

## LAS-110 Intersections Subtitles: Fall 2021

### **Reason, Faith, and College**

This course will explore the relationship between faith and reason, especially in the context of college. How should people of faith approach their coursework and scholarship, which often include perspectives that challenge their religious beliefs? Do they need to compartmentalize, placing faith and academics in different boxes? Or are there ways of bringing them into dialogue? To answer these questions, we will look at famous conflicts between religion and science (Darwin's theory of evolution, the Galileo affair), thinking about how they can be resolved. But we will also look at examples of great thinkers and artists who have successfully integrated the life of the mind and the life of faith. Students from all religious backgrounds (or none) are welcome in the course.

### **Freedom to Read: Reading's Role in Citizenship** (2 sections available)

As students you are often told what to read and when to read it. This can have the unintended effect of making reading seem like a chore and a drag. What changes if we look at reading as a *right*, one of the elements that define and maintain a free society? In this course, we will study the history of literacy, publishing, censorship, "banned books," and access to information with an emphasis on the U.S. We will consider reading as a social practice, a political act, and a cognitive process. And, of course, we will read widely, sharpen our critical reading skills, and read to challenge misinformation and disinformation.

### **Writing the Self, Reading the Other: The Power of Poetry**

Modern readers often find poetry intimidating, but in reality, poetry is all around you. It's in the slogans that sell you products and in the music you listen to. Humans have used poetry across time and culture to express their experiences and encounter the experiences of others. In this section of LAS 110, you will hone the critical reading, thinking, and writing skills necessary for academic success through deep engagement with poetry that confronts major issues of our moment, including racism, sexism, disability, and the environment. Supplemental readings will provide cultural and interdisciplinary context for our poetic readings.

### **Magic and the Other**

This course will consider MAGIC and the OTHER in various art forms and history; multiple sources will help create an understanding of their influences. Prerequisite: a full reading of the entire HARRY POTTER series is expected before the semester classes begin. Note: the films are not the same as the books.

### **Connecting Art and Anatomy**

We will examine the connections between anatomy with art across history, cultures and religion. Among the topics explored will include: Greco-Roman interpretation and presentation of the human form, anatomy in the early university, anatomy as seen by Renaissance masters Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, and the human body in religious expression. Students will examine Renaissance art masterpieces within the context of how human dissection conducted at that time influenced these works of art. Students will critically analyze written works related to this topic.

### **Music, Theater, and Social Change**

Because responsible citizenship can be linked to modern forms of social justice as outlined in the common reading *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, this course shall look at how the fine arts of music and theatre speak to social justice issues such as race relations, gender equality, politics of war, and LGBTQ challenges, etc. While music and theatre are often thought of as escapist entertainment from societal issues, this course will examine how music and theatre specifically add to the lexicon of social change and justice through an interdisciplinary approach which will include the social sciences, history, literature, and the visual and performing arts.

### **Drumming = Responsible Citizenship**

What does it mean to have responsible citizenship? What are the benefits and struggles? How are we impacted and inspired by the concept of rhythm in our everyday lives? In this course, we will be exploring these and other questions by viewing and listening to different styles of music through the use of mixed media, and participating in a "hands-on" approach to the world of drumming.

### **Ford vs. Ferrari: Exploring Rivalries in Science and Sports**

We explore famous rivalries in science, technology, and sports that shaped the world we live in today. The course specifically sheds light on the stories behind those rivalries, major achievements or lessons learned, and the qualities demonstrated by the parties involved. In essence, we will be analyzing these famous characters for their qualities in entrepreneurship, innovation, competition, and leadership.

### **Myth and Fairy Tales**

Mighty heroes, cunning villains, magic spells--oh my! What do myths, lore, and fairy tales teach us about society and human nature? What are our more prized and protected modern myths, the stories we tell about ourselves, our nations, and our cultures? In this section of LAS-110, we will practice critical thinking, writing, and reading through a consideration of what myths--modern and ancient--reveal about our prejudices, our beliefs, and our identities.

### **The 3-M's: Music, Mindfulness, and Motivation**

This course focuses on the integration of the 3-M's: music, mindfulness, and motivation within the liberal arts curriculum. Students examine the 3-M's as an individual and as a part of the Central College community. Being musical means learning new ways music intersects one's life and living life through a musical lens. Through mindfulness, one can engage in a renewed sense of awareness and acceptance. Motivation is the key factor to many outcomes throughout life. Realizing one's motivational qualities incorporates a new understanding to further inquiry. The course challenges one's thought processes, invites innovation, and exploration in order to become involved in the life of Central College.

### **"Be the Change"**

"Be the Change ... You Wish to See in the World." These words, attributed to Gandhi, describe people from history and people from now, people from nearby and people from around the world, people of faith and people with little faith—all who will help us think about the possibility of changing the world for the better, and help us think about who we might be as agents of change.

### **How to Solve a Crisis: Role-Playing the Past to Solve the Present**

What if we could revisit the past and gain knowledge and experience that would help us shed light on the challenges we face in our modern world? This Intersections class does just that!

**Here's how:** twice during the semester, we will leave the 21st century for 2-3 weeks at a time, take on the roles of key historical figures, and then actively participate in "making history" by dealing with the very same issues faced by those who lived at the time.

**Here's why:** think about the conflict, crisis, and complex problems we see and read about daily from around the globe. We can be sure that humans who came before us have also faced conflict, crisis, and complex problems and it makes sense to learn what we can from the past as we work to tackle our own problems today.

### **The Intersection Between Science and Society**

This course seeks to understand how scientific advances can shape culture and how culture and human values have shaped scientific pursuit. The course will examine how and who generates scientific knowledge and how science and technology affect society and social change. Some topics that will be covered are women and minority representation in science, pseudoscience and the nature of science, sustainability, and the role of science in social change. The course will develop critical thinking skills and the tools to act ethically in a world of continuous scientific innovation and change.

### **Engaging Poverty**

Many of my Intersections students over the years have chosen poverty as the theme of their civic engagement projects. Poverty seems an appropriate focus for my section this fall because the pandemic has impoverished countless people throughout the world.

### **Problematic Plays**

This course will critically examine issues of social justice, discrimination, and inequality and how they appear in dramatic literature. Exploring themes of racism, sexism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, rape culture, and ableism in works of dramatic literature, students will read a series of plays and musicals in which these are represented, discuss them, and write analysis papers.

### **Eidos**

*Eidos*, translated as "form" from Greek, has various meanings in academic contexts. For Plato this word just meant "idea", Aristotle used the word to mean that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts; modern use of the word is seen in anthropology to mean logical interests shared by a culture and in other contexts has been used as a placeholder to mean "science". This course will cover a broad range of topics, or ideas, that relate to science, human nature, and/or society and objectively analyze the basic parts as well as the idea as a whole. Critical and evidence-based analysis of readings and writing of assignments will be the primary mode of assessment. Some examples of topics include artificial intelligence, emergent behavior, the concept of nature, and the meaning of life; also students choose topics in the latter portion of the semester.

### **Why is Healthcare in the U.S. So Complicated?**

America's healthcare system is notoriously convoluted: from insurance plans with pages and pages of information to medical bills that could bankrupt anyone at a moment's notice, every detail is seemingly designed to maximize confusion. In this class, we will discuss basic elements of the healthcare industry in the U.S., with the hope that students will be less intimidated by a system they ultimately have to utilize at some point in their lives. We will also compare and contrast the U.S. healthcare system with other systems around the world and discuss some current problems and solutions in healthcare services.