UCR STS Initiative Events

July 1st Edition (4)

Event Summary:

As a follow-up to a meeting with Office of Undergraduate Education (OUE) Dean Louie Rodriguez, Tuesday, June 20 Yolanda Moses and Linda Jean Hall launched a collaborative discussion about R'Course development with Jennifer Kavetsky (Writing Center Coordinator), and Gladis Herrera-Berkowitz (Director, Student Engagement). The event was a beginning dialogue about R'Course design and goals that brought to the forefront various ways that the STS Initiative can play a key role in the expansion of OUE projects across interdisciplinary silos. Also, Jennifer and Gladis emphasized an interest in increasing faculty participation and supporting existing practicum projects emphasizing capitol internships, mini-research grants, and public service scholarships. **A list of STS-Related R'Courses already approved by OUE is a part of this newsletter**.

The OUE administrators suggested the expansion of discussions that lead to faculty advancement in ways that correspond directly to the prime STS areas of focus, the interdisciplinary construction of knowledge in conjunction with practicum and transdisciplinary research activities. Moving forward, Gladis and Jennifer opened the door to work with faculty to create multifaceted relationships with OUE to achieve tenured objectives and enhance individual research activities.

In support of the upcoming Initiative's Fall Kickoff, OUE representatives will be present to launch the 2023-2024 faculty cross-discipline series of classroom and organization visits and presentations. The participation of OUE representatives represents a tremendous opportunity to build on their experiences developing curricula across disciplines exploring an area of shared interest, Artificial Intelligence.

Faculty can obtain more information about R'Course and OUE grant opportunities by contacting Jennifer Kavetsky: jennifer.kavetsky@ucr.edu or Gladis Herrera-Berkowitz: gladis@ucr.edu , Website: https://ue.ucr.edu/

Submitted by: Linda Jean Hall, June 27, 2023

UCR STS Initiative Contributor: Yolanda Moses

Event Registration Link:
https://members.4sonline.org/members/evr/eventreg_login.php?mid=1747532999&evid=38818953&md=&

Fostering interdisciplinary and engaged scholarship in social studies of science, technology, and medicine across the globe.

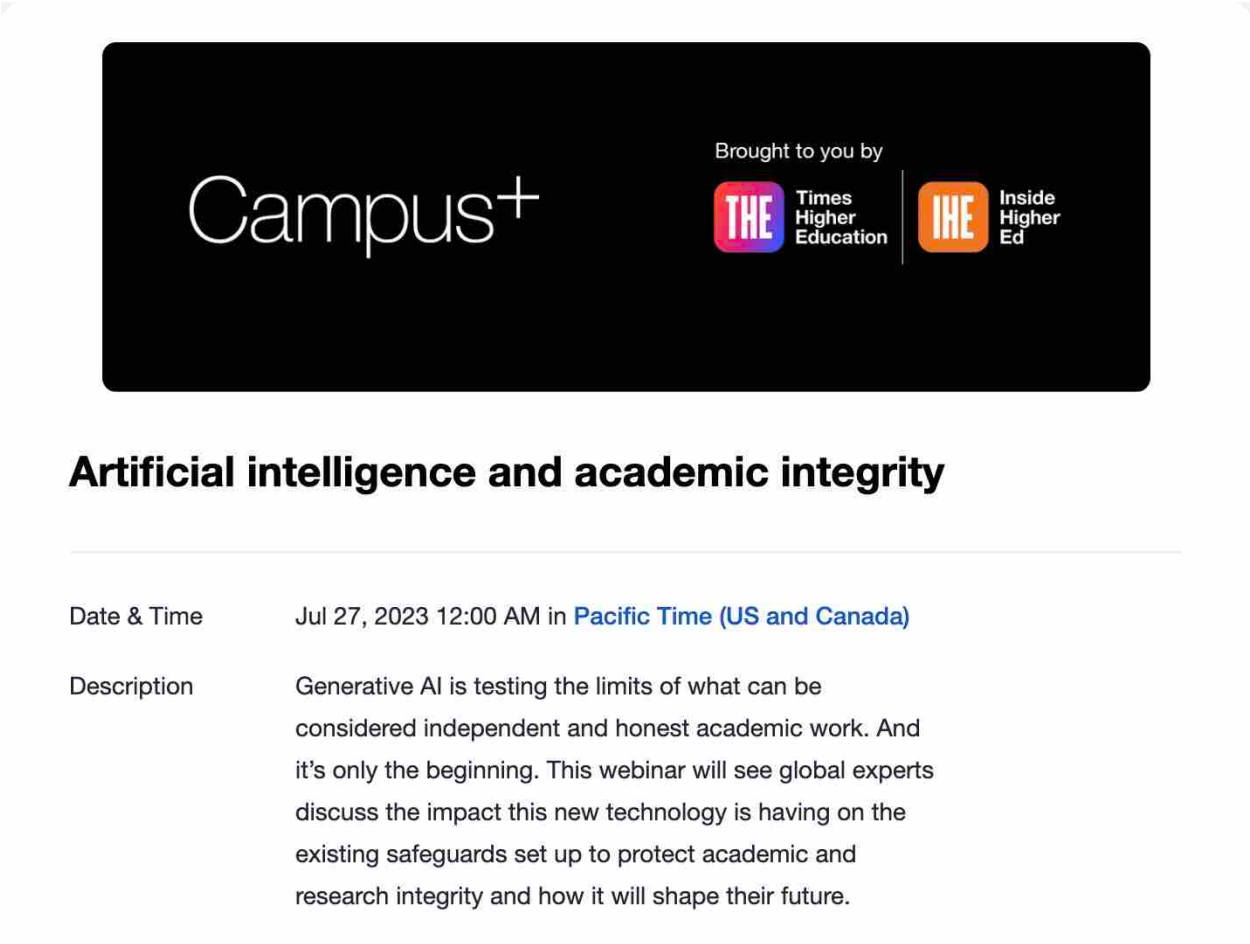
Registration is now open for the 4S 2023 meeting. Early registration closes July 14th. If you are part of the conference program, please use the presenter registration, and if not, please wait until the non-presenter registration opens. Fees are organized around categories of fully employed and students/precariously employed/financially insecure, and then by region for equity purposes. Please use your own discretion on selecting this rate.

Fees are differentiated for members and non-members. Payment must be made by credit card, and transactions are in US dollars.

Please select your registration package type (based on your professional status) and the appropriate status and region (X or Y) to arrive at your fee. If you are in the program in any role or have participated in 4S in the last five years, you probably already have an account. If you are unsure, try recovering a password.

UCR STS Initiative Contributor: Linda Jean Hall

International Webinar



Registration Page:
https://timeshighereducation.zoom.us/webinar/register/4216875211617/WN_2fWtjS7LSM6CsdZYZ-GIFw#/registration

UCR's STS-Related R'Courses
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Course Descriptions

- BIEN 190: From Neural Networks to Deep Learning
- BIEN 190: Introduction to Microfluidic Instrumentation
- BPSC 190: GMOs: Discerning Fact from Fiction
- BUS 190: Natural Language Processing Tools for Personal, Creative, and Academic Use
- BUS 198: A Technical and Nontechnical Introduction and Application of Tableau
- CS 190: Python Programming Language
- EDUC 198: HIV and Public Health
- EDUC 198: Public Health Principles and Implementations in Riverside County and the Inland Empire
- EE 190: PCB: Design and Manufacturing
- ENGL 190: Blade Runner & Other Alternate Futures: The Science-Fiction of Philip K. Dick
- GBST 190: Humanitarian Medicine and Innovation
- GEO 190: Dinosaurs: The Mesozoic Titans

- LING 198: Constructed Languages
- LING 198: Emoji Use and Interpretation
- ME 190: Introduction to MATLAB and Programming Logic
- MSC 198: eSports: A Rising Industry
- MCS 198: Internet Literacy Through Cultural Moments and Media
- NASC 198: The Art of Problem Solving: From Basics to Putnam
- NASC 198: Behind the Exhibits: Curation of Specimens in Natural History Collections
- NASC 198: Emerging Cancer Treatments in the 21st Century
- NASC 198: Introduction to Birding
- NASC 198: Ketoacidosis, the Keto Diet, & Implications of the American Healthcare System
- NASC 198: An R^2 course: Unlocking the basics of coding in R
- NASC 198: Science Behind Skin Care
- NASC 198: Science of You: Skin, Hair, and Teeth
- NASC 198: Sports Science
- NASC 198: Stem Cells
- PHIL 198: Know Hope for the Future: The Spirit of Logic
- PHIL 198: What Games Do: Play, Agency, and You
- POSC 190: International Relations as a Function of Spaceflight
- POSC 190: The Future of War
- PSYC 198: Media and the Mind: A Deep Dive on Mental Health Through Media (
- PSYC 198: Micro-expressions; Glimpses of the Truth or Not?
- PSYC 190: Pathways to Longevity
- PSYC 198: A Psychological Perspective into the Popular World of Social Media
- PSYC 190: Psychology of Studying
- PSYC 198: Public Health Response to Stigmatized Diseases: HIV/AIDS, HPV, and Monkeypox

Course Descriptions

BIEN 190: From Neural Networks to Deep Learning (Spring 2017)
Neural networks and their derivatives in deep learning find applications in all fields ranging from data science to bioinformatics. Uses of this technology included self-driving cars and the latest in internet security technology. This class presents a hands on dive in to the world of neural networks and deep learning. This class is targeted towards the general population; the goal is to provide a small taste of neural networks and how they operate. In this class we will start with the history of neural network. Then we will create our own sigmoidal neural network capable of classifying the MNIST numbers database. Lastly we will dive in to convolution neural networks, which are the foundations of deep learning. The majority of the programming in this course will be accomplished with Python and Numpy, which reduces the barrier of entry to this field.

BIEN 190: Introduction to Microfluidic Instrumentation (Spring 2015)

BPSC 190: GMOs: Discerning Fact from Fiction (Spring 2017)
As the world's population rises and the climate changes, demand for more sustainable food sources are increasing. Consequently, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are being developed to make agricultural production more efficient. Even though some GMOs have been commercially available for more than a decade, the production and consumption of GMOs is still controversial. In this course students will learn the mechanisms of genetic engineering and understand how GMOs can benefit agricultural production. Additionally, students will explore the regulatory processes, ethical considerations, and current use of GMOs.

BUS 190: Natural Language Processing Tools for Personal, Creative, and Academic Use (tentative, Winter 2024)

BUS 198: A Technical and Nontechnical Introduction and Application of Tableau (Fall 2020, Spring 2020)

Tableau is a popular analytical tool that allows users to make sense of data in a user-friendly manner. As a student in this course, you will learn the fundamentals of data visualization and analytics in various applications such as marketing, operations, management, healthcare, psychology, and more. To give students a better understanding of how Tableau can be utilized, weeks 1-5 will be spent discussing the fundamentals of data and Tableau while weeks 6-10 will be used to explore different themes of data that show various applications as discussed above. Themes of data will show the different applications of Tableau in different industries and that some data sets may offer multiple perspectives to a data set. The themes of data will be determined after the instructor has collected information on their student's majors and interests. The instructor's goal is to allow students to confidently apply Tableau's analytical and visualization tools to draw accurate conclusions in industries and fields outside of the students' areas of study.

CS 190: Python Programming Language (Winter 2018)
Python is a programming language that is applicable to anyone independent of their field of study. It is intended for those interested in learning how to program, looking for a way to improve their workflow, and as a breadth for CSE majors. The first 2 weeks will go over use cases and basics of Python. The remaining 8 weeks will be broken up into 4 2 week mini projects covering: visualizations (matplotlib, plotly), websites/web apps (Flask), embedded systems (Raspberry Pi with LEDs and motors), and machine learning (Tensorflow/Keras).

EDUC 198: HIV and Public Health (Winter 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021)
Did you know that people of all genders and sexual orientations are at risk of contracting HIV? Globally, nearly half of all HIV infections are among women! The purpose of this course is to learn about the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) epidemic, with an emphasis on how COVID-19 affects the HIV community. This course will go in-depth about the history of HIV, the stigma behind it, the treatment for it, and the social determinants of health in the HIV community. We will explore the social, medical, and political correlations and consequences of the HIV epidemic through in-class discussions, academic readings, guest lectures, and various student activities. Through this course, students will be able to utilize the knowledge gained in this course to educate others, correct common myths, and make a difference in their local

communities.

EDUC 198: Public Health Principles and Implementations in Riverside County and the Inland Empire (Spring 2023, Winter 2023, Fall 2023)
Public health has always been a very important topic of discussion in multiple occupations and areas of discipline. Nowadays, with the surge of COVID-19 (caused by SARS-CoV-2), public health has never been a more critical topic of discussion. In this R'Course, together, we will explore the definition and the applications of public health, focusing particularly on Inland Empire and Riverside County demographics. The focus will be on social determinants of health and understanding how they impact underserved and vulnerable populations in our community. We will also explore the multidimensionality of health disparities as well as their implications on our healthcare system. Students will do this through the provided resources along with doing their own research on a particular topic of their choice.

EE 190: PCB: Design and Manufacturing (Winter 2016, Spring 2015)
The Printed Circuit Board (PCB) Design and Manufacturing course introduces students to the Electronic Design Automation (EDA) software CadSoft EAGLE, and covers the development of schematics, board layout, bill of materials (BOM), and small batch manufacturing of PCBs.

ENGL 190: Blade Runner and Other Alternate Futures: The Science-Fiction of Philip K. Dick (Fall 2016, Spring 2016)
Are you intrigued by the alternate futures depicted in films like A Scanner Darkly, Blade Runner, or The Adjustment Bureau? This discussion-based community will delve into the fiction of Philip K. Dick and select film adaptations of his work. Students will read works including The Man in the High Castle, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, and A Scanner Darkly and examine their themes, influences, and roles in both science-fiction and American literature. The reading will be supplemented by viewing film adaptations of Dick's works. Philip K. Dick is an author with a vast and diverse catalogue of works that remains both a riveting and relevant read in today's world.

GBST 190: Humanitarian Medicine and Innovation (Spring 2020)
Welcome to Humanitarian Medicine and Innovation! This course will examine how different innovations and technologies are used to improve healthcare outcomes in humanitarian crises and disasters. Students will be looking at issues associated with the current humanitarian aid response, including disparities in healthcare services and medical treatment. After going over these issues, we will look at how different innovations and technologies can be implemented to improve health outcomes for conflict victims. Students will learn the process associated with creating such devices, as well as analyze real-world applications of such novel technology. Examples of areas of innovation that will be analyzed are infectious diseases, surgical care and prosthetics, wearable technology, and telemedicine (and much more!).

GEO 190: Dinosaurs: The Mesozoic Titans (Winter 2016)
This course introduces students to the evolution, anatomy and physiology of dinosaurs with discussions on other animal groups in the Mesozoic Era using the fossil record. The other

important groups of animals that will be discussed are mammals, marine reptiles and flying reptiles. An introduction into the rise and evolution of true birds will be discussed as well. The course will introduce Mesozoic extinction events including the famous K-T Mass Extinction. We will note differences between Hollywood dinosaurs and true dinosaurs by comparing "Jurassic World" to peer reviewed anatomical descriptions.

LING 198: Constructed Languages (Spring 2020, Spring 2018, Winter 2018)
Constructed Languages have become a big part of science Fiction culture and those who partake in it. Many of those languages have more meaning than to be an alien form of communication. Writers and creators of these languages often subscribe to Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, that states an individual's thoughts are determined by the language or the languages that individuals speak, in order to create depth and complex story. The purpose of this is to introduce the Sapir- Whorf Hypothesis) Linguistic Determinism and relativity), its impact in the field of linguistics and much more in depth, its role in constructed languages (ConLangs) and their respective universes. Students will learn to apply differentiating views of linguistics determinism and relativity (LDR) to multiple ConLangs throughout fictional media. Also in this course, students will develop their own ConLangs (Phonetically, Morphologically, Syntactically, etc.) in hopes that students will gain a stronger understanding of cultural relativity in the real world.

LING 198: Emoji Use and Interpretation (Spring 2017)
This course explores virtual language and communication that use emoji via text message and social media. In particular, this course applies sociolinguistic theories to the use and interpretation of emoji by students in the UCR community. Students of this course will focus on the intersections of language, meaning, society and culture to investigate emoji use and interpretation based on race, gender, culture, bilingual status, and more.

ME 190: Introduction to MATLAB and Programming Logic (Spring 2017)
Welcome to the world of MATLAB! In this course, you will learn the basics of MATLAB, develop programming skills, and apply your knowledge to solving real life problems. Unlike traditional courses, the focus is on the program's applications, from manipulation of large data sets to designing entire projects. The course will delve into case studies and explore the creative assimilation of engineering techniques to design programs that will be useful in research or industry. In other words, you will learn the basics of MATLAB, but we will also combine these techniques to develop image processing algorithms, 3-D plotting techniques, and simulations. At the end of this course, you will feel confident in applying the techniques learned to internships, research, or undergraduate classes. We have designed this class to be suited both for beginners with no programming experience and for those who wish to brush up or review their MATLAB skills.

MCS 198: eSports: A Rising Industry (Winter 2020, Fall 2019)
This course is specifically designed to people who have little to no knowledge about electronic sports, or eSports, which at its core, is competitive video gaming. Unlike traditional sports, eSports is not as recognized by the western population (North America and Europe) as much as the rest of the world. There are multiple reasons for this, including eSports gamers not generally being labeled as athletes, the rich culture behind traditional sports in the west, and so much more. That said, the or eSports industry has seen exponential growth as a soon-to-be billion-dollar

industry and is increasingly catching the eye of mainstream media. Soon enough, we will be seeing eSports increasingly in our daily lives. Students will learn about the diverse components of eSports, how the industry functions, and how the media and culture of eSports influence mainstream audiences worldwide.

MCS198: Internet Literacy Through Cultural Moments and Media (Spring 2023)
With the rise of the internet, specifically social media, it's more important than ever to know what you're looking at and have critical thinking when it comes to the new normal. This course will be focusing on navigating a variety of social media platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, YouTube etc. In addition to this, we will gain a better understanding of how it affects us as well as how we ourselves are able to have an impact online. Through this deeper understanding of the way we interact with the digital space, we will be able to look at our culture through a new lens. Students will be expected to do this by analyzing scholarly articles discussing the social media phenomenon and applying to their everyday lives. It is expected to complete assignments that will be due each week discussing their own thoughts on the topic provided that class period.

NASC 198: The Art of Problem Solving: From Basics to Putnam (Spring 2019, Spring 2018)
This class covers the basics of problem solving which will progressively get more advanced toward the end of the course. As the students begin to develop their skills and the techniques the subject material and the problem sets will become harder, approaching the level needed to start practice for the famed Putnam Exam. This course will consist of lectures, student and instructor presentations, and sample math competitions. the problem sets will be devised of old competition problems or problems to help students develop their skills. Problem solving techniques will be the focus of the course but will be taught through many different mathematical topics. Topics may be chosen from by not limited to Logic, Game Theory, Number Theory, Methods of Proof, Calculus and Analysis, Algebra Linear Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry, combinatorics and Probability. The material will be approachable to both beginners and more advanced students. Open to all students, not just mathematics majors. No pre-requirements, however, it is recommended to know most high school level math and introductory calculus.

NASC 198: Behind the Exhibits: Curation of Specimens in Natural History Collections (Spring 2020)

A natural history collection is an unfamiliar, and often enigmatic word for the public population. What is a natural history collection? Why do we build collections like these? How is it important? Are they of any use to human society? To answer these questions, this class will introduce the art of specimen curation, the processes, and methodologies in which to properly identify, preserve, and store natural history specimens. The class will collaborate with four natural history collections on the UCR campus: the Citrus Variety Collection, the Herbarium, the Entomology Museum, and the Earth Sciences Museum, to learn and experience the art and science of natural history specimen curation and its role and significance in today's society.

NASC 198: Emerging Cancer Treatments in the 21st Century (tentative, Winter 2024)

NASC 198: Introduction to Birding (Spring 2019, Winter 2019)

This course aims to introduce participants to birding/birdwatching. The class will primarily focus on the identification of birds and their natural history. Outdoor involvement is a large component of the course, as we will be learning the subset of birds found in Riverside and California throughout the year. Optional weekly birdwatching walks will be led by the course facilitator (binoculars provided). By the end of the course participants should be able to greater appreciate and identify local birds.

NASC 198: Ketoacidosis, the Keto Diet, and Implications of the American Healthcare System (Spring 2022, Winter 2022)
Students will learn about the biochemistry behind ketosis and diabetic ketoacidosis. Through this course, students will be able to learn about ketoacidosis, and the various ways it can develop by reading and analyzing research papers and creating their own case studies. In this course, students also have the opportunity to work with UCR Pre-SOMA's Health Disparities Initiative and gain community service credit. Through this program, we reach out to Riverside community high schools and present to students in order to mentor them and allow for a greater understanding of how health disparities impact them and their community and how future change can be created. If you choose to also participate in the HDI program, students taking this NASC 198 course will be able to create brochures of their own based on the case study presentations they create for their final project. All students who are interested in the process of ketosis, diabetic ketoacidosis, and wish to further their skills in reading scientific research papers are welcome in this course.

NASC 198: An R^2 course: Unlocking the basics of coding in R (tentative, Winter 2024)

NASC 198: Science Behind Skin Care (Spring 2019, Winter 2019, Fall 2019)
This course will evaluate the effects of cosmetics on the epidermis. Using basic chemistry and scholarly research, "The Science Behind Skin Care" aims to educate students on different skin care products, their ingredients, and the effects they have on the skin. This course will cater to different skin types to address the difference of needs, individual to each person's epidermis. Within this course, students will also be taught to examine different brands in order to see past the marketing. Essentially, this course aims to teach students to use science and data to become healthy, and more education consumers.

NASC 198: Science of You: Skin, Hair, and Teeth (Spring 2022, Winter 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2023)

Do you struggle with acne, damaged hair, or sensitive teeth? Do you wish you had a better understanding of which products are best suitable for you? In this R'Course, we will be diving into the science and biology behind skin, hair, and teeth. Our students will learn about why such conditions occur, and the chemical purpose and application of certain products. Presenting each lesson with a fundamental scientific and societal point of view, students will be able to engage and apply the material to their everyday lives. The goal of this course is to give real-world practices to the science that many students encounter in their introductory Biology or Chemistry courses. With social media playing such a big role in our daily lives and the definition of beauty constantly evolving, it is important to expand our knowledge in order to better appreciate our unique features.

NASC 198: Sports Science (Spring 2020)
This course is designed to serve as an introductory level overview of basic systems in human Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioengineering taught with application to sports. My idea for the course is to introduce challenging topics in a simplified version to encourage students to pursue STEM fields. In most cases, we will apply our scientific knowledge of the human body to how we perform in sports using structure-function relationships. For instance, when studying biomechanics, we may look at how our muscle structure allows us to shoot a basketball at a specific set of angles.

NASC 198: Stem Cells (Fall 2017)
Advances in stem cell research have been changing the fields of biology, medicine, and ethics. Stem cells have made their way into the media, onto our ballots, and throughout labs around the world. As a result, many misconceptions have arisen in both biological and ethical perspectives. This one-unit R'Course aims to address some common misconceptions about stem cells, without going in depth on cellular and molecular aspects. It will cover topics such as ethical issues, government regulations, media portrayal, restrictions, and limitations surrounding stem cells. We will focus on a variety of different problems that come up as they make their way from labs, to clinics, to us.

PHIL 198: Know Hope for the Future: The Spirit of Logic (Winter 2019)
This course explores the fundamentals of the Theory of Logic to establish a basis of mathematical reasoning in discovering Logical truth, as defined by logical theory mathematically to sustain identity. By utilizing the tools learned, students will assess and apply this knowledge to determine their own identities and core beliefs. Exploring the topic of Hope, we will determine the faith one has in adhering to these beliefs and use the tools learned accompanied by hope to refine our motivation behind self-conception and discover the truth of our identity as it reflects the lives we lead.

PHIL 198: What Games Do: Play, Agency, and You (Spring 2023, Winter 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Winter 2022)

How often do you play games in a normal week? Do you have a favorite game or a game that you just don't like no matter how much other people enjoy it? Games have become a staple of our modern lives; friendships are forged and tested through them, they help us destress from other parts of our lives, and have quickly become one of the fastest-growing sectors of the economy out-earning the movie industry. They influence how we think about, choose, and act towards goals that we might not otherwise consider. But games do more than entertain us. Games reveal something about our own selves and how we go about valuing matters. This R'Course will explore how games are studied, how we are able to experience different agencies through games, how gaming can be used the help us as well as how they can be exploitative and harmful. Along the way, we'll be examining a variety of games including sports, video games, mobile games, and board games. While we will be reading, discussing, and writing about the intricacies of games, we'll also spend time playing a game or two. So, grab your dice and cards and dive into the philosophy of games and agency.

POSC 190: International Relations as a Function of Spaceflight (Winter 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2023)

Students will explore the fascinating world of spaceflight through a political lens. In the 1950's spaceflight emerged as a central component of the Cold War and has remained an important component of international relations. Students will examine and discuss how spaceflight has evolved from a bitterly competitive bilateral conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union, to a more collaborative endeavor, and what the future holds in spaceflight relations. Even through tense times like the recent war in Ukraine, astronauts from all over the world have remained on board the International Space Station.

POSC 190: The Future of War (Winter 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2023)
The world is on fire and there is no water to spare. While American policymakers were distracted in the Middle East, state adversaries have studied the American way of war—and how to counter it. The Future of War aims to educate students on the evolving military tactics and strategies of America, Russia, and China as they compete with each other for dominance. From the undercover Russian soldiers infiltrating Eastern Ukraine to the cat-and-mouse games played by the Chinese navy over the South China Sea, this course will cover the evolution of futuristic military doctrines such as Multi-Domain Operations and Hybrid Warfare. Walk into a world of deceit, cutting-edge technology, and cold, hard political decisions. Learning in this class will be assessed with role-playing exercises that put you in the driver's seat of hypothetical military operations.

PSYC 198: Media and the Mind: A Deep Dive on Mental Health Through Media (tentative, Winter 2024)

PSYC 198: Micro-expressions; Glimpses of the Truth or Not? (Spring 2018)
There can be discrepancy between individuals on how they express emotion. Some individuals are very open about how they are feeling whereas others are very reserved. These differences on how to express ourselves can originate from cultural, socioeconomic status, or personality differences. However, we can never completely hide how we are feeling. To the careful observer, our emotions are constantly being displayed on our face no matter how hard we try to disguise them. These subtle flashes of truth do not differ from one individual to another based upon our background. These micro expressions are universal and can be found on anyone.

PSYC 190: Pathways to Longevity (Spring 2016)
There are common misconceptions in the general population of what makes some people live longer than others. For example, some people believe that if you exercise daily, are happier, take the right pills, or have the right job, you will live longer. This class is about debunking the myths of longevity. This class will teach you about what scientific evidence tells us about how to live a longer, healthier, and more meaningful life. This class will also present you with the famous, decade spanning, award winning Longevity Project, where researchers studied participants from when they were children to when they died. The questions addressed through this research are about the commonalities among the participants that lived the longest, and the commonalities among the participants who had a relatively short life-span. Other components of the course include an introduction to other fields of psychology (e.g. personality psychology) and how they relate to living a healthier life holistically.

PSYC 198: A Psychological Perspective into the Popular World of Social Media (Spring 2021, Winter 2021)

This course reviews social media's effects on our perceptions of reality. Social media is any digital tool that facilitates socialization among users, but how often do we consider the effects of those applications on our interpretation of reality? For example, a picture of an owner and their dog can be negatively viewed as exploitation for "likes" or positively viewed as a simple memory. These contrasting interpretations show that the psychology of the human mind and social media is constantly changing and connected. We will be using interactive methods, such as weekly journals and discussions, to dig into how virtual activity influences our behavior!

PSYC 190: Psychology of Studying (Spring 2017)

We're often given advice and tips to improve our studying. However, we may ask "how well do this work?" or "why does this work?" This class will look at a few of the neurological and cognitive mechanisms involved in studying, and how do certain study habits and skills use those mechanisms.

PSYC198: Public Health Response to Stigmatized Diseases: HIV/AIDS, HPV, and Monkeypox (Spring 2023)

HIV/AIDS emerged in the 1980s to become one of the deadliest global epidemics in history. Despite its catastrophic impact, many public health institutions and political figures were reluctant to provide support to inflicted individuals. Why did these institutions remain silent while so many suffered? Throughout this course, we will cover various topics regarding stigmatized diseases, with emphasis on HIV/AIDS, HPV, and Monkeypox. Discussions will range from the early days of the epidemics to modern times. We will explore historical timelines, stigmas associated, portrayal in the media, treatment, and how to be better prepared for the next epidemic. There will also be discussions about the parallels between the HIV/AIDS narrative and the information being disseminated to the public about Monkeypox. This course will evaluate the social, medical, and political associations of each respective epidemic through in-class discussions, academic readings, films, and various student activities.