

Creative Minds RAP

Course Information

Booklet

Fall 2024

**Course Information Organized Alphabetically
by Course Categories**



University of Colorado
Boulder



ART COURSES

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

Taught by Elaine DiFalco

TuTh 9:05am-11:35am

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.

About the Instructor

American singer, composer, and multi-instrumentalist Elaine di Falco has spent much of her music-making career in the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain West, but many of her collaborations have involved musicians residing in Britain, Switzerland, or Italy. Di Falco got her start playing with Phoenix, Arizona punk bands during the 1980s. In Boulder, Colorado, she began collaborating with Hamster Theatre mastermind and Thinking Plague bassist Dave Willey. Entering the orbit of an inimitable community of Rocky Mountain avant-proggers, di Falco replaced vocalist Deborah Perry during Thinking Plague's spring 2008 European mini-tour of France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and Portugal. She moved at least temporarily back to Oregon to attend Western Oregon University through a music composition scholarship. In the late 2000s and into the 21st century she continued making notable contributions to a variety of recordings, however, rather than vanish even momentarily into the world of academia. Several years later di Falco moved to Denton, Texas to pursue graduate studies at the University of North Texas College of Music. She continued her connection with the Colorado rock scene, however, appearing on 2017's *Hoping Against Hope*, the seventh album by Thinking Plague and now is back at the University of Colorado's teaching for Creative Minds RAP.



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

Taught by Tyler Alpern

MoWe 3:35pm-4:50pm

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

LIBB 1600 – 280R Gender and Film – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Karen Auvinen

TuTh 3:30pm-4:45pm

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

Instructor Description

This course examines depictions of femininity, masculinity, sexuality, class, ethnicity and race on 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

"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 2003 – 280R Film Topics Gangsters in American Cinema – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Tiel Lundy

TuTh 2:00pm-3:15pm

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

Instructor Description

Born out of twentieth-century industrialization, the gangster film genre is at once about the possibilities and liabilities, the promises and perils of American social mobility. It is a genre with clear ties to history. Indeed, the genre is not only an account of urban American crime, law and order, but is as well a history of Hollywood itself, from the days preceding the Production Code, to its enforcement, and finally its abandonment. Since the gangster film emerged in the 1930s, it has maintained remarkable popularity, evolving as a ritualistic expression and working out of each generation's ideological conflicts.

Student Testimonials

"I learned so much about the history of American immigration and its relationship to gangster films!"

"Dr. Lundy makes me feel like my voice matters. She really listens to students."



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

Taught by Dr. Tiel Lundy

TuTh 11:00am-12:15pm

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

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.

About the Instructor

Tiel Lundy (Ph.D. English – University of Denver, 2007) is a Associate Teaching Professor jointly appointed in the Department of Cinema Studies and Moving Image Arts and the Libby Residential Academic Program. Her research and teaching interests traverse literature, film, and material culture. She has written on Jane Campion's 1996 adaptation of Henry James's *The Portrait of A Lady* (1881) as well as William Wyler's 1949 production *The Heiress*, adapted from James's *Washington Square* (1880). More recently, she published an essay on choreographer Busby Berkeley's *Gold Digger* films (2015), and in 2017 she presented her paper "Bosom Buddies: Hollywood and The Lingerie Industry, 1930 – 1949) at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference.

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

Taught by Dr. Karen Auvinen

TuTh 12:30pm-1:45pm

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 so-called 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."



MUSIC & DANCE COURSES

PREFERRED LIBBY LOCATION: DNCE 2501 -280R – African Dance - 2 credits

TuTh 3:45pm-5:15pm IN LIBBY HALL DANCE STUDIO

NOT IN LIBBY HALL: DNCE 2501 -281R – African Dance - 2 credits

TuTh 2:00pm-3:30pm in CARL 1B12

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 its 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 1:25pm-2:15pm Located next door to Libby in BAKR W205

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 12:30pm-1:45pm (Lecture) AND Tu 2:00pm-2:50pm (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

This course looks into our choices and what drives our behavior in today's economy. Since we live in a market economy, we emphasize economic interactions among individuals, business firms, and government, developing a formal model of supply and demand to discuss how and why we make economic decisions, and how our choices affect the economy. The course describes different kinds of markets in our economy and identifies conditions which may cause markets to fail or achieve an efficient solution.



**FARR 1562 Ghandi's Satyagrah: Love in Action for Humans and Other
Creatures**

Or Alternate Title: Gandhi and Meditation: Practicing Peace Inside and Out

- 3 credits

Taught by Cathy Comstock

Tu-Th 3:30 – 4:45

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

Instructor Description

Gandhi held a vision of peace and joy possible for all, based on the deep goodness of humans and all beings. His attitudes and actions were responsible not only for his own nonviolent triumphs but for the central inspiration of the civil rights movement in the U.S.

And now we can put his methods to use! Just when the planet and its creatures need his help more than ever. In addition to the ways that our personal habits can affect the environment, we'll also learn some handy skills to help the whole world, such as how to have a major impact on preventing terrorism and war. And--a special favorite of mine and Gandhi--to treat animals and the planet with nonviolence and caring. We'll look at all of these in regard to their root causes and the kinds of approaches that Gandhi's brilliant compassion provides for us.

One reason for his phenomenal success was meditation. Learning the practices of meditation and mindfulness can put you in touch with immense inner resources and bring profound well-being in body and mind. In this class we will look at the ways we can apply the tremendous resources unleashed by nonviolence and meditation to the most important areas of our lives, from global conflicts to our relationships to other species and each other.

For anyone interested, there's also optional service work for significant extra credit. (Good for you, the planet and your future job possibilities!)

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 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: 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

TuTh 2:00pm-3:15pm

WRTG 1150-281R – 1st Year Writing & Rhetoric – 3 credits

TuTh 3:30pm-4:45pm

Taught by Dr. Catherine Kunce

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Written Communication

MAPS: English

Course 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.

About the Instructor

Novelist Catherine Kunce received her Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Denver. A recently completed project involves the transcription and annotation of two nineteenth-century American women writers, one of whom was Edgar Allan Poe's onetime fiancée.

As senior instructor in CU's Program for Writing and Rhetoric, Catherine has relied on the Center of the American West to enhance her teaching. During a class that collected stories told by Boulder-area senior citizens, Patty Limerick treated students to classroom visits and shared her experiences about visiting retirement homes while she was an undergraduate student. Students read with interest Patty's unique thesis about her visits with the elderly, which had gained national media attention. This thesis helped prepare Catherine's students for the rewarding yet challenging experience of dealing with a generation so often neglected and so richly deserving of attention and respect. Another course, Native American Topics, uses *Legacy of Conquest* as a central text. And students can count on the Center's numerous events to invigorate classroom learning. Last fall, for example, Catherine's Native American Topics classes attended the Center's wonderful Native American Skies presentation at CU's Fiske Planetarium.



UNIQUE ELECTIVE COURSES

LIBB 2510- 283R Special Topics: World Building & Storytelling – 3 credits

Taught By Benjamin Nicholson.

MoWeFr 1:25 pm-2:15 pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Elective

Course Description

World Building & Storytelling will ask students to imagine, ideate, and develop a distant future and fictional world that is inhabited by a population surviving on the detritus of their history. Specifically, you will propose a possible future for Boulder after a complete global infrastructural collapse and create stories that take place in that future. It is likely that the world you develop will be built on a foundation of the outcomes of decisions made on our present-day planet. You will develop narrative environments and media projects that will provoke characters within the world to tell stories of their desires, fears, and encounters with their future-present society.

World building is evolutionary, holistic, and collaborative. You will be required to listen carefully to one another to develop collective intelligence for the context and rules of the world you create and the stories that emerge. In this transdisciplinary class, you will be asked to bring the full range of your interests and capabilities into our work.

Ultimately, the world(s) you build will allow you to tell original stories in the media of your choosing, reflecting on both our possible future and our shared present.

About the Instructor

Benjamin Ross Nicholson is a performer, teacher, and researcher. He holds a PhD from USC's Media Arts + Practice program with a Graduate Certificate in Performance Studies. As an artist, Benjamin develops performances concerned with the possibility of “otherwise,” what might emerge through a recognition of our relational dependence on the wellbeing of others (particularly in light of challenges offered by contemporary capitalism and ongoing processes of death and dying). He works with the Denver Fringe Festival and Immersive Denver to develop public arts programming for performance artists with limited access to resources. With a background in live performance, audio engineering, creative coding, video production, and immersive theater, he currently teaches time-based media production and narrative world building courses.