SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES

UISA: Artistic and Creative Expression

UISA 190 Special Topics: Gender, Power, and Representation in the Arts [3]
This course will integrate gender studies with the current instructor’s chosen field in the visual, literary or performing arts. The course will analyze how the social construction of gender has affected this art form, as well as that of the audience/reader/viewer. Students will use their critical and creative thinking skills as they critique the given artistic discipline, by observing such aspects as form, content and aesthetic judgment. Assigned reading, group discussion, presentations and research projects will allow students repeated opportunities to consider, analyze, discuss, and write critically. Focus will be on artists who have both functioned within and challenged normalized gender stereotypes and hegemonies. Laboratory Fee.

UISA 190 Special Topics: Poets and Painters [3]
This course encourages students to explore the cross-feed between the literary and visual arts. In each of three units poetry, the novel, and the short story – students will first act as literary critics, identifying and writing about literary ideas, before taking on the role of artists, translating these literary ideas into artistic compositions. The course moves students through the creative process: from generating ideas, to refining and arranging them, to creating coherent works of literary analysis and art. Hands-on workshops include sketching, collage, photography, and bookmaking, as well as writing workshops on revision. Laboratory Fee.

UISC: Cultural and Historical Interpretation

UISC 190D Special Topics: Environmental Histories of Latin America [3]
Through this course students will understand how and why their way of life, thinking, or simply coping with daily small or big problems originates from a complex, unfinished, painful, and revolutionary process we call modernity. Modernity has quickly improved the conditions, quality, and extended the span of billions of human lives. However, this process also began and became possible thanks to the irresponsible exploitation of natural resources of the world largest biodiversity environment, Latin America. This course focuses on the impact of modernity on the sustainability of natural resources, integrating the disciplinary fields of history, ecology, economics, and social development. This course aims to promote international environmental awareness of the crucial role Latin America has had in the world economy and environment over time.

UISC 190D Special Topics: Fact and Fiction—Culture Clashes in Literature and Film [3]
This course will ask students to explore how stories about conflicts between different cultures have been depicted in literary works and films. We will consider how these adaptations blend fact and fiction to interpret, adapt, and reimagine the past for new audiences, and we will think about what is gained or lost in these representations.

Students will examine how films and literature represent the daily life, worldview, and identity of characters living in different times and places, how they negotiate conflicting sets of values and cultural identities, and how they translate the broad canvas of human experience into stories about individual protagonists. We will also compare primary sources relating to key events with the stories told about these events for modern audiences.

This semester we will focus on cinematic and novelistic adaptations of cultural conflicts that have become touchstones for later generations: the Bible (specifically the Exodus narrative); the Crusades; American slavery and emancipation; and World War II and the Holocaust (particularly Jewish life in the Warsaw Ghetto).

**UISC 190D Special Topics: Modern China—Culture, Society, and Identity [3]**

This course explores China’s path from a traditional dynastic empire to a modern-day global power. What is China’s identity (or identities) today and how did various forces—cultural, social, economic, and political—combine to shape these identities? Is China communist, capitalist, a dictatorship, a democracy, traditional, modern, Eastern, Western, or some mixture of all of the above? Students will gain a better understanding of China’s past and present by learning about the country’s cultural context through readings, visual arts, film, language, and Chinese cuisine.

**UISC 190D Special Topics: Trials that Shaped America [3]**

Great Trials in American History is a course that examines landmark court cases that changed society in the twentieth century. Combining socio-cultural history with close readings of court documents and trial accounts, Great Trials in American History will shed light on the most powerful controversies that shaped, and continue to shape, contemporary life in the United States. Integrating approaches from cultural history and political science, the course will focus on controversies in three subject areas: civil rights, science and culture, and political power and jurisdiction. Landmark court cases often involve more than one of these subject areas of course. A key goal of the course is to show how these different subject areas connect to the fabric of America social life. Another goal is to show how each of these subject areas—civil rights, culture, and politics—connect to each other in complicated ways. In so doing, we hope that the connection of these subject areas across court cases will give the course continuity as it moves through the twentieth century. As such we believe that Great Trials in American History serves the interests of University Disciplinary Studies in “challenging students to explore real world topics from multiple perspectives.”
UISS: Social Context and Change

UISS 165 Studies In: Cyber security [3]
This course approaches the challenges of cyber security from multiple perspectives. Students will be introduced to sociological and psychological issues with information security, including security policies of integrity, and individual privacy concerns. This course provides the foundation for understanding the key issues associated with cybersecurity including information security, networks, data protection, espionage, hacking and ethics.

UISS 190 Special Topics: Literature and Criminal Justice [3]
In this course we are merging the disciplines of literature and criminal justice to see how they can mutually inform one another. The questions that guide this course will be: 1. How do we define who is a criminal and why? 2. How do we define crime and why? 3. What is justice? 4. How can the discourses of literature and literary analysis help us to answer these questions? Such questions of interpretation are usually not addressed in a typical introduction to criminal justice class, where the focus is on how the system “works” as opposed to confronting issues related to why the system works the way it does (i.e., the structures in place that benefit some and punish others). The purpose of a class on Literature and Criminal Justice is therefore to introduce students to nuanced issues that question the very reason why the criminal justice system exists in the first place, why the system needs to be put under a critical lens, and then to arrive at ideas as to how it can be bettered to serve the interests of all. In essence, we want to redefine the idea behind the criminal justice system so that at its core justice is emphasized over criminality.

UISS 190D Special Topics: Social Construction of Motherhood [3]
Motherhood is a social institution that has been created through social practices, cultural discourses, and face-to-face interactions over time. In this course, we will examine motherhood through the lens of different academic disciplines, drawing from sociology, public policy and mass media/communication studies. This course will approach motherhood as continuously created and re-created by social practices and shared cultural understanding of members of society. Attention will be paid to representations of motherhood in different forms such as fiction, narrative nonfiction, news articles, documentary films, popular culture, and in the fields of sociology and policy studies. Our studies will expose the gap between rhetoric and reality while examining the cultural stories we tell about motherhood and mothers. At the same time, we will explore the role of the state in the social construction of motherhood by looking at the way in which
public policies in the United States have helped to define and constrain women in their role as mothers. This course counts toward the Diversity requirement for UIS.

**UISS 190D Special Topics: Systems of Oppression—Our Binary Code [3]**
In this course, we will critically examine systems of oppression through an interdisciplinary, intersectional, and social justice lens. The course approaches systems of oppression through socially constructed binaries that privilege some groups and oppress others. Several systems of oppression, which may include but are not limited to racism, sexism, classism, ableism, and religion, will be explored in the course. Each category of oppression will be presented in three different ways— context, voices, and “breaking the binary” (strategies for change). “Context” allows us to participate in class activities, discussion of the readings, and lectures. “Voices” allows us to listen to community organizations/individuals who are addressing oppression in their work. “Breaking the binary” allows us to take a leadership role in providing strategies for change based on the readings, conversations with community partners, and research. “Breaking the binary” will occur both inside and outside the classroom. This course counts toward the Diversity requirement for UIS.

**UISS 165 Studies In: Sustainable Food—Farm to Table [3]**
Do you ever wonder where that organic filet of salmon—or highly processed bag of Doritos—comes from and why? In this course we will explore our food system through the lenses of sustainability, public policy, and public health. This course examines questions such as: How will we continue to feed ourselves in a world challenged by climate change? Who regulates the way we grow and produce food? And Why are Americans “supersizing” their way to poor health? We will explore the way environmental, political, and health questions intersect in the American food system. Examining the food system from several disciplines allows us to better understand why questions of policy must consider environment and health, and why public health is not as simple as altering legislation. Instead, the environment, health, and policy elements of the food system interweave in often confounding waves. This course includes a service learning component in local community gardens.

**UIST: Natural, Scientific, and Technological Exploration**

**UIST 165 Studies In: Ayurvedic Medicine and Wellness [3]**
This seven-week, 3-credit, introductory integrative course in Ayurvedic Medicine will provide students with basic understanding of selected practices and how they are applied to physical, psychological, social, nutritional and cultural aspects of life to create a healthy living (as Preventative Medicine). The course will incorporate scientific relevance of practices like yoga, meditation, cosmology, circadian cascade, seasonal
changes and role of lifestyle in wellness.

UIST 165 Studies In: Ethical Hacking: Info Systems [3]
This course provides an overview of information security. It is designed to help students understand this important priority in society today. The technical content of the course gives a broad overview of essential concepts and methods for providing and evaluating security in information processing systems. This course introduces the concepts and issues related to securing information systems and the development of protection and prevention policies and procedures to implement information security controls. Topics include the historical view of security issues, trends, security resources, culture of security, global issues and the role of policy, people, and processes in information security. Upon completion, students should be able to identify information security risks, create an information security policy, and identify processes to implement and enforce policy. In addition to the practical lab components the course touches on the importance of management and administration, the place information security holds in overall business risk, social issues such as individual privacy, and the role of public policy.

UIST 190 Special Topics: Geoscience, Archaeology & History [3]
This course is an introduction to geoscience, archaeological and historical methodologies, including topics about how human and geological forces such as migration, war, famine, drought, earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis have affected what we know about historical events at specific archaeological sites around the world. This course also includes a fieldwork component with ground penetrating radar (GPR) equipment to introduce a noninvasive technology used in the study of archaeological sites with a workshop on our campus. All students will complete a ten page write up and photo essay on their experience and an oral presentation in class on what they learned. Co-taught with geoscientist Dr. Harry Jol of the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.

UIST 165 Studies In: Living in Extreme Environments [3]
This course examines the reciprocal relationships between humans and environments, particularly extreme environments. While environments have shaped human evolution and civilization, the reverse is also true: humans have shaped environments in profound ways, both at home and at the frontiers. It considers the challenge of humans living “on the edge” from three, linked perspectives: the challenge of facing extreme environments (polar regions, mountains, deserts, and space), the technologies used to facilitate life in extreme environments (food, equipment, and life support systems), and the way such environmental challenges affect society back home.

UIST 165 Studies In: The Martian Way [3]
A human colony on Mars has long been a staple of science fiction, but it has just recently been discussed as likely in our lifetimes. The class will take an interdisciplinary approach to studying the current efforts to establish a Martian colony. Our scientific knowledge will be used to establish some of the technical obstacles and explore how they might be overcome. In addition, we will look at some of the social and philosophical motivations involved in colonization and how they may affect these efforts (i.e., we will look at some of the non-technical obstacles as well).

**UIST 190 Special Topics: Pathways to Sustainability—US and European Perspectives [3]**

The development of affordable and sustainable energy is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. The technologies being developed and implemented depend not only on their technical attributes and cost but also on public policy and social acceptance. Through lectures, local field trips, and a spring break trip to Germany, students enrolled in this course will be able to analyze the similarities and differences on how the US and Germany are reducing their dependence on fossil fuels, addressing climate change, and adopting renewable energy and conservation technologies.

**UIST 165 Studies In: Protecting our Oceans [3]**

The world’s oceans are vital to the health and sustainability of the planet, and yet suffer from the impacts of massive pollution, overfishing, and climate change. This course introduces students to the basic tenets of oceanography and marine science including plate tectonics, chemistry, atmospheric and oceanic circulation, tides, and the life that inhabits this valuable resource. Students also learn about the problems plaguing the ocean and the policies designed to combat these problems. Students will conduct a service-learning project to collect and report on marine litter.

**UIST 165 Studies In: Trauma—The Mind-Body Experience [3]**

This class aims to integrate the fields of biology and psychology in understanding how trauma is experienced, the impact trauma has on brain functioning, and how changes in brain functioning contribute to the development and continuation of post-traumatic symptomatology. Specifically, the field of neuroscience will be used to explain how the brain processes traumatic experiences, including the activation of the sympathetic nervous system. Discussions will include brain structure, neurotransmitter activity, and the formation of memories. How these biological functions translate into the experience of thoughts, behaviors, and emotions will incorporate psychological perspectives including learning theory and cognitive behavioral theory. In essence, the class will examine how the body and the mind simultaneously experience trauma. Exploring why some individuals develop long-lasting difficulties as a result of trauma will also take memory formation, attachment theory, relationship formation, and self-efficacy into
consideration. Finally, various treatment approaches, such as Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, neurofeedback, and mindfulness will be explored from both the neuroscientific and psychological perspectives.