

## GENERAL CERTIFICATE IN LIBERAL STUDIES

### SPRING 2017 COURSES

**GLS-579-GC1 Creative Placemaking: Principles and Practices**

Faculty: S. Meagher

Meeting Information: TBD

### ALL COURSES

**GLS 500 SELF AND NATURE THROUGH PHILOSOPHY**

Beginning with the roots of Western views of nature, a survey in philosophy treating such topics as the early Judeo-Christian view, Classical Greece, the Medieval Synthesis, the rise of modernism, responses to the failure of the Kantian program, pragmatism, and the contemporary period. 3 semester hours

**GLS 501 SELF AND SOCIETY**

An anthropological approach to human society and the position of the individual in society. The changes that have occurred in the basic structures of society are presented within models of evolution commonly used to organize our understanding of these changes. These models draw our attention to the issue of what constitutes “modern” society, the “modern” self, “modern” religion, and so forth. Our predecessors, the so-called primitive or simple societies, provide a basis for comparison and critique. 3 semester hours

**GLS 502 SELF AND NATURE THROUGH SCIENCE**

This course will investigate the evolution of humankind's conception of the universe from ancient Greek times until the present. The ideas, theories, and discoveries of such renowned figures as Pythagoras, Aristotle, Aristarchus, Ptolemy, Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Hubble, and Einstein will be examined and compared. The course will focus on three distinct periods in scientific history of Western culture: (1) the early Greek era, (2) the Renaissance period, and (3) the modern era, covering the 20th and early 21st centuries. While the emphasis of this course will be on history, some scientific concepts such as gravity, general relativity, the uncertainty principle, and dark matter/energy will also be discussed. 3 semester hours

**GLS 511 SHAKESPEARE AND HUMAN EXPERIENCE**

An examination of selected sonnets and major plays of Shakespeare. The course begins with a look at Elizabethan England and Shakespeare's life. Students read plays representing the types Shakespeare wrote. In the consideration of each play, the focus is on how it expresses enduring truths of our human experience. 3 semester hours

**GLS 512 THE AMERICAN SHORT STORY**

This survey of the American short story begins with Washington Irving's “Rip Van Winkle” and ends with contemporary fiction. Stories are examined in light of numerous perspectives, including autobiographical, Freudian, historical, New Critical, and philosophical aspects. This course is intended to focus the student's attention on the relevant questions that our most serious thinkers have been posing for the past two centuries. Not only has American culture broadened and progressed at an amazing rate

during this time, but it has also in many ways remained constant. “Who am I?” a bewildered Rip Van Winkle asks. Rip has slept through the most significant event in American history, the American Revolution, and he must discover his own identity anew. By examining the ways that our most influential writers have posed the problem of the individual’s relation to society, this course can help students confront the questions that are most relevant to their own intellectual development. 3 semester hours

**GLS 513 THE MODERN AMERICAN NOVEL**

This course examines major American novels of the 20th century. Focusing on a broad range of American fiction, the course examines both the traditionally recognized “masters” of modern fiction (Cather, Dos Passos, Faulkner, Glasgow, Hemingway, O’Connor, Steinbeck, West, and Wharton) and significant contemporary voices (Don DeLillo, Louise Erdrich, Toni Morrison, and Alice Walker). 3 semester hours

**GLS 514 MODERN AMERICAN POETRY**

This course focuses on the broad range of poetic voices that have manifested themselves in modern America, from 1914 to the present. Attention will be paid to major individual poets and to literary movements such as the Imagists, the Harlem Renaissance, the Beat poets, the Southern Agrarians, and the Confessional poets. Authors to be studied include Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Sylvia Plath, T. S. Eliot, Wallace Stevens, and Adrienne Rich. 3 semester hours

**GLS 515 DIVERSE AND DISTINCT VOICES: INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LITERATURE**

This course examines selected works from the growing body of postcolonial or international English literature from Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. Readings include short stories, novels, poetry, plays, and essays. All works are in their original English. 3 semester hours

**GLS 516 PERSPECTIVES IN INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION**

The study of intercultural communication focuses on aspects of the communication process and the cultural factors that influence it. Using films and texts, students analyze the difficulties that arise when people belonging to different cultures attempt to communicate. Cases of misunderstanding are analyzed with the purpose of observing patterns of cultural behavior and identifying strategies for enhancing communication across cultures. An interdisciplinary approach to selection of resource material, readings, and lecture topics encourages students to explore psychological and philosophical considerations of how people become what they are, anthropological and sociological considerations of society and the individual, and linguistic and sociolinguistic considerations of cross-cultural communication. 3 semester hours

**GLS 517 POETRY WRITING**

In this introductory course in the writing of poetry, the student will examine the necessary elements (imagery, figurative language, sound, and voice) for creating original and evocative poetry. In addition, the students will write poems in both formal and free verse. Readings from modernist and contemporary poets will help the student to see what makes a poem fresh and enduring. 3 semester hours

**GLS 518 WHO ARE AND AREN'T: WRITING SHORT FICTION AND DISCOVERY**

Identity is a subject with which fiction writers struggle. Characters can raise questions about who we are, the selves we hide from or pretend don't exist, selves we would hope to see emerge. In this creative writing course, students write stories of varying lengths to probe these issues. To help with the creation of these works, students read stories by writers who also consider these issues—from an American perspective but including other cultures, too. 3 semester hours

**GLS 519 LITERATURE AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL**

The question of why bad things happen to good people is a philosophical and theological quandary as ancient as the Book of Job. The problem of evil, thus, arises from the seeming incongruity between the individual's faith in God's benevolence and omnipotence and the irrefutable existence of evil. Literary theodicy, then, becomes an attempt to reconcile these elements of one's faith and one's experience. Students study the development of literary theodicy and its various approaches to the problem of evil from ancient constructions of theodicy through Renaissance, Enlightenment, Romantic, and Modernist literary explorations. The course presents theodicy and anti-theodicy in relation to questions of faith, society, history, politics, philosophy, and artistic expression throughout the Western literary tradition. 3 semester hours

**GLS 520 LITERATURE OF WAR IN THE 20TH CENTURY**

The philosopher Theodor Adorno claimed that "to write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric." Yet literature has always been and remains a way to express the fears and questions raised by the experience of war both on and off the battlefield. In this course, students examine fiction, poetry, and memoirs that have emerged from those experiences in the 20th century. The class draws on the literature of a range of nations, considering civilian and combatant perspectives. In doing so, students think about the relationship between the individual and society and the physical and moral threats to the self in wartime, the effects of a civilian and century caught in total war, and the ways literature may be used to express and explore these concerns. 3 semester hours

**GLS 521 SEXISM IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY AND CULTURE**

This course examines the nature and manifestation of sexism in contemporary Western society and culture. The aim of the course is to investigate the origins of sexism and how its influence may be altered. The course includes a survey of historical and contemporary ideas about sex roles and their effect on social structure. It also examines how these ideas and structures inform our worldview and our image of self as women and men. 3 semester hours

**GLS 524 AMERICAN THOUGHT AND CULTURE IN THE 1920S AND 1930S: DIVISION AND DISILLUSION, DESPAIR AND DISCOVERY**

This course examines developments in American thought and culture in the twenties and thirties—probably the richest period of artistic and intellectual endeavor in the nation's history to date. Particular emphasis is placed upon the relationship between intellectuals and the general public. Public perception of intellectuals and intellectuals' perceptions of the public underwent a rapid and acute transition as the Great Depression began. The course examines recent historical work on these decades, along with historical and literary writing from the period, and various other mediums of cultural expression—art,

music, film, dance, architecture, etc. It then draws parallels between the social problems and cultural expressions of that earlier period and those of today. 3 semester hours

**GLS 525 REASON AND IMAGINATION: TRANSFORMATIONS IN 19TH CENTURY ART**

An examination of the cultural, social, and political changes affecting Europe in the late 18th and early 19th centuries through an intensive study of individual artists from England, France, Germany, and Spain. Of central concern is how society affects the creative individual, particularly in the areas of artistic training, patronage, and personal psychology. Assigned readings and seminar discussions follow each artist as they come to accept or reject the limitations placed upon them by academic training and, in many cases, by officially sanctioned careers, and explore how individual involvement in or isolation from social and political forces shape artistic response. 3 semester hours

**GLS 527 ART AND EXPERIENCE IN RENAISSANCE ITALY**

The course examines the production of Italian painting, sculpture, and architecture from the 14th through the 16th centuries and focuses on the geographical centers of Florence, Venice, and Rome. Through studying the styles of the artists working in these areas, as well as the systems of patronage that supported them, students confront related scientific, religious, and historical issues shaping the world of art. Most significantly, the course addresses three of the key ideas to arise out of the period: the return to the world of classical antiquity, the development of new modes of representation, and the changing concept of the artist and patron. 3 semester hours

**GLS 528 ROMANTICISM**

This course explores the art, literature, music, and philosophy of Europe in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Special consideration is given to the diverse paradigmatic shifts that mark the transition from the age of the Enlightenment to the Romantic era. Through interdisciplinary study, the course charts how many of our modern concepts are grounded in this historical period, including the reverence for nature, the privileging of subjectivity, and the valorization of personal freedom and national independence. 3 semester hours

**GLS 530 SEEING OTHERS, SEEING OURSELVES**

This course explores representations of the relations between dominant and minority cultures. The representations under scrutiny enter into a wide range of cultural practices and thus call for an interdisciplinary study involving various branches of the humanities. Literature, music, art, film, and history—all are considered in an examination of how culture creates systems of inclusion and exclusion that position individuals inside or outside a domain of privilege on the basis of criteria such as class, race, and gender. 3 semester hours

**GLS 533 ETHICS**

This course in ethics includes both examination of the classical ethical theories and metaethical questions and application of these theories to normative problems. 3 semester hours

**GLS 534 AESTHETICS**

An examination of the classical problems in aesthetics with an emphasis on contemporary renderings of the traditional questions. Discussion of these issues involves examples from a wide range of the arts:

painting and drawing, literature, sculpture, music, dance, film and video, and architecture. 3 semester hours

**GLS 535                    PHILOSOPHY OF SEX AND LOVE**

This course provides a graduate-level examination of philosophical issues relating to romantic love and human sexuality. Readings include philosophical, social science, and literary selections from a variety of intellectual perspectives, including contemporary feminist thought, Christian thought, Classical Greek and Roman thought, psychoanalytic thought, Marxist thought, and contemporary analytic thought. 3 semester hours

**GLS 540                    AMERICAN THOUGHT AND CULTURE IN THE 1950S AND 1960S: FROM CONSENSUS TO COUNTERCULTURE?**

The American 1950s are generally viewed as an era of anticommunist conformity, aesthetic complacency, conservative consensus, and suburban sterility. The 1960s, on the other hand, are remembered as the age of sexual revolution, artistic experimentation, musical innovation, and political rebellion. But were these two decades so very different? Or, is there perhaps as much continuity as contrast between the fifties and sixties? Were the roots of 1960s protest developing below the surface of 1950s conformity? And were the sixties really as liberal as our stereotyped images suggest, or was there a significant underlying conservatism in that decade, too? This exploration of aspects of continuity and contrast is the key thematic thrust of the course. Special attention is focused on currents of American intellectual and cultural thought. Among the tools that are used in this exploration are works of history, literature, social criticism, film, popular music, and art. Key topics include McCarthyism, the civil rights movement, counterculture, domestic reactions to the Vietnam War, and the ever-pervasive Cold War climate. 3 semester hours

**GLS 542                    AMERICAN MUSIC**

The course examines music in the United States within a cultural and historical context, from the colonial period through the present (ca. 1980). This includes both sacred and secular music in the cultivated and vernacular forms. Discussions of identified periods of American history begin with concise overviews of historical and political events and pertinent social/cultural material. Representative musical selections are listened to, examined, and discussed in light of this information. 3 semester hours

**GLS 546                    CHANGING FAMILIES IN A CHANGING WORLD**

Family is a social group; it is an organized way for people to meet their material and emotional needs. Yet, how family is conceived and structured varies from a single's lifestyle to polygamous marriage to communal living. This course provides a historical and cross-cultural perspective of changing personal relations connected to ideological and structural social change. Patterns of change in the United States are compared with change in other industrialized countries and nonindustrialized countries. The course offers an analytic focus on marriage and family as global social institutions, as well as a critical reflection of American values and social practices. 3 semester hours

**GLS 548                    WOMEN, LEADERSHIP, AND EDUCATION**

Using a historical perspective, this course examines the role of women in education, both as learners and as leaders. The focus is on policy and leadership issues as well as how education in our society has

served the needs of women. It also examines women's concept of self in educational settings. The course concludes with an examination of current issues concerning women in education. 3 semester hours

**GLS 552            DOMINATION, RESISTANCE, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SELF**

Throughout history, different groups of powerful "elites" have created a variety of systems intended to exert control over those they mean to rule. At the same time, less powerful social actors have continuously devised innovative ways of resisting this oppression. In this context of struggle and conflict, self-identity no longer simply defines who is inside and outside a given social group, but whether one is a ruler or servant, rich or poor, healthy or sick, hungry or fed, free or in chains. Using a variety of historical and contemporary cross-cultural examples, this course will give students a greater understanding of the ways concerns over power and powerlessness shape our self-identities and life chances. 3 semester hours

**GLS 557            'DID YOU HEAR WHAT I HEARD?': TRADITIONAL USE OF ORAL NARRATIVE BY SELF IN SOCIETY**

Humans spoke before they read or wrote. Folklore, primarily concerned with oral tradition, is the most appropriate discipline in which to study the use of the spoken word as a means of conveying narrative. What is preserved in the oral tradition? How is it transmitted? Why is it preserved? These are questions whose answers will be investigated. A close study of this genre as well as an investigation into the realm of rumor and gossip is also addressed. Through the examination and analysis of tales, verse, songs, slogans, and other oral forms, the nature and evolution and the subsequent impact upon oral tradition transmissions are revealed. The role played by oral narrative over time and across culture and how it affects self in society are of primary concern. 3 semester hours

**GLS 558            THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION: BINDING SELF AND SOCIETY**

The American Constitution—its prehistory, its drafting, and its ratification—embodies some of the most complex ideas and principles on the subject of forming individuals into a society ever entertained by the human mind. It is impossible to overlook its assumptions about human nature, the ancient Greek (and Jeffersonian) notion of politics as community, society as a contract, the notion of a right to ownership of self versus the right of sovereignty, political economy, the Anglo-American legal heritage, and the status of nationhood in a world of nations. In short, no other subject could, in one semester, so completely expose students to the many facets of the problem of self and society while also drawing upon so many essential components of a liberal education. The course incorporates treatments of the following general subject areas: history, political philosophy, drafting the constitution and politics, and implication. 3 semester hours

**GLS 559            INDIVIDUALS, CITIZENS, AND DEMOCRACY**

The focus of this course is on the often tense relationship between the private rights of individuals and the public responsibilities of citizens in a liberal democratic society such as the United States. Through class discussion of classic and contemporary writings in the political theory of liberal democracy, students enter the rich debate over the meaning of citizenship and the rights of individuals. Current policy and constitutional issues are addressed in these discussions. Some examples might be personal

autonomy, private property, and environmental regulation; gun control and urban crime; public support for education; toleration and race relations; and taxation. 3 semester hours

**GLS 571          DARWIN'S THEORIES TO THE MODERN SYNTHESIS**

This course first thoroughly explores the nature of Charles Darwin's two fundamental theories: evolution by natural selection and descent by modification. Since the field of biology was in its infancy at the time these theories were developed, little knowledge of biological science is required by students in this early part of the course. Following this, the course then proceeds to look into the modern nature of biology—DNA, population dynamics, and cell biology—at an elementary level. With this background, the students then explore the current status of the synthetic theory of evolution, as the modern view of life's origins, history, and operation over time is called. 3 semester hours

**GLS 575          CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN BIOMEDICAL ETHICS**

Modern scientific and clinical research has made possible the medical use of fetal tissue to address symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, the increased extension of life for the terminally ill, and the transplantation of organs and tissues from animals such as pigs and baboons to humans. Experimentation on humans, advanced directives (living wills), Medicare, and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) are occupying the thoughts of many with increasing concern. Students explore these issues using the logic and rationale of scientific inquiry tempered with the views of the utilitarian and deontological philosophers and several theological traditions. Readings focus on publications of the Hastings Center, which has a long and respected tradition of examining such issues from all perspectives. 3 semester hours

**GLS 578          FRONTIERS IN MODERN ASTROPHYSICS**

The primary goal of this course is to investigate in some depth the most prominent and intriguing subjects in contemporary astronomy and space exploration. Topics discussed include space missions to the planets; theories regarding the origin of the solar system; nemesis; the death star hypothesis; black holes (mythological beasts?); quasars and the early universe; and the possibility of life existing elsewhere. 3 semester hours

**GLS 588          SPECIAL TOPICS**

Courses of interest to students and faculty that are taught on an experimental or one-time basis. 3 semester hours