Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities

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Courses

Visit online course listings to view semester offerings for

L93 IPH 150 First-Year Seminar: Topics in Interdisciplinary Inquiry

L93 IPH 200C Sanity and Madness in Literature from Ancient Greece to the Renaissance
We will consider explicit and implicit models of mental life, motivation, and action in works by authors studied in 201C. We will investigate how concepts related to madness are formulated and regulated in these literary texts and in the societies that produce them, and we will read scholarship from the 19th through 21st centuries that has debated the scale and scope of irrationality in ancient, medieval, and early modern cultures.
Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: HUM BU: BA, HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 201A Puzzles and Revolutions: Text and Traditions
One major force in human history has been inquiry into the natural world. Especially after 1500, natural science, by virtue of its role in the development of technology and the improvement of health, has brought about great changes on all scales of human existence, first in Western Europe and then globally. In this course, the changing character of inquiry into the natural world, from antiquity forward, will be the object of study. Does natural science enable us, for example, to study nature as it is in itself, or are culturally-determined perspectives or frameworks inescapable? How is it that natural science has, especially since 1800, proved so useful in the development of technology? How has it impinged on the arts? The requirements will include writing several short papers and brief responses to the readings.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 201B The Great Economists: Text and Traditions
Examination of the great economic thinkers, the problems they sought to solve, the historically-conditioned assumptions that they bring to their work, and the moral issues they raise. The class will read from the works of Adam Smith, Ricardo, Malthus, Marx, Veblen, Keynes, Schumpeter, Galbraith, and others as well as commentary from Heilbronner. These readings will be paired with selected texts on the social and moral issues of their times.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 201C Classical to Renaissance Literature: Text and Traditions
Students enrolled in this course engage in close and sustained reading of a set of texts that are indispensable for an understanding of the European literary tradition, texts that continue to offer invaluable insights into humanity and the world around us. Homer’s Iliad is the foundation of our class. We then go on to trace ways in which later poets and dramatists engage the work of predecessors who inspire and challenge them. Readings move from translations of Greek, Latin and Italian, to poetry and drama composed in English. In addition to Homer, we will read works of Sappho, a Greek tragedian, Plato, Vergil, Ovid, Petrarch, and Shakespeare.
Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 203C Early Political Thought: Text and Traditions
A selected survey of the political and moral thought of Europe from the rise of Athenian democracy to the Renaissance, with emphasis on analysis and discussion of writers such as Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, Castiglione, and Machiavelli. The course aims to introduce students to basic texts in the intellectual history of Western Europe, understood both as products of a particular time and place and as self-contained arguments that strive to instruct and persuade. The texts are simultaneously used to chart the careers of such fundamental notions as liberty, virtue, and justice.
Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 207C Modern Political Thought: Text and Traditions
What is power? Why are societies divided along lines of race, class, and gender? When did politics become split between the right and the left? Can religion be reconciled with the demands of modern life? Can democracy? These are some of the questions that will be addressed in this survey of modern political thought. Thinkers covered will include Thomas Hobbes, Immanuel Kant, Karl Marx, W.E.B. Du Bois, Hannah Arendt, and Michel Foucault.
Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L93 IPH 209 Scriptures and Cultural Traditions: Text & Traditions
When we think of the word “scripture” in antiquity, we might think of the texts that have been compiled in the different holy books that we currently have today. Yet the function of “scriptures” within a community, and the status given to different texts treated as “scriptural,” has changed in different times and places. In this course, we will consider texts that would eventually come to be part of the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and the Qu’ran as well as several of the exegetes and reading communities that shaped their various interpretations. We will explore how non-canonical sources played a role in the formation of the various canons we have today, comparing the authoritative status given to these texts to that given to other works from antiquity, such as the epics of Homer. Special attention will be played to the role of the receiving community in the development of “scripture,” and the variety of the contexts in which scripture can function in the construction of and opposition to religious authority.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L93 IPH 211A Digital Humanities: Information Representation, Analysis and Modeling
It is a truism that computers have changed our lives, the way we think, but in fact systematic efforts to apply current technologies to the thinking about history and culture have been rare. This course enables students to consider how these technologies might transform the humanities. Students explore the various ways that ideas and data in the humanities can be represented, analyzed, and communicated.
Topics include forms of information, modeling and simulation, geospatial (GIS) and temporal representations of data, and ways of creating and using audio and visual information. Readings and classwork are supplemented by small assigned digital projects culminating in a project chosen by the students themselves. Students should be comfortable with using the internet and a word processor. No other special computing skills are required.

Credit 3 units.

L93 IPH 260 From Literature to Opera

Much operatic repertoire is based on classics of literature, from the very first operas of 1598-1600 to the present day. From Literature to Opera will introduce students to the world of opera through a close study of a few select works based on major literary subjects, beginning with the literary works themselves and proceeding to the ways the texts are adapted for the musical stage and then transformed into another genre through their dramatic musical settings. For 2018 the works studied will be Virgil’s and Ovid’s versions of the Orpheus myth set to music by Claudio Monteverdi in 1607 as one of the earliest operas. Next we will move on to Carlo Goldoni’s play, Don Juan, which was composed by Mozart as Don Giovanni in 1787. Shakespeare will be represented by the ultimate tragedy of words, Othello, and Giuseppe Verdi’s Othello of 1887. The course will conclude with Claude Debussy’s Péllicas et Mélisande of 1902, based on Maurice Maeterlinck’s 1892 symbolist play of the same name. No previous musical experience required. The class will be conducted as a seminar focused on student participation. Each student will also choose an opera based on a literary work as the subject of two 10-page papers. The first, due at midterm, will study the literary source and the way it is adapted as an operatic text (libretto). The second, due at the end of finals week, will analyze how the libretto is dramatized through the music. One of the important purposes of class discussion will be to develop a usable vocabulary for describing music and its dramatic effects.


L93 IPH 299 Research Internship in the Humanities

Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L93 IPH 301 Sophomore Research Tutorial

A practical introduction to research in the humanities. Students develop and complete a project in a research area of possible long-term interest.

Credit 2 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 3050 Literary Modernities in Europe and America: Text and Traditions

The course examines the various facets of modernity in major works of European, Eurasian, and, sometimes, American literature from the early 17th century to the 1920s, starting with “Don Quixote.” We will explore, among other things, the eruption of the novel, the secularization of society at large. Readings and classwork will be supplemented by class presentations and a small assigned group project.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 307 Ampersand: Literary Modernities in East Asia: The Interplay of Tradition, Modernity, & Empire: Text & Tradition

This course will explore the complex forces at work in the emergence of modern East Asia through a selection of literary texts spanning fiction, poetry, and personal narrative. Our readings — by Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Taiwanese writers and poets — will point to the distinctively different and dramatically-shifting circumstances of modern East Asian nations and peoples, as well as to their shared values and aspirations.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS EN: H

L93 IPH 310 The Intellectual History of Sex and Gender: Text and Traditions

When did sexuality begin? Is it safe to assume that gender constructions are universal and timeless? In this course, we will engage with a broad range of readings that serve as primary texts in the history of sexuality and gender. Our aims are threefold: (1) to analyze the literary evidence we have for sexuality and gender identity in Western culture; (2) to survey modern scholarly approaches to those same texts; and (3) to consider the ways in which these modern theoretical frameworks have become the most recent set of primary texts on sexuality and gender.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SC, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: BA EN: H

L93 IPH 312 Introduction to Digital Humanities

It is a truism that computers have changed our lives and the way we think and interact. But in fact systematic efforts to apply current technologies to the study of history and culture have been rare. This course will enable students to consider how these technologies might transform the humanities. We will explore the various ways in which ideas and data in the humanities can be represented, analyzed and communicated. We will also reflect on how the expansion of information technology has transformed and is continuing to transform the humanities, both with regard to their role in the university and in society at large. Readings and classwork will be supplemented by class presentations and a small assigned group project.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 3123 Introduction to Digital Humanities

It is a truism that computers have changed our lives and the way we think and interact. But in fact systematic efforts to apply current technologies to the study of history and culture have been rare. This course will enable students to consider how these technologies might transform the humanities. We will explore the various ways in which ideas and data in the humanities can be represented, analyzed, and communicated. We will also reflect on how the expansion of information technology has transformed and is continuing to transform the humanities, both with regard to their role in the university and in society at large. Readings and classwork will be supplemented by class presentations and a small assigned group project.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 315 Independent Study in the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities

Credit 3 units.

L93 IPH 3191 The European Avant-Garde: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities, 20th Century

The first half of the 20th century witnessed the emergence of artistic movements characterized by revolt against tradition, emphasis on radical experimentation and redefinition of the artwork. This course familiarizes students with the avant-garde’s main currents: Italian Futurism, English Vorticism, Russian Constructivism, “stateless” Dadaism and French Surrealism. We ask ourselves how to define the
avant-garde, how it is related to modernity and whether its aesthetic is necessarily political. Texts include *Futurist Manifestos*, Cendrars’ *Trans-Siberian Prose*, Stein’s *Tender Buttons*, Breton’s *Nadia*. We also examine artworks such as Duchamp’s “Large Glass” and films such as Buñuel’s *Un Chien Andalou*.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 3311 Laughter from Joubert to Bataille: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities

In this course we will trace a tradition of writing on laughter. While we will read texts that might explain laughter by way of comedy or humor, we will be interested in laughter itself. What does the body in laughter look like? How does laughter sound? Where, when and how does laughter happen? What is laughter’s relation to language, to song, to thought? What kind of communities does laughter form? We will read texts by Joubert, Erasmus, Hobbes, Descartes, Chesterfield, Kant, Bergson, Freud, Bataille, Sarrate, and Ellison. We will listen to music like Louis Armstrong’s “Laughin’ Louie” and we will watch films like *Laughing Gas*, *The Man Who Laughs* and *A Question of Silence*.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 3587 From Genghis Khan to the Taliban: War and Peace in Central Asia

From romantic invocations of the Silk Road and isolated nomads to medieval barbarisms of the Taliban, Western media and popular culture often portray Central Asia as a region out of step with time. However, Central Asia has long been a center for culture, innovation, and political power, and it has a history that is hard to reconcile with popular images of a place stuck in the past. This course, which is intended for advanced undergraduate and graduate students, traces the transformation of Central Asia from Genghis Khan’s 13th-century conquests to the present, covering the territories of former Soviet Central Asia, Western China (Xinjiang), and Afghanistan. Although the course covers nearly 1000 years, the primary emphasis is on the imperial schemes and transformations of the past 300 years. All readings will be in English, and no prior knowledge in Central Asian history is expected or required.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L93 IPH 3951 Shakespeare’s Sonnets: Framing the Sequence

We will begin by exploring ways of reading a small number of individual sonnets, proceeding thereafter to think about patterns of meaning in language and image across broader groupings and the sequence as a whole. We will investigate the influence of earlier sonnet tradition, especially Petrarch’s sonnets, and the relationship of the poems to modes of sexuality and selfhood. Finally, we will ask how some of Shakespeare’s most creative readers — including Wilde, Booth, and Vender — have responded to the challenges of the sonnets. Students will work on writing their own commentary on a group of poems.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L93 IPH 399 Internship in Digital Humanities

A practicum in digital humanities. Students will work on one or more faculty research projects sponsored by the Humanities Digital Workshop. While we will try to assign students to projects that align with their research interests, we will also aim for assignments that will help students extend their skills. Credit variable, maximum 6 units.

L93 IPH 401 IPH Thesis Prospectus Workshop

Students assist each other in developing viable thesis topics, compiling bibliographies, and preparing research plans. Students give formal and informal oral presentations of their proposed topics. Prospectuses and, if possible, drafts of first chapters are peer-edited.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI: EN: H
L93 IPH 403 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Credit 3 units.

L93 IPH 405 Theory and Methods in the Humanities
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 4052 Citizenship: Historical, Cross-Cultural, and Interdisciplinary Perspectives
Although some have posited that citizenship may become obsolete in an increasingly globalizing and interconnected world, citizenship has never been more relevant. Discussions of migration, statelessness, naturalization policies, borders, and so many other contemporary topics hinge on questions of citizenship. In this course, we will be taking an interdisciplinary approach to the study of citizenship, drawing on a wide range of work from historians, social scientists, journalists, and writers. This is an interdisciplinary and transnational course intended for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. Examples will draw from around the world and from a variety of disciplines. Assigned materials include the work of historians, anthropologists, political scientists, sociologists, and journalists as well as novels, films, and audio and visual sources. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: BA EN: H

L93 IPH 4111 Pastoral Literature: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities, Antiquity
This course will open with a survey of the classical tradition in pastoral/bucolic. We will consider questions of genre, intertextuality and ideology, and we will ask how “the lives and loves of herders” became favored ground for literary meditation on issues of surface and depth, reality and illusion, artifice and sincerity. This portion will involve intensive reading in translation of Theocritus, Vergil and Longus. In the second half of the semester, we will consider the survival, adaptation and deformation of ancient pastoral themes, forms and modes of thought in British and American writing from the 19th and 20th centuries. We will read works of Mark Twain, Kenneth Grahame, Thomas Hardy and Tom Stoppard. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L93 IPH 4171 Roman Remains: Traces of Classical Rome in Modern British Literature
This course will examine the use of the Roman textual and material inheritance in poets, novelists and critics of the late 19th and 20th centuries working in Britain, and will ask how modernity addresses the claims of the classical tradition. We will place Thomas Hardy’s Poems of 1912-13 next to Vergil’s Aeneid, then survey Hardy’s relationship to the visible remains of Rome and the people it conquered — roads, barns, forts — in the landscape of Dorset. After examining the representation of the Celtic hill-fort in fiction, and the legacy of Vergilian representations of the countryside in poetry, we will consider representations of Rome in light of modern imperialism (Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness and Ezra Pound’s “Homage to Sextus Propertius”) and examine the place of Vergil in T. S. Eliot’s critical and poetic practice. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 425 Humanities by the Numbers: Essential Readings in Digital Humanities
To what extent can computational techniques that draw on statistical patterns and quantitation assist us in literary analysis? Over the semester, we juxtapose the close reading of historical documents or literary works with the “distant reading” of a large corpus of historical data or literary texts. We ask how the typically “human” scale of reading that lets us respond to literary texts can be captured on the “inhuman” and massive scales at which computers can count, quantify and categorize texts. While this class introduces students to basic statistical and computational techniques, no prior experience with technology is required. Prerequisites: two 200-level or one 300-level course in literature or history. This is a topics-type course and the specific documents and works examined vary from semester to semester. Consult semester course listings for current offerings. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 426 Imagining the City: Crime and Commerce in Early Modern London
The astonishing demographic and economic growth of early modern London, and the rapid increase in spatial and social mobility that accompanied this growth seemed to harbingers, in the eyes of many contemporaries, a society in crisis and perhaps on the brink of collapse. As increasing numbers of vagrants or masterless men flocked to the metropolis and a growing number of people — apprentices, domestic labor, street vendors, etc. — lived on the fringes of legitimacy and at risk of lapsing into vagrancy, policing early modern London provided unique challenges for authorities. At the same time, the very notion of the social — a shared space of kinship and community — could often seem to be under threat as an emerging market and a burgeoning commodity culture reshaped the traditional underpinnings of social and economic transactions. Yet, late Tudor and early Stuart London remained by far England’s most prosperous metropolis, its primary market, home to a burgeoning print culture and nourishing theater and emerged, eventually, as the epicenter of a global economy. This course considers the topographic, social and institutional configuration of early modern London and the ways in which these were reimagined and negotiated in the literature of the period. Drawing on the drama of the period and a wide array of pamphlet literature, we discuss how civic institutions handled the growing influx of the poor and adapted to the increasing power of an emerging bourgeoisie who asserted themselves in unprecedented ways. In addition we consider secondary sources ranging from maps, theories of urban space and social and economic historiography as well as digital archives and computational techniques that allow us to “scale up” our thinking about early modern London to a vast corpus of texts and documents. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 427 Technology and Feminist Practice: Gender Violence Prevention Tools
How can we best use technology, and the tools and insights of the Digital Humanities in particular, to promote effective approaches to addressing gender-based violence? What are the most effective ways to bridge the innovations of the research university with the everyday work of practitioners seeking to prevent violence or intervene in its aftermath? What are the ethics involved in constructing tools for public and professional use? Which interests should govern the choices in content, design and dissemination of information? This course will introduce students to the strategies and challenges of devising technological tools for violence prevention for use beyond the classroom. Class readings and discussions will be supplemented by hands-on project work with Washington University’s Gender Violence Database and lab sessions that focus on skill-building in digital project construction. Prerequisite: For undergraduate students, L77 393 01 or previous work experience with the Gender Violence Database. Graduate students by permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, SC, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: BA, ETH EN: H

L93 IPH 430 Data Manipulation for the Humanities
The course will present basic data modeling concepts and will focus on their application to data clean-up and organization (text markup, Excel and SQL). Aiming to give humanities students the tools they will need to assemble and manage large data sets relevant to their research, the course will teach fundamental skills in programming relevant to
data management (using Python); it will also teach database design and querying (SQL); the course will cover the difference between word processing files, plain text files, and structured XML; best practices for version control and software "hygiene"; methods for cleaning up data; regular expressions (and similar tools built into most word processors). It will proceed to data modeling: lists (Excel, Python); identifiers/keys and values (Excel, Python, SQL); tables/relations (SQL and/or data frames); joins (problem in Excel, solution in SQL or data frames); hierarchies (problem in SQL/databases, solution in XML); and network graph structures (nodes and edges in CSV). It will entail basic scripting in Python, concentrating on using scripts to get data from the web, and the mastery of string handling.

Credit 1 unit. EN: H

L93 IPH 431 Statistics for Humanities Scholars: Data Science for the Humanities
A survey of statistical ideas and principles. The course will expose students to tools and techniques useful for quantitative research in the humanities, many of which will be addressed more extensively in other courses: tools for text-processing and information extraction, natural language processing techniques, clustering & classification, and graphics. The course will consider how to use qualitative data and media as input for modeling and will address the use of statistics and data visualization in academic and public discourse. By the end of the course, students should be able to evaluate statistical arguments and visualizations in the humanities with appropriate appreciation and skepticism. Details. Core topics include: sampling, experimentation, chance phenomena, distributions, exploration of data, measures of central tendency and variability, and methods of statistical testing and inference. In the early weeks, students will develop some facility in the use of Excel; thereafter, students will learn how to use Python or R for statistical analyses.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, AN EN: H

L93 IPH 432 Programming for Text Analysis
This course will introduce basic programming and text-analysis techniques to humanities students. Beginning with an introduction to programming using the Python programming language, the course will discuss the core concepts required for working with text corpora. We will cover the basics of acquiring data from the web, string manipulation, regular expressions, and the use of programming libraries for text analysis. Later in the course, students will be introduced to larger text corpora. They will learn to calculate simple corpus statistics as well as techniques such as tokenization, chunking, extraction of thematically significant words, stylometrics and authorship attribution. We will end with a brief survey of more advanced text-classification terminology and topics from natural language processing such as stemming, lemmatization, named-entity recognition, and part-of-speech tagging.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Arch: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 435 Practicum in Digital Humanities: Enslavement in St. Louis
This is a variable topics course, and content will change from semester to semester.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 440 The Ethics, Politics, and Law of Big Data
This course will explore the phenomenon of "big data"—the use of very large datasets that make new predictive algorithms and other advanced data analytics possible—and provide students with an opportunity to think critically about the applications of new information technologies and to develop an awareness of their ethical and political context. We will begin by addressing the philosophical question of what, if anything, is special about big data—what makes today's digital data ecosystems different from the ways in which scholars, governments,
L93 IPH 498 The Spenser Lab
This course involves graduate and undergraduate students in the ongoing work of the Spenser Project, an inter-institutional effort to produce a traditional print edition of the Complete Works of Edmund Spenser. Same as L14 E Lit 498
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 498W The Spenser Lab
In this Writing Intensive course, the students will be given a variety of writing tasks: writing commentaries, introductions, software manuals, grant proposals, software requirements, and design documents (SRDDs).
Same as L14 E Lit 498W
Credit 4 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI EN: H