

Fall 2017-2018 Catalyst Course Descriptions

Catalyst 210 – Intercultural Competence

M W F 11:15AM – 12:25PM

R 1:05PM – 1:55PM

CTL 210.01: Pickers & Artists: Culture in Antiques and Art

Professor Clark

Four credits

This class will examine how groups of people have been culturally represented in antiques, collectibles, art, and design. Topics to be addressed include: (1) how groups, such as American Indians, African Americans, “Hillbillies,” Women, Arabs and/or Muslims, Latinx, and others have been represented in collectibles and antiques, as well as art and design; (2) how cultural representations have been used to stereotype group members and reinforce power differences; (3) how these representations have been used for cultural appropriation; and (4) how groups reclaim representations of themselves. Professor Clark’s section will emphasize these issues from a sociological perspective. The class will meet jointly with Professor Oblinger’s section on a regular basis.

CTL 210.02: Pickers & Artists: Culture in Antiques and Art

Professor Oblinger

Four credits

This class will examine how groups of people have been culturally represented in antiques, collectibles, art, and design. Topics to be addressed include: (1) how groups, such as American Indians, African Americans, “Hillbillies,” Women, Arabs and/or Muslims, Latinx, and others have been represented in collectibles and antiques, as well as art and design; (2) how cultural representations have been used to stereotype group members and reinforce power differences; (3) how these representations have been used for cultural appropriation; and (4) how groups reclaim representations of themselves. Professor Oblinger’s section will emphasize these issues from the view point of the artist and the public. The class will meet jointly with Professor Clark’s section on a regular basis.

CTL 210.03: My House is Your House: Understanding Hispanic Cultures

Professor Reed

Four credits

How can we define the cultural and ethnic heritage of someone who speaks Spanish? What do race labels such as Spanish, Latino, Hispano, Mestizo, Chicano, Nuyorican and Americano really mean? Are Spanish speakers white, black, brown, Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and/or something else? This course provides an overview of the origins and evolution of Spanish-speaking cultures by examining many of the forces that helped shape them. Students will explore the histories, cultural products and belief systems of Spanish speakers from around the world to develop understanding of and appreciation for the rich diversity of Hispanophone cultures. Topics such as colonization, immigration, stereotyping, adaptation and integration will also be addressed throughout the term. Taught in English.

CTL 210.04: American Others: Understandings and Impasses in the New World

Professor Guevarra-Geer

Four credits

In this course, we will look at how the peoples of the New World—especially the Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans—have come together uneasily to meet, meld, and make this New World. We’ll examine movies, stories, and music and—as we let communities speak for themselves through these media—we’ll learn how to listen despite significant differences. We will trace differing values and identities, loosely and with care. We will proceed with a hopeful eye on compassionate outcomes, considering how to realize ideal understandings, and how cultures like ours emerge when things go...otherwise.

CTL 210.05: All because of Globalization: The Imperative of Intercultural literacy

Professor Some

Four credits

The rapid globalization of the world has forced upon us the necessity to communicate efficiently across cultures. The goal of this course is to increase our sensitivity to other cultures, an awareness of our own, and our understanding of how communication differs across cultures. The challenges born out of intercultural interactions and about how to mitigate them will also be explored. In this course, we will take a look at intercultural communication with the increasing globalization of the world. Globalization may be defined in several ways. Whether it is defined through economic, financial, political, or technological lenses, intercultural communication is a crucial attribute of an increasingly interdependent world. Together, we will explore these questions: What is the role of intercultural communication in the context of globalization? How do we become competent in intercultural communication? Why is it that through intercultural communication some nations come to terms with crisis on the one hand? On the other, why can’t other nations solve their differences through dialog?

CTL 210.06: Intercultural Perspectives on World Cinema

Professors Katahira

Four credits

This introduction to and overview of world cinema approaches films as a source of information and understanding of the diverse peoples and cultures of today’s world, especially as they increasingly interact to create a new, global culture. Through the practice of film criticism, students explore the culture, beliefs, and traditions of other people around the world, while reflecting on their own cultural identities. In this regard, the course raises – and answers – the following questions, among others: (a) how do films represent the challenges of contemporary world? (b) What can we learn about other people and cultures through films? (c) What about us: how do films help us view, better understand ourselves, and more importantly, interact respectfully with people from other cultures and ethnicities? Screenings of weekly films available Monday evenings.

CTL 210.07: Intercultural Perspectives on World Cinema

Professors Samou

Four credits

This introduction to and overview of world cinema approaches films as a source of information and understanding of the diverse peoples and cultures of today's world, especially as they increasingly interact to create a new, global culture. Through the practice of film criticism, students explore the culture, beliefs, and traditions of other people around the world, while reflecting on their own cultural identities. In this regard, the course raises – and answers – the following questions, among others: (a) how do films represent the challenges of contemporary world? (b) What can we learn about other people and cultures through films? (c) What about us: how do films help us view, better understand ourselves, and more importantly, interact respectfully with people from other cultures and ethnicities? Screenings of weekly films available Monday evenings.

Spring 2017-2018 Catalyst Course Descriptions

Catalyst 210 – Intercultural Competence

M T W F 10:10AM-11:00AM

Catalyst 210.01: Telling Your Story: Identity and Art

Travis Nygard

Four credits

Who are we? How have our cultures shaped our identities? In this class we will learn to talk about our own identities, as well as other people's. As a springboard for thinking, we will examine the work of artists who have used painting, sculpture, film, literature, music, and other media to share their stories with the world. Concurrently, we will learn about major theories of cultural identity, and how cultures interact with each other. We will make visual art about our identities. (Artistic talent is not necessary to excel in the class, and prior experience making art is not expected.) We will learn techniques for making group decisions in ways that ensure that all people's thoughts are taken seriously. Field trips and special events may be part of this class.

CTL 210.02: Global Racism

Michael Mahoney

Four credits

What is racism? Why does it exist? What are the different forms it takes? How and why does it vary from country to country? What are the different strategies that people have pursued to combat racism? This course will look at racism as a global phenomenon, comparing racism in the United States to racism in Europe, Asia, the Islamic world, Africa, Latin America, and Australia.

CTL 210.03: My House is Your House: Understanding Hispanic Cultures

Tim Reed

Four Credit

How can we define the cultural and ethnic heritage of someone who speaks Spanish? What do race labels such as Spanish, Latino, Hispano, Mestizo, Chicano, Nuyoricano and Americano really mean? Are Spanish speakers white, black, brown, Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and/or something else? This course provides an overview of the origins and evolution of Spanish-speaking cultures by examining many of the forces that helped shape them. Students will explore the histories, cultural products and belief systems of Spanish speakers from around the world to develop understanding of and appreciation for the rich diversity of Hispanophone cultures. Topics such as colonization, immigration, stereotyping, adaptation and integration will also be addressed throughout the term. Taught in English.

CTL 210.04: American Revolutions

Marc Eaton

Four credits

The United States has experienced multiple political, economic, religious, social, and cultural upheavals. In this course, we will examine these small- and large-scale "revolutions" in U.S. history to better understand their causes and consequences. We will pay particular attention to how cultural differences between social groups contribute to these conflicts, and how certain social groups have more power to assert that *their* ways of doing things are the "right" ones. Among the struggles for equality, respect, and representation that we may discuss are the following: the American Revolution, the U.S. Civil War, the War on Terror, labor movements, feminist movements, LGBTQIA movements, racial/ethnic rights movements (civil rights, American Indian, Chicano, Black Lives Matter), and struggles for religious freedom and representation. As we investigate these American "revolutions," we will also investigate our *own* relationship to each of these struggles while developing greater understanding of those who are not like us.

CTL 210.05: Fight Club: Peace and Conflict Studies

Paul Jeffries

Four credits

We live in a world where conflicts are everywhere. It's like we are living in constant state of being in a "fight club." Conflicts regularly occur between people of different religious groups, political parties, ethnic identities, nationalities, economic classes, and even sports team affiliations. What is at the root of these clashes? Can we find ways to reduce these conflicts and tensions in order to create more peaceful communities? This course will examine the cultural basis of conflict in order to understand the dynamics that seem produce forms of oppression that are pervasive in our societies. Equally important, we will also study a variety of strategies that help us deal with conflicts in a more thoughtful and constructive way. And, unlike a fight club, we hope that what happens in the class won't merely stay in the class.