

# PITZER COLLEGE

## New and Revised Courses—Fall 2009

**52. Indigenous Societies: Histories of Encounters.** [MW 1:15-2:30 pm, L. Martins] The course gives an overview of the current lives of indigenous societies in different parts of the world [North America, South America, Africa, and Asia]. We will examine major topics that mark their encounters with nation-states: political power, economic development, gender relations, collective rights, healthy, formal education, and religion. The course compares a variety of ethnographic cases (through movies and texts) to expose the difference and similarities between “indigenous peoples.”

**Arhi 181. Modern into Contemporary: Art from 1945-1989.** [TTh 12-1:10 pm, B. Anthes] An overview of significant issues and movements in art from 1945-1989. Mainstream and alternative art movements are discussed in relation to the cultural politics of the post-World War Two era. Topics include Abstract Expressionism, Pop, Minimalism, performance and Conceptual Art, Process Art, Land Art, Site-Specificity, Institutional Critique, Feminist Art, and the Culture Wars of the 1980s. Emphasis is on North America and Western Europe, with comparisons to emerging global art centers.

**ASAM 90. Community Engagement.** [TTh 12-1:10 pm, Lab F 12-3 pm, K. Yep] This course will introduce students to issues in Asian American communities and will explore the meanings of social service, social changes, and social justice, as well as competing notions of community. Central to the course will be working beside community-based organizations.

**Econ 141. The Chinese Economy.** [MW 2:45, F. Jin] The course examines the development experience and current issues of the Chinese economy. It will review the historical legacies of the central planning from 1949 to 1978, and analyze the economic reform and transition to a market economy from 1978 to the present time. The course will also discuss the current problems and future challenges facing the Chinese economy and its relationship with the rest of the world in the context of globalization. Prerequisites: Econ 51 and 52.

**Engl 30. Experiments in Attention: Introduction to Creative Writing.** [TTh 9:35-10:50 am, B. Armendinger] This course will introduce students to methods of encountering what’s unfamiliar to them through experiments in poetry and prose. Our work will be guided by writing exercises and readings by diverse international authors. Students will increase their confidence by taking creative risks in a community of supportive writers.

**Engl 61. Poetry and Public Space.** [W 2:45-5:30 pm, B. Armendinger] This course is a site-specific collaboration in finding/making poetry outside the walls of the classroom. Half of our classes will be in the local community—in parks, buses, the farmer’s market, and community centers. We will partner with a local service agency to begin a long-term poetry workshop. Our readings will explore the relationship between poetry, documentary, activism, and the boundaries between public and private space.

**Envs 66. Agroecology.** [Th 8:10-10:50 am, J. Araya] This course introduces the students to ecological principles as they relate to agriculture. Students will develop an understanding of agricultural systems in an ecological context, while developing an understanding of the principles, concepts, and practices central to sustainable agriculture. The Rodman Arboretum gardens will be used as the living laboratory for the course.

**Envs 120. Global Environmental Politics and Policy.** [TTh 2:45-4:00 pm, B. Sarathy] This course will introduce students to the rise of global environmental governance, examine specific environmental issues and international treaties (such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and Kyoto Protocol), analyze the politics around the international policy process, and explore how global environmental governance intersects with geopolitics, conflict and national security.

**Hist 24. A History of Modern Africa.** [TTh 12-1:10 pm, H. O'Rourke] To understand Africa as it exists today, one must be able to place current issues within the broader historical trends that have dominated the continent's past. Accordingly, this course will provide an introduction to the history of modern Sub-Saharan Africa from the build-up to European conquest in the late nineteenth century, through colonization and decolonization, to issues facing Africans today. Themes to be explored include: African societies and cultures on the eve of conquest; European imperial ideologies, explorers, and missionaries; African resistance against—and collaboration with—colonial projects; strategies of colonial rule; colonial education; cash-cropping and famine; African workers in colonial cities; gender, sexuality, and family life; health and healing; race, class and citizenship; nationalism and decolonization; post-independence economic crises and “development”; conflict and globalization.

**Hist 148. Gender in African History.** [TTh 1:15-2:30 pm, H. O'Rourke] Drawing on diverse historical case studies, life histories, biography, and film, this course examines the broad topic of gender in Africa through such themes as power and gendered rituals of transformation; slavery and the impact of trans-continental slave trades; colonial encounters; European constructions of black female sexuality; changes in African marriage practices and the meaning of marriage; same-sex relationships and homophobia; work, culture, and migrancy; women's bodies and intimate colonial interventions—medical and moral; ethnicity and nationalism; poverty, famine, and the environment; and the social context of HIV/AIDS, its spread and its prevention. The course will also discuss whether the application of western categories of gender is useful for understanding and analyzing the experiences of African men and women.

**Math 25. Precalculus.** [MW 1:15 & F 1:15-3:15 lab, D. Bachman] Linear, quadratic and polynomial equations; systems of linear equations; transformation, composition and inverses of functions; rational, trigonometric, exponential and logarithmic functions. This class is designed to prepare student for calculus.

**Math 100. Introduction to Methods of Proof.** [MW 1:15-2:30 pm, J. Hoste] This course will introduce students to the art of writing mathematical proofs using a variety of methods, such as, direct proof, proof by contrapositive, proof by contradiction, proof by cases, and proof by induction. Intended for students majoring or minoring in mathematics [or considering doing so].

**MS 108. Make Peace Creatively through Video Production.** [W 7-10 pm, J. Allyn] Students will produce video art that suggests resolutions to conflicts in their lives; on campus, in the Claremont community; greater metropolitan Los Angeles; and our global community. How do ideas like “empathy and respect” get transformed into compelling images and reflect productive win-win solutions?

**Phil 84. Islamic Philosophy.** [MW 12-1:10 pm, A. Alwishah] From the ninth century CE to the present day, a set of philosophical topics has been systematically discussed and developed by philosophers in the Islamic world. In this course, we will examine a number of topics which include the nature of the universe (matter, space, and time), being and necessity, the existence and attributes of God, the nature and individuation of the soul, knowledge and perception, and free will. Through selective readings of philosophical texts, we will introduce the main figures, including Kindī, Fārābī, Ibn Sinā, Ghazālī, Ibn Bājī, Ibn Ṭufayl, Ibn Rushd, Ṭūsī and Mullā Sadrā.

**Post 109. Special Topics in American Politics: Public Opinion.** [MW 4:15-5:30 pm, J. Merolla] This course is concerned with understanding the political opinions that the public holds and how this relates broadly to democracy. It will cover how people form opinions and answer surveys on a range of issues dealing with race and ethnicity, democratic values, domestic politics, and foreign policy.

**Soc 101. Quantitative Research Methods.** [MWF 8-8:50 am, A. Junisbai] This course is designed to develop your quantitative analytic skills by teaching you how to understand, apply and interpret statistical principles. You will also gain practical experience in working with SPSS—a program that is widely used in a variety of academic, business, and non-profit settings. Prerequisite: Soc. 1.

**Span 183. Oral Wisdom Traditions of the Peoples of Mexico.** [MW 1:15-2:30 pm, M. Barcenas-Mooradian] This course provides a comprehensive survey of Pre-Colonial oral wisdom traditions and mythologies of diverse indigenous groups of Mexico as documented during the period immediately after the Conquest. Theories of orality as well as decolonizing methodologies will serve as an interpretive framework for the readings.