

Summer 2015 IDC Course Descriptions

Summer Session I (three weeks - 5/04/15 through 5/21/15)

IDC 200 01: *Power, Money, and Food*

Sarah Mahoney

MTWTh 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Course Description: *This course will examine our food in the United States; how it is produced, how it is regulated and labeled, where it is available (and where it is not), and how current legislation affects the foods we buy and eat.*

We will begin by investigating what we find in our grocery stores; how much variety is available to us, how expensive the healthy options are, and how these observations can begin to inform us why obesity and malnutrition often occur concurrently.

Next, we will take a step back and examine food availability in different geographical areas. Do those living in Malibu, CA have the same grocery options as those in Detroit, MI? We will discuss how geography and socioeconomic status affect our options and lead to “food deserts.”

Finally, we will examine the national policies that drive our food production. How many options do we have when purchasing meat or dairy? Why are corn and soy products much cheaper than broccoli or green beans?

This will be a discussion-based course that utilizes several books and documentaries from opposing viewpoints. The goal is not to lead students to arrive at a particular viewpoint, but rather to give them information and space to consider these ethical questions.

IDC 200 02: *Harlem Renaissance in Literature, Music, and Art*

Kathy West

MTWTh 11:45 am – 2:45 pm

Course Description: *From 1919 to 1929, the area of Harlem in New York City became home to an amazing array of writers, painters, photographers, and musicians. Aaron Douglas, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Jesse Redmon Fauset, Lois Mailou Jones, Jacob Lawrence, Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, and the very young Lena Horne and Billie Holiday all began their careers there, where the interchange between so many creative people sparked an outpouring of inventiveness. This course will read in their literature, listen to the music, examine paintings and sculpture, and discuss the social backgrounds that made this time and place so remarkable.*

IDC 301 02: *Natural History of Peru* (cross-listed with ENVS 440-01)

Kate Bulinski

MTWTh 8:30 am – 11:30 am (This course is on campus from 5/4/2015 through 5/7/2015 and then in Peru from 5/8/15 through 5/22/15. The cost of the trip is extra. Instructor permission is required.)

Course Description: *Peru is a country filled with natural wonders, including the Altiplano highlands and lakes of the Andes, coastal regions, deserts and rainforests. These delicate and fantastically rich ecosystems support some of the highest biodiversity in the world, yet they are affected by the human influences of agriculture, mining and urban population growth, as well as the threat of natural hazards. This class allows students to develop an understanding of how the natural ecosystems of Peru intersect with the anthropogenic forces of a modern world. The first week of this course will be spent on campus,*

where these topics will be explored through a series of lecture and labs. The final two weeks of the term will be spent in Peru, where the instructor and students will take part in additional coursework, service work and field studies in the Sacred Valley, the Altiplano and a series of islands in Lake Titicaca.

IDC 301 03: *Peruvian Identity through Text* (cross-listed with ANTH 241-01)

Sarah Neal

MTWTh 11:45 am – 2:45 pm (This course is on campus from 5/4/2015 through 5/7/2015 and then in Peru from 5/8/15 through 5/22/15. The cost of the trip is extra. Instructor permission is required.)

Course Description: Does identity create culture? Or does culture create identity? What role does the “outsider” play in constructing our cultural identity? This course, taught in English, will explore the rich heritage of one of the world’s most renowned destinations using texts and media of literary, historical, and cultural significance. Using our surroundings as inspiration, we will examine the concepts of identity and culture while observing the Andean and European legacies through site visits, readings, discussions, lectures, and writing assignments

IDC 301 04: *20th Century Poetry of Witness*

Fred Smock

MTWTh 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Course Description: “Poetry of Witness” looks at poems generated by the great upheavals of the 20th century -- the world wars, the Holocaust, repression in Eastern Europe and Latin America, and more. This is poetry as historical documents, bearing witness to tragedy, so that the events cannot be denied, and so that they might be understood and never repeated.

IDC 301 05: *The Nuclear Age*

Pat Holt

MTWTh 11:45 am – 2:45 pm

Course Description: The word nuclear summons many emotions (and pronunciations--“nucular,” for example) -- fear, confusion, anger, to name just a few. It induces such passion that the use of this term is avoided whenever possible. For example, consider MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scanners, a widely used medical diagnostic tool. These instruments are based on a phenomena known by scientists as nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR spectrometers have been used for decades to discern molecular structures). When the medical community began to use these instruments for imaging, the term nuclear was removed because of the negative connotations associated with it. Why does this term evoke such an intense response?

In this course, we will explore the science, history, and politics of nuclear technology. Are there any benefits to nuclear technology? Or does every aspect of nuclear phenomena impact us and our planet negatively? How were nuclear weapons developed? Is it feasible to design a reliable defense against nuclear weapons? What are the benefits and drawbacks of nuclear energy? Could the widespread use of nuclear energy eliminate some of our current energy problems? And what of climate change? Could nuclear energy be part of the solution?

As a citizen, you will, no doubt, be faced with many choices regarding nuclear technology. It is your responsibility to make an intelligent choice, but how will you know what the appropriate response should be? This course aims to provide you with a background necessary to make educated decisions or to do the research necessary to make the choice of an educated citizen.

IDC 401 01: Senior Seminar

Gail Henson

MTWTh 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Course Description: *The Senior Seminar is the capstone experience in the general education of a Bellarmine student. It has as its primary focus the development of students' abilities to examine contemporary issues in a comprehensive and integrated way within a Catholic social justice perspective and a liberal arts and sciences context. Seniors from various disciplines come together in small groups with a faculty member to reflect on critical issues facing contemporary society, such as racism, economic and social justice, environmental concerns, national and international crises, and ethical issues arising from developments in science, medicine and technology. Students are also expected to bring the knowledge and skills gained in their major field of study and their other general education courses to the seminar as appropriate.*

IDC 401 02: Death and the Corpse

Amy Tudor

MTWTh 11:45 am - 2:45 pm

Course Description: *In this course, students will use interdisciplinary study in such disciplines as history, anthropology, photography, anatomy, theology, and architecture to explore the changing cultural meanings of death and the human corpse. Students will first be introduced to the concept of liminality and how this state creates our sacred and taboo cultural meanings surrounding death and human bodies. Students will then explore this issue in such artifacts as the memorials, historical and contemporary anatomical drawings, historical texts on war and funerary practices, and visual representations such as paintings and films that feature human bodies. Contemporary theological and political issues surrounding death and the human body—including the Right to Die controversy and the public display of Iraq and Afghanistan war dead—will also be explored, both in class and in the form of student research.*

IDC 401 05: Health Inequality in Australia

Andrew Carnes

This course is in Australia from 5/2/15 through 5/17/15 and then on campus 5/21/15 and 5/26/15 (9:00 am – 11:30 am). The cost of the trip is extra.

Instructor permission is required.

Course Description: *This course will focus on the oppression of the Indigenous Australian population throughout history and the significant disparities in health, income, and education that Australian Aborigines face today. Students will investigate these disparities in relation to Indigenous Australians' access to healthcare and values surrounding health behaviors, relative to those of the predominant Anglo-Australian population. The role of racism and other sociocultural and economic barriers will also be discussed. Students will integrate their findings with a critical assessment of the social responsibility of those in power to lead positive change and address Aborigines' plight of inequity.*

Summer Session II (five weeks - 5/26/15 through 6/25/15)

IDC 200 03: Jazz, Blues, and Beyond

Dave Clark

TWTh 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Course Description: *The African-American Spiritual holds an important and often overlooked place in the development of American music. The Spiritual in essence is the seed of African-American musical genres. Exploring the spirituals reveals many aspects about the development of these musical genres, particularly blues, jazz, soul, and R&B. However, the lessons gained from the Spirituals in terms of commentary on the state of humanity are just as, if not more important than the musical ones. The African-American Spiritual teaches profound lessons in its musical, social, religious, political, and cultural revelations. These revelations are traced to other genres such as blues, jazz, gospel, soul, and avant-garde among others. The characteristics of the genres are studied as to how they reflect and communicate the political, philosophical, social, and overall cultural beliefs of the people who created it. The notion that music is principally to be “enjoyed” is characteristic of Western culture, and much of the music we discuss has purposes far beyond enjoyment. It is music of great significance in understanding the state of humanity. This course will help you understand music as a cultural phenomenon, gain an appreciation for the African-American Spiritual and its progeny, and hopefully stimulate you to further investigate some aspect of music that you currently listen to.*

After carefully exploring the musical, cultural, religious, political, and social aspects of the Spiritual, we then begin to ask questions of our other musical genres. Upon evaluating our musical practices today, would our African-American ancestors be encouraged by what they heard? Would they be able to hear commentary on the human condition, perseverance of the human spirit, and an understanding of human kinship? These questions and many others are explored through readings, musical recordings, film and spirited discussion.

IDC 301 06: Native American Culture and Literature

Kathy West

TWTh 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Course Description: *Our course this session will focus on Native American and First Nations Cultures (North and South American), looking particularly at Literature by Native Americans, the depiction of American Indians in film, and the history and anthropology of Native American Cultures. We will explore recent scholarship that provides a very different picture of ancient Native American History and Culture from what was believed for centuries; we’ll look at the late-nineteenth century end of the Indian Wars, the push for reservations, and the allotment system; and we will explore issues facing contemporary Native American peoples, on and off reservations. In terms of literature, we’ll read in ancient and traditional stories, myths, and songs; examine a sampling of what was recorded of American Indian composition from the arrival of the Europeans through the early 20th century; and spend some time on writings from the contemporary Native American Literary Renaissance. We’ll engage stories, songs, myths, poems, essays, memoirs, films, novels, history, and anthropology. We will pay particular attention to **storytelling** (the oral tradition as it works its way into the written; how narration creates, organizes, even manipulates understanding); **identity** (as fluid and organic; as simultaneously individual and communal; how race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and other factors both intersect and collide to create a sense of identity); **difference and conflict** through the clashes of cultures on this continent.*

IDC 401 02: Senior Seminar – Engaging the Diaspora

Jud Hendrix

MTWTh 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Course Description: *This course will study the intersection of globalization, migration and development through listening to the stories and passions of immigrants and refugees for development in their countries of origin. Students will develop an awareness of the complexity of addressing global development needs through the perspectives and wisdom of local internationals and together discern ways in which to empower their local neighbors to express their ideas for development and social change*

Summer Session III (five weeks - 6/29/15 through 7/30/15)

IDC 200 04: That's Bad for You! Food and Fitness Fads in the U.S.

Andrew Carnes

TWTh 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Course Description: *Despite a cultural preoccupation with diet and fitness, the United States population faces an epidemic of obesity and related chronic conditions. At least two thirds of the US population is overweight or obese, and cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in US adults. This course will explore historical trends in diet, nutrition, and fitness, with a focus on “fad” diets and exercise regimens. Students will critically examine health-related fads that have received significant public attention in the US as well as their impact on physical health. The role of marketing and sociocultural pressures in perpetuating food and exercise fads will also be discussed. Substantial individual research and reading (including scholarly material) will be required.*

IDC 301 01: Stuffed & Starved: Food Inequality across the Globe

Sarah Mahoney

TWTh 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Course Description: *With the improvements in technology and communication worldwide, those in first world countries have more access to food than ever and yet global hunger has not been eradicated. We will examine the role of multi-national corporations, global trading laws, and GMO technology in our food supply and attempt to understand why some are stuffed and some remain starving. Additionally, we will discuss the role of ethics in global food production. Do we view ourselves as global citizens, responsible for the hunger of our neighbors across an ocean, or should we spend our resources nationally? The course will culminate with a student research project on a country of choice, examining how food availability is affected by trade, government, and farming practices.*

IDC 401 04: Senior Seminar

Josh Golding

TWTh 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Course Description: *The Senior Seminar is the capstone experience in the general education of a Bellarmine student. It has as its primary focus the development of students' abilities to examine contemporary issues in a comprehensive and integrated way within a Catholic social justice perspective and a liberal arts and sciences context. Seniors from various disciplines come together in small groups with a faculty member to reflect on critical issues facing contemporary society, such as racism, economic*

and social justice, environmental concerns, national and international crises, and ethical issues arising from developments in science, medicine and technology. Students are also expected to bring the knowledge and skills gained in their major field of study and their other general education courses to the seminar as appropriate.