

space availability for study groups as of 05/16/2014 09:00AM

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Online Study Groups

American Musical Theater 4 cr with Cynthia Bates 8 week

spaces avail 15 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully

** Online Study Group **

In this study, you will explore the evolution of the American Broadway musical from the mid-20th century to current day. You will investigate the historical and cultural landscape of the US during this time period and will assess why Broadway musicals have become so popular. You will also learn to analyze the components of a musical (libretto, music and dance) both individually and as a cohesive whole. During this study, you will consider issues such as (1) How do musicals reflect and contribute to the social fabric of the US at various times in this country's history? (2) What kinds of messages about gender, race and ethnicity, sexuality and the meaning of "America" do various musicals convey? Throughout this study, you will gain the tools necessary to become an informed musical theater audience member who can think critically, creatively, and independently about the role of musical theater in American culture. This study meets the following Arts area of study guidelines: "understanding the historical and cultural context of works of art," "research skills," "capacity to formulate, express and communicate concepts and images," and "ability to formulate critical judgments." This study also meets the Arts general education requirement. Please note that this study title was changed from "Musical Theater & American Culture" to "American Musical Theater" in the fall of 2013. Students who took "Musical Theater & American Culture" should not register for this study.

Civil War Commemoration 4 cr with Anastasia Pratt 8 week

spaces avail 14 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully

** Online Study Group **

This online study group will explore the Civil War, as it is remembered and commemorated.

Independent Learning Strategies 2 cr with Cynthia Bates 8 week

spaces avail 12 Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Basic Communications - fully

** Online Study Group **

This study is designed to help students get the best experience possible during their journey at Empire State College. Students will hone their writing, research, and critical thinking skills while also thinking carefully about the value and design of a liberal arts education. In particular, students will learn about the history and mission of Empire State College while also discovering or acknowledging how their educational goals can be fulfilled at this college. Students will work through strategies for creating a positive learning environment, an effective learning schedule, and a supportive learning network. Part of this journey will include exploring the student's learning style and using techniques to engage in active learning (active reading, critical thinking, and analytic writing). Students will be introduced to the wide range of resources the college offers to help students succeed so s/he can identify which of these resources might best suit his/her needs. Lastly, students will begin thinking about the value of creating their own degree plan and will begin to explore the vocabulary, concepts, and processes of the Educational Planning process. Note: This study should ideally be taken before a student engages in Educational Planning, however adjustments can be made for students who take this study after their degree plan has been completed.

Introduction to Theater 4 cr with Cynthia Bates 8 week

spaces avail 14 Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully

**** Online Study Group ****

In this study, you will explore the various elements involved in creating and responding to theater, focusing on how theater reflects who we are. How do we perform various roles in our everyday lives? What stories do we want our plays and musicals to tell? As you seek answers to these questions, you will also learn about the creative aspects of theater including play writing, acting, directing and design. Throughout this study, you will gain the tools necessary to become an informed theater audience member who can think critically, creatively and independently about the role of theater in US culture. This study meets the following Arts area of study guidelines for relevant concentrations: "awareness of current developments and critical perspectives," "research skills," "capacity to formulate, express and communicate concepts and images," and "ability to formulate critical judgments." This study also fully meets the Arts general education requirement. This study replaces "Theater: The Art of Looking at Ourselves." Students who previously took that study should not register for this study.

Objects & Images: A Literary Investigation 4 cr with Anastasia Pratt 8 week
spaces avail 14 Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Humanities - fully

**** Online Study Group ****

Students will explore the use of objects and images within popular literature. Using theories of Material and Visual Culture studies, students will analyze those references to objects, focusing on their role as characters within a larger story. Authors whose works may be used include Kate Jacobs, Luanne Rice, Elin Hildebrand, Barbara Kingsolver, Margaret Atwood, and Carol Shields.

Albany Study Groups

Mondays

The Earth Speaks: Reading & Writing About Nature 4 cr with Claudia Hough 8 week
spaces avail 6 Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Basic Communications - fully
Humanities - fully

21 British American Blvd., Latham Mondays 5:30-7:30 p.m. 5/19, 6/2, 6/16 and 6/30

This study will allow students to analyze what people have had to say about nature and why humans have written about nature in the first place. They will discover how each writer's work reflects his or her perception of nature and what nature writing has revealed about cultural and personal values. Through their own writing, students will be encouraged to develop a deeper and more constant awareness of their own places in the natural world. This study meets the general education requirement for Basic Communication OR Humanities, not both.

Tuesdays

Painting Outdoors: Summer Landscape for Beginners 4 cr with Marta Jaremko 8 week
spaces avail 10 Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully

21 British American Blvd., Latham and other locations Tuesdays 5:30-8:00 p.m. May 20, May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8

The emphasis of this study is on learning technique and fundamental watercolor painting skills while developing a basic understanding of composition. Progress in this study depends on completing all assignments and on weekly critiques of each student's individual work. Therefore, it is essential that work be turned in on a weekly basis. Painting students learn so much from having their work critiqued, as well as from critiquing others' work. There will be short weekly critiques with students' participation at the end of each session.

Wednesdays

Introduction to Women's Studies 4 cr with Joan Harrington 8 week
spaces avail 15 Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

21 British American Blvd., Latham Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/23

What are Women's Studies? What are feminism and feminist theory? Where did these subjects come from and why do they deserve to be studied? This study provides students with an interdisciplinary approach to the study of feminism, gender, sexuality and the concept of power. We will define the concept of feminism and understand it as a human rights issue and not a concept of radical ideas and actions. We will review women's rights and their connection to issues of status, self concept and power.

Narratives we think we know: women's stories and American history 4 cr with Lisa D'Adamo-Weinstein 8 week
spaces avail 14 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully
Humanities - fully

21 British American Blvd., Latham Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. May, 21, June 4, June 18, July 2

What do we really know about the narratives of American history? What does it mean to be female in America? This course will examine the narrative lives of women from the Colonial Period to the present day through their letters, narratives, and images. All of this will be placed within the context of the integral roles women have played in American history. By reading women's letters and other primary sources, students will obtain an understanding of U.S. history from a narrative perspective as told by women and perhaps gain a different or deeper understanding of historical events and the transformative roles women played in shaping those events. During this study, we will cover the themes of letter writing, communication and narrative; the concept of public and private; and consider the socio-economic status of women across the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries and how that status is reflected in their stories. We will also explore how technology has impacted communication and "what's next" for women as they document and participate in future historical events as they unfold. A good understanding of U.S. history is helpful for this study, but not required. Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand the complexities of women's lives and roles. Women are not a homogeneous group. The women whose writings we will read came from different socio-economic groups, were different ages, lived in different regions of the country and therefore experienced life as an American woman differently. Yet, in those differences there are common themes that can be identified such as the duality of public v. private. Many of the letters we will read were never intended for public consumption and reveal women in some very intimate, heartbreaking as well as inspirational and uplifting moments. It is these moments that reveal the very real part women played in the evolution of the United States from colonial frontier to world super power. 2. Recognize that there is more than one narrative to history and the one that is most familiar to us may not be the history experienced by everyone. 3. Understand the value and use of primary sources in history and use them to gain a deeper understanding of U.S. history. 4. Understand the power of narrative and stories and how they can shape not only personal memory, but historical memory as well.

Program Evaluation 4 cr with Nadine Wedderburn 8 week

spaces avail 15

Adv./Non-Liberal

fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Critical Thinking - fully
Information Management - fully

21 British American Blvd., Latham Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. May 21, June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 1, 9

Program Evaluation is the systematic use of empirical information to assess and improve the efficacy of public or non-profit programs and policies. Evaluation is increasingly required by funders and policy makers concerned with accountability and efficient use of public or philanthropic resources. In addition, many governments and organizations have built the logic of evaluation into their work through systems of performance management and monitoring. This study will introduce you to the framework of evaluation, the development of plans for formative and summative evaluations, and the data collection tools for implementing evaluation. We will draw on your knowledge of organizational design, management, statistics, and data analysis. In addition, we will explore the role of evaluators, funders, program staff, and stakeholders (powerful and less so) in planning, implementing, and responding to program evaluation.

Thursdays

***Quantitative Reasoning 4 cr with Amy Salvati 15 week**

spaces avail 8

Intro/Liberal

fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Mathematics - fully

21 British American Blvd., Latham Thursdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. May 22, June 5, 19, July 10, 24, August 7, 21

This introductory level study will develop the ability to interpret and reason with information that involves mathematical ideas or numbers. As students explore issues that directly affect their lives, they will gain an appreciation of mathematics and its importance in a technological world. Topics will be chosen from statistical reasoning, symmetry and proportion, mathematical modeling, probability, and geometry. These topics will cover the required general education competencies of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, data analysis, and quantitative reasoning. Applications of mathematics to the social sciences, environmental issues, business, art, and music will be featured.

Information Technology, Ethics & Society 4 cr with Mete Cetiner 8 week

spaces avail 12

Adv./Liberal

fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - partially

21 British American Blvd., Latham Thursdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. 05/22, 05/29, 06/05, 06/12, 06/19, 06/26, 07/10

In this study, we will evaluate the impact of information technology (IT) on our lives and society, and we will examine how we use current IT applications for different purposes. The study will also provide you with an understanding of the fundamental principles of ethics. You will analyze a series of cases and real-life situations where individuals or organizations face social or ethical dilemmas, or legal sanctions in relation to the use of IT in different environments.

Saratoga Study Groups

Tuesdays

Experiencing Poetry 4 cr with Elaine Handley 8 week
spaces avail **13** Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully
Basic Communications - fully

111 West Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY Tuesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. 5/20, 6/3, 6/17, 7/1.

As Laurence Perrine has stated "Poetry is as universal as language and almost as ancient. The most primitive peoples have used it, and the most civilized have cultivated it." In this study we are going to explore why poetry has been such a powerful and important art form by immersing the student in poetry--as a reader and writer. The student will read a great deal of poetry, but also gain an understanding of the craft of poetry, becoming familiar with figures of speech and poetic techniques. This course will ask students to play with language and experiment.

Wednesdays

Survey of Social Science Research Methods 4 cr with Sewon Kim 8 week
spaces avail **14** Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

111 West Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. 5/28, 6/11, 6/25, and 7/9

This study examines an overview of research design, methods, and techniques--encompassing research question and hypothesis development, data collection and analysis, and research reporting conventions. During the study, students will be exposed to some quantitative and qualitative approaches to conducting research in various contexts (e.g. business, government, education, community, and nonprofit sectors). The study will prepare students to utilize survey (paper and electronic), interview, focus group, case study, and secondary document for their assessment, program evaluation, and research in organizations. This study is designed to satisfy the general education requirement for Social Sciences and the research skills or methodologies for inquiry for several concentrations. This study group will meet for 4 face-to-face evening sessions during the term, in Saratoga Springs, NY on alternating Wednesdays. Additional short participation in three "asynchronous" online discussions (Moodle) is required between the face-to-face meetings.

Saturdays

Walking in the History of Saratoga 4 cr with Anthony Anadio 8 week
spaces avail **9** Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully
The Arts - fully

First meeting at 28 Union Ave. Other meeting locations TBD Saturdays 9:00-11:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 21 (6-8pm); Saturday, May 24; Saturday, May 31; and Saturday, June 14.

The many mineral springs which bubble up from deep within the earth have attracted explorers, settlers, soldiers, and health-seekers to this place about 15 miles from the Hudson River, now known as Saratoga Springs. Following the pivotal victory at the Battle of Saratoga and the aftermath of the Revolutionary War, the number of permanent settlers grew, and in 1803, Gideon Putnam opened the first of his tavern/boardinghouses. The Saratoga and Schenectady Railroad made its way into town in 1833, and brought scores of tourists to "take the waters" and to see the natural beauties. Amid tumult of the Civil War, the Saratoga Race Track opened in 1863 and remains the oldest sports venue in the United States. One hundred years later, with the construction of the Northway and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC), the city is still a tourist destination for those seeking culture and entertainment. What does not always get the same attention is the spectacular architecture that fills most of the city's streets. Perhaps it is because the buildings are so well intertwined with the cultural life of the people and the city that they do not seem out-of-place. Our class will visit these gems, and we will see several from the inside. The Study Group meeting will consist of one in-class session (at one of Empire's locations in Saratoga), and at least 3 (possibly 4) walking tours of the city (rain or shine), which will take place on Saturday mornings from 9-11am. Students are encouraged to take pictures, though it is not required. Will the buildings do for us what the "waters" have done for history of Saratoga Springs? Let's explore the city and find out!

Meeting dates/times/locations not yet published

Nature and Art 4 cr with Linda Jones 8 week
spaces avail ***CLOSED*** Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Natural Sciences - fully
The Arts - fully

*** Meeting dates/time/location not yet determined ***

In this study, students have the opportunity to visit the natural areas around Saratoga Springs and learn about the geological and ecological processes which have shaped the landscape in this region of New York. As students study the environment from the perspective of a field scientist, they will have the opportunity to develop their skills as an artist, using the natural environment as the subject of their drawings. Weekly meetings will take place at outdoor venues including Saratoga Springs State Park and Yaddo. This study can be taken at the advanced level by students who have a strong background in Art and Science. Contact Linda Jones (linda.jones@esc.edu) or MaryAnn Borden (maryann.borden@esc.edu) for information.

Nature and Art 4 cr with MaryAnn Borden 8 week

spaces avail *CLOSED* Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Natural Sciences - fully
The Arts - fully

*** Meeting dates/time/location not yet determined ***

In this study, students have the opportunity to visit the natural areas around Saratoga Springs and learn about the geological and ecological processes which have shaped the landscape in this region of New York. As students study the environment from the perspective of a field scientist, they will have the opportunity to develop their skills as an artist, using the natural environment as the subject of their drawings. Weekly meetings will take place at outdoor venues including Saratoga Springs State Park and Yaddo. This study can be taken at the advanced level by students who have a strong background in Art and Science. Contact Linda Jones (linda.jones@esc.edu) or MaryAnn Borden (maryann.borden@esc.edu) for information.