COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Courses are listed alphabetically by academic department. Descriptions are subject to change between publications. The most up-to-date version of the catalog can be found on the College website at www.potsdam.edu/graduate.

School of Arts and Sciences

Anthropology Courses

ANTH 615 Archeological Field Techniques (3)
Through excavations in historical and pre-historical settlements in Northern New York, the principal methods of archeological field research are practiced. Independent research project and report culminate the course. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission of instructor. Ordinarily taken concurrently with ANTH 616. Summer session.

ANTH 616 Archeological Laboratory Techniques (3)
The results of excavation are preserved, prepared for analysis, and analytic techniques are demonstrated. An independent laboratory analysis project concludes the course. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission of instructor. Ordinarily taken concurrently with ANTH 615. Summer session.

ANTH 698 Tutorial (3)
Readings selected and assigned on the basis of the individual’s background, professional needs and interest. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

Art Courses

ARTH 691 Readings in the History of Art (3)
Individualized study and research on projects and problems in the history of art. Project ideas developed on the basis of student needs and professional interests in conjunction with the instructor. Prerequisites: 31 hours in art history and permission of the instructor.

ARTS 685 Special Problems – Art Studio (3)
Individualized studio research in a selected art studio area. Project ideas developed on the basis of students’ needs and professional interests in conjunction with the instructor. Prerequisites: 34 undergraduate hours in art studio and permission of the instructor.

English and Communication Courses

Courses are listed alphabetically by course prefix: COMP (composition), GECD (interdisciplinary English and communication), LITR (literature), and LNGS (linguistics). Where possible, the academic term the course is generally taught has been provided. All other courses are taught as demand warrants.

595, 695 Special Topics (1-12)

598 Tutorial (1-3)
Independent study in speech communication, composition, literature, or linguistics with faculty supervision. Plans for specific program must be approved by department chair and Dean of Arts and Sciences.

COMP 505 Rhetorical Criticism (3)
This class aims to develop your critical abilities and sensibilities as a scholar of rhetoric and rhetorical messages in our increasingly information-saturated society. Throughout the semester you will become acquainted with various approaches to rhetorical criticism, survey landmark pieces of criticism produced in the field, and develop your skills as a critic through the application of critical methods to analysis of selected rhetorical artifacts. Prerequisites: COMP 201 and junior, senior, or Graduate standing. Yearly.

COMP 507 Theory of Composition (3)
Examination of composition studies: its pivotal debates, research efforts, disciplinary movements, and pedagogical shifts. Prerequisites: COMP 201 and junior, senior, or Graduate standing. Yearly.

COMP 515 Writing Center Theory (3)
This course highlights theories of writing and collaboration developed in the context of writing center studies and asks students to consider the ways in which insights gained from writing center scholars can impact professional work in multiple settings. Prerequisite: COMP 201 and junior, senior, or Graduate standing. Spring—every other year.

COMP 530 Theory of Rhetoric (3)
Study of major theories of rhetoric. Emphasis on the perspectives those theories offer on texts from contemporary U.S. culture. Practice in advanced rhetorical analysis. Prerequisites: COMP 201 and junior, senior, or Graduate standing. Yearly.

GECD 601 Introduction to Graduate Studies (3)
Practice in the skills and processes necessary to the graduate student, including compiling and evaluating sources, writing literature reviews, generating research topics, conducting research, and presenting one’s findings within a discourse community. Also, students would be able to identify the ways research questions are formulated and research methods are used in literary studies, composition studies, communication studies, and interdisciplinary humanities. Fall.

GECD 602 Introduction to Discourse Studies (3)
Surveys major theories in the field, including discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, and ethnography of communication. As warranted.
GEC 603 Semiotics (3)
Semiotics is the study of signs and symbolic systems, especially in relation to verbal and nonverbal communication. This course investigates the relationship between signs and their symbolic systems, with specific attention to the culture and media in which they are produced: from language and its generic structures, to such nonverbal media as images (artwork, tattoos, money, fashion, and landscapes), sounds and music, and gestures (both conscious and unconscious). As warranted.

GEC 604 Professional Writing (3)
Practice in writing texts for professional publication in which students refine their understanding of form and style. Projects and readings are shaped by class interests and may include: 1) articles and essays for academic, professional, or mass media, 2) fiction or poetry, 3) technical communications. As warranted.

GEC 605 Rhetoric and Society (3)
Examines important contributions to rhetorical theory, with particular emphasis on how those theories have influenced contemporary rhetoric. As warranted.

GEC 606 Thesis Workshop (3)
Students will apply advanced writing and research techniques learned in GEC 601 (Introduction to Graduate Studies) in order to write a literature review and develop a polished draft of thesis proposal, including bibliography and project timeline, for submission. Topics include techniques needed to define an effective research question and methodology, compiling and evaluating sources within specialized field of study, refining scholarly arguments, and effective processes of writing, revising, and eliciting feedback. Prerequisite: GEC 601. Spring.

GEC 610 Theories of Interpretation (3)
Examines the interpretative methods leading to the perception, interpretation, and understanding of texts. This course explores recent theories of interpretation by literary critics, philosophers, and other scholars. Consideration will also be given to the role of interpretation in students' writing, speaking, teaching, and research. As warranted.

GEC 615 Narratology (3)
Narratology is the study of the structural components of a narrative. Drawing upon the works of various theorists—from Russian formalists to French structuralists—this course examines narrative as a distinct system of rules, exploring literary and cultural productions as embodiments of these rules. As warranted.

GEC 620 Poetics (3)
Poetics is concerned with the principles and rules of poetic composition. This course examines how such principles relate to various rhetorical and aesthetic theories about poetry. As warranted.

GEC 625 Psychology and Discourse (3)
Examines theories of the human mind and their effects on personal, cultural, and literary constructions. While the specific subject matter may vary, recent topics have included the study of writing as a vehicle for psychological healing; the study of archetypal and myth criticism; and the study of shame-based literature. As warranted.

GEC 640 Discourses of Nationalism (3)
The purpose of this course is twofold: to explore discourses of nationalism and to examine the role that literary and non-literary texts have played in fostering, complicating, and resisting nationalist sentiments. As warranted.

GEC 645 Discourses of Humanism (3)
Examines the history and development of humanism, its relation to the divine, to the world as a scientifically observable phenomenon, to the individual, and to social and cultural institutions. As warranted.

GEC 650 Discourses of Culture (3)
Examines the varied discourses of culture, with particular attention given to forms of cultural production and networks of cultural dissemination. As warranted.

GEC 655 Discourses of Ecology (3)
Examines the discourse of ecological movements. Particular concerns are the shifts in aesthetic and communicative discourses as they respond to and influence community action, public policy, and scientific inquiry. As warranted.

GEC 660 Gender and Identity in Discourse (3)
Examines the discourse of gender and how such discourse serves to construct, reify, or challenge gender identities. As warranted.

GEC 680 Special Topics (3)
Topics will vary. Recent courses include Documentary Film, Book History, and Discourses of Science Fiction. As warranted.

LITR 510 Thesis Credits (1–6)
Provides opportunity to complete the requirements for the Master's degree. Topics will be chosen for detailed study. Prerequisites: LITR 200 or LITR 201, and LITR 300; or Graduate standing. As warranted.

LITR 511 Advanced Topics: Literary Nonfiction (3)
Examines nonfiction (biography, autobiography, the essay, new journalism) of literary value. Integrates close analysis of primary texts, secondary criticism, and critical theory. Focus will vary from semester to semester. Prerequisites: LITR 200 or LITR 201, and LITR 300; or Graduate standing. As warranted.

LITR 512 Advanced Topics: Short Story (3)
Examines the short story as a specific modern genre, beginning with examination of the form's emergence in the early nineteenth century and concluding with readings of contemporary texts. Integrates close analysis of primary texts, secondary criticism, and critical theory. Authors and focus will vary from semester to semester. Prerequisites: LITR 200 or LITR 201, and LITR 300; or Graduate standing. As warranted.

LITR 513 Advanced Topics: Drama (3)
Examines the forms and traditions of drama. Integrates close analysis of primary texts, secondary criticism, and critical theory. Topics will vary from semester to semester. Prerequisites: LITR 200 or LITR 201, and LITR 300; or Graduate standing. As warranted.

LITR 514 Advanced Topics: Poetry (3)
Examines the forms and traditions of poetry. Integrates close analysis of primary texts, secondary criticism, and critical theory. Topics will vary from semester to semester. Prerequisites: LITR 200 or LITR 201, and LITR 300; or Graduate standing. As warranted.

LITR 515 Advanced Topics: The Novel (3)
Examines the novel from a variety of foci—through genre, period, theme, or topic-based constraints. Integrates close analysis of primary texts, secondary criticism, and critical theory. Topics will vary from semester to semester. Prerequisites: LITR 200 or LITR 201, and LITR 300; or Graduate standing. As warranted.

LITR 520 Special Topics (3)
Examination of a special topic in literature, focusing on a genre, literary movement, or specific author(s). Topics will vary from semester to semester. Prerequisites: LITR 200 or LITR 201, and LITR 300; or Graduate standing. Yearly.

LITR 523 Major Authors (3)
For each offering a major author from English, American, or World literature will be chosen for detailed study. Prerequisites: LITR 200 or LITR 201, and LITR 300; or Graduate standing. As warranted.

LITR 530 Advanced Topics: Film (3)
This course studies film as a specific modern genre, beginning with examination of the form's emergence in the late nineteenth century and concluding with readings/viewings of contemporary films. Integrates
close analysis of primary films, secondary criticism, and film theory. Films and focus will vary from semester to semester. Prerequisites: LITR 200, 201, or 330 and LITR 300 or Graduate standing. As warranted.

LITR 580 Literary Theory and Research (3)
Builds on LITR 300 to provide a detailed examination of particular theoretical approaches currently used in literary analysis. Some attention to combining theoretical approaches, such as psychoanalytic with feminist. Students complete an independent research project on the topic of their choice, informed by literary theory and current literary criticism. Prerequisites: LITR 200 or LITR 201, and LITR 300; or Graduate standing. Yearly.

LITR 585 Research in Literary Archives (3)
This course develops skills in accessing and utilizing archives of literary materials, including primary texts but also ephemera, diaries, personal correspondence, or other aspects of collected printed materials. Focusing on micromaterials collections in the Crumb Library (e.g. microfilm and microfiche), as well as digital archives, students rely on printed indices and databases to develop self-directed, interdisciplinary research projects that synthesize analyses of primary and secondary materials. Authors and focus will vary from semester to semester. Prerequisites: LITR 200 or LITR 201 and LITR 300; or Graduate Standing. Yearly.

LNGS 610 Studies in English Linguistics: Seminar (3)
Problems and topics in the study of English linguistics. Prerequisites: course study in linguistics or history of the English language; proficiency in phonemic transcription may be required, and Graduate standing. As warranted.

Geology Courses

GEOL 575 Geology Laboratory Techniques (1)
Experience in laboratory instruction under supervision and guidance of a faculty member. Prerequisites: GEOL 204, Graduate standing and permission. Graded S*/U*. Fall and Spring.

GEOL 598 Tutorial (3–6)
Geological study projects generally limited to topics that are not part of the regular course offerings. Prerequisite: departmental approval.

GEOL 698 Geology Research (1-3)
Original research designed to give practical experience in any area of geology. The student, under advisement, must present a research proposal in writing to the supervising professor. If approved, the research must be conducted in close cooperation with one or more graduate faculty members in geology.

History Courses

HIST 540 Readings in American History (3)
Programs of individual study, designed with the advice of the instructor, on selected topics in American history. (May be taken more than once.) Prerequisite: Graduate standing or undergraduate seniors.

HIST 641 Readings in European History (3)
Programs of individual study, designed with the advice of the instructor, on selected topics in European history. (May be taken more than once.) Prerequisite: Graduate standing or undergraduate seniors.

Mathematics Courses

Where possible, the academic term the course is generally taught has been provided. All other courses are taught as demand warrants.

MATH 522 Number Theory (3)
Divisibility, simple continued fractions, congruencies, diophantine equations and quadratic residues. Prerequisites: MATH 152 and MATH 340, or permission.

MATH 524 Modern Algebra II (3)
Topics in the theory of groups, rings and fields, such as factorization and Galois theory. Prerequisite: MATH 423. (MATH 375 recommended.)

MATH 526 Linear Algebra II (3)
Selected topics: inner product spaces, canonical forms, bilinear and quadratic forms. Prerequisites: MATH 375 and permission.

MATH 541 Introduction to Topology (3)
Open and closed sets, continuous functions, compactness, connectedness, separation properties and product spaces. Prerequisite: MATH 451 or permission. Spring only.

MATH 542 Introduction to Algebraic Topology (3)
Concept of homotopy, fundamental group, covering spaces, integral homology and cohomology. Prerequisite: MATH 541.

MATH 543 Topics in Topology (3)
Topics such as surfaces and manifolds, knot theory, geometry of the hyperbolic plane, dimension theory, geometry in higher dimensions. Prerequisites: MATH 375, 423 and 451 or permission. May not be repeated for additional credit.

MATH 547 Theory of Sets (3)
Theoretical set concepts, axioms of set theory; axioms of choice and Zorn’s lemma, ordinals and cardinals, transfinite induction. By invitation only. Prerequisites: MATH 340 and permission. Spring only.

MATH 553 Concepts of Geometry (3)
Topics from Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometries: theory of transformations of the plane, elements of projective geometry, etc. Prerequisites: MATH 375 and 423 or permission. Spring only.

MATH 562 Probability and Mathematical Statistics II (3)
Sampling distributions, tests of hypotheses, linear regression, non-parametric methods, sufficient statistics and further topics in statistical inference. Prerequisite: MATH 461.

MATH 567 Complex Variables with Applications (3)
Complex numbers, analytic functions, contour integration, power series, conformal mapping, residues and poles. Prerequisite: MATH 451. Spring only.

MATH 661 Topology I (3)
Ordinals and cardinals, topological spaces, metric spaces, Cartesian products, connectedness, identification topology, weak topologies, separation axioms. Prerequisite: MATH 451 or permission. Spring only.

MATH 662 Topology II (3)
A continuation of MATH 661. Second countable spaces, filter bases, compactness and function spaces. Prerequisite: MATH 661 or permission.

MATH 671 Abstract Algebra I (3)
Groups, Sylow theorems, rings, modules. Prerequisites: MATH 375 and permission. Fall only.

MATH 672 Abstract Algebra II (3)
A continuation of MATH 671. Galois theory, structure theorem for semisimple rings, injective and projective modules, introduction to homological algebra. Prerequisites: MATH 671 and permission. Spring only.
MATH 681 Complex Variables I (3)
Complex numbers, holomorphic functions, Cauchy's integral theorem and formula, Taylor and Laurent series, residue calculus, analytic functions and analytic extension. Prerequisites: MATH 451 and permission. Spring only.

MATH 682 Complex Variables II (3)
A continuation of MATH 681. Conformal mapping, Riemann mapping theorem and Dirichlet problem, representation of entire functions and meromorphic functions. Prerequisites: MATH 681 and permission.

MATH 691 Real Variables I (3)
Real number system, comparison of Riemann integral and Lebesgue integral, measurable functions, Lebesgue Dominated Convergence Theorem. Prerequisites: MATH 451 and permission. Fall only.

MATH 692 Real Variables II (3)
A continuation of MATH 691. Normed linear spaces, Hilbert spaces, modes of convergence, Radon-Nikodym theorem, Riesz representation theorem, Fubini's theorem. Prerequisites: MATH 691 and permission. Spring only.

MATH 696 Advanced Topics (3)
Seminars in advanced topics from various branches of mathematics. May be repeated if content changes. Prerequisite: permission.

MATH 698 Tutorial (3)
Study of current topics in mathematics as found in research articles or reference texts. Prerequisites: Four of the 600-level graduate mathematics courses required for the MA degree and permission of the department chair. May be repeated if content changes.

Sociology Courses

SOCI 510 Readings in Sociological Theory (3)
Individualized study consisting of a critical review of major works in sociological theory.

SOCI 520 Readings in Sociological Methods (3)
Individualized study consisting of a critical review of major works in research methods.

SOCI 540 Readings in Urban Sociology (3)
Individualized study consisting of a critical review of major works in the field of sociology.

SOCI 550 Readings in Sociology of the Family (3)
Individualized study consisting of a critical review of major works in the field of sociology of the family.

SOCI 560 Readings: Deviance and Corrections (3)
Individualized study consisting of a critical review of major works in the field of sociology of deviance and corrections.

SOCI 570 Readings in the Sociology of Education (3)
Individualized study consisting of a critical reviews of major works in the area of sociology of education.

SOCI 600 Readings in Sociology (3)
Individualized study consisting of a critical review of major works in a subfield of sociology.

SOCI 661 Sociology of Human Services (3)
Individualized study consisting of a critical review of human services as social phenomena.

Philosophy Courses

PHIL 601 Studies in Normative Problems (3)
Graduate students desiring to pursue studies in ethical theory, social and political philosophy, aesthetics, or philosophy of law should consult with the chair of the philosophy department. Students may pursue their interests through coursework or through tutorial study.

PHIL 603 Logic, Foundations of Knowledge and Metaphysics (3)
Graduate students desiring to pursue studies in symbolic logic, theory of knowledge, philosophy of history, philosophy of science, philosophy of the social sciences, philosophy of language, philosophy of religion, or metaphysics should consult with the chair of the philosophy department. Students may pursue their interest either through coursework or through tutorial study.

PHIL 605 History of Philosophy (3)
Graduate students desiring to pursue studies in the philosophy of a historical period or in the philosophy of an individual thinker should consult with the chair of the philosophy department. Students may pursue their interest either through coursework or through tutorial study.