

**Spring 2026 Course Auditing:
Goucher College and Edenwald Senior Living URC**

Course Descriptions

BUS 231-Environmental Ethics ([Prof. Grossman](#))

7 Week Course (1/26/26-3/13/26) Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:20 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

An introduction to the economic, political, and legal environment faced by firms engaged in international business and its implications for national economies. Topic areas include international trade, investment, the global monetary system, the competitiveness of U.S. firms in world markets, national industrial policy, and the ethical dilemmas of conducting international business.

WRT 283-Writing Harry Potter ([Prof. Sterling](#))

Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Calling all witches and wizards! Grab your pens and quills and join us for an exploration of the world of Harry Potter: what role does the series play in promoting literacy? What influence does it continue to have in publishing and pop culture? In this course we will discuss both the Harry Potter books themselves, and the books that influenced Rowling in creating the Harry Potter universe. We will also investigate understandings of fandoms, genre fiction, and distinctions between literary influence, canonical conventions and plagiarism. Prior experience reading the Harry Potter books is not required, but suggested.

PHL 106-Ethics and Cognition ([Prof. Decaroli](#))

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m.- 11:20 a.m.

This course is an introduction to ethical thought with particular attention given to conflicts that arise between individual interests and communal goods. How should we act in our relationships with others? How should we expect others to act with respect to ourselves? What exactly does it mean to say that an action is wrong? Our attempt to answer these questions will be guided not only by solutions found in classical philosophical texts, but also by advances in contemporary neuroscience which have transformed our understanding of ethically relevant matters such as free will, self-perception, and rational decision-making. What happens when the assumptions about human nature that underlie traditional morality are shown to be incorrect? And might our reconsideration of these assumptions be aided by non-western sources, especially those drawn from the Buddhist tradition.

HIS 204- Tumultuous Centuries- Modern Japan ([Prof. Dawley](#))

Mon and Wed. 8:40 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

This course explores Japan's dramatic, and repeated, transformations during the 19th and 20th centuries. It will examine a range of topics, including samurai culture and the nature of the Tokugawa shogunate; the domestic and foreign sources of the collapse of that order; the revolutionary nature of the Meiji Restoration; Japan's emergence as an industrial power and imperialist state; Pan-Asianism and Japan's drive for pre-eminence in Asia; the Pacific War

and its aftermath; Japan's post-war reconstruction and economic miracle; the transformation of gender roles; Japan's social movements, and the dilemmas that Japan has faced as a militarily-constrained economic powerhouse

PSC 353: Life and Politics in Baltimore ([Prof. Kasniunas](#) / Alice Kennedy)

Mon and Wed. 7:00 p.m. -8:50 p.m.

This course is designed to engage students in some of the many complexities of life and politics in Baltimore. Baltimore has a distinct character that has been shaped by its 300+ year history. Despite being plagued by social and economic inequality, crime and even corruption, Baltimore is still Charm City. The people of Baltimore are its greatest gift - they fight for their communities and families, they care for one another and they offer the city their unique talents and gifts, creating the rich tapestry that is Baltimore. With a new generation of political leadership in Baltimore, everyone is anxious to see whether we will see change. In this course you will learn about the Baltimore's political and civic institutions, political and community leaders, and the issues Baltimore faces. In addition, we will take time to enjoy and appreciate the many positive aspects of life (and politics) in Baltimore.