a Roman coin, studying a medieval manuscript, looking at pamphlets and political cartoons from the French Revolution, or reading the letters from a World War I era soldier all fill me with the wonder of touching the past and exploring the threads that connect our stories to the societies in which these items were created.

I have a passion for sharing this wonder with my students and for making the past accessible. I believe that each student brings a unique perspective, and a unique voice, to the table. We are all inspired to ask our own questions of the past.

HIST 2516 America Through Baseball – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Marty Babicz

MoWeFr 2:30pm-3:20pm

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 3014 Dance + Rhythm - 3 credits

Taught by Maputo Mensah

TuTh 12:30pm-1:45pm IN LIBBY HALL DANCE STUDIO

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 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 Music in the Rock Era - 3 credits

Taught by Dr. Benjamin Nicholson

MoWeFr 12:20pm-1:10pm

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 from Other Courses Dr. Nicholson Taught

“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 think that this class was super cool and explored more than just the basics on movies and editing. Ben was an amazing instructor and tried to help in any way possible. He made everyone feel included and super laid back about class and if you needed to miss it for some reason.”

“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!!"

"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."

SCIENCE COURSES

IPHY 2420 Intro to Nutrition – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Donna Louie

MoWeFr 11:15am- 12:05pm

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.

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 2:30 – 3:20 pm (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

Course 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.

Student Testimonials

"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 quizes 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."