

Creative Minds RAP Course Information Booklet Spring 2024

**Course Information Organized Alphabetically
by Course Categories**



University of Colorado
Boulder



ART COURSES

ARTS 1171 - 285R - 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.



ARTS 1212 - 285R- Painting for Non-Majors - 3 credits

Taught by Tyler Alpern

MoWe 1:00pm-3:30pm

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 - 285R - Exploring Art, Culture and Visual Literacy through Drawing - 3 credits

Taught by Tyler Alpern

MoWe 3:35pm-4:50pm

Credit: Arts & Sci Gen Ed: 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 !”



LIBB 2510 – 286R Special Topics: Digital Literacy – 3 credits

Taught by Elaine DiFalco in HUMN 1B35

TuTh 12:30pm-2:00pm

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Elective

Course Description

This class explores the vast interpretations of digital art through creative projects, discussions, and virtual field trips. By learning to use different design software students will create everything from short films to digital illustrations, and web designs to immersive installations. Together we will explore the role digital art has in the media we consume through tv, film, social media, and more, as well as our place within the digital art landscape. Explore the fundamentals of design and digital media through a highly interactive and creation- based class.

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 2510-288R Special Topics: World Building & Storytelling - 3 credits

MoWe 1:25pm-2:55pm

Taught by Benjamin Nicholson

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 called JUNK, that is inhabited by a population surviving on the detritus of their history. 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 that will provoke characters within the world to tell their stories, and connect the dots between the characters, geography, environment and areas of influence. World building is transdisciplinary. You will be asked to bring the full range of your interests and capabilities to the class.



CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES COURSES

LIBB 1600 – 285R Gender and Film – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Karen Auvinen

TuTh 12:30-1:45pm

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 2003-285R – 285R Film Topics: Gangsters in American Cinema – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Tiel Lundy

TuTh 2:00pm-3:15pm

Credit: Arts & Sci Gen Ed: 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 – 285R Horror Films and 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.



MUEL 2051-285R Introduction to Songwriting Techniques - 3 credits

Taught by Dr. Michael Barnett

TuTh 12:30pm-1:45pm

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 SRAP 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.
- This class is not designed to provide you with musical instrument or vocal instruction, although your skills will likely improve as a result.



MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE COURSES

DNCE 2501 (section number TBD) – African Dance - 2 credits

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

DNCE 2501 -285R – African Dance - 2 credits

TuTh 3:45pm-5:15pm

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 majo



SCIENCE COURSES

IPHY 2420 – 285R Intro to Nutrition – 3 Credits

MoWeFr 11:15am-12:05pm

Taught by Dr. Donna Louie

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

ANTH-1200-285R Culture and Power - 3 credits

TuTh 9:30am-10:45am

Taught by Kristen Drybread

Credit: Arts Sci Core Curr: Contemporary Societies

Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

In this course we will explore the relationship between cultural practices and power through mediums that range from academic texts and photography to graphic novels and theater. We will draw from global, cross-cultural examples to tackle topics such as drug addiction in the urban United States, war and peace in Colombia, the Iranian revolution, immigration, and more. Students will gain an understanding of the key interests and methods driving cultural anthropology. Additionally, students will develop tools to analyze and use a diverse range of mediums. In the final project, students will have the opportunity to expand on a course topic through the academic/artistic medium of their choice.



SOCY 1004-285R Sociology of Deviance - 3 credits

Taught by Marshall Smith

TuTh 3:30pm-4:45pm

Credit: Arts & Sci Core Curr: Ideals and Values

Arts & Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

Instructor Description

This class explores the topics of normalization, stigmatization, power, and labeling theory as it applies to attitudes, behaviors, and conditional aspects of our society.



ANTH 1155 - 285R – Exploring Global Cultural Diversity: Festivals - 3 credits

Taught by Dr. Kristen Drybread

MoWe 9:30am-10:45pm

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

Instructor Description

This course studies theories and practices of festival. We will examine the celebration of Carnival in Rio de Janeiro and Mardi Gras in New Orleans. We will compare holiday rituals like trick or treating in the US, throwing colored powders and waters at the Holi festival in India, and guzzling beer at Oktoberfest in Germany. Our study of traditional festivals will enable us to critically examine contemporary events like Burning Man, Coachella, and the Fyre Festival as sites for the expression of collective emotions and aspirations.

Past Testimonials for Dr. Drybread

“Absorbing the perspectives of all of my classmates with different identities and backgrounds was one of the greatest lessons I have learned. I really appreciated this class for showing me that and I will take this idea into my future classes in hopes that I can establish a more intimate community with my classmates.”

“This class for me all around has been an explosion of new ideas and new ways of thinking. “

“I really love that I took this class. I strongly believe that it changed my perspective of the world and the small but significant things that affect all of our lives.”



ECON 2020-285R – Principles of Macroeconomics*- 4 credits

ECON 2020-286R - 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

“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.



HIST 2516 285R – 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.”



WGST 2200-285R – Ethical Puzzles and Moral Conflicts – 3 Credits

Taught by Dr. Michele D. Simpson

TuTh 11:00am-12:15pm

Boulder A&S GenEd Requirements: Arts & Sci Gen Ed: 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."



LIBB 2510-287R - Sports and Its Economics: Understanding the business of today's sportsworld - 3 credits

TuTh 9:30am-10:45am

Taught by Dr. Dan Zuchengo

Credit: Arts & Sciences General Education: Elective

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.



WRITING COURSES

WRTG 1150-285R – 1st Year Writing & Rhetoric – 3 credits

MoWe 11:15am-12:30pm

Taught by Dr. Catherine Kunce

WRTG 1150-286R – 1st Year Writing & Rhetoric – 3 credits

TuTh 3:30pm-4:45pm

Taught by Dr. Alexander Fobes

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 - Dr. Catherine Kunce

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 one time 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.



About the Instructor - Dr. Alexander Fobes

BA, English, University of California Berkeley

MA, English, University of New Hampshire

PhD, Comparative Literature, University of Colorado Boulder

Dr. Alexander S. Fobes joins the Creative Minds RAP this spring as a Teaching Assistant Professor in Writing and Rhetoric. At CU he has taught courses in the Humanities and Spanish, as well as the upper-division workshops “Writing on Music,” “Word and Image,” “Writing in the Visual Arts,” and “Technical Communication and Design.” His research interests include aesthetics, lyricism, design, 20th-century and Spanish American literature, and he has published various peer-reviewed articles in these fields. Focusing on select works of four modernist authors, his dissertation examines the innovative role of play in the creation of nonsense effects. In addition to teaching, he enjoys hiking, mountain climbing, music, and travel, and has lived in four foreign countries.

