Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities

Courses

Visit online course listings to view semester offerings for L93 IPH (https://courses.wustl.edu/CourseInfo.aspx?sch=L&dept=L93&crsId=1-4).

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 Heilbroner. 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 203A 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 203C Early 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 207C Modern Political Thought: Text and 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 paid 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 an opposition to religious authority.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L93 IPH 209 Scriptures and Cultural Traditions: Text & Traditions
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 Oteello of 1887. The course will conclude with Claude Debussy's Pélèas et Mélisande of 1902, based on Maurice Maeterlinck's 1892 symbolism 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 autobiography, the literary discovery of the city, and the rise of literary and aesthetic criticism that takes literature and art seriously as political and social institutions. In addition to literary works, the course will engage with two or three important models of critical practice (e.g., Wollstonecraft's "Vindication of the Rights of Women"; Marx's "German Ideology"; Freud's "The Interpretation of Dreams"; Eliot's "Tradition and the Individual Talent"; or perhaps that great work of fictionalized literary criticism, Borges' "3 Pedro Munoz revolving around the Quixote").
Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: HUM, LCD 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 313 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 319 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
specific models of human reasoning. We will consider these questions raised about the relationship between specific technologies and will examine the changing meanings and significance of intelligence, and society. The course title has a deliberate double meaning; it is to understand and represent the intersections of minds, machines, central to politics, economics, and daily life. This course uses the modern church designs to modernist paintings and motion pictures. virtualization — from ancient cave painting, medieval icons and early systems of truth, enlightenment and scientific progress; and the images to words and stories; the implication of sight in competing religious and ideological uses and abuses of vision; the relation of have seen their own seeing and have encoded this seeing in different light on how people at different moments have understood vision, In this interdisciplinary course, we explore this long history of vision Laughing Gas like Louis Armstrong's “Laughin' Louie” and we will watch films like Bergson, Freud, Bataille, Sarraute, and Ellison. We will listen to music and Traditions

L93 IPH 320 The Intellectual History of Race and Ethnicity: Text and Traditions This course is designed to introduce students to a wide range of historical ideas, contexts, and texts that have shaped our understandings of race and ethnicity. We will examine the ways in which our definitions and categories of race and ethnicity have helped us to construct (and continuously reinvent) our sense of who counts as human, what counts as human behavior, the possibilities of artistic expression, the terms of political engagement, and our critical and analytical frameworks. Students should be prepared to do quite a bit of reading of some very challenging yet rewarding texts.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM: HUM

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: HUM

L93 IPH 3322 Visual Culture In this interdisciplinary course, we explore this long history of vision and visual representation from antiquity to the present so as to shed light on how people at different moments have understood vision, have seen their own seeing and have encoded this seeing in different artifacts and media. More specifically, we explore the role of the visual in the historical production of subjectivity and collectivity; the political, religious and ideological uses and abuses of vision; the relation of images to words and stories; the implication of sight in competing systems of truth, enlightenment and scientific progress; and the function of seeing within different media of art, entertainment and virtualization — from ancient cave painting, medieval icons and early modern church designs to modernist paintings and motion pictures.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM: HUM

L93 IPH 3451 Histories of Intelligence: Topics in Science and Society The use of data, computing, and quantitative methods has become central to politics, economics, and daily life. This course uses the concept of "intelligence" to survey the history of technoscientific efforts to understand and represent the intersections of minds, machines, and society. The course title has a deliberate double meaning; it is about both the people who seek to study and measure humans and their knowledge capacities as well as the knowledge or information that is increasingly collected, measured, and automated by machines. Organized topically and chronologically, this discussion-based seminar will examine the changing meanings and significance of intelligence, their impact on politics and social organization, and the questions raised about the relationship between specific technologies and specific models of human reasoning. We will consider these questions from diverse perspectives, including race, gender, class, ability, and materiality from the 19th century to the present. Topics covered include histories of artificial intelligence, racial dynamics, mercantocracy, informational labor, state secrecy, and the self as data.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM: HUM

L93 IPH 3473 Race, Rights, and Humanity in European History This course explores discourses of human rights as natural rights in Europe from the Enlightenment to the present. While Europe — and particularly France — has been quick to declare itself the birthplace of human rights, a closer look reveals a broad continuum of conceptions of political, social, and economic rights. The course functions as a kind of survey of Modern European history, touching on the Age of Revolutions, the rise of European overseas empires, international anti-slavery movements, totalitarianism, and postwar development. It focuses on how political, social, and economic rights have always been articulated incompletely, to the benefit of some and to the detriment of others.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD: HUM: HUM: BU: HUM

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.


L93 IPH 3591 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.


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: H
and massive scales at which computers can count, quantify and that lets us respond to literary texts can be captured on the “inhuman” data. We ask how the typically “human” scale of reading literary works with the “distant reading” of a large corpus of historical...
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, and businesses have used data and statistics for centuries. We will then examine questions about the ethics, politics, and law of contemporary information technology. Topics will include the moral philosophy of privacy; the theoretical foundations of American and European privacy law pertaining to big data; the ethics of using predictive algorithms in criminal sentencing and marketing; the ethical considerations that bear on academic research using “big data”; and differences and similarities between the ways in which computer code (“West Coast Code”) and laws (“East Coast Code”) regulate conduct. Readings will include excerpts from Ian Hacking’s “The Taming of Chance”; Safiya Umoja Noble’s “Algorithms of Oppression”; Cathy O’Neil’s “Weapons of Math Destruction”; Evgeny Morozov’s “To Save Everything, Click Here”; and Frank Pasquale’s “The Black Box Society.” Assignments for the course will include both academic papers and practical exercises, such as drafting a mock privacy policy for a tech company accumulating large quantities of personal data about its consumers.

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