

– Life of the Mind –

Fall 2020

Course Offerings

MIND 180–002

LAC Areas – 3b and 7

CRN 14713

Great Ideas of the Western Tradition

TR, 12:30–1:45pm

Jeffrey Brown

“Liberalism and Its Discontents” – This class explores the historical and philosophical foundations of liberalism. Liberalism, in its various forms, is committed to individual freedom, and it is opposed to several types of tyrannies. The class will investigate liberalism’s connection to other values, such as equality, democracy, and community. We will also explore various historical and contemporary challenges to liberalism from socialist, conservative, feminist, and communitarian thinkers.

MIND 185–001

LAC Area – 3c

CRN 13082

Religions and Worldviews

TR, 9:30–10:45am

Thomas Smith

This course offers an opportunity to think critically, deeply, and across disciplines about our religious worlds: how they are symbolically structured, how myth, ritual, and philosophical reflection function in them, how they are rooted in long historical processes, and how they influence the societies in which they are embedded. It also provides a forum to consider how people construct or (inherit) a worldview that may or may not encompass religion. We will consider how different religious worlds relate to each other, given differing practices, deities, and beliefs, as well as how critiques, and rejections, of religion have developed. Students will learn the categories necessary to ask such questions intelligently and honestly. Students will become better able to define their own religious or non-religious worlds, and gain some knowledge of the history and methods of the professional study of religion. They will also be better equipped to analyze comparatively the “other worlds” of humanity’s religious traditions through a set of comparative patterns or themes. Students who complete this course will possess a level of religious literacy appropriate to an educated citizen in a religiously plural global setting.

MIND/ANT 292–001 (Cross-Listed)
CRN 11677

LAC Area – Elective

Ideas in Conflict

W, 2:30–5:30pm

Patricia Jolly

This course takes a multi-disciplinary approach that is rooted in anthropological methods. The course takes a look at the ideas that shaped key events in the 20th and 21st century. By looking at these ideas and events, students can gain a better understanding into how current issues have come to exist. The course leans heavily on understanding how ideas and culture are entwined. We begin with a close look at Gandhi and the decolonization of India brought into being by the ideology of nonviolence and civil resistance. Other topics look at how colonialism, imperialism, isolationism, globalization, communism, capitalism, socialism and corporatism have woven through the last 100 years and how each sculpts the culture and events we are living in. We will look closely at events such as the civil rights movement, The Dirty Wars, Apartheid and other seminal events that are often missed in our look at 20th and 21st Century history.

We also spend time looking closely at issues surrounding migration and the global refugee situation currently taking place. As a part of that unit this course is an engaged learning course and students will have the opportunity to work closely with the Northern Colorado Immigrant and Refugee Center in putting together their annual signature event, “A Walk in Their Shoes.”

While this is broad range of topics, students consistently report that this class is one of the most useful courses they have taken in helping them make sense of the world they are inheriting and how to find their way to knowing how to understand current situations with far more clarity than before taking the course.

This course will be especially relevant in light of our recent global experience of a shared pandemic. Make sure to register soon for this exciting and challenging course!