Mini College Class Descriptions

Changing Images of Mars
_Nan Arens, Associate Professor of Geoscience_
Ancient people imagined the fiery red planet with the contrary path as the god of war and misfortune. When Lowell turned his telescope on Mars, he imagined a once verdant but dying world. The first images from 20th century spacecraft hinted at dead and static rock, an interpretation maintained throughout the Viking era. However, more recent mapping and surface exploration hints at a dynamic world- one that was warmer and wetter in the past. Could life have started? Does life remain? That’s the big question.

Election 2012
_Iva Deutchman, Professor of Political Science_
I will talk (i.e. speculate) about the 2012 elections. The big questions are whether or not the House is going to stay in Republican hands; will the Senate stay Democratic, and, of course, the $64,000 question is who will the Republicans nominate for the presidency? Can Obama get re-elected with the unemployment rate at 8% or 9%? Will the Tea Party be an important factor in this election, and if so, whom will they support? I will consider all these issues and several others as we think about the election of 2012.

Energy and Environment in China
_Darrin Magee, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies_
This session will briefly examine China's energy situation, including innovations, challenges, and implications for water resources.

The Power of an Idea: Entrepreneurial Leadership
_Susan M. Pliner, Ed.D., and Amy Forbes, Ed.D., Director and Associate Director, respectively, of the Centennial Center for Leadership_
A discussion of entrepreneurial leadership and the ways in which professionals can leverage core tenets, such as problem solving, intellectual ingenuity and calculated risk-taking, from their liberal arts education.

The Making and Meaning of Wine
_Bill Waller, Professor of Economics_
The Finger Lakes is the home of the 2nd largest wine producing region in the U.S. It is also home to one of the largest wine producers in the world. The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the wine of the Finger Lakes. It will involve an introduction to winemaking and tasting. The focus will be on the particular strengths of the wine industry in this area to allow and encourage you to take full advantage of your visits to the Finger Lakes.

From Politics to Murder: New Directions for an Aging Mind
_Peter Beckman, Professor Emeritus of Political Science_
Professor Beckman will discuss his transition from political science to mystery writing. He is the author of a series with the lead character of Henry Carey. A Lecture to Die For is set on a small, liberal arts campus in upstate New York!
The Connection between Forensic Chemistry and True Crime  
*Christine de Denus, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Associate Dean of Faculty*

Have you ever wondered what techniques forensic chemists use to detect minute traces of harmful substances? How they can lead to convictions in murder cases? This class will provide highlights from the book “Molecules of Murder: Criminal Molecules and Classic Cases” by John Emsley which was used as one of the textbooks in Forensic Chemistry class during the Fall 2010 semester. In my class simple man-made molecules and complex natural products will be discussed along with their connections to a number of murder cases. If you are a fan of forensics and want to learn how true crime and chemistry are connected, you are encouraged to attend the class.

A Dark and Long Century: 1275-1400  
*Laurence Erussard, Associate Professor of English*

Scholars often consider the 14th century as a period apart from the rest of the Middle Ages. It was marked by a series of dramatic circumstances: ecological disasters, famine, illness, the beginning of the 100 year war, the great plague of 1348 and drastic social changes. In spite of these pressures, the 14th century was a period of great artistic creativity. It may be surprising to learn that while Dante was writing The Divine Comedy, people were cannibalizing children! This class will give an overview of the literary achievements of this dark century and their historical background.

Discovery Channel’s “The Deadliest Catch”  
*Paul Gasek ’72, Executive Producer*

Deadliest Catch chronicles the real-life adventures of five Alaskan King Crabbing boats, including Captain Phil Harris. The perilous, icy waters of the Bering Sea make it the most dangerous job in the world. Emmy Award winning producer Gasek will give a behind-the-scenes look at the hit TV series and other projects, as well as reflections on a career in television.

Where is Here?  
*John Marks, Adjunct Instructor, History*

Most college students spend four years in a community and graduate knowing little about the place where they’ve lived. This class aims to rectify that for alums and any friends and family who want to tag along! It will begin with places in Geneva - some past, some present - and then move outward to give a richer sense of Geneva’s social and economic history.

They Take Our Jobs! (don’t they?)  
*Judith McKinney, Associate Professor of Economics*

The immigration issue is such a hot political topic that it is often hard to think about it analytically, but such an approach is essential if we are to adopt wise and appropriate policies. Do immigrants take our jobs? Or take advantage of our social support system? Do they drive down wages? Boost economic growth? Get an introduction to the Economics of Immigration and see what insights economics can give us into the key immigration policy questions: how many immigrants should we allow? Who should they be? And what rights and responsibilities should they have while here?

Strategically Essentializing Hispanic Race  
*Thomas Millington, Professor Emeritus of Political Science*

Hispanics are currently headed down the path of becoming “white ethnics” in the United States. This development will position Hispanics on the white side of the white-black binary which provides the axis for racial ordering in this country. Hispanics can, however, make a more compelling statement of who they are racially, one that will challenge the legitimacy of the white/black binary, by becoming
representatives of Latin American racial categories in the United States. The talk will argue for a reversal along this line in the Census Bureau’s view that Hispanics are racially indeterminate and are therefore best treated as an ethnic, not racial, group.

Living on the Silk Road

Jane Trice ’67

A thought provoking commentary on 15 years living in Xinjiang, China on the Silk Road, including many interesting experiences connected with a very mixed ethnic society developing from a donkey cart to plan travel.