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Online Study Groups

Adirondack History 4 cr with Kate Dermody 8 week
spaces avail ***CLOSED*** Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully

** Online Study Group **

This study will examine the history of the Adirondacks through the lens of a critical paradox: how can humans preserve our natural beauty while allowing public access to these places? The study will first investigate the pull factors and industries of the Adirondacks and the effects on the conservation movements. Students will read William H.H. Murray's writings and explore historical promotional images of the Adirondacks. This class will first investigate the pull factors and industries of the Adirondacks, and the effects on the conservation movements. Murray, as well as other writers wrote of the beauty, solitude and intimacy of the nature and Adirondacks. We will examine these writings, to explore how and why this "tourist propaganda" facilitated in the creation of the "American Vacation." In our study we will examine the lure of simplicity and the illusion of "roughing it" in the Adirondacks. We will read William H.H. Murray's writings, and explore historical promotional images of the Adirondacks. The study will explore the future of conservation and the Adirondacks.

American History From 1865 to Present Day 4 cr with Kate Dermody 8 week
spaces avail ***CLOSED*** Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully

** Online Study Group **

We will carefully examine our American culture and what makes us precisely unique. We will connect themes, ideas and main concepts that weave our diverse American tapestry. Specifically, the study will look at the American dream and how these goals are still relevant today. We will intensively investigate the Industrial Revolution in the United States during the 1880's and connect to the Information Revolution of the 2000's. Will the United States always be innovators? Where is our future going? The goals of this study are to connect the past and future and examine American History through a critical lens.

Building a Civil Society in the Middle East 1 cr with Efrat Levy 8 week
spaces avail ***CLOSED*** Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Other World Civilizations - partially

** Online Study Group **

This one credit component is a requirement for anyone registering for the other studies offered as part of this field experience. Students will participate in an introductory online module, which will include general topics as well as preparatory work for the specific courses they are enrolled in. General topics to be covered will include: the historical background and current initiatives in building a civil society in the Middle East; the framework of non-governmental organizations in the Middle East; new initiatives in social entrepreneurship, the basics of non-profit management. Online modules after the field experience will be tailored to the specific topics of their courses.

College Writing for CVPH Students 4 cr with Anastasia Pratt 8 week
spaces avail ***CLOSED*** Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Basic Communications - fully

** Online Study Group **

In this study, we will consider the qualities of good writing through reading a variety of works that focus on business and/or community and human services. As we read, we will write our own essays, using the writing process and our reflections to become more effective and more compelling. We will focus on rhetorical strategies that may be used a variety of settings. This study is only for students of the Radiologic Technology Program offered in conjunction with the University of Vermont Health Networks CVPH School of Radiologic Technology.

Criminal Justice on Film 4 cr with Cynthia Bates 8 week
spaces avail **10** Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Humanities - fully
The Arts - fully

**** Online Study Group ****

In this online study group, students will consider how films contribute to social constructions and understandings of criminals, victims, and criminal justice as a whole. Students will think critically about how films can shape our social and personal perceptions. You will look specifically at stereotypes of criminals, victims, police, attorneys, judges and others depicted in films while also considering examples of films where stereotypes are overturned. Part of this investigation will include looking at film techniques and conventions related to various film genres. In essence, this study teaches students how to “read” films and how to consider the ways in which films shape our social and personal perceptions while looking specifically at the subject of criminal justice. Please note that students can take this study for either the Humanities Gen Ed OR the Arts Gen Ed. You may not take it for both Gen Eds.

Exploring Gender Roles in Children's Animated Films 4 cr with Cynthia Bates 8 week

spaces avail 1 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully
Humanities - fully

**** Online Study Group ****

This study engages students in a meaningful exploration of gender roles in animated films for young children. Through the perspectives of gender studies, child development studies, and film studies, students will analyze a range of popular films aimed at young audiences such as Frozen, The Lorax, the Tinkerbell movies (Great Fairy Rescue, Lost Treasure, etc.), Mulan, Hercules, 101 Dalmatians, Pocahontas, The Lion King, Cinderella, and more. What do these films teach our children about gender roles? Why does Disney focus so much time and money on “princesses” and “fairies”? Why do so many children’s films depict the death of one or both parents, and what are children learning from such stories? Strong-willed characters such as Tinkerbell and Princess Anna (Frozen) provide positive messages to our young kids (girls and boys alike!) about personality, gender, resilience, and ethics. But the physical portrayal of these characters continues to provide a “Barbie-like” physical image where the size of one’s waist and the “classic” design of one’s hair is emphasized. Even Hercules is portrayed first by a slender, under-developed physical appearance only to later develop into a classically sculpted muscular physique. How can we help our youngsters interpret positive qualities from these films while teaching them to critically interpret the physical imagery and gender roles? Students in this study will learn techniques for analyzing films and for understanding how audiences make meaning from what they perceive on the screen. This study meets the following Arts AOS Guidelines: • knowledge of relevant theoretical and philosophical issues

From Page to Stage: Bringing Plays to Life 4 cr with Cynthia Bates 8 week

spaces avail 14 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully
Humanities - fully

**** Online Study Group ****

How is a play lifted from the page and brought to life on the stage? In this study, you will learn techniques for reading plays and imaging how those plays could be staged. How do plot structure, characterization, language, design elements and stage directions work together to create a blueprint for the play? How do directors, dramaturgs, designers, actors and producers work together to bring the script alive on stage? As you read plays, you will imagine how they might be staged. As you watch videos and/or live performances of some plays read for class, you will analyze the artistic choices made in those productions. Through this experience, you will gain the tools necessary to read scripts as blueprints for live performance while you also hone your own skills as a critical, creative and informed audience member. NOTE: Students may take this study for either the Arts Gen Ed or the Humanities Gen Ed, but not for both.

Genocide: A Global Perspective 4 cr with Kate Dermody 8 week

spaces avail *CLOSED* Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Western Civilization - fully
Other World Civilizations - fully

**** Online Study Group ****

This study will examine the concept of genocide as it is defined by the UN charter. We will investigate the climate building up to each global genocide and patterns that emerge in all parts of the world. We will read and analyze primary documents and answer the questions: What constitutes genocide? How do these events occur? How and why do ordinary citizens participate? Who is to blame and who should be held accountable? Most importantly, how can we prevent genocide? We will study: the Holocaust, Genocide in Rwanda, Cambodia, Famine – Genocide of Ukraine

History of Women in America 4 cr with Kate Dermody 8 week

spaces avail *CLOSED* Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully

** Online Study Group **

This study will carefully examine the history of women in America. We will study women through the colonial period to modern day in the United States. We will examine the roles of women, and how that role has evolved, changed or stayed the same throughout our history. As a class, we will connect themes, ideas and main concepts of women's history and women's studies. We will look at individuals as well as events that shaped women's history. Students will explore the history of women in the United States through listening, reading and viewing. Students will be required to analyze primary documents, music and videos from the different historical periods and connect to the modern times. We will also analyze current day women's issues from today's "mom" to what influences our younger women.

Introduction to Spoken Arabic 3 cr with Efrat Levy 8 week

spaces avail *CLOSED* Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Foreign Language - fully

** Online Study Group **

This is part of the field experience "Building a Civil Society" in the Middle East, and registration for and participation in that is a co-requisite. This study will be offered at the introductory level. Using an experiential approach to language learning, this study will incorporate cultural content, various media (films, poetry etc.) and advanced technology. Students will be able to gain basic reading and writing skills in Classical Arabic (reading and writing). The emphasis will be on gaining spoken skills in Arabic language spoken in the Levant. Classroom learning will be complemented by field trips in the surrounding area. Students will continue learning after the field experience through an on-line Arabic language program.

Leadership for a Sustainable Democracy in the Middle East 3 cr with Efrat Levy 8 week

spaces avail *CLOSED* Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Other World Civilizations - fully

** Online Study Group **

This is part of the field experience "Building a Civil Society in the Middle East" and registration for, and participation in that is a co-requisite. This course will present prominent models in current leadership scholarship that strive to strengthen democratic values and communities' resilience through participatory action. The course will present various models of democratic ruling, highlighting the values and elaborating on the practices of deliberative, participatory-democracy. Students will apply these models in discussing the need for and ways to support civil societies in the Middle East. Students will consider multiple perspectives on leadership and how those perspectives also contribute to an understanding of leadership that is consistent with theories and practices of conflict resolution and management. Students will also develop and articulate their own profile of leadership as related to conflict resolution and management.

Mad Men, Mad Women: History of Women in the 1960s 4 cr with Kate Dermody 8 week

spaces avail *CLOSED* Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully

** Online Study Group **

This blended study will examine the history of women in the 1960s using the visual narrative of AMC's Emmy Award-winning show, Mad Men. The backdrop – a fictional Madison Avenue advertising firm in March 1960 – on its surface seems to be a story of the "mad men". Yet, a central focus of the show is the evolution of women's lives in this dynamic period of American History. As a class, we will examine the transformation of the lives of the Mad Men women from 1960 to 1970. As we look at the history as portrayed by the show, we will examine the corresponding historical primary sources from the 1960s. We will examine the lives of the characters to uncover how it tells the story of the 1960s. As we do so, it will be our job to expose, discover and make the connections between past and present and to understand why the 1960s was a turning point for many women. We will study the challenges and cultural shifts that occurred during this time period. We will look at the changing identities of these women and how they paved the way to greater equality for American women, and how these goals are still relevant today. As a class, we will examine the lives of places, events, and people. This study will examine many themes of women's history. Some of these themes include: Women in postwar America, "the problem with no name", women's changing landscape in the workplace and the home, the sexual revolution, and the rise of feminism.

Photography as a Bridge Between Cultures 3 cr with Efrat Levy 8 week

spaces avail *CLOSED* Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully

** Online Study Group **

This is part of the field experience "Building a Civil Society in the Middle East" and registration for, and participation in that is a co-requisite. In addition to gaining individualized photography skills, this study will engage students in learning how art can be used as a way to learn about other cultures, as the means through which to "recognize the other." Photography lessons will be complemented by projects including visits to Arab and Jewish communities. Students will also be exposed to the work of curating museum exhibits in a gallery with a social mission.

Revel, Riot & Rebellion: Popular Culture in the Western World 1500-1800 4 cr with Gerald Lorentz 8 week
spaces avail 15 Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Western Civilization - fully

** Online Study Group **

This study examines western history from the ground up during the period running roughly from the Protestant Reformation through the French Revolution. It focuses on the everyday experience of average men and women in western society through discussion and analysis of popular culture, society, politics, religion, protest, medicine, and economics. The common people in this period experienced and shaped both great events -- war, famine, religious upheavals, witch hysteria, scientific and political revolutions, explorations and exploitation of 'new worlds' -- and the everyday life of western civilization. Understanding the historical experience of the common person provides a rich understanding of the development of western civilization.

Rock & Roll History 4 cr with Kate Dermody 8 week
spaces avail *CLOSED* Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully
The Arts - fully

** Online Study Group **

We will carefully examine American culture through the lens of Rock and Roll. We will examine Rock and Roll as a part of culture and how it changed perceptions and norms. We will look at what makes rock and roll precisely unique. We will connect themes, ideas and main concepts that weave our diverse American tapestry. Specifically, this study will examine Rock and Roll and revolution and how these ideas are still relevant today. As a class we will examine the lives of places, events, and people, it will be your job to find your own sense of historical belonging. Why should we care about Rock and Roll? Students will explore the History of Rock and Roll in the United States through listening, reading and viewing. Students will be required to analyze primary documents, music and videos from different time periods and connect the historical themes.

Sex, History & Art 4 cr with Anthony Anadio 8 week
spaces avail 6 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Western Civilization - fully
The Arts - fully

** Online Study Group **

Perhaps one of the most controversial topics in history, sex is as much a necessity for survival as is food, clothing, and shelter, and we can all say we are here because of it. Discussions and depictions of sex can be both taboo and tolerable at the same time with unpredictable swings of opinion throughout time. As part of the biological and cultural evolution of humanity, it is more than mere procreation. Sex is a powerful force in the development of religion, politics, and art. It has played a role in warfare, moral and legal codes, and sometimes it just drives us crazy. Beginning with a bit of pre-history, we will follow-up with the Greeks and continue through the Renaissance as we examine the symbolism and narratives of sex across a range of topics that include: sexuality, homosexuality, bestiality, incest, rape, prostitution, gender roles, love, and marriage. This study fully meets two Gen Ed requirements: Western Civilization and The Arts.

The Hudson River & its Valley: A Highway of Ideas & Commerce 4 cr with Anthony Anadio 8 week
spaces avail 14 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully
American History - fully

** Online Study Group **

In his search for the imagined Northwest Passage to China, Henry Hudson sailed up the river that now bears his name. The immense wealth that would have followed from such a discovery was an irresistible lure for intrepid explorers and European nations. Realizing that he could navigate no further than present-day Albany, Hudson turned back, but over the next four centuries, immense wealth has steadily flowed from the waterway that the Indians called "Muh-he-kun-ne-tuk" (river that flows two ways). We will look at the River and its valley from a multitude of perspectives as we examine its role in the development of the original colonies, transportation, commerce, warfare, literature, the art of the Hudson River School, environmental concerns, and American Identity. Additionally, we will consider the notion of local history. In that context, even though the River is in the eastern part of New York State, the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 stretched its influence across the state. Few things have transformed a state so completely, and in this study, we will explore the many connections between culture and history.

Writing for Caregivers 2 cr with Elaine Handley 8 week
spaces avail *CLOSED* Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Basic Communications - partially

**** Online Study Group ****

Most of us are caregivers at some point in our lives and many of us are professional caregivers. Research shows that caring for a loved one on a regular basis produces stress, illness, and a higher frequency of death. Even with professional training, caregiving is challenging and can lead to burn-out. It has been well documented that being able to articulate your experience through writing can provide coping ability and perspective. Based on the work of psychologists Dr. James Pennebaker, Dr. Kristen Neff, and Dr. Christopher Germer, this course will use mindfulness, self-compassion and especially writing as tools to process, support, and articulate our caregiving experience, while coming to a deeper understanding of the caretaker role.

Albany Study Groups

Tuesdays

Understanding & Managing Stress 4 cr with Cathy Davison 8 week

spaces avail 12 Adv./Liberal

Latham Room 424 Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm 5/15/18, 5/29/18, 6/12/18, 6/26/18

According to Hans Selye, father of stress research, "It is not stress that kills us, it is our reaction to it." In this study, students will learn the definition of stress, key sources of stress, effects of stress on health, and strategies to prevent and cope with stress. Students will explore the consequences of stress on individuals and in social environments such as families, workplaces, and communities. Students will apply their knowledge in a series of practical exercises designed to cope with stressors in modern life. This study group will meet 4 times. Students will read from assigned texts, write short daily reflections, complete four written assignments, and create a final project. This course is designed to address the following degree plan guidelines: Community and Human Services: knowledge of human behavior

Thursdays

Quantitative Reasoning 4 cr with Amy Salvati 15 week

spaces avail 15 Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Mathematics - fully

Latham Room 444 Thursdays 5:30pm-7:30pm 5/17/18, 5/31/18, 6/14/18, 6/28/18, 7/12/18, 7/26/18, 8/9/18

This study will develop the student's ability to interpret and reason with information that involves mathematical ideas and numbers. As students explore issues that directly affect their lives, they will gain an appreciation of mathematics and its importance in a technological world. Topics include statistical reasoning, financial management, mathematical modeling, probability, and geometry. Prerequisite: None

Meeting dates/times/locations not yet published

Painting Outdoors: Summer Landscape for Beginners 4 cr with Marta Jaremko 8 week

spaces avail 10 Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully

*** Meeting dates/time/location not yet determined ***

The emphasis of this study is on learning technique and fundamental watercolor painting skills while developing a basic understanding of composition. Progress in this study depends on completing all assignments and on weekly critiques of each student's individual work. Therefore, it is essential that work be turned in on a weekly basis. Painting students learn so much from having their work critiqued, as well as from critiquing others' work. There will be short weekly critiques with students' participation at the end of each session.

Special Topics in Human Services 4 cr with Joseph Yogtiba 8 week

spaces avail 15 Intro and Adv./Non-Liberal

*** Meeting dates/time/location not yet determined ***

In this study, students will have the opportunity to explore a specific topic within the broad scholarship of Human Services. This study gives the student and instructor the opportunity to develop a learning experience to enhance the degree program by focusing on a specialized area of interest (e.g., a response to current events, new technique). They will learn to categorize and connect distinct disciplinary fields to the selected topic in order to delineate and analyze its key issues and concerns. Also, students will learn to apply multidisciplinary approaches, theories, and methods to critically evaluate a key issue or concern in the selected topic. The course meets the CHS AOS Guidelines of Knowledge of human behavior, Knowledge of service delivery, and Diversity Skills

Schenectady Study Groups

Meeting dates/times/locations not yet published

Chant Down Babylon: Religion & Politics in Bob Marley's Lyrics 4 cr with Nadine Wedderburn 8 week

spaces avail 15

Adv./Liberal

fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Humanities - fully

*** Meeting dates/time/location not yet determined ***

The purpose of this study is to examine certain views of religion and politics as expressed by legendary reggae artist, Bob Marley, through the lens of the cultural, socioeconomic and political influences that shaped and informed his life and work. The study will enhance students' literary analytical skills by exploring the lyrical genius of Bob Marley that relays the realities of a certain time, place and cultural experience.