New Collegiate Division

The New Collegiate Division offers a variety of interdisciplinary courses in addition to those particularly related to the concentration programs. One of the purposes of the division is to provide a forum for new ideas in teaching: certainly only one such forum among many in the College and the University, but for some teachers, and for some subjects cutting across familiar academic lines, the most convenient one. These courses are as a rule open to all students. Indeed, they usually aspire to attract students with different interests and backgrounds.

Courses: New Collegiate Division (NCDV)

21100. Global Environmental Politics. (=ENST 24900, PBPL 24300) This course provides an introduction to global environmental politics. We examine several environmental issue areas to identify the roles, interests, and behavior of main actors such as states, international organizations, NGOs, and the business community. Students are introduced to major contemporary debates relating environmental issues to trade liberalization, security, social justice, and human rights. They are also provided with analytical tools for further exploration of environmental issues. E. Tennant. Spring.

21200. Human Impact on the Environment. (=ENST 21200) We analyze the impact of the human enterprise on the natural world that sustains it. Topics include human population dynamics, the role of economic and industrial activity in human well-being, our use of natural resources, biodiversity, sustainable development, and the role played by cultural institutions and values. T. Steck. Autumn.

24100. The Environment in U.S. Politics. (=ENST 24100, PBPL 22600) From genetically modified foods to fossil fuels, from environmental justice to nuclear waste storage, environmental issues pervade American politics. Guided by leading theories on political power and behavior, we examine how major actors influence environmental policy, including the scientific and business communities, social movements, the public, and policymakers themselves. A. McCright. Autumn.

27300. Is Development Sustainable? (=BPRO 23400, ENST 24400, HIPS 23400, PBPL 24400) PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing. This is a discussion course for students without a background in environmental issues. Its aim is to grapple with the “big problem” of sustainable development. We analyze problematical issues underlying population growth; resource use; environmental transformation; and the plight of developing nations through a consideration of economic, political, scientific, and cultural institutions and processes. T. Steck, M. Arsel. Spring.
27400. Biological and Cultural Evolution. (=BIOS 29286, BPRO 23900, CHSS 37900, HIPS 23900, LING 11100, PHIL 22500/32500) PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing or consent of instructor. Core background in evolution and genetics strongly recommended. For information on when course will be offered, call Margot Browning at 702-5657. This course draws on readings and examples from linguistics, evolutionary genetics, and the history and philosophy of science. We elaborate theory to understand and model cultural evolution, as well as to explore analogies, differences, and relations to biological evolution. We also consider basic biological, cultural, and linguistic topics and case studies from an evolutionary perspective. Time is spent both on what we do know, and on determining what we don’t. W. Wimsatt, S. Mufwene.

27700. The Radicalism of Job and Ecclesiastes. (=FNDL 24600, HUMA 23500, JWSC 23500) Both Job and Ecclesiastes dispute a central doctrine of the Hebrew Bible, namely, the doctrine of retributive justice. Each book argues that a person’s fate is not a consequence of his or her religious-moral acts and thus piety, whatever else it is, must be disinterested. In brief, the authors of Job and Ecclesiastes, each in his own way, not only “de-mythologize” but “de-moralize” the world. Theological and philosophical implications are discussed. Texts in English. H. Moltz. Spring.

28000. World of Biblical Prophets. (=HUMA 23400, JWSC 23400, JWSG 33400) This course offers an in-depth analysis of the biblical prophets. Each prophet is set in historical time and within a particular societal context. Against this background, a profile of the man is drawn. What was he like as social reformer and religious thinker? What did he say “no” to in society and “no” to in organized worship? And to what did he say “yes?” How was his message received and what influence did it have in its day? Is the individual prophet merely a historical figure or a curiosity of antiquity, or does he speak to us in our age? H. Moltz. Autumn.

29000. Sport, Society, and Science. This interdisciplinary course draws faculty from across the University to examine and to integrate important elements of the world of sport and competition, including sport and society; race and sport; legal, economic and public policy frameworks; psychological and neurological aspects of competition; the physics of sports; and statistical measurements of performance. D Hutchinson, A. Sanderson. Winter.

29700. Reading Course. PQ: Consent of faculty supervisor and program chairman. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Must be taken for a quality grade. This course is designed for New Collegiate Division students whose program requirements are best met by study under a faculty member’s individual supervision. The subject, course of study, and requirements are arranged with the instructor. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

29800. Reading Course. PQ: Consent of faculty supervisor and New Collegiate Division master. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Available for quality grades or for P/F grades. Students in divisions other than the New Collegiate Division may arrange a tutorial with a member of the New Collegiate Division faculty. Registration for this course and information about the tutorial arrangement must be reported to the office of the New Collegiate Division master.
29900. Independent Study. PQ: Open only to New Collegiate Division students with consent of faculty supervisor and program chairman. Must be taken P/F. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.