

2018 Fall Term Special Topics Courses

BIOL 3991-A (3 CR) MARINE MAMMOLOGY

Prereq: Third year standing; Instructor consent required (amorash@mta.ca)

This course examines the physiology and ecology of marine mammals. Topics include the evolution of the major marine mammal groups, special adaptations for aquatic life, social dynamics of marine mammals, the role of marine mammals in oceanic ecosystems, and general population biology. Students use this knowledge and recent research in the field to explore conservation/management issues. (Format: Lecture 3 hours)

CANA 4991-A (3 CR) ABORIGINAL LEGAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES

Prereq: Third year standing; Instructor consent required (krjohnston@mta.ca)

Political and legal issues are integral to the examination and understanding of Aboriginal rights and relationships with the Settler State. This course examines the legal institutions and practices of Indigenous cultures and how they might be and have been incorporated into the mainstream system. It also examines historic and contemporary Indigenous politics. Topics may include the politics of genocide and (de)colonization, self-determination, gender, identity, land claims, court decisions, as well as international law and borders. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

CLAS-3991-A (3 CR) DIGITAL METHODS IN THE HUMANITIES

Prereq: Second-year standing, three credits CLAS, HIST, LATI, GREK; or permission of the Department (cforstall@mta.ca).

This course introduces students in arts and letters to basic computational tools and resources that can make their research more effective, and provides transferrable skills that will be useful across disciplines. It surveys current Digital Humanities research projects in several domains, including analysis of poetry, novels, and visual art. The class format combines discussion and critique of published research with hands-on workshops in which we replicate model experiments. It introduces basic techniques of programming in a beginner-friendly environment. No previous coding experience is required. (Format: Interdisciplinary research methods seminar 3 Hours)

COMM 1991-A (3 CR) QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS FOR BUSINESS DECISION-MAKING

Prereq: Instructor consent required (pberry@mta.ca)

This course provides an introduction to quantitative tools used in business decision making, and the conventions and terminologies used in the application of these tools. It introduces basic business models and algorithms dealing with topics such as discounting, markups and markdowns, breakeven analysis, interest calculations, and the mathematics of finance. (Format: Lecture 3 hours, Tutorial 1 hour)

COMM 4991-A (3 CR) THE BUSINESS OF AVIATION

Prereq: Third year standing; or permission of the Department (tmachum@mta.ca)

This course explores a cross section of issues in this dynamic industry that create numerous opportunities to demonstrate critical thinking, often without the luxury of time, where the decisions-making frequently requires a balance of strategic and tactical thinking against moral and ethical implications. Topics include: Canadian aviation industry and competitive landscape, industry regulation, risk management, innovation, strategic leadership. (Format: Lectures, case studies, class presentations; possible field trips and guest speakers).

DRAM 3991(3 CR)

PRACTICING DRAMATURGY

Prereq: Third year standing; Instructor consent required (vstpierre@mta.ca)

This course introduces students to the practice of dramaturgy and the wide-range of activities performed by the contemporary dramaturg. Combining the study of the theoretical underpinnings of dramaturgy, and the historical development of the role of dramaturg, with practical dramaturgical projects, this class begins to develop a 'dramaturgical toolbox' across the key areas of literary and production dramaturgy. (Format: Integrated Lecture and Workshop 3 Hours)

ECON 4991-A (3CR)

RADICAL IDEAS IN ECONOMICS

Prereq: Third year standing; Instructor consent required (fstrain@mta.ca)

This course introduces some of the radical ideas that have emerged from the study of economics. Although the primary focus is on recent scholarship the course briefly covers Adam Smith, Arrow and Debru, and Fredrik von Hayek; Marx; Keynes; Arrow; welfare economics; and political economy. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

GENS 3991-A

LOCAL ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE

Prereq: Third year standing; GENS 1401; Instructor consent required (mfox@mta.ca)

This course introduces students to the science of the changing climate and human measurements and adaptations associated with its impacts in the Atlantic Region of Canada. Students explore its environmental and social implications, and examine its impact on daily life by reviewing current scientific data as it relates to vulnerabilities across the region. Topics include methods, strategies, and technologies that address climate change, using case studies of adaptive and mitigative programs in North America, with a special emphasis on the Atlantic Canada Adaptations Strategy Agreement. [Note: Additional travel costs may be required.] (Format: Seminar 3 Hour with several field-based sessions with regional climate change scientists, engineers and experts.)

GENS 3991-B

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: ECOLOGY

Prereq: Third year standing; GENS 1401; Instructor consent required (dlieske@mta.ca)

The primary objective of this course is to outline the ecological impacts, scientific contributions, and technological innovations originating from Indigenous Peoples in North America. The course explores the dynamic relationship between different groups of Indigenous People and their environments and is designed to teach students how variation in natural resource use and management among Indigenous groups has resulted in different ecological impacts, scientific developments and technological innovations. It emphasizes sustainability, environmental manipulation, and the important contribution of Traditional Ecological Knowledge to the global environmental science knowledge base. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

HIST 3991-A (3CR)

FRONTIER SETTLEMENT OF THE AMERICAN WEST

Prereq: Second year standing; 6 credits in History at the 1000 or 2000 level; or permission of the Department (enaylor@mta.ca)

This course examines frontier settlement and economic development in the American West, juxtaposing that historic West with the more mythic West of popular imagination. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

HIST 3991-B (3CR)

PUBLIC HISTORY IN CONTEMPORARY CANADA

Prereq: Second year standing; 6 credits in History at the 1000 or 2000 level; or permission of the Department (rcupido@mta.ca)

This course explores how the past is understood by and communicated to people outside the university walls, from museum exhibits, historic sites, and national parks to novels, traditional and graphic, films,

Wikipedia, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions. It offers an excellent introduction to students who would like to learn more about how our cultural and physical heritage can be used to enhance both our understanding of the past and the urgent controversies and challenges of the present, or who may be considering careers in the museum and heritage sector. Students explore the growing literature on public history and social memory, create their own public history projects, and gain practical experience in the wide-ranging methods used by public historians, including archival and community-based research, oral history, and the interpretation of material and visual culture. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

MUSC 3991-A (3 CR)

MUSIC IN FIN-DE-SIECLE VIENNA

Prereq: MUSC 2211; or permission of the Department (gtucker@mta.ca)

This course explores music and culture during Vienna's "Golden Autumn", c1890–c1918. It focuses on selected works of Viennese art music, as well as some popular music and introduces the principal issues, developments and figures in Vienna's politics, visual arts, literature, architecture, psychology, and philosophy. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

PSYC 3991-A (3 CR)

EXPLANATIONS OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR

Prereq: Third year standing; PSYC 1001, 1011; 6 credits from PSYC at the 2000 level; or permission of the Department (tbelke@mta.ca)

This course highlights and explores various theories of crime causation. In particular, it examines the role of individual choice, socialization experiences, and biological factors as determinants of criminal behavior. It begins with an overview of the early classical and positivist foundations of criminological thought and then moves on to discuss more recent extensions of social learning, social control, routine activities, biological, self-control, labeling, and other theories. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

RELG 1991-A (3 CR)

THE GOOD LIFE: ASIAN RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES

This course examines the works of Chinese philosophers, who, more than two millennia ago wrestled with critical questions such as: What does it mean to live a good life? How should we treat others? What forms of learning matter? Are happiness and life well lived one and the same thing? The course explores why their works matter and how we can most effectively read to understand the significance of Classical Chinese philosophy for defining and living the good life today. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours) (Distribution: Humanities-a)

RELG 3991-A (3 CR)

ISLAM AND MYSTICISM: DIVINE ENCOUNTERS

Prereq: Third year standing; Instructor consent required (fblack@mta.ca)

This course provides an introduction to Islam and its varied mystical traditions known collectively as "Sufism." Through focusing on the theme of encounter, prevalent in Sufism, it explores debates on perception, gender, and orthodoxy, and Islam's relationship with its Byzantine and Syriac Christian neighbors from Antiquity to the present. We will interrogate the category of "Sufism" in the West and how contemporary media and politics represent Islamic spiritual devotion. No prior knowledge of Islam is necessary. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

SOCI 4991-A (3 CR)

HUMAN RIGHTS

Prereq: 6 credits from SOCI 3001, 3011, 3301, 3311; or permission of the Department (mpoteet@mta.ca)

This course explores human rights in relation to security, migration, settlement, race, gender, age, legal status, and other bases of social inequality. The course begins with an examination of relevant immigration policies and practices in Canada, and then examines intersecting social inequalities in Canada and internationally with implications for human rights. (Format: Seminar 3 Hours)

SPAN 2991-A (3 CR)**INDIGENEITY IN THE AMERICAS**

Prereq: Instructor consent required (jmartine@mta.ca)

This course introduces the Indigenous people of Latin America (Abya Yala) under the perspective of 'buen vivir' (good Living, Indigenous vision of the world). Through readings, discussions, and videos, it explores a new epistemology where 'other worlds are possible', against the patriarchal vision of society and the exploitation of natural resources, in search of the liberation and care of Mother Earth.

UNST 1991-A (3 CR)**INTRODUCTION TO INDIGENOUS STUDIES**

Prereq: Instructor consent required (deanofarts@mta.ca)

This course provides an introduction to the diversity of Indigenous peoples in Canada and the Maritimes. Themes include Indigenous studies as a discipline, world views, societies, cultures, politics, colonization, and decolonization, with an emphasis on Indigenous authors and voices. (Format: Lecture, group work, experiential learning 3 Hours).

UNST 3991-A (3 CR)**COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE**

Prereq: Second year standing; Instructor consent required (mfox@mta.ca, esteuter@mta.ca or fblack@mta.ca)

This course is for students interested in working with children at the Grade 5-8 level and in learning about community development. Working with faculty in geography and environment, sociology, and religious studies, students help design and run project-based learning programs for students at Marshivew Middle School (MMS), exploring such topics as community gardening and food security; culinary arts; outdoor education; and more. [Note: This course requires a criminal record check and completion of the Pupil Protection Protocol (Policy #701), with assistance of the instructor.] (Format: Community-based Research, Applied Learning 3 Hours)

UNST 3991-U (3 CR)**TIME**

Prereq: Third year standing; Instructor consent required (dhornidg@mta.ca)

This course explores the meaning and relevance of time from the perspectives of four different disciplines: religion and philosophy, physics, biology, and music. It seeks answers to questions such as: What is the meaning of time and how can it be defined? What is the space-time continuum and what does the theory of relativity imply about time? How do organisms perceive time and what is a biological clock? How is time divided to create rhythms and how do we keep a beat? (Format: Telepresence Lecture through Maple League 3 Hours)

2019 Winter Term Special Topics Courses

ANTH 4991-A (3CR)**CONTEMPORARY ISSUES FROM AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE**

Inquiries can be directed to khele@mta.ca

This course will explore Anthropology's impact and ongoing involvement with Indigenous communities. Topics to be explored include identity, research, advocacy, policy, controversy, and self-government, as well as ongoing and future challenges facing the discipline of Anthropology.

CANA 3991 (3CR)**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES**

Prereq: Third year standing; Instructor consent required (anurse@mta.ca)

This course examines dynamics of Indigenous history in Canada, especially the ways in which it problematizes the Canadian national narrative, the contributions its study can make to reconciliation, and its significance in addressing issues related to treaty and aboriginal rights in Canada today (the key tests under Sparrow, for instance, of Indigenous rights are historical). (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

CHEM 1991 (3CR)

WORLD OF CHEMISTRY- FOOD

Prereq: Instructor consent required (vmeli@mta.ca)

This course explores the essential chemistry of our food. Topics include: micronutrients, macronutrients, agriculture, food additives, adverse food reactions, cooking, weight control and chocolate, diet and disease. (Format: Online lectures through McGill, 3 hour weekly in-class tutorial) (Distribution: Natural Science)

COMM 2991 (3CR)

PROFESSIONAL WRITING FOR A VIRTUAL WORLD

Prereq: Instructor consent required (dhenwood@mta.ca)

This course develops the knowledge, skills, and strategies needed to make the transition from academic writing to professional writing. It explores the complexities of "transactional writing," which is focused on a particular audience and aims to produce a particular result. It pays special attention to the visual aspects of persuasive written communication, such as document design, data visualization, and visual storytelling. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

COMM 3991 (3CR)

ISSUES IN WORK AND LABOUR

Prereq: Third year standing; or permission of the Department; Instructor consent required (rpascoedeslauriers@mta.ca)

This course examines contemporary issues of differential access to decent quality work. Drawing from critical employment scholarship, this course addresses the meaning and nature of job quality, it examines the consequences of poor quality work for individuals, families and society, and considers some of the organizational and structural enablers of differential job/employment quality. It considers issues of precarious and 'non-standard' work, gender pay gaps, occupational and labour market segregation through an intersectional lens, including issues of gender, race, age, ability, class and immigration status. [Note: This course may also count as an elective for the WGST minor.] (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

COMM 4991-A (3CR)

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Prereq: COMM 2311, COMM 3321; or permission of the Department; Instructor consent required (jmullen@mta.ca)

This course introduces key theories and empirical research showing the effects of the work environment on employee health and safety outcomes. Topics include relevant legislation, occupational hazards, workplace safety climate, the etiology of job stress, and preventative health and safety interventions. The course is designed to promote discussion of the issues explored in the course and to encourage the application of psychological principles that influence employee's health and safety in the workplace. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

COMM 4991-B (3CR)

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Prereq: Third year standing; or permission of the Department; Instructor consent required (rhiscock@mta.ca)

The course covers a variety of topics related to marketing communications, public relations, and media and provides a knowledge base by which students can rethink and critically assess the impacts of contemporary marketing communication campaigns, media forms, and the delivery of news. It contrasts traditional organizational views of public relations and marketing communications with more critical perspectives. It draws course material from a range of sources: peer-reviewed journals; critical non-fiction; online material; video; and social media. (Format: Lecture 3 hours)

ECON 3991 (3CR)
MATHEMATICAL ECONOMICS

Prereq: Third year standing; 6 credits in ECON or 6 credits in MATH; or permission of the Department; Instructor consent required (shasanzadeh@mta.ca)

This course provides students with a knowledge of some of the basic mathematical tools used in economic theory. Topics include: Concave and convex functions; homogeneous and exponential functions; equilibrium analysis; matrix algebra; implicit functions and implicit differentiation; comparative static methods applied to models such as utility maximization and least-cost production; constrained optimization; the envelope theorem. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

ENGL 1991 (3CR)
THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

(Distribution: Arts)

Inquiries can be directed to tcraig@mta.ca

This course is an introduction to the graphic novel as a quickly developing form of literature. Beginning with the history of the field, from comics and Classic Illustrated magazines, the course moves on to examine a variety of texts, with particular focus on those with a political and sociological interest. As well, the adaptation of novels into other varieties of media, including online comics and television, will be covered. (Format: Lecture 3 hours)

FINH 3991 (3CR)
MUSEUMS, EDUCATION, & ENGAGEMENT

Prereq: FINH 2101, FINH 2111; or permission of the Department (Imacdonald@mta.ca)

This course examines the expanding field of museum education and considers the broader educational role of the museum. Topics include: current practice in museum education, informal learning theories, visitor experience, visitor research, writing in the museum, accessibility, inclusion, relevance, and the ways in which museums use new media, social media and mobile technology. [Note: offered on rotation every other year] (Format: Seminar 3 Hours)

FREN 3991 (3CR)
TRIADES SOMBRES ET LITERATURE FRANCAISE

Prereq: FREN 2501; FREN 2601; or permission of the Department; Instructor consent required (vnarayan@mta.ca)

This course explores the figure of the deliberate antagonist in French and Francophone culture. Beyond probing good and evil in representation, it draws on Patrick Tort's interpretation of Darwinian anthropology and mathematician Nel Noddings' "Care" ethics to ask if literary and biographical texts can serve as repositories of experience with narcissism, machiavellianism and psychopathy. Using Peter K. Jonason's "Dirty Dozen" checklist as a working tool, it tackles issues such as neurotribes and power, leadership and bystanding, as well as (epi)genetic determinism. Activities include rhetorical analyses of discourses resulting from the France Télécom scandal (and/or the Dreyfus affair) in addition to readings of canonic biographies and popular graphic novels. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

GENS 4991-A (3 CR)

SEMINAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Prereq: GENS 3991 B Indigenous Peoples: Ecology, Science, Technology; or permission of the Department

This course explores environmental issues associated with Indigenous People in North America throughout history. The course involves student/professor led consultation with local Mi'kmaq and/or Wolastoqiyik communities and/or individuals to identify important environmental concerns in the present day. Independent studies will be undertaken with focus on knowledge gathered through consultations and

literature review. Results will be present in seminar format.

GENV 2991 (3 CR)

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES

Prereq: Instructor consent required (mfox@mta.ca)

This course offers an introduction to American Studies, the interdisciplinary analysis of the United States. It explores American culture, society, history, and geography and their interrelationships in order to provide students with a critical understanding of the United States, American ways of life, and American identities. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

GENV 3991 (3 CR)

COOL JAPAN: GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES

Prereq: Third year standing; Instructor consent required (treiffen@mta.ca)

This course explores the geographies of Japanese cultural industries and the policies that promote them. It begins by interrogating the idea of soft power, and its application by Japan famously captured in Doug McGray's phrase Japan's 'Gross National Cool'. It explores several key cultural industries (manga/anime, ramen, idol music groups, etc.) to cover geographies of production, consumption as well as the challenges these industries face as they internationalize. It also investigates the pronounced gendered dimensions of these industries. From the long, punishing hours of the manga anime cell artist, to the stubborn perfectionism of the ramen chef, this course intends to celebrate but also critically examine the industries that are increasingly the face of 'Cool Japan'. (Format: Seminar 3 Hours)

HIST 4991-A (3 CR)

ISSUES IN AMERICAN WESTERN HISTORY

Prereq: History 3991-A, Frontier Settlement/American West; Instructor consent required (enaylor@mta.ca)

This course examines important issues in the history of the American West. (Format: Seminar 3 Hours)

INLR 3991 (3 CR)

GLOBAL CAPITALISM

Prereq: INLR/POLS 2301; or permission of the Department (dthomas@mta.ca)

This course fosters an understanding of global capitalism and how it works. It engages with several contemporary critiques of global capitalism followed by an analysis of selected contemporary alternatives to capitalism and their potential to alleviate poverty on a local and/or global scale. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

MUSC 3991 (3 CR)

MUSIC AND NOISE

Prereq: MUSC 2211; Instructor consent required (pnickleson@mta.ca)

This course considers noise in its many relations to sound and music: as necessary other, as component, as distraction, and as disruption. After examining noise in its political, acoustic, and conceptual roles, it examines its place in the long history of Western music from Greek mythology and Biblical tales, through Baroque criticism, Romantic aesthetics, discourses of modernism and the avant-garde, and into free jazz, punk, heavy metal, hip-hop, and Noise musics. Through extensive reading, writing, listening, and class discussion, participants in this course consider how noise has always functioned as a movable boundary to the Western conception of music. This course is open to students from all programs, and the ability to read musical notation is not required. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

POLS 3991 (3 CR)

MARITIME PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Prereq: POLS 1001; 6 credits from POLS at the 2000 level; or permission of the Department (gmartin@mta.ca)

This course provides an intermediate introduction to the politics of the three Maritime provinces; New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. It focuses on the internal politics of the three provinces rather than their relationship to the federal government or federal activities in these provinces. The structure of the course provides students with the skills and knowledge to answer key questions that

continue to preoccupy people in the Maritime provinces. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

PSYC 3991-A (3 CR)
SPORT PSYCHOLOGY

Prereq: Third year standing; PSYC 1001, 1011; 6 credits from PSYC at the 2000 level; or permission of the Department (gouellette@mta.ca)

This course presents an overview of sport psychology within the framework of psychological science. Sports psychology involves the study of psychological variables that impact participation and performance in athletics; This study incorporates theories and research from many areas of psychology, including personality, social, cognitive, and clinical. This course reviews and applies relevant theories and research to the context of performance in sport and participation in physical activity as well as to coaching. Course content bridges theory and empirical study with practical applications to health and sport. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

PSYC 3991-B (3 CR)
SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Prereq: Third year standing; PSYC 1001, 1011; 6 credits from PSYC at the 2000 level; or permission of the Department (ldhamilton@mta.ca)

This course explores the emerging discipline of social neuroscience with a focus on the interaction between environment, behavior, and biology. Methods include research in social psychology, neuroendocrinology, neuroimaging (e.g., fMRI, PET), and neurophysiology (e.g., EEG). Topics include emotion, behavioral regulation, motivational systems, perceptions of self and others, social hierarchies, and social learning. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

SOCI 4991 (3 CR)
ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

Prereq: 6 credits from SOCI 3001, 3011, 3301, 3311, or permission of the Department (fantonelli@mta.ca)

This course explores the work of Max Weber with a focus on his theory of rationalization. As economies become more complex in the coordination of their parts, Weber's theory of rationalization helps explain how and why the mechanisms and social practices surface to better control our world. However, as noted by Weber, as rationalization has the potential to create order in what would otherwise be a chaotic society, it also brings with it the potential to stifle creativity, imagination, and agency. This course examines the paradox of rationalization in relation to modern social issues toward a better understanding of how individuals navigate society. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

WGST 3991 (3 CR)
GENDER AND SCIENCE

Prereq: WGST 2101; Instructor consent required (cmacdougall@mta.ca)

This course focuses on the relationship between scientific institutions and communities that are marginalized by gender, race, colonialism, class, disability and other social markers. It explores the structural forces that contribute to exclusion and the effects of being seen as an object of scientific inquiry through feminist intersectional and decolonial approaches to the practices of scientific knowledge production. Finally, this course addresses current efforts to create a more inclusive scientific community. (Format: Lecture 3 Hours)

UNST 1991 (3 CR)
EXPERIENCING THE ARTS

This course offers students an academic framework within which to explore public events, performances, exhibits, and speakers presented by the University and the Sackville community. Students take an active role in setting course goals, assessments, and reflection methods within a supportive and open environment. The class discusses meaningful group and individual options for self-evaluation and reflection. [Note: this course cannot be used to fulfill distribution requirements] (Format: Lecture/Experiential Learning 3 Hours)

UNST 3991 / UNST 4991 (3 CR)

COMMUNITY AS CLASSROOM

This course is for students interested in working with children at the Grade 5-8 level and in learning about community development. Working with community partners and faculty in geography and environment, sociology, and religious studies, students help design and run project-based learning programs for students at Marshview Middle School, exploring such topics as community gardening and food security; culinary arts; outdoor education; and more. [Note: This course requires a criminal record check and completion of the Pupil Protection Protocol (Policy #701), with assistance of the instructor] (Format: Community-based Research, Applied Learning 3 Hours).