

# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS

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The History, Literature, and the Arts Department offers courses that encourage deep exploration of diverse historical, cultural, and creative practices and contexts. Students learn to think beyond their own experience and recognize how their ideas and actions shape the world in which they live.

Programs are available in:

- Arts and Creative Industries
- History
- Literary and Cultural Studies

## Faculty

### History, Literature, and the Arts Department Chair

Amber Day

Literary and Cultural Studies and Arts and Creative Industries

### Professor

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Valerie Ann Carrigan

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### Assistant Professor

Danielle Macon

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### Senior Lecturer

Joan Zaretti

### Lecturer

Kathleen Daly

History

### Lecturer

Kristen Falso-Capaldi

Literary and Cultural Studies and Arts and Creative Industries

### Lecturer

Jennifer Horan

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John Howard

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### Lecturer

Carrie Kell

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### Lecturer

David Liao

Literary and Cultural Studies

### Lecturer

Taylor Maroney

Arts and Creative Industries

### Lecturer

Eric Paul

Literary and Cultural Studies and Arts and Creative Industries

### Lecturer

Jeremy Pearson

History

### Lecturer

Ryan Marnane Sonder

Literary and Cultural Studies

### Lecturer

Monica Ward

History

## Arts and Creative Industries Courses

### ACI 220. Introduction to Arts and Creative Industries. 3 Credit Hours.

This course explores creativity and the arts as an essential part of the human experience. Students are introduced to the scholarship of creativity, engage in creative practice, and examine the field of creative industries. With a focus on creativity through visual art, performing arts or creative writing, this course has both a hands-on approach to creative production and a concentration on the industries that support this production. Depending on the section, experiential aspects may include drawing, painting and design (visual arts), improvisation/theater, storytelling and music (performing arts), and poetry, fiction and non-fiction (creative writing). Students will contemplate creativity as an intrinsic part of their personal and professional lives and a driving force in a variety of creative industries.

**ACI 221. Arts and Creative Industries Incubator Seminar. 3 Credit Hours.**

Students will build upon their Arts and Creative Industries foundations (from ACI 220 – taken during their first year) through workshops, networking, and practical experience in the arts on Bryant University's campus. Students will attend class sessions devoted to the skills needed to work in an arts organization as well as on-site meetings with arts organizations. Class sessions and workshops may include grant writing (for campus grant awards for projects), profile building for on-campus arts organizations, and program evaluation strategies. Networking will include guest speakers as well as interviews with faculty and staff involved in the arts. Students will propose an arts project with one of Bryant University's arts clubs and organizations (the Bryant Players, Bryant Singers, Arts and Creativity Club, Writing Club, etc.) while supervised by a faculty member. Criteria for project proposals will be discussed in class but may include installation of exhibitions.

Prerequisites: ACI 220

Session Cycle: Varies.

**ACI 301. Vocal Ensemble Studio. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course focuses on performing vocal music in different ensemble traditions, including Western and non-Western vocal genres. Students study vocal technique, reading music and learning by ear. Topics will include melody, harmony, improvisation, vocal effects, arrangements, presentation, audience connection, and vocal recordings. The students in this course will perform as an ensemble in a public performance on campus.

Prerequisites: ACI 220 and Sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Varies.

**ACI 302. Performance Studio. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course focuses on individual and group performance through practice work in storytelling, theater, improvisation, music, and performance art. Students will study the craft of storytelling, theater monologues and group scenes, and improvisation exercises, and may investigate dance, music, and performance art. Students will participate in a public performance at the end of the semester. No prior experience necessary.

Session Cycle: Varies.

**ACI 303. Design in Contemporary Culture. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the rhetorical and formal principals of graphic design, with an emphasis on conceptual development and problem-solving. Assignments and lectures encourage students to investigate formal design aesthetics and the nuances of effective visual communication, while developing an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of design and the role of the designer in society. Creative assignments are part of the coursework.

Session Cycle: Varies.

**ACI 304. Music Composition Studio. 3 Credit Hours.**

Students will develop their ability to digitally and acoustically compose music that can be used in a variety of formats, such as concerts, film and video games. Students will also have the opportunity to practice more advanced techniques in composition using notation, as well as learn about strategies used in songwriting, orchestration and arranging. No prior experience necessary.

Session Cycle: Varies.

**ACI 321. Drawing Studio. 3 Credit Hours.**

Drawing is the foundation of visual art and design. This course introduces students to the creative and expressive use of various graphic media such as charcoal, pencil, crayon, chalk, pen and ink and/or brush and wash. The history and practice of specific techniques such as form modeling, spatial illusions and principles of linear perspective will be explored in addition to basic aesthetic and technical drawing skills that enable students to represent three-dimensional objects in an environment.

Session Cycle: Varies.

**ACI 322. Art and Design Studio. 3 Credit Hours.**

Studio courses offer students hand-on opportunities to explore many creative mediums in the visual arts. Through sustained studio practice, critique and portfolio reviews, students will build skills and proficiency in the medium of focus (collage, painting or advanced design for example) or genre of art (such as socially engaged or environmental art) emphasized in the instructor's specific iteration of the course. Students will have the opportunity to engage with local and regional contemporary art exhibits and artists.

Session Cycle: Fall.

**ACI 323. Digital Arts Studio. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is an introduction to digital art studio practice with a focus on digital imaging and cross-media experimentation. Creative projects include creating digital images, sound files and sound and video. Contemporary new media, digital culture and key works by digital artists are explored. Students will explore fundamental concepts and methods of digital media through conceptual and technical manipulation of sound and images. This is a studio course emphasizing creative and critical thinking as well as digital literacy.

Session Cycle: Every Fall Semester.

**ACI 324. Digital Photography Studio. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course serves as an introduction to creative photographic methods and ideas, integrating technical skills with individual creative goals. Using digital cameras and complimentary tools, students will address the essential technical, conceptual, and artistic problems that have been associated with photography since its birth, as well as some of the new issues that have arisen with the advent of digital imaging.

Session Cycle: Every Spring Semester.

**ACI 325. Book Arts Studio. 3 Credit Hours.**

Book Arts Studio is a combined focus course with attention to the history, theory and criticism of paper, books and collage, as well as studio practice in making paper and collage, and binding books.

Session Cycle: Spring.

**ACI 326. Introduction to Adobe Creative Cloud. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is an introduction to the industry-standard software package for professional graphic designers, artists, and illustrators. Students will learn basic skills in Adobe Creative Cloud software, including Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. Digital image manipulation, digital illustration, and page layout will be covered.

Session Cycle: Varies.

**ACI 340. Arts and Entertainment: Issues in Arts Administration. 3 Credit Hours.**

This class looks at the institutions, administrators and issues involved in the creative industries. This class will examine arts institutions in cultural context, including community engagement in the arts, cultural policy and public arts; arts administrators and their leadership, roles and responsibilities; and key topics in arts administration, such as arts education and ethics. The course draws on readings and literature from various disciplines and fields in the social sciences, arts administration, and the arts as well as the popular media. Topics will be approached through discussion, case studies, and exercises that connect the readings with practical experience.

Prerequisites: ACI 220

Session Cycle: Every Spring.

**ACI 401. Painting Studio. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course introduces students to the basic elements of acrylic painting. Students will develop skill and confidence in working from both observation and abstraction, and will explore a variety of techniques including glazing, layering, blending, scumbling, and impasto. Students will cultivate a working knowledge of color theory and explore composition and conceptual content through their work. A diverse array of painters, both historical and contemporary, will be introduced each week. We will also delve into the work of artists who use the painting medium as an agent for social change. As the semester progresses, students will expand upon basic painting skills to develop their own personal aesthetic and style, culminating in a portfolio presented in both physical and digital format.

Prerequisites: ACI 220 or ACI 321 or ACI 322 and Sophomore Standing

Session Cycle: Spring.

**History Courses****HIS 250. Emergence of Europe (1000-1600). 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the origins and early development of Europe from 1000-1600. Topics include the overall character and decline of feudalism, the rise of national monarchies, urbanism and society during the Renaissance and Reformation. Socioeconomic and cultural history is emphasized.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 252. Europe: 1500 to 1815. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides a study of the political, intellectual, and socio-economic history of early modern Europe from 1500 to 1815. Attention is given to the major transformations of the age, including religious, scientific, and political change, especially the Reformation, Scientific Revolution, and English (Glorious) & French revolutions, and their effects. In the process of doing so, students are also introduced to History as a field of study.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 261. History of the United States to 1877. 3 Credit Hours.**

A basic survey and introduction to the field of American history, this course conveys the political, cultural and economic development of the United States through Reconstruction. It provides an understanding of the foundation of the "American way of life".

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 262. History of the United States Since 1865. 3 Credit Hours.**

A history of the American experience from the end of Reconstruction to the present, this course focuses on the Urban-Industrial age, the rise of the United States to world leadership, and the important changes that have occurred in the "American way of life" during the past century.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 263. American Women's History. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this course students survey American women's history from colonial times to the present. The course shows how the major social, political, and economic developments in American history have affected women in the past. Students examine the lives of "ordinary" women, as well as those of leading women thinkers and activists.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 270. World History to 1500. 3 Credit Hours.**

This introductory survey course traces the development of humanity and society from the dawn of history to 1500, and provides insight into the wide spectrum of ideas, institutions, and life practices that different people and cultures around the world have created. Various representations of "civilizations" and "community" are considered.

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 271. World History Since 1500. 3 Credit Hours.**

An historical study of the major regions and cultures of the world during the last five centuries, with attention to their connections and interactions and to the development of global trends. Political, economic social, intellectual, and cultural factors will be considered, and special emphasis will be placed on the emergence and the challenges of the people of the "third world". One theme will be an analysis of the processes of "modernization".

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 272. Introduction to Latin American History. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is a basic survey of Latin American history from before the European invasions to the recent past. The course emphasizes both the diversity of the Latin American experience across time and space and the persistence of certain historical continuities in the region: intense political and cultural conflict, deep social and economic inequality, and longstanding domination by externally-based imperial and neo-imperial powers.

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 273. History in the World Today. 3 Credit Hours.**

The course requires students to formulate and support coherent arguments about complex historical problems in class discussions, essay exams, and writing projects. It strengthens students' global perspective by encouraging historical analysis of selected current world events and the U.S. relationship to/involvement in those events. By introducing students to historical methods and theory it enables them to understand more deeply one of the key disciplines associated with the humanities. This course is required for history majors and concentrators.

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 282. Introduction to American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course introduces students to key themes, concepts, and debates in American Studies. Students use a foundation in American Studies methodology to interpret a range of materials and develop a richer understanding of the United States, its cultures, and its peoples. Objects of study may include literary texts, films, historical documents, music, visual art, and products of popular culture. Specific course topics may vary. This course is cross-listed with LCS 282.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 302. To Arms! History of Modern France. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the social and political evolution of France from the eighteenth century through World War I in the context of economic and cultural developments. Emphasis will be given to the French Revolution starting in 1789, the Napoleonic experiences, French attempts to break out of diplomatic isolation, the rapid expansion of the French Empire, and the maturation of the bourgeoisie. French realist literature, Impressionism the growth of consumer culture and the French experience of the fin-de-siècle crisis of masculinity will be noted.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Alternate Spring Semesters

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 303. French Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

Biocultural theory posits the co-evolution of genes and culture. Language, culture, and imagination confer survival advantages to humans as a social species and have preserved evolved human complexity. This course takes biocultural approach to the works of French philosophers such as Montaigne, Descartes, Rousseau, Diderot, Voltaire, Saussure, Derrida, Beauvoir, Foucault, and Lacan. Students may take the course more than once, as different iterations. Topics of a given iteration may include humanism, skepticism, dualism, primitivism, language, textualism, indeterminacy, relativism, feminism, constructivism, historicism, and psychoanalysis. Materials and instruction are in English. This course is cross-listed with LS 303.

Prerequisites: 200-level History course

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 304. Italian Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course focuses on the history, society, politics, culture, and economics of modern Italy and its predecessors on the Italian Peninsula. Students may take the course more than once, as different iterations. Topics of a given iteration may include humanism, science, philosophy, the Inquisition, fascism, and the Vatican. Materials and instruction are in English. This course is cross-listed with LS 304.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 351. History of Modern Europe: 1815 to the Present. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the major political, economic and intellectual developments since 1815. It emphasizes the significant events, patterns, and themes in Western history within the context of the modern world.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 354. Trends in Modern Thought. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course offers a selected history of modern and post-modern themes, ideologies and values in Euro-America (Western civilization) since the Renaissance. Special emphasis is placed on analyzing social, political and philosophical questions and writings in context. The thematic focus of the course (e.g., individualism) may change from year to year.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 361. Gender and World War II. 3 Credit Hours.**

Early in 1943, Max Lerner, the well-known author and journalist, writing for the New York newspaper, PM, predicted that "when the classic work on the history of women comes to be written, the biggest force for change in their lives will turn out to have been war." This course explores the question of whether or not World War II served as a major force for change in the lives women, both in the United States and around the globe. The experiences of a broad socio-economic and ethnic cross-section of wartime women are examined. In addition to the United States, areas of the world examined include women in China, France, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Germany, and/or Italy.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course and sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 362. The United States in the 1960's. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the main contours of political, economic, social, and cultural life during the 1960's. Special areas of focus include: the Civil Rights Movement, the New Left, the Vietnam War, the antiwar movement, the resurgence of conservatism, the demise of the New Deal Coalition, the emerging women's liberation movement, the effect of social and cultural movements on business, and the intersection of artistic and cultural expressions with politics. The relationship of popular mythology and collective memories concerning the 1960's with "objective" historical analysis constitutes another key area of concern.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 364. History of American Technology. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course treats the history of technology in the contexts of American business and social history. Focusing on the 19th and 20th centuries, the course first places technological change within the context of larger developments in American history. From that basis, the course then moves on to deal with the impact of technology in American social institutions, business, and culture.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 365. The United States and World Politics, 1890 to the Present. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the origins and development of the United States as a great world power from the Spanish-American War to the post Cold War era. Focusing on the connections between international and domestic events, the course evaluates the role of the US as a global power over the past century.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 366. Race in America. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines major issues in race relations from the perspective of both black and white Americans from the onset of slavery to the present. The course examines the origins and functioning of American slavery, with consideration to the Atlantic slave trade and the role of U.S. slavery within the context of New World slavery; the relationship between European immigrants and African-Americans in terms of the formation of whiteness and the historical meaning of white skin privilege; abolitionism and antislavery; the development and functioning of Jim Crow segregation; 2nd Reconstruction; the civil rights movement; and the significance of race during the post-civil rights era.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 367. The History of American Popular Culture. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course explores the historical context of various expressions of American popular culture in a variety of media, including: literature, film, radio, television, music, performance, advertising, style and fashion, food, and the internet. It examines the meaning of popular culture to its audiences and the way those audiences use and transform cultural products as part of their everyday lives. Attention is given to popular culture's relationship to "high culture," to economics and commerce, and to social and political developments including, but not limited to the emergence of working-class culture, the Great Depression, the Cold War and McCarthyism, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and the Women's Liberation Movement.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Winter

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**HIS 368. Gender and American Culture in the 1950s. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides students the opportunity to examine the cultural complexities of the 1950s and to appreciate it as a period of conservatism and restraint as well as a time of notable social change for women. It uses the enormously popular *I Love Lucy* television series (1951-1957) and Betty Friedan's classic work, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963), as well as related readings, to show how many women of the fifties challenged the stereotype of domestic, quiescent, suburban womanhood as they engaged in multifarious and diverse activities that helped pave the way for the social protest movements of the 1960s.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course and Sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 369. U.S. Latin American Relations 1820 to Present. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the history of relations between the United States and the nations of Latin America from the era of the Monroe Doctrine to the present.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 371. History of Russia. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides an historical study of the evolution of Russian society from the Age of Kiev to the present including the era of the tsars and the Soviet period. Special attention is given to the contemporary situation in Russia.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 372. History of East Asia. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course consists of an historical study of the ideas and institutions of the countries of East Asia with primary focus on developments in China in ancient times and in the modern era since 1800. Contemporary problems are also discussed.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 373. History of Modern Africa. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides background for an analysis of some of the major problems of contemporary African life. Topics include the ancient culture of Africa, the slave trade, colonialism, African nationalism, and current political, economic and social trends in Africa.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 375. History of Modern Japan. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides a survey and examination of Japanese history from its beginnings to the twentieth century, and includes a consideration of political, social, economic, intellectual, and cultural developments. Emphasis is placed on the evolution of Japanese traditions and values and their sources, and also on the history and practices of Japanese business. A major portion of the course will deal with the modern period and Japan's successes and failures as a modern nation.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**HIS 380. Doing Public History. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course enables students to examine local history and communicate their findings to a broad, public audience. Students will engage in current and past debates about "whose history" we are documenting and "for whom" we are presenting that history. Students will be encouraged to look for hidden voices, silenced voices, and find innovative ways to bring these voices to the forefront. Practitioners of public history work in museums, archives, historic sites, landmarks, architecture firms, government offices, and beyond, where they aim not just to share historical information with diverse audiences, but to critically examine how history is presented.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 386. History, Law, and the Holocaust. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course will explore in depth the Holocaust and its impact on the development of international law after 1945. Topics will include anti-Semitism, the rise of Hitler, the Final Solution, minority rights, domestic legal actions against perpetrators, the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal, Allied military courts, and subsequent national and international trials of accused Nazi war criminals. The course concludes with an examination of some of the leading post-Nuremberg topics in international human rights law today, including peremptory norms, transitional justice, hate speech prohibitions, and Holocaust denial. This is a cross-listed course with LGLS 386.

Prerequisites: 200 level history course and sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 400. Buy American: Consumer Culture in U.S. History. 3 Credit Hours.**

Why do Americans buy so much stuff? What do our things say about our identities, as individuals and a nation? This course examines the rise of a consumer culture in U.S. history from the 19th to 21st centuries. Through the use of interdisciplinary case studies, we will explore the complexities of the American consumer society, incorporating historical, political, social, and economic approaches. Case studies draw on images, material cultural and object analysis, architecture, and design. Topics include the histories of mass marketing, advertising, department stores, and consumer activism. The course also considers criticisms of American consumer culture, including anti-materialism, environmental critiques, and structural inequalities.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Varies.

**HIS 411. The American Revolution. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course charts the creation of the American Republic from the Seven Years War to the formation of a new national government under the Constitution. We will examine the revolution itself: its causes, its larger Atlantic context, the way it was fought, and its consequences for the many peoples of America and the new United States. Students will be tasked with a small research paper or equivalent project that examines Rhode Island's involvement in America's War for Independence. Particular attention will be given to the First Rhode Island Regiment and Rhode Island's Indigenous population.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course and Sophomore Standing

Session Cycle: Every Spring.

**HIS 435. World War I: Causes, Courses, and Consequences. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines one of the seminal events of the twentieth century - the First World War. The course will start by examining what factors led not just to a regional conflict but a global conflagration. These factors will include political, cultural, and military considerations. We will then examine the nature of the war experience, both at the front and at home. As the first Total War, World War I left few people untouched in the combatant countries, whether they wore a uniform or not. After an examination of why the war ended when it did and the peacemaking process, the course concludes with a study of the legacy of the war, stretching to the present time.

Prerequisites: one 200-level HIS course

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Fall Semesters.

**HIS 451. The World Since 1945. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines major developments in global history since 1945, considering topics such as the capitalist and socialist world-systems, the Cold War, imperialism, and third world independence movements, and the so-called "new world order." Special emphasis is placed on the interaction between Western and non-Western societies.

Prerequisites: 200 level history course

Session Cycle: Fall, Summer

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 452. History of Modern Britain. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this advanced course students trace the history of Great Britain from the Glorious Revolution of 1688 to the present, concentrating on cultural history and utilizing a socio-political perspective. Themes include the development of capitalism, constitutionalism, industrialism and imperialism, and the impact of the British expressions of these forces on modern globalization.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 453. History of Modern Science. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course presents a history of the modern natural sciences from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries, treating the development of modern physics, chemistry, geology, and biology. Students need no special background in science. The course focuses on conceptual problems and the culture of science rather than on the content of science. Examples of special topics include the development of the Newtonian world-view, the challenges of relativity and the quantum, how alchemy led to modern chemistry, why so many early geologists were churchmen, and how Darwinian evolution differed from other nineteenth-century evolutionary theories. The course is geared to the capabilities of students without specialized background in history and science.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 454. Foundations of the Modern Middle East. 3 Credit Hours.**

The goal of this course is to provide students with the foundation necessary to better understand the history, culture, and geopolitics of the modern Middle East. The elements of this foundation include, among other things, God's Covenant with Abraham and the Abrahamic Faiths, the establishment of the Kingdom of Israel, the Babylonian Captivity, the Rise of Islam, the early Caliphates, the Sunni-Shia Split, the Crusades, the Ottoman Empire, and the British Mandate of Palestine. With this background in place, the last quarter of the course we will turn to The Arab-Israeli conflict, which is one of the longest and most intractable geopolitical problems in the world, and probably the most controversial. We will discuss the emergence of Zionism and Arab nationalism in the nineteenth century.

Session Cycle: Varies.

**HIS 461. History of Contemporary America. 3 Credit Hours.**

An intensive examination of the forces and events that have shaped the recent American past, this course stresses domestic politics, social change, urbanization, civil rights and modern ecological problems.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 463. The United States in the 1970s and 1980s. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course explores the major political, social, cultural, and economic shifts in American life during the 1970s and the 1980s. Special areas of focus include the ascendancy of conservatism, the retreat of liberalism, rising economic inequality, women's and gay liberation, the expanding role of the media in American politics, the veneration of corporate America, and expressions of such in the era's popular (and sometimes unpopular) culture. The relationship of popular history and collective memory of the 1970s and 1980s with "objective" historical analysis constitutes another area of emphasis. For qualified students, this course may be taken as a 500 level graduate content course. Permission of the instructor is required.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**HIS 490. Seminar in Historical Inquiry. 3 Credit Hours.**

For seniors concentrating in History, this seminar provides extensive, practical experience in the craft of historical research and writing. Further, it examines select themes in historiographical and/or philosophical debates concerning history as a special type of knowledge. Requirements include a substantial research paper. Permission of instructor and HIS 273 are required.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**HIS 497. Directed Study in History. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is an opportunity for students to do independent, in-depth study or research for academic credit. The student works on an individual basis under the direction of a member of the history department. The main requirement of the course is the development of a substantial paper or project. Permission of department chair and faculty member is required.

**HIS ST200. Special Topics in History Modern American Civil Rights Movement. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course traces the origins and history of the Black freedom struggle from the 1950s through the 1970s. The organizations, leadership, and ideologies of the movement are considered through firsthand accounts, speeches, songs, images, and film. We will consider both the famous figures of the movement as well as the contributions of countless young people, women, and LGBTQ people. Finally, we will consider what has become the "official" narrative of the movement and what has been left out, as well as connections to the Black Lives Matter movement. Readings will emphasize recent scholarship.

**HIS ST201. Special Topics in Native American History. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is designed to be an introduction to the history of Indigenous peoples of North America from pre-contact to present. This course aims to teach from the Indigenous perspective through a variety of primary and secondary sources and provide students with a new understanding of American History with Native people reinserted as principal actors and determinants of events.

Session Cycle: Alternate Fall Semesters.

**HIS ST300. Special Topics in History Race and Slavery in the Atlantic World. 3 Credit Hours.**

A history of race and slavery in the Atlantic World between the 15th and 19th centuries, with a particular emphasis on the economic, social, and cultural impact of the trans-atlantic trade in enslaved Africans (a crucial component of "globalization" during that era) on the development of European-ruled societies in the Americas.

Prerequisites: 200-level History course.

**HIS ST305. Special Topics in History The Space Race: A History. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the evolution of manned space flight over the twentieth century. Starting by looking at the rocket pioneers and continuing through the rocket experiments of the Second World War, the course focuses on the Cold War rivalry that culminated in the America moonwalks. The course finishes with a look at an under-examined side of how the US got men into space: the human computers who were integral to the understanding of orbital dynamics, and especially the African-American women who played a central role in that effort.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course.

**HIS ST401. Special Topics in History War Crimes in World History. 3 Credit Hours.**

The course explores the global history of war crimes and the legal response to them. It traces human efforts to limit warfare, from codes of war in antiquity designed to maintain a religiously conceived cosmic order to the gradual use in the modern age of the criminal trial as a means of enforcing universal norms. The course locates the evolution of the law of war in the interplay between different cultures. While showing that no single philosophical idea underlay the law of war, the course demonstrates that war in global civilization has rarely been an anarchic free-for-all. Rather, from its beginnings warfare has been subject to certain constraints defined by the unique needs and cosmological understandings of their cultures.

Prerequisites: 200-level history course, sophomore standing or permission of the instructor.

**History, Literature the Arts Courses****HLA 391. History, Literature, and the Arts Internship. 3 Credit Hours.**

Supervised experiential engagement in the areas of History, Literature, and the Arts, allowing students to connect History, Literature, and the Arts concepts with hands-on projects in professional settings. Students contribute at least ten hours per week at their placement site and check in regularly with a faculty supervisor. Open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors with department chair approval.

Prerequisites: Junior Standing.

**Literary and Cultural Studies Courses****LCS 220. Introduction to Arts and Creative Industries. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course explores creativity and the arts as an essential part of the human experience. Students are introduced to the scholarship of creativity, engage in creative practice, and examine the field of creative industries. With a focus on creativity through visual art, performing arts or creative writing, this course has both a hands-on approach to creative production and a concentration on the industries that support this production. Depending on the section, experiential aspects may include drawing, painting and design (visual arts), improvisation/theater, storytelling and music (performing arts), and poetry, fiction and non-fiction (creative writing). Students will contemplate creativity as an intrinsic part of their personal and professional lives and a driving force in a variety of creative industries.

**LCS 221. Studies in Fiction. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this course, students investigate various forms of narrative literature such as novels, short stories, and experimental narrative forms. Imaginative and active readings of these forms will be encouraged through study of the theoretical literature as well as historical and cultural contexts.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 222. Studies in Nonfiction. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course will offer students the opportunity to read, analyze, and conduct research on works of nonfiction. Featured texts for study may include biographies, autobiographies, news reportage, journalism, nonfiction novels, essays, film documentaries, collections of letters, and journals.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 223. Studies in Poetry. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this course students will investigate the power of poetry from diverse perspectives. Focusing primarily upon poetry as a craft, students will come to understand the relationship between the strategic decisions poets make and the meanings derived through active and imaginative reading. In addition, students will examine poems as the results of historical and cultural circumstances and as products of poets' experiences.

Session Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 224. Introduction to Hip-Hop Culture. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course explores hip-hop culture and its impact on society. Introduction to Hip-Hop Culture delves into the birthplace of Hip-Hop, the West African cultural influences, and the diverse musical traditions that set its foundation, such as blues, jazz, funk, and soul. It examines hip-hop as a significant cultural and political movement shaping African American identity in American society. Introduction to Hip-Hop Culture will provide an overview of the cultural movement and art form through several critical themes, including African Cultural Retention in the American Context, the History of African American Music Traditions and the Birth of Hip-Hop, Political Activism in Hip-Hop, Gender Dynamics in the Black Community and Hip-Hop Culture, and Hip-Hop and its Global Impact. This course compels students to think, write, engage with, and discuss hip-hop's origins, themes, and future in the context of African American life, history, and culture.

**LCS 225. Professional Writing. 3 Credit Hours.**

This professional writing course introduces students to the strategies and skills necessary for effective written communication and documentation across a variety of fields. Through critical analysis and applied practice, this course fosters an understanding of professional writing as both a practical skill and an ethical responsibility. Focusing on adapting complex, field-specific knowledge for diverse and general audiences, students will learn to analyze and produce clear, engaging documents tailored to professional contexts. Additionally, students will explore the ethical dimensions of professional writing, including issues of accuracy, confidentiality, bias, and responsible use of AI tools in workplace communication, preparing students to navigate professional discourse in their careers.

Prerequisites: Sophomore Standing

Session Cycle: Every Fall Semester.

**LCS 230. Introduction to Film Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course has three major aims: to introduce students to what might be called the language of film, to investigate the relationship between movies and culture, and to consider film as both an art form and a social practice. Students will examine the tools filmmakers employ to bring their works to the screen, including cinematography, production design, acting, editing, music, sound design, and narrative structure. Students will also focus on how the cinema both reflects and perpetuates aspects of culture, investigating images of masculinity, femininity, class, and race relations. By semester's end students should have a much clearer sense of what goes into the making of movies, and should have become more active, critical viewers of film. This course is cross-listed with COM 230.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 240. Introduction to the Environmental Humanities. 3 Credit Hours.**

Why has nature been considered separate from human culture and why has this disconnect persisted? How can the humanities prepare us to face and accept the climate crisis and create new processes, connections, and ways of thinking and being to meet this challenge? From visual art and film to philosophy, literature, and popular culture, introduction to the environmental humanities and ecocriticism tackles these questions while raising more about ethical and political considerations for the environment, nonhuman animals, and environmental justice. Emphasis will vary.

**LCS 250. Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course offers students the opportunity to apply a critical lens to fundamental structures of human interaction and cultural production. Students learn about current scholarship in women's history and culture, gender studies, sexuality studies, feminist and trans\* theory. Questions motivating this scholarship include: How have gender and sexuality been used as systems of social control throughout history? How have they served as catalysts for social change? Are gender and sexuality biologically determined or socially constructed? What messages do mass media and popular culture communicate about gender and sexuality, and how do these messages influence self-identity? In studying a range of interdisciplinary perspectives, students develop a deeper understanding of the structures of power that shape gender and sexual identity. This course is cross-listed with WGS 250.

**LCS 251. Studies in Drama. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course focuses on dramatic literature in its various forms. Students will examine representative works, which may be drawn from any historical, cultural, and social documents. Elements of performance may also be addressed.

**LCS 260. Introduction to Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.**

Philosophy is the study of ideas central to the ways we think and live. However, the value of many of our key concepts is often hidden or taken for granted. We forget why truth matters or acting decently is a minimal requirement for treating others justly. Philosophy cultivates techniques for understanding the reasons for our choices, actions, thoughts and beliefs. Philosophy, more than any other field, is not so much a subject as a way of thinking, one that can be appreciated fully only by joining in. When reading about metaphysics, for example, you want to consider your own views of reality. Arguments are from Western and non-Western as well as classical and contemporary philosophies.

**LCS 270. Introduction to Cultural Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

Students will have an opportunity to reflect upon a wide variety of texts—from art and literature to various forms of popular culture (such as film, television, popular music, celebrities, sports culture). Cultural studies ask questions such as: What are cultural practices and their relationship to power? What does it mean to make culture and to be made by culture? How do we study culture as it is situated in society and its multiple conflicts? With this course as a foundation, students will be able to take advanced courses in Literary and Cultural Studies that build upon diverse traditions of cultural studies—diasporic studies, disability studies, ethnic studies, gender and sexuality studies, media studies, women's studies. Session Cycle: Fall, Spring  
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 280. Introduction to World Music. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this course, students learn about music as an expressive art form. Part of the course is dedicated to "hearing" music, where students build a vocabulary of terms for describing music and expanding their ability to appreciate a diverse body of sounds. Learning terms, such as timbre, melody, harmony, as well as indigenous vocabularies, and listening to musical examples are central components of this course. In addition to hearing music, students also study the cultures of music, which includes understanding different conceptions of aesthetics, traditions, values, politics, and other areas of society that inform the composition and performance of music. Through listening to and learning about music in many parts of the world, students will better appreciate diverse ways of hearing sound and expressing culture.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 282. Introduction to American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course introduces students to key themes, concepts, and debates in American Studies. Students use a foundation in American Studies methodology to interpret a range of materials and develop a richer understanding of the United States, its cultures, and its peoples. Objects of study may include literary texts, films, historical documents, music, visual art, and products of popular culture. Specific course topics may vary. This course is cross-listed with HIS 282.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 326. Critical AI Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

Does the rise of AI signal the end of the humanities, or a new era of co-evolution? This course examines the intersection of human intelligence and machine learning through the lens of philosophy, art, and ethics. Using empirical and theoretical research, students debate whether machines can possess consciousness, how AI inherits systemic bias, in addition to AI impacts on our relation to borders, cultural difference, the environment and other pressing issues. We ask how "thick" humanistic methods such as close reading, inter-medial practices (traditional and NN-based), and process-oriented learning can challenge or support AI computing. Through a mixture of multi-disciplinary texts, reflections, AI prompts, and creative projects, students will leverage the humanities to foster critical thinking about human-machine interactions, creativity, and meaning making in a post-AI world.

Prerequisites: Sophomore Standing

Session Cycle: Every Spring Semester.

**LCS 341. Philosophy of Art. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the history of aesthetic theory to see various and conflicting ways in which people have understood the nature and purpose of art. It also examines art and its many forms - visual arts, literature, music, film, performance - to consider the philosophical issues raised by the art itself.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 352. Studies in Poetry. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this course students will investigate the power of poetry from diverse perspectives. Focusing primarily upon poetry as a craft, students will come to understand the relationship between the strategic decisions poets make and the meanings derived through active and imaginative reading. In addition, students will examine poems as the results of historical and cultural circumstances and as products of poets' experiences.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 354. Animation Theory, History, Practice. 3 Credit Hours.**

Animated film has a long rich history and an exciting present. Some of the earliest "moving images" were made using animation techniques; early film abounded with creative use of animation; many of us grew up loving Disney as children and anime' as young (and not so young) adults; some of the most exciting films of our own era, like Avatar, deploy animation techniques for their stunning visual style, and animation's significance transcends the cinema in video games and military training and news simulations. This course is built upon the premise that animation is a vital component of film studies and central to contemporary visual culture and aesthetics. Students in this course will explore its theory, history and practice.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 356. Studies in Narrative. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this course, students investigate various forms of narrative literature such as novels, short stories, and experimental narrative forms. Imaginative and active readings of these forms will be encouraged through study of the theoretical literature as well as historical and cultural contexts.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 357. Studies in Ethnic Literature of the United States. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the literature of the United States from the perspective of minority writers: African, Asian, Hispanic, Chicano and Caribbean Americans. Students will explore the ways in which these "other" Americans have brought their various backgrounds and differing world views to bear upon the national literature. Emphasis will vary.

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 358. Introduction to Studies in Jazz. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course introduces students to the American art form of jazz, building an appreciation of it, its different forms, its practitioners, and the various cultures that spawned and have nurtured it. The course includes music theory; African, American, and European social and cultural history; jazz's roots in slave, Gospel, R&B, blues, and soul music; the economics of the music and recording industries; and the relationship between the bounded culture of jazz and its adherents and the larger dominant culture.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 359. Music and Society. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this course, students learn about traditional and popular musicians, songs, and genres in different parts of the world, and the ways that music impacts communities, politics, and everyday life. Students study musical aesthetics, traditions, values, and other cultural attributes that shape compositions and performances. Through listening to and learning about music in many parts of the world, students gain a stronger fluency in listening to and talking about music, as well as in comprehending the roles that music plays in shaping the world around us.

Prerequisites: sophomore standing.

**LCS 360. Studies in Nonfiction. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course will offer students the opportunity to read, analyze, and conduct research on works of nonfiction. Featured texts for study may include biographies, autobiographies, news reportage, journalism, nonfiction novels, essays, film documentaries, collections of letters, and journals.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 361. Studies in International Literature. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course focuses on the interrelations between representative texts from different cultures. The course may concern the literature of a particular region (Central Europe, Latin America) or a specific historical moment (literature of the New Europe). Readings in literary theory address how to approach diverse literary and cultural texts from a variety of countries. Readings, both fictional and theoretical, will be in English translation.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 362. Topics in the Environmental Humanities. 3 Credit Hours.**

How can the humanities prepare us to face and accept the climate crisis and create new processes, connections, and ways of thinking to meet this challenge? Drawing on vibrant, recent scholarship in the interdisciplinary environmental humanities including visual culture, ecocriticism, film, literature, Indigenous Studies, critical race studies, new materialisms, and animal studies, this course examines historical and contemporary relationships between human and more-than-human worlds of nature and the environment. Course topic themes will vary, but each iteration of LCS 362 will present opportunities for critique and creative production.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 363. British Literary Contexts Beginnings to the Restoration. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the critical, social, cultural, and historical contexts crucial for understanding British literacy production from the beginnings to the Restoration. Materials will include canonical and non-canonical works representing the broad diversity of perspectives and voices in British literature. Students will employ a variety of current critical methodologies to examine the ways texts both reflect and shape political and aesthetic values.

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 364. British Literary Contexts Restoration to the Present. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the critical, social, cultural, and historical contexts crucial for understanding British literary production from the Restoration to the present. Materials will include canonical and non-canonical works representing the broad diversity of perspectives and voices in British literature. Students will employ a variety of current critical methodologies to examine the ways texts both reflect and shape political and aesthetic values.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 365. American Literary Contexts Beginnings to the Civil War. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course explores the critical, social, cultural, and historical contexts crucial for understanding American literary production from periods before European contact to just after the Civil War. Materials include canonical and non-canonical works representing the broad diversity of perspectives and voices in American literature. Students will employ a variety of current critical methodologies to examine the ways political tensions, social movements, cultural shifts and other influences shape, and are shaped by, American literary texts.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 366. American Literary Contexts Civil War to the Present. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course explores the critical social, cultural, and historical contexts crucial for understanding American literary production from after the Civil War to the present. Materials include canonical and non-canonical works representing the broad diversity of perspectives and voices in American literature. Students will employ a variety of current critical methodologies to examine the ways political tensions, social movements, cultural shifts and other influences shape, and are shaped by, American literary texts.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 370. Poetry Writing Workshop. 3 Credit Hours.**

The Poetry Writing Workshop introduces students to a hands-on opportunity to see how poetry is built. Through regular presentations of their original writing to the class, students learn to harness their imaginative potential while gaining important craft tools in form, revision, and the discipline of the art of writing. The fundamental structure of poetry is examined in assignments dealing with poetic devices, narrative point of view, imagery, and theme. Multiple exercises and poem assignments help students to work as writers do through the process of drafting, feedback, and rigorous revision. Outside readings illustrate how well-known writers have successfully dealt with writing situations applicable to student work. Additionally, students gain exposure to the contemporary writing world through presentations on literary journals, researching agents, college-level writing contests, and area readings.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 371. Fiction Writing Workshop. 3 Credit Hours.**

The Fiction Writing Workshop introduces students to a hands-on opportunity to see how stories are built. Through regular presentations of their original writing to the class, students learn to harness their imaginative potential while gaining important craft tools in form, narrative voice, revision, and the discipline of the art of writing. The fundamental structure of fiction is examined in assignments dealing with setting, character development, imagery, plot, and theme. Multiple exercises and story assignments help students to work as writers do through the process of drafting, feedback, and rigorous revision. Outside readings illustrate how well-known writers have successfully dealt with writing situations applicable to student work. Additionally, students gain exposure to the contemporary writing world through presentations on literary journals, researching agents, college-level writing contests, and area readings.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 372. Creative Writing Workshop. 3 Credit Hours.**

The Creative Writing Workshop offers students the opportunity to explore creative writing in specific genres or areas. Each course will address a distinct creative writing topic (for example, creative non-fiction, writing for children, memoir, or screenwriting). The course includes reading and study of the form, extensive drafting, and critique.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 374. Modern Art in Europe 1880-1945. 3 Credit Hours.**

The politics and practice of visual art movements in Europe from the 1880s to World War II is the focus of this class. Avant Garde art movements and styles from this era include symbolism, expressionism, cubism, abstraction, futurism, and surrealism. Modern visual art of the late 19th and early 20th centuries will be discussed in terms of formal, political, historical, theoretical and social contexts. Students engage with critical and theoretical texts as well as the presentation of modern art in the context of cultural institutions.

Prerequisites: GEN 106 and sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 376. Global Art History Before 1850. 3 Credit Hours.**

This is a roughly chronological series of case studies that explore histories, interpretations and reception of art and visual culture from prehistory to 1850. Emphasis is placed upon western narratives of art in the context of global contact, migrations, trade, colonialism and empire.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 378. African American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course explores the past and present experiences, cultures, and achievements of people of African descent in the United States. It examines the history of slavery, colonialism, and systematic racism and their lasting effects. It also considers the complexity of Black identity in all of its incarnations. The specific focus of the course will vary.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 379. Asian American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course will allow students to explore the development of the field of Asian American Studies. Since its inception in 1969, Asian American Studies has developed into an incredibly rich interdisciplinary field that overlaps not only with the humanities but also with areas such as public policy, law, psychology, education, and social work. This course will provide an overview of three strands of Asian American Studies: literary studies, cultural studies, and social movement history in the United States. We will examine a variety of cultural texts: scholarly essays, documents from the Asian American Movement, imaginative literature, memoirs, films, hip hop/spoken word.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 380. Latin American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course carefully examines a variety of Latin American and Latinx traditions, histories, and forms of cultural production. It aims at expanding students' knowledge of Latin America, including U.S. Latinx communities, while providing the necessary tools to develop a culturally sensitive frame of reference. Emphasis may vary.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 381. Native American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course offers an interdisciplinary introduction to the history, culture, and contemporary experiences of Indigenous people in North America. Students will examine topics such as the impact of settler colonialism on Indigenous societies; the fight for political, cultural, and intellectual sovereignty; and strategies of decolonization, revitalization, and empowerment. Materials will reflect the broad diversity of Indigenous communities and contexts and may be drawn from film, visual art, music, education, performance, literature, activism, museum studies, and other modes of expression.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 382. American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines primary sources - historical documents and novels - that have contributed to the formation of United States national culture. A selective history of American writing will provide the context for reading a set of classic American novels. Authors may include Herman Melville, Mark Twain, Willa Cather, and William Faulkner. Students that receive credit for ECS 382, American Studies cannot receive credit for this course.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 383. Sexuality and Culture. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course will deal with a modern Western invention: "sexuality." The historical premise of the course is that during the second half of the 19th century pre-modern understandings of human sexuality were radically reconfigured to make way for new sexual paradigms organized around "homosexual" and "heterosexual" definitions. Both historical and theoretical, this course analyzes key texts from the canon of sexuality studies (Freud, Kinsey, Foucault, e.g.) and explores the cultural struggles resulting from thinking sexuality in binary terms: not only homosexual/heterosexual, but natural/unnatural, normal/deviant, biological function/pleasure.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 386. African Heritage in the Americas and Caribbean. 3 Credit Hours.**

The objective of this course is to provide an international perspective of the African Diaspora by focusing on critical analysis of cultural products by authors and artists of African descent. We study a variety of cultural expressions including, music, festivals, literature, painting and religion. The primary focus is on Latin America and the Caribbean, although discussions will remain a dialogue with works by scholars and artists from Africa, United States and Britain.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 387. African Popular Culture. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this course we examine multiple forms of music, literature, and art in sub-Saharan Africa to better comprehend their purpose and function in daily African life. Music, literature, and art reflect a diversity of ideas that exist on the African continent. These artistic forms teach us about history, politics, and culture, as well as artists' views of their social conditions. By the end of this course, students will have a strong appreciation for the diversity of people and art in contemporary Africa, and a working knowledge of the current issues and concerns facing people living on the continent.

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 388. Religious Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course can cover a variety of religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Currently, this course is taught as an introduction to Judaism through the examination of traditional texts throughout Jewish history. Biblical, Rabbinic, legal, philosophical and theological works will be studied through traditional partnered text study, along with modern scholarship on the time periods and texts covered. Examining Judaism as a living evolving entity throughout its history will lead to a survey that looks at the past through written works and raises questions about the present and future.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 402. Life and How to Live It. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course attempts to answer two fundamental questions: What does it mean to live well? What does it mean to die well? The course format is unconventional: For ten weeks, class meets Wednesday for five hours (class meets for 60-90-minutes the remaining weeks). Students check their laptops and phones at the classroom door. Students receive a short book at the beginning of each five-hour session. Over the course of an evening, we read together, eat together, and discuss the book together. The booklist covers an international range of literary and philosophical works: some ancient, some contemporary, all thought-provoking. The course is about the process of learning as much as it is about the product: fifty percent of the grade rests on what occurs in the classroom; the other fifty percent on weekly journal reflections and one final paper. A proposal for this course was awarded Bryant University's Faculty Innovation Grant.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing and Instructor approval  
Session Cycle: Alternate Spring Semesters.

**LCS 403. The Philosophy of Technology. 3 Credit Hours.**

What is technology? How does it inform our understanding of what it means to be human? Reflecting on the nature of technology means engaging with one of our time's most imperative philosophical topics. To do so, this seminar begins with a historical overview of technological developments – from stone tools to industrialization – and their impact on human evolution and the development of civilizations. Using literature and philosophy as entry points, we'll then explore technology's cultural, ethical, and political implications in the contemporary world. By incorporating interdisciplinary perspectives from the humanities, sciences, and business fields, students will investigate what it means to be human in an era largely defined by rapid technological transformation. Prerequisites: GEN 106, ANY 200 Level LCS Course and Sophomore Standing.

**LCS 441. Film Theory. 3 Credit Hours.**

Film can be entertainment or ideology and is often both at the same time. It is a beguilingly accessible form of media that has produced some of the greatest art of the twentieth and twenty first centuries. This is a course in film theory, which approaches film as both an art form and a social practice. Students will learn key texts in film theory, hone skills of visual analysis, and develop understanding of the social, cultural and political contests of film and visual culture. For qualified students, this course may be taken as a 500 level graduate content course. Permission of the instructor is required.

Prerequisites: LCS 230 or COM 230  
Session Cycle: Varies  
Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 443. Editing and Publishing Workshop: The Bryant Literary Review. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides students with mentorship in literary magazine editing and an opportunity to review submissions as part of The Bryant Literary Review's operations. The course focuses on independent publications, academic publishers, and literary journals. Students will evaluate and discuss the merits of the 250+ poetry and fiction submissions the BLR receives each fall. Each student in the course will become Student Editor of the BLR, and their name will appear in the volume's masthead. In addition, the course will introduce students to independent and academic publishing professionals who will visit class to discuss their work and the industry at large. Ongoing research and discussion of contemporary literary presses, journals, and industry practice both online and in print will be required. Students will gain hands-on, marketable experience in editing and publishing, networking opportunities with publishing professionals, and skills that can lead to a successful career in the creative industries.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing and Permission of the instructor  
Session Cycle: Fall.

**LCS 456. Contemporary Literature. 3 Credit Hours.**

Students examine new and evolving literary forms and styles through reading and analyzing literature of the past decade. Selections are drawn from various literary genres as well as current critical approaches. Through these texts, students explore numerous responses to today's world of changing social and cultural values. Emphasis may vary. Session Cycle: Fall  
Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 457. Ethics. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is an introduction to Ethics and Moral Philosophy. It introduces students to the history of ethics and various ethical theories and concepts. Students apply ethical theories to concrete situations and contemporary issues. The primary texts are philosophical, but students will also use literary examples, films, newspapers and magazines as the basis for their discussions. Session Cycle: Varies  
Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 458. Anthropology of Music Industries. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course pushes students to conceptualize the music industry as both a business and a site of creativity and individuality. To achieve this, students study the music industry in three ways: 1) theoretically, to grasp the concepts of commodification and creativity within the music industry; 2) practically, to understand the way that the industry functions as a business; and 3) ethnographically, to broaden their knowledge of industries in the United States and other parts of the world. At the end of the course, students will have a firm grasp of the global music industry, how it functions, and how they can better interpret its place within societies. Session Cycle: Spring  
Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 461. The Image of Business in Literature. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course offers insight into the world of business from a variety of literary, cinematic, and cultural perspectives. By examining the image of business and the business person/a as a theme in literature, and exploring varying concepts of success and suffering, students have an opportunity to build critical and constructive bridges between the humanities and business dimensions of their undergraduate studies. Session Cycle: Spring  
Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 462. Literature in a Historical Context. 3 Credit Hours.**

The historical study of literature is often organized around movements, usually centering on a group of writers whose work shares several attributes and goals. This course examines one such movement or period in-depth. Possible offerings include Realism and Naturalism, Modernism and Post-modernism, Romanticism, and Gothic Literature.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 463. Studies in Comparative Literature. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this course we analyze literature within a cross-cultural intertextual framework. This course concerns the development of a genre in an international context. Possible themes include fantastic literature, utopian fiction and the detective novel. Courses often relate literature to corresponding artistic, social, and historical movements.

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 464. Major Literary Figures. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines in-depth the work of one writer or a circle of writers. Along with focusing closely upon the literature itself, students will study the writer from a number of perspectives. Accordingly, readings may include biography, autobiography, letters, literary theory, and critical reaction from readers of the past and present. Authors who have been featured recently in this course include William Shakespeare, Toni Morrison, Emily Dickinson, and Latin American authors.

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 466. Women and the Creative Imagination. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course considers the creative cultural production of women. The specific focus of the course varies depending on the instructor. Students may expect to engage case studies that range from film, to television, to fine art, to theater, to narrative, while exploring historical and recent critical theory on feminism, including the construction of women's gendered identities, sexual politics, and the intersectionality of gender and categories like race and ethnicity. The course may be retaken under different themes.

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 467. Art and Politics in Nineteenth-Century France. 3 Credit Hours.**

The focus of this course is a cluster of related concepts in late nineteenth-century French visual culture: place, politics, ecology, centers and peripheries. Paris's centrality as the 19th-century art capital of Europe and its symbolic function as the image of bohemian modernity will be countered by artists working from other places or identities such as the French suburbs, industrial zones, the seaside, the provinces, colonies and abroad. Cultural interchange between these places will be discussed as relationships of gender, race, ecology, politics and class.

We will discuss 19th century paintings, sculptures and prints as material "things" on the market as well as images, and will consider their agency in the world.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 468. Studies in Graphic Narrative. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this course, students will study comics and graphic novel as an art form with its own history and critical vocabulary. Autobiography, memoir, political documentary, and literary adaptation are a few of the new directions in the contemporary graphic novel. As a form of popular culture, the graphic novel raises cultural and historical questions that can be analyzed from a variety of perspectives. Possible authors include Art Spiegelman, Alan Moore, and Marjane Satrapi. For qualified students, this course may be taken as a 500-level graduate course. Permission of the instructor is required.

Prerequisites: sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**LCS 469. Studies in Political Satire. 3 Credit Hours.**

This class examines the place of political satire within contemporary culture. It focuses on a wide variety of satiric texts on television, on film, on stage, online, and in print. The course also explores a number of contentious questions about satire, including whether it contributes to political understanding and engagement or merely circulates cynical withdrawal. Students will contemplate why satirical material is so popular right now, and, ultimately, what this tells us about the current state of politics, citizenship, and debate.

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 470. Advanced Poetry Writing. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this intermediate poetry writing course, students will continue the work of the poetry workshop, with particular attention paid to the initial work of making the poem, subsequent deep revision, and evolving language and detail. In addition to regular workshops, the course includes readings and presentations from the readings of modern and contemporary poets to help students develop insights into their own work, craft exercises in various forms of poetry, and create their personal set of poetic standards. A final portfolio of original poetry is required. Additionally, students gain exposure to the contemporary writing world through reading submissions for literary journals, researching publishers, and area readings.

Prerequisites: LCS 370 or permission of the instructor

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 471. Sex, Love and Social Media. 3 Credit Hours.**

Through an interdisciplinary lens (philosophy, literature, economic theory, gender and sexuality theory), this course critically examines the effects of social media and global capitalism on friendship and intimacy. It asks: what model of friendship is currently culturally dominant? Is friendship merely another commodity useful in augmenting one's "human capital," or do traditional models of friendship still have relevance? Given the important role social media play in movements for social justice, what new avenues for creative cooperation and intimacy become available through social media? We will seek answers to these questions through philosophical, literary, and historical analyses of friendship and intimacy, paying close attention to non-normative, one might say "queer" relationship practices through the ages. This is cross-listed with WGS 471.

Prerequisites: Sophomore Standing

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 480. Cultural Studies Abroad. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course studies the culture, history and literature of a country or an international city. It includes a 10 to 12 day research trip to the location. Students read relevant social history to root them in an understanding of the significance of particular literary and cultural artifacts and locations. The course includes a student-designed research project, which is conducted while studying abroad. Expenses for the study abroad portion are in addition to the tuition for the course. Prerequisites are formal application approval and faculty permission as well as sophomore standing and LCS 121.

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**LCS 490. Critical and Cultural Theory. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is designed for any student interested in advanced reading in critical theory. It focuses on the theoretical traditions which have shaped literary, cultural, and aesthetic analysis and interpretation in the 20th and 21st centuries. Students will read work from a number of fields--philosophy, social theory, linguistics, psychoanalysis, gender studies, etc.--in addition to reading and engaging creative texts, in order to develop familiarity with the critical methodologies of Literary and Cultural Studies. A culminating course for students in Literary and Cultural Studies, the course is also appropriate for other students, especially those wishing to pursue graduate study in the humanities or careers in cultural enterprises.

Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 491. Creativity and Research Portfolio Workshop. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course serves the Arts and Creative Industries and Literary and Cultural Studies programs. It offers students the opportunity to reflect on past work in their major or minor, develop their creative and critical process, and prepare for roles in the creative industries beyond graduation. Students will create portfolios for the purposes of exhibition, performance, or journal submission, professional job applications, or entry into graduate studies. Website development and social media applications will be discussed and practiced.

Prerequisites: Junior Standing or Instructor approval

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**LCS 497. Directed Study in Literary and Cultural Studies. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is an opportunity for students to do independent, in-depth study or research for academic credit. The student works on an individual basis under the direction of a member of the English and Cultural Studies Department. The main requirement of the course is the development of a substantial paper or project.

**LCS ST302. Creative Writing Creative Field Trips. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course explores the crucial decisions writers and artists make when engaging with the natural world. To truly engage, the writer-artist must venture out into the natural world, and that is exactly what our class will endeavor to do each week. This course is designed around a dozen creative writing field trips to outdoor and (a few) indoor spaces around the campus and in the areas immediately outside the campus. During our explorative journeys, we will engage with the environment in creatively immersive ways designed to help writers generate new material for poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. Activities will include hiking, journaling, (re)naming, description prompts, sensory scrutiny exercises, collaborative note-keeping, plein-air drafting, field guide development, and improvisational readings. This will be accompanied by a selection of readings on nature writing.

Session Cycle: Alternative Fall Semesters.