

Course descriptions for Spring 2021 Living and Learning PODS

Pod 1 (First Year Only)

GENS 176-W The "buddha" in "japan"

Spring

A. Takemoto

4 credits

Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:50pm

This seminar will explore how the "buddha" reached a country that people commonly refer to as "japan" in the 6th century and how the people on this archipelago off the coast of China translated this word into *Nihongo*--the language of Japan ("Nihon/Nippon"). We will trace how Nihon launched an extraordinary "study abroad program" and adopted a writing system from China to translate a "buddhist" way of "seeing the world" that would accord with the land and climate of Nihon. We will examine how continental thought challenged and blended with native ideas from the Jōmon era (11,000 BCE to 250 CE) and explore how they influenced a way of thinking and feeling that people in the United States and Europe began in the 1950s to call the "Way of Zen."

In the first century after its introduction, the ideas connected with the historical buddha appealed only to a small group of leaders who wanted to use the "written teachings of the Buddha" to separate themselves from ordinary people and build temples and palaces. So, what happened to the word "buddha?" Was it ever translated into "Japanese?" How did American and European visitors in the 18th century learn, accept, and translate words like *zen*, *karma*, *buddha*, *nirvana*, *dharma*, *satori*? In addition to extensive class notes, students will read Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha*, two chapters from the *Vimalakīrti Sūtra*, the *Tannishō* by Shinran, selected poems by eccentric monks, and *Black Rain* by Ibuse Masuji. Students will also become familiar with ideas connected with the art of serving tea as articulated by the tea masters Rikyū and Oribe.

ART 115-B Beginning Drawing

Spring

Lux

3 credits

Tuesday, Thursday 2:00-3:50pm

This course introduces students to basic techniques of drawing and equips them with a foundation of mechanical, perceptual, and conceptual skills. Students will engage in classroom studio work, out of class projects, and critique. This course covers a variety of traditional and non-traditional materials and multiple approaches in drawing through the use of the figure, landscape, and/or still life as a point of departure. Students with little or no background in visual art are encouraged to participate along with those who may have significant experience. Two two-hour studio sessions per week. *Fee*: \$100.

SOC 117-B Principles of Sociology

Spring

Janning

4 credits

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50am

Principles of Sociology is a comprehensive introduction to the discipline of sociology, or the systematic study of human group behavior. With a balance between lectures and discussions, the course covers basic sociological theories and quantitative and qualitative methodological perspectives. Course topics include historical foundations of the discipline, social interaction, socialization, structure, culture, groups and networks, applied sociology, inequalities, globalization, and the relationship between humans and the built and natural environments. Student work includes reading assignments, exams, papers, and an empirical research project that entails research design, data collection and analysis, oral and written presentation of findings, and application of a sociological theory and past empirical research to the findings. Required of all majors; should be taken as early in the student's program as possible. This course is open to first years, sophomores and juniors; seniors by consent of instructor only.

Pod 2 (First Year Only)

GENS 176-X Creativity and Resistance

Spring

Wootten

4 credits

Monday, Wednesday Friday 9:00-9:50am

Creativity is often cited as a way to resist, critique, or subvert the discourses of power that define our lives. How do individuals take the concepts, images, and words of a fundamentally unjust society and create something new? Is resistance even an option? Is creative freedom possible within a society that shapes and disciplines us? How do writers, filmmakers, and poets carve out a space of personal creative agency in the face of institutional power? At stake in this class is the possibility of creative agency within a society that would mold us into compliant subjects. Students will begin by reading some critiques of the moral, economic, and psychological scripts that have defined the Western subject (e.g., Nietzsche, Marx, and Freud). We will then look at some films, poems, and stories that engage with these critiques and open up the possibility of resistance (e.g., Audre Lorde, Bon Joon-ho, and Seirai Yuichi). Students will write and revise short papers, create their own poems, stories, and/or short films, and work toward a final independent research project.

SOC 117-B Principles of Sociology

Spring

Janning

4 credits

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50am

Principles of Sociology is a comprehensive introduction to the discipline of sociology, or the systematic study of human group behavior. With a balance between lectures and discussions, the course covers basic sociological theories and quantitative and qualitative methodological perspectives. Course topics include historical foundations of the discipline, social interaction, socialization, structure, culture, groups and networks, applied sociology, inequalities, globalization, and the relationship between humans and the built and natural environments. Student work includes reading assignments, exams, papers, and an empirical research project that entails research design, data collection and analysis, oral and written presentation of findings, and application of a sociological theory and past empirical research to the findings. Required of all majors; should be taken as early in the student's program as possible. This course is open to first years, sophomores and juniors; seniors by consent of instructor only.

GEOL 110-A The Physical Earth

Spring

Bader

3 credits

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50am

Physical geology including earth materials, the processes responsible for uplift and erosion, landforms, plate tectonics and the earth's interior. Three lectures per week. Open only to first- and second-year students; others by consent of instructor. Students who have received credit for Geology 120 or 125 may not receive credit for Geology 110. *Corequisite:* Geology 111.

GEOL 111-A The Physical Earth Lab

Spring

Bader

1 credit

Tuesday 1:00-3:50pm

Laboratory exercises to accompany classroom instruction in The Physical Earth. Must be taken concurrently with Geology 110. Topics may include the identification of rocks and minerals, interpretation of topographic and geologic maps, and fluvial processes. One three-hour laboratory per week; field trips. Students who have received credit for Geology 121 or 126 may not receive credit for Geology 111. *Corequisite:* Geology 110. *Lab fee:* maximum \$20.

Pod 3 (First Year Only)

GENS 176-U Data and Decisions: Arguments, Intuition, and Equity

Spring

Balof

4 credits

Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-11:20am

With increased access to increasing amounts of data, we ask more of ourselves in letting that data drive our decisions. But how do our preconceptions about that data shape our justifications for our actions? This class will explore the use (and misuse!) of mathematics and data across multiple disciplines. Examples will be studied from theories of randomness, statistical inference, medical decision making, and voting theory and equitable political districting. Students will study how their own experience and preconceptions shape their arguments, and how best to address issues of difference and equity in data-driven outcomes.

PHYS 155-A General Physics I

Spring

Sanborn

4 credits

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50am

This course focuses on classical mechanics: kinematics, Newton's laws of motion, energy and momentum conservation, and waves. Students enrolling in this course also will be required to enroll in an associated laboratory course (Physics 155L). Three 50-minute or two 80-minute class meetings and two 90-minute laboratory meetings per week. Evaluation based on homework, laboratory reports, and examinations. *Pre- or corequisite:* Mathematics 125.

Pod 4 (First Year Only)

GENS 176-V Performing Gender in Chinese History

Spring

Dott

4 credits

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00-1:50pm

In "Performing Gender in Chinese History," we explore gender roles and expectations in China, in theory and practice, including changes over the past few hundred years. Understanding gender as socially and culturally constructed and gender roles as coming out of performance is key. We will examine traditional expectations for men and women in China, the gender ambiguity of eunuchs, as well as trans and queer practices. Readings range widely, including memoirs, biographies, a comic, poetry, essays, and fiction, as well works by modern scholars. Paintings and films, both documentary and feature, also provide important visual images of gendered roles. Analyzing history through the lens of gender reveals social, cultural and political change. Seminar projects include a variety of writing assignments and presentations designed to develop critical reading, writing & oral skills, and a longer paper to introduce basic research strategies. Furthermore, you will explore what studying gender in Chinese culture has revealed to you about gender in your own culture in a short reflective essay. This course is run as a reading and discussion seminar, with occasional short lectures for background information.

PSYC 110-A Introduction to Psychology

Spring

Day

3 credits

Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:50pm

The science of psychology as intended for general and beginning students. Designed to introduce students to the technical vocabulary, methodology, and principal fields of research. Analysis of such topics as learning, development, personality, behavior pathology, emotions, and social behavior. All sections designed to introduce the student to the basic material of the introductory psychology course.

PHIL 117-A Problems in Philosophy

Spring

Hanrahan

4 credits

Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-11:20am

An introductory study of some of the major problems of philosophy. Among those general problems considered will be the nature of philosophy; problems of knowledge; metaphysical questions concerning materialism, idealism, and

naturalism; and questions of ethics. Other problems may be considered as time permits. This course is intended for first-year students and sophomores; open to juniors and seniors by consent only.

Pod 5 (Sophomore Only)

BIOL 206-A Genetics Laboratory

Spring

Forsthoefel

1 credit

Tuesday 1:00-3:50pm

Laboratory exercises in molecular and Mendelian genetics. Labs will include DNA isolation, amplification, and characterization, introductions to computer DNA analysis and genomics, and an extended project in Mendelian genetics, involving phenotypic observation and segregation analysis. One three-hour laboratory per week. Prior completion of Biology 205 is recommended, but not required. Biology 206 is not recommended for BBMB majors. *Pre- or corequisite:* Biology 205. *Lab fee:* maximum \$30.

PHIL 220-A ST: Philosophy of Biology

Spring

Frierson

4 credits

Monday, Wednesday 1:00-2:20pm

This course starts with a general introduction to the philosophy of science, discussing questions such as what distinguishes science from pseudo-science, what sort of “objectivity” science has, and what role social values play in scientific investigation of the world. We then turn to the philosophy of biology, discussing questions such as the nature of “fitness” and “adaptation,” the units of selection, and the definition of species. Particular emphasis is given to questions related to genetics, such as what a gene is, to what extent genes are the primary or only unit of natural selection, the importance of epigenetic factors in organismal development, and the issue of whether there are genetic differentiations amongst human races. Finally, we discuss some bioethical issues that arise specifically in the context of genetics, such as eugenics or ethical guidelines and constraints on the use of germ-line gene modifications in humans (and other organisms). *Prerequisites:* at least one course in either Philosophy or Biology. Distribution area: humanities.

Pod 6 (Sophomore Only)

BIOL 206-B Genetics Laboratory

Spring

Forsthoefel

1 credit

Wednesday 1:00-3:50pm

Laboratory exercises in molecular and Mendelian genetics. Labs will include DNA isolation, amplification, and characterization, introductions to computer DNA analysis and genomics, and an extended project in Mendelian genetics, involving phenotypic observation and segregation analysis. One three-hour laboratory per week. Prior completion of Biology 205 is recommended, but not required. Biology 206 is not recommended for BBMB majors. *Pre- or corequisite:* Biology 205. *Lab fee:* maximum \$30.

ART 170-A Beginning Printmaking

Spring

Pietrantonio

3 credits

Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:50pm

Beginning Printmaking provides students with a basic understanding of the processes, concepts, and issues that inform contemporary printmaking. Students develop a broad range of both traditional and digital printmaking skills alongside an awareness of print media’s historical and cultural significance. Students create and analyze prints through hands-on studio work, group and individual critiques, and examination of prints from a variety of cultural, conceptual, and historical standpoints. As the semester progresses, students will gain experience in the creative and expressive possibilities of the printed image in contemporary artistic practice. *Fee:* \$150.

Pod 7 (Sophomore Only)

PSYC 230-A Social Psychology
Spring Meyers 4 credits
Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:50pm

This course provides students with a broad introduction to the field of social psychology, the study of how others influence our thoughts, feelings, and behavior in a social world. Course content will focus on both theoretical and empirical research to explore the ways in which social situations affect our cognition, emotion, and action, and the ways in which the self contributes to the social construction of human behavior. Specific topics include social judgment, group behavior, stereotyping and prejudice, conflict and war, liking and love, helping, and persuasion, among others. *Prerequisite:* Psychology 110 or consent of instructor.

PSYC 218-A Psychology of Poverty
Spring Melissa Clearfield 4 credits
Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:50pm

The United States today has a highly unequal distribution of wealth and income, with the top one-tenth of 1% of our population owning almost as much wealth as the bottom 90%. Tens of millions of people live below official poverty thresholds in the U.S., including around 20% of children. What are the psychological implications of being poor in such an unequal society? How are the impacts of poverty and economic inequality evident in our mental health, physical health, family relationships, and personal identity? In this course, we will study: 1) psychological concepts of social class, 2) the effects of poverty across the lifespan on such topics as child development, parenting, mental and physical health, family relationships, and personal identity, 3) the psychological stigma of being poor, and 4) justifications for inequality. Assessment will include class discussion, frequent short writing assignments and a final paper. *Prerequisite:* Psychology 110.

PHIL 141-A Punishment & Responsibility
Spring Mitchell Clearfield 4 credits
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50am

Nationwide, over two million people are now in prison, including over 2,000 at the Washington State Penitentiary here in Walla Walla. Yet as a society, there is no clear consensus regarding the goal(s) or purpose(s) of sending someone to prison. How can it be right intentionally to cause someone suffering? What is the connection between having done wrong and being justifiably made to suffer? What kind of suffering can be justified, and under what circumstances? In this course we will critically examine some of the ultimate philosophical justifications of punishment, such as deterrence, incapacitation, retribution, and rehabilitation. We also will examine importantly related questions about personal responsibility and the conditions necessary for punishment to be appropriate. Finally, we will consider the relevance and impact of excuses and mitigating factors like mental illness, age, addiction, and socioeconomic status. This course is intended for first-year students and sophomores; juniors by consent; not open to seniors.

Pod 8 (First Year or Sophomore)

SOC 117-B Principles of Sociology
Spring Janning 4 credits
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10-10:50am

Principles of Sociology is a comprehensive introduction to the discipline of sociology, or the systematic study of human group behavior. With a balance between lectures and discussions, the course covers basic sociological theories and quantitative and qualitative methodological perspectives. Course topics include historical foundations of the discipline, social interaction, socialization, structure, culture, groups and networks, applied sociology, inequalities, globalization, and the relationship between humans and the built and natural environments. Student work includes reading assignments, exams, papers, and an empirical research project that entails research design, data collection and analysis, oral and written presentation of findings, and application of a sociological theory and past empirical research to the findings. Required of all majors; should be taken as early in the student's program as possible. This course is open to first years, sophomores and juniors; seniors by consent of instructor only.

ENGL 177-A Introduction to Poetry**Spring****A. Gordon****4 credits****Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00-1:50pm**

A study of the forms, strategies, voices, and visions of British and North American poetry across time. An ever-changing art form related to song, poetry predates literacy; today, through imagery, implication, indirection, and other means, poems continue to offer writers and readers ways to give voice to the ineffable. We will examine how poetic form and content interact, and consider the unique powers and possibilities of poetry's metaphoric language to address all aspects of life.

ENVS 120/120L-B Introduction to Environmental Studies**Spring****Parker****4 credits****Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-9:50am; Thursday 12:30-3:50pm**

An introduction to interdisciplinary themes in environmental studies, including perspectives from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Emphasis is placed on understanding local and regional environmental problems as well as issues of global environmental concern. Students enrolling in this course also will be required to enroll in Environmental Studies 120L *Environmental Studies Excursions*. The weekly afternoon excursions cover the length of the Walla Walla drainage basin, from the Umatilla National Forest to the Columbia River. Excursions may include the watershed, the water and wastewater treatment plants, energy producing facilities, a farm, a paper mill, different ecosystems, and the Johnston Wilderness Campus. This course is required of all environmental studies majors. All environmental studies majors must pass this course with a minimum grade of C (2.0). First-year students and sophomores only or consent of instructor.

Pod 9 (First Year or Sophomore)**CS/MATH 203-A ST: Data Analysis and Visualization****Spring****Schueller****3 credits****Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:50pm**

Students will learn to use Python-based tools for data analysis and visualization in the context of a series of data-centered group projects. Some data sets will be provided, while others will be collected by students using other means (e.g. smartphone sensors), or use experimental data from other courses. Mathematical and programming concepts including, but not limited to, data cleaning, normalization, frequency analysis, outliers, smoothing, numerical integration, and numerical differentiation will be addressed. May be elected as Computer Science 203. *Prerequisites:* Computer Science 167 or equivalent and Mathematics 126 or equivalent. Distribution area: quantitative analysis.

ART 160-A Beginning Sculpture**Spring****Acuff****3 credits****Tuesday, Thursday 12:00-1:50pm**

This course acquaints students with a set of materials, texts, and critical discourses that articulate the historical and contemporary concerns of sculpture. Guided by formal and conceptual considerations, students generate sculptural objects and installations in a variety of media. Lectures, readings, discussions and critiques surround and foster the hands-on making process. *Fee:* \$150.

Pod 10 (First Year or Sophomore)**HISP 341-A Writing in the Air: Theatre and Performance in the Contemporary Hispanic World****Spring****Vargas-Salgado****4 credits****Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:20pm**

Reading, analysis, and discussion of contemporary dramas and performances from Spain, Latin America, and U.S. Latino communities in Spanish language. Writers/Theatre artists reviewed, are: Federico García Lorca, Ramón del Valle Inclán, Arístides Vargas, Grupo La Candelaria, Sara Joffré, José Sanchis Sinisterra, José Triana, Hugo

Salcedo, Guillermo Gómez Peña, Griselda Gambaro, Gracia Morales, among others. Methodologically, this course focuses on critical thinking and academic writing in Spanish language through class discussions, reaction papers, and oral presentations. Material studied includes written texts as well as filmed plays, digital media, drama, and performance art. The class also includes attendance to a number of live performances on campus. Course taught in Spanish. *Prerequisite:* Hispanic Studies 306; placement exam; or consent of instructor. *Note:* Hispanic Studies 341, 342, 343, and 344 can be taken in any order. Intended for first-year students, sophomores, and juniors; open to seniors by consent only.

FMS 160/160S-A Introduction to Film Studies

Spring

Sickels

4 credits

Tuesday, Thursday 7:30-10:00pm

This course introduces the historical and theoretical fundamentals of film studies. Representative films will be drawn from a variety of different eras, genres, and countries. Lectures, discussions, tests, and required weekly film screenings. Open to first-years, sophomores, and Film and Media Studies majors; others by consent of instructor.

ENGL 233-A Introduction to Shakespeare: Faith, Fate, and Virtue

Spring

Raschko

4 credits

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-9:50am

“Who can control his fate?” Othello asks in his last moments upon the stage, after falling prey to Iago’s manipulations and punishing his wife for imagined sins. Throughout his plays, Shakespeare repeatedly grapples with questions related to belief and power. In tragedy, comedy, and romance, he explores the boundaries between the worldly and the supernatural, as well as the limits of free will. Interweaving politics and religion, ethics and philosophy, Shakespeare’s texts confront audiences with the existential and moral dilemmas that make us human. The course will introduce students to college-level study of Shakespeare’s poetry and plays, with particular attention to the themes of faith, fate, and virtue.

Pod 11 (First Year or Sophomore)

ENVS 120/120L-B Introduction to Environmental Studies

Spring

Parker

4 credits

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-9:50am; Thursday 12:30-3:50pm

An introduction to interdisciplinary themes in environmental studies, including perspectives from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Emphasis is placed on understanding local and regional environmental problems as well as issues of global environmental concern. Students enrolling in this course also will be required to enroll in Environmental Studies 120L *Environmental Studies Excursions*. The weekly afternoon excursions cover the length of the Walla Walla drainage basin, from the Umatilla National Forest to the Columbia River. Excursions may include the watershed, the water and wastewater treatment plants, energy producing facilities, a farm, a paper mill, different ecosystems, and the Johnston Wilderness Campus. This course is required of all environmental studies majors. All environmental studies majors must pass this course with a minimum grade of C (2.0). First-year students and sophomores only or consent of instructor.

ENGL 200-A VT: Infrastructure, the Individual, and Community

Spring

Leise

4 credits

Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-11:20am

This course will investigate how the built environment influences individuals and communities. It will work to define what an “individual” is and explore the changing role of “infrastructure” in society. Texts may include Ralph Waldo Emerson’s essays, Nathaniel Hawthorne’s short stories, Walter Benjamin’s philosophy, Elizabeth Woody’s poetry, HBO’s *The Wire*, the Whitman campus, downtown Walla Walla, and the Columbia River; and we’ll also explore our own feelings about infrastructure, community, and others. Distribution area: humanities.

PHIL 120-A Environmental Ethics**Spring****Hanrahan****4 credits****Monday, Wednesday 1:00-2:20pm**

Does the nonhuman world have any intrinsic value or is it valuable only because of its relation to human interests? That is, does anything besides humanity have “moral standing”? If so, what is its basis? Should we, for instance accord rights to all those creatures that are sentient? If we do, will we have gone far enough, morally speaking? What about those creatures that lack sentience? What about the environment in which all creatures, human and nonhuman, live? Does it have moral standing? In answering these questions, we will consider the works of Aldo Leopold, Peter Singer, Karen Warren, Arne Naess, and Julian Simon, among others. This course is intended for first-year students and sophomores; open to juniors and seniors by consent only.

Pod 12 (First Year or Sophomore)**CS/MATH 203-A ST: Data Analysis and Visualization****Spring****Schueller****3 credits****Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:50pm**

Students will learn to use Python-based tools for data analysis and visualization in the context of a series of data-centered group projects. Some data sets will be provided, while others will be collected by students using other means (e.g. smartphone sensors), or use experimental data from other courses. Mathematical and programming concepts including, but not limited to, data cleaning, normalization, frequency analysis, outliers, smoothing, numerical integration, and numerical differentiation will be addressed. May be elected as Computer Science 203. *Prerequisites:* Computer Science 167 or equivalent and Mathematics 126 or equivalent. Distribution area: quantitative analysis.

PHIL 122-A Radical Thoughtlessness**Spring****T. Davis****4 credits****Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50am**

In John Ashberry’s *Girls on the Run*, we find that “The unthinkable is common knowledge today.” Does it then follow that the unconscionable has become perfectly ordinary? We will pursue this question in light of David Foster Wallace’s cooked lobster and St. Augustine’s stolen pears to prepare us to examine the relation between Adolf Eichmann’s radical thoughtlessness and Elizabeth Costello’s inordinate knowledge in work by Hannah Arendt, J. M. Coetzee, and Stanley Cavell.

Pod 13 and 14**130 Weather and Climate****Spring****Pogue****3 credits****Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:50pm**

An introductory course in meteorology designed for nonscience majors with an emphasis on the weather patterns and climate of the Pacific Northwest. Topics covered include Earth’s heat budget, atmospheric stability, air masses, midlatitude cyclones, global circulation patterns and climates, and the origins of violent weather phenomenon.