

MALS

Winter 2010

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

□ *MALS 127: Independent Study* & □ *MALS 137: Thesis Research*, are offered every term. Enrollment is determined based upon completion of prerequisites, and committee approval. Please see student handbook or Departmental Administrator for further details.

MALS 206

The Craft and Culture of Journalism (Creative Writing)

Instructor: Christopher Wren, *MALS*

Schedule:

Description:

The logic and fundamentals of newsgathering for the 21st century, what makes news and why it matters. The distinction between reporting, analysis and opinion, and ethical dilemmas confronting journalists.

Students will be expected to write weekly, experimenting with different forms of journalism as they follow and analyze media coverage of a selected news event or topic, and hone skills applicable to other non-fiction and fiction writing.

This course, taught by a former New York Times foreign correspondent and editor, will incorporate developing events around the world such as...

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MALS 245

Non Fiction: The Personal Essay (Creative Writing)

Instructor:
Barbara Kreiger, *MALS*

Schedule:

Description:

This course on the so-called personal essay concentrates, not surprisingly, on a highly individual point of view. The essay may include both narration and reflection, but it is generally limited in scope and focuses on a single impression or idea. Attention will be devoted to the complex, often ambiguous, nature of experience, and the use of reflection in making even the smallest observations memorable.

We will emphasize the short form, though length is not built into the definition, and those who want to explore the longer essay will have an opportunity to do so.

Class time will be devoted to both student and published work, the latter intended to offer a variety of approaches and goals.

Text: The Art of the Personal Essay, ed. Phillip Lopate

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MALS 274
Globalization and Gender
(*Globalization Studies*)

Instructor: Evelyn Gick, *Economics*

Schedule:

Description:

It is the goal of this course to look at globalization issues from the uncommon perspective of gender. We will see how women all over the world are breaking down the traditional roles of their womanhood and are a powerful voice in defining political realities and human rights. Topics of this course will embrace the peculiar situation of women's work all over the world in the global economy, while focusing on environmental, health, and violence issues that women face in this world.

Globalization is more than just economic interdependence; it is cultural, social, political and ecological as well. Globalization changes life and lifestyle of people all over the globe. Of course, this is not a new phenomenon since globalization has its roots in imperialism which shaped social and political structures of colonized countries. Contemporary issues on globalization should therefore be analyzed in the light of its history: patriarchal structures imposed by colonial masters formed the pattern of how women's treatment in the workplace and in society alike. It is the goal of this course to look at globalization issues from the uncommon perspective of gender. We will see how women all over the world are breaking down the traditional roles of their womanhood and are a powerful voice in defining political realities and human rights. Topics of this course will embrace the peculiar situation of women's work all over the world in the global economy, while focusing on environmental, health, and violence issues that women face in this world.

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MALS 362

The Politics of Psychoanalysis

(Interdisciplinary, Cultural Studies)

Instructor: Klaus Mladek, *German Studies*

George Edmondson, *English*

Schedule:

Description:

This course will explore a profound provocation, that of psychoanalysis to ethics and politics. Particularly nowadays in times of war, terror and fear where the state of exception has become normal, the concern with a psychoanalytic politics is all the more pressing. From the discovery of the unconscious in the early writings of Freud onwards, theologians, philosophers and social scientists up to today have sensed that talking about the “good,” “love” and “community” will never be the same. The human psyche is suffused with the drives for destruction and aggression whose effects for political thinking have not yet been accounted for. The unfulfillable biblical command “Love thy neighbor” thus thrusts the subject into an ethical dilemma rather than resulting in moral resolve and edification. As Lacan insists, politics cannot be conceived of as a question of the good and the useful, but rather how to confront one’s desire. Aristotle’s hope that the just life and the equilibrium of the spiritual faculties will be beneficial for communal bonding in the *polis* overlooks the basic forces of human morality. Psychoanalysis is unequivocal about one claim: the unconscious is not in pursuit of balance or happiness as contemporary ego-psychology with its ideas about health and wholeness wants us to believe. Neither can the goal of a “harmonious community” (Taylor), the liberalist ideas about “equality” (Dworkin, Rawls) or “procedural rationality” (Habermas) do justice to the psychic and linguistic complexity of ethics and the political in our times. The central goal of this course is to mark a contrast between the psychoanalytic exploration of fundamental ethical and political concepts and central premises in the tradition of political philosophy.

A careful reading of Freud’s *Totem and Taboo*, *The Ego and the Id* as well as selected chapters from Lacan’s *The Ethics of Psychoanalysis*, Žižek’s *The Ticklish Subject* and Badiou’s *Ethics: An Essay on the Understanding of Evil* will lead the course towards an ethical and political perspective that reflects upon the ethical and political forces beyond the pleasure principle and fathoms the impact of desire and aggression. Excerpts from selected treatises by Aristotle, St. Paul, Kant, Rawls and Habermas will accompany the readings and elucidate all the more starkly the new ethical and political impulse of psychoanalysis. The course will also include selected movies by Buñuel, Lang and Hitchcock, not only in order to illuminate crucial insights by Freud and Lacan (repetition compulsion, psychosis, death drive), but also to explore the eruptions of the political unconscious on screen.