

Exploring Education: Academic Sessions

(Students Only)

Academic Session #1

Short Introduction to Medieval Africa

Hedge Hall, Room 208

Mark L. Tizzoni - Associate Professor of Classical and Medieval Studies and History

Medieval Africa represents an important, emerging field within the study of history, but what is it? What does medieval mean? What does it mean for Africa? This class introduces the field and the deep, rich, varied, and yet often overlooked histories of medieval Africa. We will then leverage this introduction to read and discuss both images of medieval artifacts and a short, translated medieval African text.

Academic Session #2

Neuroscience: Medicine's Moral Compass

Pettengill Hall, Room G52

Olivia A. Kim - Assistant Professor of Neuroscience

This course explores how the way we reason shapes the way doctors and biomedical researchers treat people. We will examine the evolving moral obligations we owe to both patients and research participants, moving beyond mere compliance to a deeper understanding of the cognitive and ethical frameworks that we use to protect human dignity.

Academic Session #3

Experience Berlin! Literature, Film, and Urban Landscape

Pettengill Hall, Room 116

Jakub J. Kazecki - Professor of German and European Studies

The class focuses on the German capital, Berlin, one of the largest and most frequently visited cities in Europe. Berlin is a city that changed and reinvented itself several times in the 20th century, reflecting the turbulent history of Europe. By exploring a few examples of text and visual narratives about historical and present Berlin, students will create their own topographies of the city: create mental maps of existing or destroyed buildings, stores, squares, and parks, and confront them with the actual urban landscape. The goal of the class is to experience Berlin's architecture and culture at different times and explore the concept of city as a palimpsest, a multilayered area in which people interact with past times through literature and visual arts.

Academic Session #4

Environmental Economics: Externalities in the Apparel Industry

Pettengill Hall, Room G65

Amanda R. Lindsay - Assistant Professor of Economics

In this class, we will discuss the foundation for economic models of externalities. We will review what an externality is, and how we modify basic economic models to explore their implications. We will apply these lessons to a case study of the apparel industry.



Academic Session #5

Science Communication

Hedge Hall, Room 106

Andrew Mountcastle - Associate Professor of Biology

The ability to effectively communicate science research to non-experts encourages sound public policy, and is an essential skill for those interested in pursuing a career in science, journalism, or government. In this course, students will critically evaluate primary literature in the biological sciences, and explore various methods for communicating science research to public audiences through project-based learning exercises, including science journalism articles and creative media productions. Students will become familiar with the scientific method of inquiry, and examine how narratives and storytelling can be more effective for public engagement and comprehension of science than the information deficit model.

Academic Session #6

Mountains and Modernity

Pettengill Hall, Room G50

Raluca Cernahoschi - Associate Professor of German and European Studies

Once regarded as impenetrable barriers dividing Europe, the Alps and Carpathian Mountains were transformed into international meeting places with the arrival of mass tourism in the late nineteenth century. The sample class examines the role ascribed to the Alps and Carpathians at a pivotal time in European history, when the demise of empires and rising nationalism, but also new ideas about class, gender, ethnicity, and race, fundamentally restructured dynamics of power on the continent.

Academic Session #7

Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa

Pettengill Hall, Room 162

Seulgie Lim - Assistant Professor of Politics

Despite the large number of countries with different histories and cultures comprising the region, sub-Saharan Africa is often too simplified as a place of civil wars, ethnic violence, corruption, and poverty. This sample class delves into key historical and contemporary issues in sub-Saharan Africa, including colonization, state formation, democracy, civil society, and religion.
