

# WORLD STUDIES (WRLD)

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## **WRLD 203. Cultural Texts and Contexts: \_\_\_\_.** 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Through the analysis and interpretation of literary, cinematic and other cultural texts, this course explores the ways cultural and national identities have been shaped, imagined and contested in various regions of the world. While responding to the readings and films as artistic manifestations or social documents, students will also become familiar with the aesthetic, political and social contexts in which the works were and are produced. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester. Crosslisted as: INTL 203.

## **WRLD 210. International Social Justice Studies.** 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An overview of the issues, themes, disciplines, and areas of research and teaching that comprise international social justice studies in a variety of global contexts.

## **WRLD 220. Human Rights and Literature.** 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A cross-cultural survey of human rights violations. The moral, political and pragmatic dimensions in the international response to violations are investigated including transnational organizations that document abuses as expressed in memoirs, eyewitness accounts, literature and film.

## **WRLD 230. Introduction to World Cinema.** 3 Hours.

Semester course; 5 lecture/screening hours. 3 credits. An overview of the main theoretical frameworks, critical concepts and debates devoted to non-Hollywood world cinemas, with special emphasis on the rethinking of national cinema and the problematizing of identity in an increasingly transnational era. Broad interdisciplinary readings in film theory, film history and cultural studies will be supplemented by case studies of particular cinemas and filmmakers, so as to convey an appreciation of the main international movements in the history of cinema.

## **WRLD 291. Topics in World Languages and Cultures.** 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated with different content for a maximum of 6 credits. A study of a specialized topic in world cultures and languages. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

## **WRLD 294. Foundations in Experiential Research.** 1-2 Hours.

Semester course; 1-2 research hours. 1-2 credits. Prerequisites: UNIV 200 or HONR 200; minimum of 9 credit hours earned in a specified field within the School of World Studies. Enrollment requires permission of the faculty supervisor. Introduces students to directed study of research processes undertaken in a specified field. Guides students through various phases of a research project (design, data collection, data analysis, manuscript writing) in conjunction with a School of World Studies faculty member. Provides students the opportunity to pursue research activity from the onset of their academic careers. Designed to prepare students for a progression of research engagement. Graded as pass/fail.

## **WRLD 302. Communicating Across Cultures.** 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to increase understanding of the foundational concepts of communication and intercultural dialogue. Examines (among others) such concepts as individualism, collectivism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia, uncertainty avoidance, nonverbal communication and stereotyping.

## **WRLD 310. Mediterranean Cultural Geography.** 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An in-depth analysis of the Mediterranean region, its distinctive and defining features (physical, climatic and sociopolitical) and its paradigmatic role in global politics and economy.

## **WRLD 311. Civilization of the Mediterranean.** 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Exploration of the Mediterranean from pre-history to modernity, with an emphasis on cross-cultural engagement. Aims at exploring the interaction and cross-cultural fertilization between societies and cultures of the lands of the Middle Sea: North Africa, Middle East and southern Europe.

## **WRLD 330. Introduction to Film Studies.** 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: WRLD 230 or permission of instructor. An overview of film studies with special attention given to the debates informing the periodization of film history, the critical paradigms of the major film theories and the elements of a cinematographic language from both a technical and aesthetic standpoint.

## **WRLD 359. International Media Coverage: The Middle East.** 3 Hours.

Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MASC 101 or MASC 151 with a minimum grade of C. This interdisciplinary course explores the media's role in covering cultural, political, religious and other issues in the Middle East. Students will examine the role and impact of the media in both the United States and Middle East in shaping global and regional public opinion. Using webcam and online technology, VCU students will discuss cross-cultural perspectives with students from the other U.S. universities and universities in the Middle East. Crosslisted as: MASC 359.

## **WRLD 391. Topics in World Languages and Cultures.** 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated with different content for a maximum of 6 credits. An in-depth study of a specialized topic in world cultures and languages. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites.

## **WRLD 394. Research Assistantship.** 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; 1-3 research hours. 1-3 credits (40 clock hours/credit). Prerequisites: UNIV 200 or HONR 200; minimum of 18 credits, including 12 upper-level, earned within a specified discipline in the School of World Studies. Enrollment requires permission of the faculty mentor. Engages students in research processes undertaken in their field. Intended for advanced students capable of undertaking more complicated projects, but not yet prepared for 400-level independent study or internship. Students will work on various phases of a research project (design, data collection, data analysis, manuscript writing) under a School of World Studies faculty mentor's close supervision. Designed to enhance the student's career pursuits for either graduate-level training or post-baccalaureate employment. Meets the experiential learning requirement for the School of World Studies. Graded as pass/fail.

## **WRLD 422. National Cinema.** 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Course can be repeated with different themes up to a total of 6 credits. Prerequisite: WRLD 230 or 330 or permission of instructor. Tracing the development of cinematic traditions in selected nations, this course focuses on the thematic selections and stylistic techniques particular to that particular cinematographic culture. See the Schedule of Classes for the specific theme to be offered each semester.

**WRLD 430. Film and the City. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Focuses on cinematic representations of cities worldwide, so as to probe the increasingly cross-cultural dynamics of urban landscapes. Films discussed will span the entire history of cinema across genres and national traditions.

**WRLD 490. Seminar in World Cultures and Languages. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to seniors in world cultures and languages with at least 85 credit hours earned toward the degree. Research and analysis of a selected topic in world cultures and languages in a seminar setting.

**WRLD 491. Topics in World Languages and Cultures. 1-3 Hours.**

Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated with different content for a maximum of 6 credits. An intensive and comprehensive examination of specialized areas of interest in world cultures and languages. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites.

**WRLD 493. World Cultures Internship. 1-3 Hours.**

Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits (40 clock hours per credit). May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits, however only 3 credits can count toward the major concentration. Prerequisites: completion of 9 credits of upper-level (300- or above) course work toward any non-foreign-language concentration within the School of World Studies, and permission of the internship coordinator. Student must be in good academic standing with a minimum major GPA of 2.25. Designed for the advanced student to gain workplace experience in internationally oriented public and private organizations and agencies.

**WRLD 499. Senior Capstone Seminar. 1 Hour.**

Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: completion of 6 credits of 400-level courses in the major and senior standing. Open only to students enrolled as majors in the School of World Studies, including anthropology, religious studies, and world cultures and languages. Capstone seminar summarizing and synthesizing studies in World Studies programs. Preparation for entry into career search. Organization and polishing of written works representing skills acquired in programs. Assembly of individual portfolio as means of assessment and career tool.

**WRLD 530. Concepts in World Cinema. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Can be repeated for credit with different themes. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and/or graduate standing. Exploration of aspects of film theory combined with a study of cinema across national traditions and movements. Each semester a different thematic focus is engaged to illuminate issues in film composition and reception. Themes will include: the Holocaust, film and screen theory in the digital era, decolonizing the gaze: Black African and Caribbean cinema.

**WRLD 535. World Filmmakers. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Can be repeated for credit with different themes. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and/or graduate standing. Centers on the distinct yet interrelated roles of directors (as individual "authors" or as part of a movement or tradition), studios, audiences, national film industries, etc. in the production, development and interpretation of screen media. Each semester a different vantage point, i.e. gender, is used to open new perspectives on film, a critical evaluation of national film traditions and the elements of cinematographic style. Topics include: women filmmakers in world cinema, Spanish and Latin American filmmakers, filmmakers of the "New German Cinema."

**WRLD 593. Internship With French Film Festival. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 8 hours per week in festival office during semester and 8 hours per day during festival in Byrd Theatre. 3 credits. Provides students practical hands-on experience working in the French Film Festival office. Students will research and write questions to ask French actors, directors and cinematographers during the festival. The students edit a final audiovisual project of their actor/director interviews. Students work closely with the founders/directors of the French Film Festival.