

Scientific Explorations

Eric Smith

Beginner's Rocket Science

While you learn strategies to be successful in college, this course will also take you on a journey to learn what it takes to get into space. Lessons will begin with an introduction to some basic math and physics so you can build your first rocket. Along the way, we will discuss historical connections and discoveries so you can better understand the process of traveling to space and staying there. Eventually you will be ready to take on a much larger mission as you work with your peers in a simulation to land a person on the moon. **[Beginner's Rocket Science]**

Teresa Rich

Scary Diseases: Understanding Epidemics & New Diseases in Today's Society

Are the diseases that make the front-page headlines such as Zika or Ebola worse than local outbreaks of more commonly known diseases such as measles, and mumps? What makes a disease newsworthy? This CWID course will take a scientists perspective on diseases including the development of vaccines. Vaccines in development for current diseases will be compared to vaccines that are approximately 50 years old, like the measles vaccine. Students will learn thinking and learning strategies that will help them to be more confident students as well as to have a better understanding of science behind disease. **[Scary Diseases]**

Health Shenanigans

Leah Crotty

This course will explore current fallacies related to being in a state of "good health." Students will learn how to scrutinize health information to identify fraudulent or ill informed advertisements that claims to alter the human condition (often for financial gain). People might be awed by fanciful research studies or unreasonable promises. These tactics may promote fear and devalue legitimate science. At the end of this course, students will have learned to be educated consumers, adopting skills that will lead to academic success, and improved ability to decipher the information that surrounds us. **[Health Shenanigans]**

Nicole Frank

Periodic Madness

"Why did Gandhi hate iodine (I, 53)? How did radium (Ra, 88) nearly ruin Marie Curie's reputation? And why is gallium (Ga, 31) the go-to element for laboratory pranksters? The Periodic Table is a crowning scientific achievement, but it's also a treasure trove of adventure, betrayal, and obsession."-The Disappearing Spoon

In this course, we will spend the semester following the elements laid out for us on the periodic table. We will see the role these elements have played in both our past and our future. The course will utilize a project based learning approach and culminate with a project focused on a single element within the table. Ultimately, students will gain

a new understanding of how the atoms in the periodic table create the world around us.
[Periodic Madness]

Andy Jensen

Poison and Murder: Toxicology in the Jazz Age

“Dosis facit venenum” or “The dose makes the poison.” - Paracelsus

The course will use case studies from the text *The Poisoner’s Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in the Jazz Age* to both humanize scientists and to show real world applications of scientific research. A project during the class will reinforce these ideals by recreating a simulated murder investigation. The focus of this course is to learn the beginnings of the scientific method, critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, and interdisciplinary science by studying accounts of poisoners and the scientists who caught them. Students will explore success strategies for the class through group work and research using online and real world tools provided by the college.

[Murder by Poison: Toxicology]

Tim Curry

The Science of Speed

Have you ever wondered what makes Usain Bolt the fastest man on Earth? How did Chris Johnson run a 4.24 second 40 yard dash? Why and how did Lance Armstrong cheat? What goes into creating an elite athlete or being the best team in the world? Science and lots of it!! Science plays a key role in how athletes train, how they compete, what they eat, and, unfortunately, how they cheat. Throughout the term this course explores a range of topics in the world of science in sports including, sports nutrition, sports performance, sport injury and doping in sport. In addition to all these topics students will be able to have several first hand experiences in the CWI Human Performance and Health Lab to perform certain sport specific tests to see where they stand when compared to the best athletes in the world. **[The Science of Speed]**

The Numbers around Us

Maia Kelly

Cryptography: Secret and Not-So-Secret Codes

Throughout history, cryptography has evolved from messages written on the shaved heads of servants to highly robust computer encryption. In this course, we will examine the history of cryptography, study several cryptosystems, and practice techniques for cracking those cryptosystems. In addition, we will be examining our current level of dependence on cryptography, for instance, in our banking systems and cell phones. The mathematics required to understand and implement these cryptosystems is the equivalent of four years of high school mathematics. This class is designed to appeal to both history and math/science buffs alike! **[Cryptography: Secret Codes]**

Carol Billing

I'd Rather Be Gaming

The gaming industry is booming and some believe that to neglect students who have a passion for gaming is a travesty. This course seeks to engage gamers and non-gamers alike and connect their strengths in the gaming world with those needed to succeed in college. This course will examine the different sides of the argument, “is gaming a waste of time?” Students interested in gaming will be given the opportunity to evaluate their academic strengths and personality and understand how they align with world of gaming. All students will complete the course better prepared to win in college, and with good time management, students might even learn how to reserve some time to play. **[I'd Rather Be Gaming]**

Lex Mulder

Digital Citizenship: How to Maximize My Networking Skills

The focus of this course will be a fun and provocative look at how technology is changing us inside and outside of the classroom. Networks are resources that provide you with valuable information. Networking is not just about computers, cell phones, Facebook, and Twitter. Networking is also about finding help through services you might not have considered yet. What are the advantages and disadvantages, and did you consider Privacy, Security, and Ethical issues of the networks you are using? This course will address networking as a concept, not just as a technical option. Learn how to use computer related, and non-computer related networks, available to you as a student attending CWI. Students will learn how to take responsibility of learning in the classroom with technology, and how to use online applications for Email, Note-taking, Word-processing, Spreadsheets, and Presentations to find, sort, manage, evaluate, and create information in digital forms. **[Digital Citizenship]**

Randal Wagner

Money Math

Too many students ask “why do I have to take math?” In this class, students will explore the math they are currently using and help them gain a better understanding of the need for math in their personal lives, managing their money, planning for their future and the potential use of math in different careers that they haven't thought of. We will use spreadsheets to develop a budget and to track expenses, to estimate \$s needed for short term and long term goals, students will read a book from a selected list of personal finance self-help books and write a short report on it, they will be sharpening their math skills by practicing adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing, decimal numbers, fractions, ratios, percent's and using variables. **[Show Me the Money]**

Gary Thomas

What Are the Chances?

Newspapers love to splash big headlines about death by shark, but did you realize that you are more likely to be killed by a statistician than by a shark? This topic will take a light-hearted but rigorous approach to probability, giving you the opportunity to exercise some fairly simple mathematical operations while thinking about some fairly complex ideas. The theme will be approached from a variety of disciplines, looking not only at the mathematical concepts of probability, but also at its historical and philosophical underpinnings. Don't be

afraid to sign up just because your math background is shaky! All calculations will be done with calculators, and nothing is more complex than simple addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. About two-thirds of the material in this course is not covered in any other math course at CWI. **[What Are the Chances?]**

Lance Curtis

Failing to Succeed: Learning from Failure in Engineering and Life

What would you do if you saw a 10-foot wave of molasses coming towards you? That's the question citizens in Northeast Boston had to answer in 1919. What does that incident have to do with Hitler's invasion of France in 1940? What can comparing those two events teach students about success in college? In this class we will examine multiple failures in engineering materials and systems; compare them with failures and successes in history, literature, politics, business, and popular culture; and learn what skills students need to succeed both in college and in their careers. Students will have the opportunity to practice these skills during the course, and they will learn to use both failure and success to their advantage.

[Engineering in Life]

Where Art and Humanities Intercept Life

Sharon McMorrow

Beyond the Academy Awards: Movies and Culture

Most Americans, by the time they're eighteen, have watched more than a thousand movies. They can quote lines from *Batman Returns* and sing the entire sound track from *Frozen*. But do movies simply reflect our culture, or are they much more powerful, influencing the way we think, the choices we make, and how other people treat us? The purpose of this class is to examine these questions using a variety of contemporary American films, both narrative and documentary, as records of social attitudes and as a means for self-reflection and decision-making. **[Movies and Culture]**

Carl Della Badia

Fantastical Futures and What They Teach Us

Science Fiction is a genre that explores not only a fantastical future or alternative present, but it also plays a pivotal role in critically examining our current societies. Through literature and film, we will investigate the larger questions of what it means to exist on earth today. How are science and technology shaping our societies? What are humanity's greatest challenges? What role can science fiction play in helping us understand our own communities and ourselves, and ultimately, what it means to be human? **[Fantastical Futures]**

Amy Sharp

Individual Powers in Graphic Novels

“Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City – until she’s suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? All of these things and more?” – Ms. Marvel

“Marjane Satrapi is an intelligent and outspoken only child. Satrapi shares her life story of bewildering contradictions between home life, public life and of the enormous toll a repressive regimes exacts on individual spirit.” - Persepolis

In both Ms. Marvel and Persepolis, the characters must navigate complicated worlds and discover their own power. We will use these examples to support self-reflection, collaboration, and open discussion as you navigate the new, strange world of college and discover your own power and how you can utilize it to be successful both in and out of the classroom. **[Individual Powers in Graphic Novels]**

Dave Nicholas

Idaho Authors and the West

Course content will deal with the American West. The American West conjures images of cowboys and outlaws, gold mines and uncharted wilderness, Wild West shows and Hollywood, vast, empty spaces and suburban sprawl. It has long been viewed as rugged territory where the hearty, the visionary, and the brave can claim fortune, freedom, and fame. It is a land as much myth as reality, full of contradiction and complexity. Literature has played its role creating, perpetuating, and debunking these myths. This course will introduce you to various Idaho writers and their writings. Through their fiction, non-fiction, and poetry—much of it set in the state of Idaho, we will explore the ever-changing West and analyze its many meanings. How do these writers and writings envision the West, and how do these visions fit with your own, as a College of Western Idaho student? Inspired by what we read, we will use our own Western experiences as material for the newest wave of Idaho-authored stories, memoirs, and poems.

[Idaho Authors and the West]

Rick Coonrod

Apocalyptic Film & Literature

Stories of the apocalypse have become increasingly popular. Television shows like *The Walking Dead*, fiction like Stephen King’s *The Stand*, and movies like *I Am Legend* captivate audiences and make millions in sales. Narratives like these offer a bleak view of the aftermath of an apocalypse, where the human race is nearly wiped out by disease, monsters, or cataclysm, and where the last survivors of humanity are forced to fight against these horrors, and often each other, to survive. Why is our culture obsessed with the idea of an apocalypse? What about the genre appeals to a wide range of people?

This class will explore the apocalypse in television, film, and print. We will examine the ideas of culture, religion, technology, world events, and heroism in the genre in an attempt to uncover why apocalyptic narratives resonate with so many people.

[Apocalyptic Film & Literature]

Jeff Davis

Music and Politics: From Beethoven to Bono

Can Bono save the world? That's the question Time magazine asked in 2002. Whether he can or not, the activities of musicians like Bono illustrate how music and politics are deeply connected. This course examines the relationship of music and musicians to the brokers of power during the past 200 years of Western music history. Also explored are the ways musicians have negotiated the issues of patronage, censorship and propaganda. The course will also discuss the role of musician as the voice of the people through the music of protest and patriotism and examine how music has been used in political campaigns. **[Music and Politics]**

Christian Purvis-Aldrich and Andrea Ascuena

The New Dystopian Hero

Dystopian stories like *Divergent*, *The Hunger Games* or *The Giver* are set in a time when things have gone horribly wrong in the world, and they warn about where our culture may end up if we aren't careful. In this class we will examine some of these storylines to see what kind of messages they are sending about current American values. Ultimately, we will try to decipher how these books and movies define the new American hero. **[Dystopian Heroes in Literature]**

Karen Brown

Tombs, Temples and Mummies: Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt and the Modern World

The art and architecture of Ancient Egypt has tantalized imaginations for some 2500 years. This course will explore the cultural production of Ancient Egypt so students gain an understanding of the development and importance of specific art forms and their relationship to its history. We will then examine the fascination Egypt has had for the West as a result of events like the French campaign from 1798-1801 and the discovery in 1922 of the tomb of King Tutankhamun. These have influenced the creation of such diverse things as funerary structures, buildings, film and video, and fashion. **[Tombs, Temples and Mummies]**

Malia Collins

True Lies: Short Fiction about Real Life.

According to Stephen King, "Fiction is a lie, and good fiction is the truth inside the lie." In this course, we will examine stories that walk the line between fiction and nonfiction and how contemporary writers illuminate real-life difficulties. We will read Tim O'Brien on war, Lorrie Moore on cancer, Amy Hempel on her worst secret, and Sherman Alexie on leaving home. We will explore the kinds of truths that might lend themselves to fiction and discuss how fiction helps us to navigate our lives and our world. **[True Lies: Short Fiction]**

Meagan Newberry

Humor in American Culture

"Good satire goes beyond the specific point it's trying to make and teaches you how to think critically. Even after your favorite cartoonist retires or [Stephen] Colbert wraps it

up, you're not left believing everything they're telling you." –Aaron McGruder, creator of "*The Boondocks*"

In this course we will examine satirical works such as *The Daily Show*, *The Onion*, and *South Park* to think critically about American culture and to explore important moments and transitions in our history as well as in current events. We will analyze the impact of these works on us as media consumers—how do they change the way we think about our culture and events? Why do so many Americans get their news from humorists instead of or in addition to traditional news outlets? Why does an Onion article prompt us to think about an issue in a way that a New York Times article doesn't? To answer these questions, we will examine satire as a literary genre and art form in political cartoons, film, journalism, television, and social media. [**Humor in American Culture**]

Brenda Fisher

The Creative Spark

Michael LeBeouf, author of *Imagineering*, writes, "The heart of all new ideas lies in the borrowing, adding, combining or modifying of old ones. Do it by accident and people call you lucky. Do it by design and they'll call you creative." In this course, we will explore the creative process and look at the characteristics of highly creative people. How does creativity help us to be better problems solvers and better students? We will also explore the challenge of being original in a digital age. Students will learn how to "steal like an artist" and other methods of unlocking their creative potential. [**The Creative Spark**]

Fonda Portales

How to Kiss in Other Countries and Other Tips that Got Me through College: Traveling to Learn with an Experienced Vagabond

Do you dream of traveling the world but don't know where to begin? Have you dismissed your dreams of traveling because you think there isn't enough time or money? Then this is the CWID for you. In this multimedia, interactive course instructed by an experienced traveler and educator, you will explore the meaning and purpose of Travel through the written and visual documentation of global trekkers. While planning an itinerary and budget for your prospective trip, you will practice the research and study skills valuable in your academic career and lifelong learning process. You will also gain competency in being a global citizen as you consider your ethical and environmental impact as a traveler. Ultimately, you will be able to connect to the metaphor of life and learning as a *journey* and be prepared with the skills to make your own. [**Traveling to Learn**]

Goran Fazil

History of Animation

Animation is a popular medium in our contemporary world and it has been as such for over hundreds of years. During this time animated movies have made a huge impact on our popular culture. This course will explore the origins of animation and its history. We will look into various different genres, styles, media, and techniques in regards to animated movies and their evolution over time. Animation is an international global

medium, and therefore in this class we will examine various different leading practitioners from all over the world. Through the examination of animated movies we will gain an insight into various social and cultural contexts in which these movies were created. **[History of Animation]**

The Interconnectedness of Society

Courtney Colby-Bond

The Art of Influence

“I haven't the slightest idea how to change people, but still I keep a long list of prospective candidates just in case I should ever figure it out.” — David Sedaris, Naked. This course will assess the elements necessary to create lasting and meaningful change in yourself and the world around you. We will delve into the topic of what makes change happen and how the world around us is uniquely designed to influence our behaviors. Using this knowledge, you will create unique projects of influence and change intended to make a positive difference in your life. **[Art of Influence]**

Alicia Cowger, Kim Johaneck, Jana McCurdy, Allison Molitor

Heroes and Villains

What does it mean to be a hero or a villain? We will consider both famous and obscure examples of unique individuals and their circumstances. Heroic stories can inspire us to be persistent and resilient in the face of trials, whereas stories of villains can serve as a warning and strengthen our resolve. What factors lead to an individual's success or failure? Various case studies will be examined relating to topics such as culture, opportunity, personality, genius, persistence, and achievement. This is an interdisciplinary course, primarily drawing from sociology, psychology and history. You will be able to develop practical tools to define your own personal and professional goals and determine how you can overcome obstacles to achieve your goals. **[Heroes and Villains]**

Janel Holt & Abby Wolford

Media Literacy

Media are central to culture and contribute daily to our communication, socialization, and core beliefs. This course is designed to help students develop skills to effectively analyze media messages for function, intent and bias, and understand how this information contributes meaning to the lives of individuals and to society as a whole. Students will also create a personal media project to demonstrate concepts covered in the course. **[Media Literacy]**

Stephanie Breach

Myth Busters in Criminal Justice

Are you a crime drama junkie? Do you think you know all there is to know about the criminal justice system? This course will explore and dispel common myths in the criminal justice, such as crime rates, *Miranda* warnings, and the death penalty.

Additionally we will critically examine statistics and research, as well as look to Supreme Court cases for explanations. **[Myths in Criminal Justice]**

Erica R. Compton

Our Newest Neighbors: Refugees in Idaho

A refugee is someone who has fled his or her country due to a fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. International intervention with refugees has resulted in refugee resettlement communities throughout the United States including Idaho. In this course, we will explore Idaho's history of refugee resettlement, some of the challenges our newest residents face, and what they contribute to our community. **[Refugees in Idaho]**

Jacob Armstrong

Rated (R)eality: Exploring Controversy in Media and Society

“This is your last chance. After this, there is no turning back. You take the blue pill - the story ends, you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill - you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit-hole goes.”

- *Morpheus, The Matrix*

For some, the experience of becoming a college student can be very different than what they had expected or imagined. We all hold ideas and assumptions about the way things “really are,” and about how the world works. When those ideas and assumptions are challenged, it can be both uncomfortable and liberating. This course introduces students to the college experience, and to ways of thinking and learning that can be both challenging and rewarding. By sociologically exploring interesting (and sometimes controversial) topics that are relevant in contemporary media and society, students will develop strategies for success in college as well as gain new and important insights into the ways in which they are shaped by - and connected to – the community, society and culture in which they live. **[Rated (R)eality]**

Erin Peterson

Forensic Psychology: “CSI” to “Criminal Minds” – It’s not what you think!

From “Criminal Minds” to “CSI”; “Bones” to “The Following”; Hannibal to Dexter: the Forensic Psychology field has quickly become a growing interest creating with it huge myths and controversies. This class will define the study of forensic psychology along with dispelling its myths. While building this definition foundation and outline students will learn study skills and techniques that will help them become lifelong learners. This course will also explore controversies and current research that continues to make forensic psychology such a popular topic. This will encourage students to connect with CWI’s community and engage in their own academic success while preparing for lives in the changing world. **[Forensic PSYC: CSI to Criminal Minds]**

Marianne Daugharty

Media and the Art of Lying

Media and advertising companies pour millions of dollars into video content designed to engage and entice viewers. Are the designers' tactics sincere and honest? Or is there another side to this explosion of video content? What is the real effect of media on our thoughts and decisions? This course will take a look at the methods used to sell the individual and society products and ideas. Students will learn to analyze and evaluate various types of media and become more conscious viewers. Ultimately participants will learn how to make more-educated decisions and to use those same analytical skills to be more successful in college. **[Media & The Art of Lying]**

Investigations of Identity

Amy Vassar, Andrew Horning

Language and Identity

How literate are you? What parts of your life does literacy affect? What role does a person's speech and writing play in first impressions and stereotypes? Does your lexicon determine whether or not you get a job? A date? Should it? What causes linguistic stereotypes, such as French being the language of love and German the language of war? These questions and more will be addressed through movies, social media and literature. We will explore how the basic building blocks of language affect communication and how language and culture impacts a person's identity and their perspective of the world. Students will learn how an awareness of language and identity can help them to better navigate and participate in a multilingual world. **[Language and Identity]**

Roya Camp

Making Millions: Understanding Wealth

This course equips students for college through the history, context, and modern reference points of capital as it moves through their lives. The origins of money, modern myths about wealth, disparities between and among groups, genders, ages, and cultures, taboos, vices, principles, manias, and more will be explored, allowing students to begin to build a values structure and personal concepts around worth, priorities, and reliance on self and others. Students will come away having participated in robust dialogue around money and will have an opportunity to explore realistic dimensions of wealth and value, and the chance to construct a perspective on assets that can serve them reliably throughout their lives. **[Understanding Wealth]**

Greg Wilson

YOLO: Existing in the Modern World

You only live once is a popular tag line of our modern society. While some say it just started with a rap song, Soren Kierkegaard, a dusty old Dane who lived more than 150 years ago, had some ideas that look remarkably like the phrase we use today. Through a

study of some of his main themes of philosophy such as ‘passionate inwardness’, ‘subjectivity’, ‘the individual’, and ‘the leap of faith’, we will go on a cultural treasure hunt to see these very popular themes reflected in the movies, music, and short stories that are all around us. By the time you have finished this course, you will be able to decide for yourself if Kierkegaard is indeed the first one with the hashtag YOLO.
[YOLO: Existing in Modern World]

Scott Straub

Movies that Move Us

Do you like films that are inspiring, uplifting, and intriguing? Do you wonder whether movies can move people to action? The classroom, with all its inherent drama, conflict, and diversity, has provided the perfect setting for many books and movies in our culture. In this course we'll explore how education portrayed in cinema and literature compares to the real world, and we'll have some fun along the way. Additionally, we'll discuss how adults learn, in both a traditional and online environment. Students completing this course will be better prepared to succeed in college, and in life. Whether you are just curious about how movies influence our lives or perhaps you are considering a career in teaching, join us to uncover the tips and tricks to achievement in school, and beyond.
[Movies that Move Us]