



2018 J-Mester Course Descriptions

Educational Inequality: In this seminar students will be introduced to three different dimensions of educational inequality: standardized testing, family influences, and school structures and practices. Emphasis will be placed on how institutional practices and the structure of schooling perpetuates educational inequality. Students will have the opportunity to engage their own educational experiences with the literature to better understand the interaction between structure and individual outcomes.

Ethics and Animals: Violence or Non-Violence?: Many people say that violence is wrong, and that violence is only morally justified under extreme circumstances. But what about violence towards animals? On any common definition of 'violence', animals are treated violently when they are raised and killed to be eaten, or experimented on for medical research or used for other purposes that, arguably, harm them. What, if anything, then would justify this violence? In this course, we will explore a range of answers to these questions, given by influential philosophers, scientists and advocates on all sides. Topics include: theories of ethics, animal minds, and ethical issues concerning the uses of animals for food, clothing, experimentation, entertainment, hunting, as companions or pets, and other purposes. Students will write a number of short papers that develop positions on theoretical and practice issues concerning ethics and animals, giving reasons for their support, or defending themselves from possible objections and criticisms. Students will watch a variety of documentary films and likely take field trips to meet with experts to address ethical issues at places such as the Atlanta Humane Society, Zoo Atlanta, the Georgia Aquarium, Morehouse School of Medicine, and a local animal farm and /or sanctuary. We will also likely have some guest speakers from local animal advocacy groups, such as The Humane League and the Atlanta Black Vegetarian Society.

Disability Literature, the Disability Rights Movement, and Social Justice: This course serves as an intensive introduction to the nascent field of critical disability studies. In addition to reading essays that have been central to the development of the field as a form of literary criticism, we will also practice applying knowledge of the social and cultural models of disability to classic literary texts involving disabled characters. This course will focus on both theory (examining the intersectionality of modern identity politics and exploring questions of rhetoric, ethos, and disability disclosure) and the reality of the disability rights movement as an ongoing struggle for civil rights (engaging questions of ethics and disability discrimination). By the end of the course, students should be equipped to think critically about disability as both embodied reality and social construct and to speak and write knowledgeably about issues pertaining to the disability rights movement.

Minority Entrepreneurships- Law, Resources, and Cryptocurrencies:

This course will provide an overview of law and business development resources for minority entrepreneurs. This course will provide an overview of law and business development resources for minority entrepreneurs. The course will provide a basic overview of:

- Legal forms of business organization for start-ups (corporations, partnerships, franchises, LLCs, etc.).



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- Legal requirements for a nonprofit corporation, social enterprises, foundations. Contract law, commercial leases, employment, insurance and consumer protection law. Government programs that promote the utilization of minority business at the federal, state and local level.
- Intellectual property law as it relates to developing an app and/or being in the entertainment industry.
- Business development and financing assistance, including crowd sourcing and Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs). ICOs exploded this year as an innovative financing tool using cryptocurrencies, following Morehouse alum Shawn Wilkinson raising \$23 million in one day in 2017 using this crowd funding technique. ICOs have raised more than venture capital in certain high-tech areas. Cryptocurrencies in the past two years have had the highest growth rate of any assets in history.

Politics, Stories, and Games: In this seminar, students will build an interactive, storytelling game in order to explain or illustrate some aspect of politics or political science. The course does not require any prior background in computer programming, political science, or even storytelling. Using a free, accessible programming language called Twine, students will be able to transform abstract understandings of politics into concrete algorithms that govern their games. This will help students think more systematically about politics, have a relatively non-threatening introduction to coding, and/or use politics as a platform to create compelling stories. Ideally this seminar would meet in the Wheeler 104 computer lab (or some other available lab on campus). If a lab is not available, then students would have to be responsible for bringing their own laptops.

Math Refresher Bootcamp-ALEKS Lab: An individualized hybrid math refresher course from Basic Math to Calculus 1 that will assess, review and refresh forgotten Math skills while identifying Math skill gaps. More than three hundred (300) Math skills will be assessed and reviewed, in the Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS) Lab, to determine those skills that each student should work on, individually, to be successful in their future Math courses. Topics include review of Algebra, Geometry, Equations, Inequalities, Polynomial and Rational Functions, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, Trigonometric Functions, Trigonometric Identities and Equations, Calculus I and Applications of all these topics.

Sustainability & Leadership in a Global Society: This seminar will introduce sustainability as a 21st century competency and provide career readiness exposures. Theme: Gap & Preparation Support—exposures to develop skills for personal and professional success.

Data Analytics and Career Readiness: This seminar will introduce students to the process of data analytics from a business mindset and provide career readiness exposures. Theme: Gap & Preparation Support—exposures to develop skills for personal and professional success.

Psychology, Sport, and Social Justice: This seminar is for students who are interested in looking at the influence that sport can and does have on freedom(s) within the context of the United States and globally.

The seminar will focus on four distinct areas: being, and the freedom of play; agency through play; accountability, outlining the responsibility of those who “gaze”, and activism through the authority of



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play. This focus will be informed, but not limited to, contemporary calls for social justice within the National Football League, The Women's National Basketball Association, the National Basketball Association; the connection between the case of Colin Kaepernick and the 1968 Olympics; The Cleveland Summit; Arthur Ashe; O.J. Simpson; The Williams Sisters and others.

Graduate/Professional School Planning and Coaching: Graduate school, whether in pursuit of a Masters, MD, DDS, JD, or Ph.D., for many students, conjures up scary thoughts of additional time in school, increased debt, applications, standardized tests, statements of purpose, apprehension on where to attend, etc. This HIGH-IMPACT (3hr) workshop session, conducted by Higher Education & Learning Professional Consulting, Inc. (HELP) "College Admissions: Planning & Coaching" will first introduce you to the entire graduate school "process", then walk you through each phase, connecting the dots from where you are to where you want to go.