

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

Course Descriptions

Philosophy (PHL) 106-Ethics and Cognition

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.

Political Science (PSC) 342- Seminar on Presidential Politics

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

This class examines the central role of the presidency in the U.S. political system. Importantly, we will consider not just the individual people who are/have been the ‘president’ but how we as political scientists can examine the broader institution of ‘the presidency’ and the entire Executive Branch. We will consider the evolution of the office over time, from its Constitutional and historical foundations to its modern embodiment, which the founders would likely find unrecognizable. We will compare the presidency to other institutions and actors both within and outside of the U.S. political system. We will explore what tools the presidents have at their disposal to pursue their policy goals and how often those tools actually work the way a president intends.

Visual and Material Culture (VMC) 103- Introduction to Global Visual Culture

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

Introduces the study of Western art and the discipline of art history, its methods, terminology, and critical issues, including the problems of the canon, aesthetics, chronology, and periodization. Students will explore images and objects produced at different moments and in a variety of geographic and cultural contents, considering throughout the ways in which art conveys meaning through visual form, the ebb and flow of various stylistic trends, the use of symbolic images in the sacred and secular realms, the persistence of major visual motifs, the

role of the spectator in shaping the meaning the meaning of images and objects, and the influence of political and economic conditions on the making of art.

Data Science (DMC) 305- Data, Ethics, and Fairness

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 12:00 p.m.- 1:10 p.m.

This course provides a framework to analyze the ethical and fair use of big data. We explore the broader impacts of the data science field on society in the context of fairness, accountability, and transparency. Through case study analysis and hands-on experiments, this course will help data professionals better understand the ethical implications involved in data analytics and the use of technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Environmental Studies (ES 230)- Feminist Political Ecology

Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 p.m.- 8:50 p.m.

This course examines various interpretations of feminist political ecology, outlining the crucial theoretical and methodological problems in the field. Emphasis will be placed on the interpretation that views feminist political ecology as an analytical tool that seeks to investigate how seemingly "progressive" environmental discourses perpetuate gender, race, and class vulnerabilities. By attending gendered knowledge production, we will examine how to build more nuanced political environmental movements.

Psychology (PSY) 430- Close Relationships

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:40 a.m.- 11:50 a.m.

A consideration of social psychologists' attempts to understand the nature of such elusive concepts as love, intimacy, and closeness. This course will focus primarily on relationship processes, including the following topics: The development of intimacy; influences on relationship satisfaction; the interplay of autonomy and relatedness motives; relational schemas/models; relationship conflict; technology and relationships; and gender and sexuality in a relational context.