SPEC, short for Specials, are courses with topics that are outside our academic department areas of study OR are being sponsored by the Winter Study Committee.

**SPEC 10 (W) Introductory Photography: People and Places**

**Cross-listings:** MATH 14 SPEC 10

This is an introductory course in photography, both color and black & white photography, and using the digital camera. The main themes will be people and the landscape. No previous knowledge is assumed, but students are expected to have access to a 35 mm (or equivalent) digital camera, with manual override or aperture priority. The topics covered will include composition, exposure, camera use, direction and properties of light, and digital imaging. Students will develop their eye through the study of the work of well-known photographers and the critical analysis of their own work. We will discuss the work of contemporary photographers such as Mary Ellen Mark, Joel Meyerowitz, Constantine Manos, and Eugene Richards. Students will be expected to spend a considerable amount of time practicing their own photography outside of class. There will be three required local half-day field trips. Students will also be introduced to Photoshop and Lightroom, and will work on their own images with these programs.

In 2010 Adjunct Instructor Bio: Mr. Washburne joined the stable of photographic artists who are represented by the Sun to Moon gallery in Dallas. Since then he has worked exclusively as a fine art photographer concentrating on landscapes, abstracts and street shooting. He also published travel stories alongside his photography in both D Magazine and The Robb Report.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, an in-class quiz and a final project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: e-mail questionnaire
Grading: pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee: $35 and cost of books
Distributions: (D3)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
MATH 14 (D3) SPEC 10 (D3)

Not offered current academic year

**SPEC 10 (W) Counseling Skills Intensive**

Whether you want to better support your friends, be more effective as a leader, or pursue a career in the helping professions, good listening and communication skills are essential. This course will prepare you to be a better listener and a more effective, confident communicator. You will learn techniques that help put others at ease while you learn and practice active listening over a variety of topical areas that increase in intensity as we learn and build trust as a group. We will also address what is needed in more charged, personal or urgent situations, exploring our limits, values and responsibilities. You will learn to communicate skillfully about sensitive issues, support others with different experiences/identities than your own, and find your own style in a helping role. Besides improving self-awareness and interpersonal self-confidence, students have found this training applicable to subsequent leadership roles in campus life and beyond. We will meet twice a week for 3 hour sessions. This is an experiential training augmented by relevant readings and out-of-class assignments designed to deepen your understanding and practice of communication, connection and basic counseling skills. Adjunct Instructor Bio: Karen Theiling is a licensed mental health counselor at Integrative Wellbeing Services and has worked at Williams in this capacity for about 20 years. Though she loves the work of psychotherapy, she is passionate about opportunities to teach students to be more skillful in their lives through teaching, trainings, outreach, and group experiences. Adjunct Instructor Bio: Laini Sporbert is a Health Educator at Williams College, focusing on substance abuse education and counseling, mental health awareness, sexuality education, and sleep. She has been at the college since 1997, and been the Peer Health Staff Advisor since 2006. She has an M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology with a specialty in addictions.

Requirements/Evaluation: 10-page paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: reverse seniority; preference given to 1st yrs, etc
Grading: pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee: none
Not offered current academic year

SPEC 11 (W) Pod Save Williams: Audio Stories about Making the College More Sustainable

How can we all create a more sustainable Williams? In this course students will explore sustainability challenges, successes, obstacles, and opportunities on the Williams campus by interviewing staff, faculty, and fellow students and then weaving those interviews into compelling audio stories for the campus community. Students will study interviewing, storytelling, and podcasting best practices and will use what they learn to create interesting podcasts that are both rich in content and in sound. Guiding questions will include: How is sustainability being integrated - or not - into the operations of campus? What daily activities are most impactful both carbon emissions-wise and ethos-wise? How do social justice and environmental justice intersect with sustainability on campus and in this region? Who are the unsung "campus sustainability heroes"? What opportunities and challenges lay ahead related to these issues? How does one tell a story in a way that is universal or at least relevant to one's intended audience? What are the opportunities to enhance storytelling by using an audio format as the medium? Informative and impressive podcast creations will be used as resources on the Williams sustainability website and will be posted to Stitcher, iTunes, and Soundcloud. A number of assignments will involve listening to and critically analyzing podcasts. Our time together will be a combination of learning about campus sustainability issues, analyzing content and audio choices, practicing interview techniques, and getting feedback from peers. Adjunct Instructor Bio: Mike Evans is the Assistant Director of the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives at Williams College. Prior to working at Williams, he was the associate director of Utahns Against Hunger and founded and directed Real Food Rising, a youth-empowerment sustainable farming program.

Class Format: mornings
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on participation, two short essays, and a final project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 11
Enrollment Preferences: preference will be given to sophomores and juniors and the need to create a group that is diverse in terms of majors and interests
Grading: pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee: cost of books
Not offered current academic year

SPEC 11 Climate Justice & Audio Storytelling: Podcasting Climate Change, Equity, and a Sustainable Future

How do issues of climate change and equity intersect? While we've heard that climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable and marginalized communities, what does that look like, how do those inequities pile up, and what are the avenues of resistance and progress? In this course, students will explore the links between environmental justice and climate justice first in class and then in conversation with members, various communities impacted by climate change and societal inequities, and then weave these stories into compelling audio stories. Students will research climate change impacts and the related inequities in a community with which they have a personal relationship (such as their home community or the greater Northern Berkshires) and conduct interviews with people who can speak from personal experience about how climate change has affected their community and the justice implications. Students will learn interviewing, storytelling, and podcasting best practices in order to gather intriguing stories and to weave those interviews into compelling audio stories that are both rich in content and in sound. Guiding questions will include: How does one tell a story in a way that is universal or at least relevant to one's intended audience? What are the opportunities to enhance storytelling by using an audio format as the medium? How does one tell a story that honors and doesn't exploit interviewees' experiences? Informative and impressive podcast creations will be used as resources on the Williams sustainability website and will be posted to iTunes and other places where you get your music and podcasts. Assignments will involve listening to and critically analyzing podcasts, writing, editing, and giving positive and constructive feedback to peers. Our time together will be a combination of learning about climate justice, analyzing content and audio choices, practicing interview techniques, and getting feedback from peers. Adjunct Instructor Bio: Mike Evans is the Assistant Director of the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives at Williams College where he delves into issues of sustainable food, waste diversion, the built environment, and equity and justice. Prior to his time at Williams, he worked in the nonprofit world—in Boston, Austin, and Salt Lake City—at organizations focusing on food security, youth development, sustainable agriculture, urban farming, and food justice.

Requirements/Evaluation: participation and a final project audiostory
SPEC 12 (W) Introduction to Advertising and Creativity

First offered in 2019, this course is an introduction to the field of advertising with a special emphasis on creativity. Topics include the nature of brands; how they are created and sustained in today's consumer, media and technology environments; how brands are positioned (and repositioned); how agencies are organized; the role of big ideas in leading brands to success; what distinguishes an effective ad from an ineffective one?; and the vital and powerful importance of creativity in connecting with audiences on multiple platforms. The course will be of interest to students considering a future in advertising, marketing or journalism--but also to anyone curious about the pervasive influence of marketing communications in culture, style and politics. Classes are a combination of lecture and the presentation of short team projects in which students collaborate to research and analyze ads and other communications related to the topic of the day. Final projects include developing and presenting an original ad and a deep dive into a single brand across all media. There will be two, three-hour classes per week. Out-of-class work will include readings, a short reflective final paper and team research projects examining advertising on assigned topics. Adjunct Instructor Bio: Steve Harty '73 worked in advertising for 30 years. Along the way he served major clients like JetBlue, American Express, Ally Bank, Mercedes-Benz, Miller Lite and AT&T working for agencies such as Ogilvy, Lowe and BBH in addition to co-founding Merkley Newman Harty. He is now a strategy consultant and Executive-in-Residence at Columbia Business School. For Williams, Steve is president of his class and a trustee emeritus.

Requirements/Evaluation: short paper and final project or presentation; each student will develop and present a script for an original ad

SPEC 13 Reality Real Estate

Is the reality of real estate the way it looks on TV? Learn about buying and selling, real estate investments, mortgages, renovation, construction, and design. Class will meet Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoons. Students will learn about each of the topics above, and have the opportunity to do a final project on a real estate topic of their choice, from architecture to designing their dream home to proposing a successful real estate investment to on-site construction work. Guest lecture(s) by experts in the field. The instructor Allison Pacelli is a licensed MA real estate agent, and co-owner of a design and renovation business that renovates investment properties as well as clients' homes.

Requirements/Evaluation: final project, equivalent to a 10-page paper

SPEC 14 Race, Education, and Pop Culture

This course will explore the educational experience of Black students as portrayed in popular culture and compare that to the K-12 and higher education literature that documents and examines the lived experiences of Black students. How accurately do we see the experience of Black students represented in popular culture? What choices or biases might be reflected in these depictions? What might the consumption of these media
have on the ways in which people build narratives around the experiences of Black students throughout the American educational system? Potential topics include the experience of students at historically Black colleges and universities (A Different World, School Daze, The Quad), experiences in gifted and talented education (Smart Guy, Akeelah and the Bee, Finding Forrester), experiences at predominately White institutions (Higher Learning, Grown-ish, Dear White People), experiences as student-athletes (Love and Basketball, Coach Carter), and experiences in public and public charter schools (Lean on Mean, The Steve Harvey Show, Dangerous Minds, On My Block, Boston Public, Waiting for Superman, The Lottery). Students will be expected to choose some popular culture medium and explore how it connects to the literature in a final paper of 10 -12 pages and contribute actively to classroom discussions. Adjunct Instructor Bio: Christopher Sewell is an Associate Dean of the College at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. His scholarship focuses on studying the experiences of gifted students of color, how schooling and policies around gifted and talented education affect students of color long-term experiences, the ways in which LGBTQ+ gifted students negotiate their academic, racial and sexual identities, and the experiences of Black students at Predominantly White Institutions.

Requirements/Evaluation: 10-page paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: preference given to first-years and seniors
Grading:
Materials/Lab Fee: $25

SPEC 15 (W) Contemporary American Songwriting
Cross-listings: MUS 15 SPEC 15
Secondary Cross-listing
This course will focus on learning how to write and perform songs in classical contemporary style. Song styles that will be addressed include pop, rock, blues, country, folk and jazz. Topics addressed will include the evolution of song structure, how to create a lyric that communicates, vocal and instrument presentation, recording and performing techniques, publicity for events, and today's music industry. This class will culminate in a public performance of material written during the course. To successfully pass this course, students are required to create, edit, perform and possibly record two original songs in one of the above mentioned genres. These songs must be conceived during the course period (previously written material is not usable.) Students will be guided to create both music and lyrics. They may also be required to participate in a co-write session. One of these songs will be presented during the final performance, preferably by the student. Attendance at classes, feedback sessions, and final presentation is mandatory.

Please note: this class meets every day. A short writing assignment will be passed in on the last day of class. Adjunct Instructor Bio: Singer/Songwriter Bernice Lewis has been teaching her Winter Study Course on performing and songwriting since 1995. She is also a published poet, a producer, and a sought after coach. She holds an M.Ed from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Requirements/Evaluation: final performance and a 2- to 3-page paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 14
Enrollment Preferences: at the discretion of the instructor
Grading: pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee: $35 and cost of books
Distributions: No divisional credit
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
MUS 15 No divisional credit SPEC 15 No divisional credit
Not offered current academic year

SPEC 15 An Introduction to Spatial Science and GIS
Space and place are so ubiquitous in our lived experience that we often fail to take their significance into account when directing and designing scientific research. How do spatial relations (presence/absence, proximity, preference/avoidance) shape natural and cultural phenomena? How do space and place reflect cultural perceptions and practices? How are landscapes and environments engineered to shape individual and social behavior? This intensive course explores the fundamentals of spatial theory and methods, with an emphasis on technical skill, data evaluation, and research design. Through readings, lectures, discussions, and exercises you will be encouraged to think spatially and to apply spatial thinking to your
SPEC 17 Emergent Strategy: Creating Systemic Change from Small to Large

Albert Einstein said “we cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them,” encouraging us to rethink our assumptions and process for instigating change. But what kind of thinking and process should we use to solve our problems? This course will use the guiding principles of adrienne maree brown’s Emergent Strategy to explore how to build the community and the economic, political, social, and interpersonal systems that we want to see in the world. We need not confine ourselves, in defeat, to incremental lifestyle changes because we feel we do not have the power to incite large scale change; rather we will work to embody, through a varied practice of reflection, movement work, conversation, facilitation, and peer-to-peer dialogue and mediation, the world we want to construct. How can we institutionalize justice and sustainability in the place of institutional racism, heteropatriarchy, xenophobia, exploitation etc.? We will explore how systems of oppression shape and intersect with daily habits and community structures even as we build movements to overcome these oppressive systems. For instance how can we challenge our inclination for hierarchical and majority-rules group governance, or how do we create and maintain boundaries for working relationships that effectively disrupt implicit biases and inherent power imbalances? The course will meet frequently with practitioners, educators, and researchers who are doing movement building work. Students will learn facilitation skills and use systems theory throughout course discussions in order to address challenging topics that they identify. This course relies on numerous perspectives from readings, audio stories, and in-person/video conversations with movement builders from on campus and across the Northeast. Adjunct Instructor Bio: Caroline Bruno is the Sustainability Coordinator at the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives and works to incite and connect conversations across campus about enacting social change, meaningful community involvement, environmental justice and sustainability.

Requirements/Evaluation: the course will focus heavily on personal reflection and active participation, including a final reflection paper and an outline for a teach-in/session created by the class to be presented at Claiming Williams Day 2020 and other points throughout the end of Winter Study and/or Spring Semester

Enrollment Preferences: students will be asked to write 1-2 paragraphs explaining their interest in the course; preference will go to students demonstrating passion and nuanced thinking related to the subject matter

Grading: Not offered current academic year

SPEC 18 (W) Peer Health Call In Walk In Training

Cross-listings: PSYC 18 SPEC 18

Primary Cross-listing

This course is the full training for students who would like to cover Call In Walk In shifts in the Peer Health Office (Paresky 212). Students should either already be a member of Peer Health, or have an interest in joining Peer Health, as those students will get priority acceptance. Topics that we will cover include alcohol and other drug use; sex, STIs and contraception; rape, sexual assault and Title IX compliance; mental health; stress and sleep; healthy and unhealthy relationships, etc. Students will meet various on- and off-campus resources for referral. Outside of class work will include readings, video viewings, information gathering, and a possible field trip to local agencies. Adjunct Instructor Bio: Laini is a Health Educator at Williams College, focusing on substance abuse education and counseling, mental health awareness, sexuality education, and sleep. She has been at the college since 1997, and been the Peer Health Staff Advisor since 2006. She has an M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology with a specialty in addictions.

Materials/Lab Fee: approximately $70 for books

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: priority for enrolling in this course will be given to Div II students who may need GIS for an independent study or senior thesis, but who cannot commit to taking a full semester course (GEOG/ENVI-214)
SPEC 19  (W) Healthcare Internships
Experience of a clinical environment is essential to making the decision to enter the health professions. Through this internship, students clarify their understanding of the rewards and challenges that accompany the practice of medicine (human and animal) and dentistry. Generally, a shadowing experience focuses on provider-patient interactions within out-patient and in-patient settings. These experiences provide students with the opportunity to observe clinical interactions, as well as to learn about the systems within which health care is delivered. Students will be introduced to fundamental concepts related to patient interviewing and history taking, diagnosis and medical decision making. Students will also be introduced to core concepts of population health, providing a broad perspective on health outcomes within a geographic region and expanding their perspective on the individual clinical interactions which they observe. This course will encourage participants to reflect on their clinical experiences with a dual focus- from the perspective of the individual provider-patient relationship and within a systems-level context. Didactic sessions for (on-campus students) will focus on the challenges and experiences of healthcare professionals in the Berkshires or nationally. Students will be introduced to concepts of health and wellness, epigenetics, and environmental influences that have a demonstrable, sustained impact on individuals before and after clinical symptoms of illness emerge. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate greater understanding of the fundamentals of patient-provider interactions, clinical diagnosis, patient interviewing, and factors affecting the health of individuals and communities.

SPEC 20 The Writing Process: from Inquiry to Essay
In a perfect world, we all have a fully-developed, time-proven writing process. It's the approach that you read about in well-intended books on effective writing and that professors occasionally recommend, where you start an essay well before the deadline, progressing thoughtfully and methodically toward a completed essay that is thoughtful, effective, and on time. But for most of us, the reality falls well short of that ideal. We procrastinate, stress out, glare at the empty computer screen, and ultimately rush at the last minute to crank out something that hopefully fulfills the assignment. In fact, for many, this is the only way essays get written. This course provides an opportunity for you to develop a better approach to writing assignments: one where completing an essay is less about a looming deadline and more about the meaningful exploration and masterful articulation of your ideas. Each class meeting will be a writing workshop guided by prompts that will navigate you through the cumulative process of composing a single essay. You'll leave the course with a fresh outlook on the real purpose of academic writing and new methods for approaching essay assignment in your classes. Whether you're a first-year student still getting a feel for college writing or senior finally hoping to make writing more manageable, this course will help you develop the writing process that works for you. Topics covered will include: attending to the writing assignment, finding a meaningful topic, developing an effective argument, incorporating research, determining structure and organization, understanding voice and style, appreciating the impact of audience.

Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: preference will be given to first-year students

Grading:

Materials/Lab Fee: approximately $25 for books

Not offered current academic year

SPEC 21 (W) Looking at Contemporary Documentary Photography

Cross-listings: SPEC 21 ENGL 24

Secondary Cross-listing

This course explores the evolution of modern documentary photography. We will start with a look back to the work of Lewis Hine, August Sander, Dorothea Lange, Walker Evan and the Magnum Agency photographers. We will then jump to mid 20th century work of Robert Frank's *The Americans*, and how Frank's singular vision deeply shaped the next generation of photographers working the American streets and landscape. Diane Arbus, Vivian Maier, Bruce Davidson, Lee Freidlander, William Klein, Danny Lyon, Gary Winogrand are some of the photographers whose work we will get to know well. Discussions will include the new wave of independent and Magnum photojournalists (Phillip Jones Griffiths, Josef Koudleka, Susan Meiselas, Gilles Peress, James Nachtwey, Alex Webb, Ron Haviv and Tyler Hicks) and the wars from Vietnam to Bosnia to Iraq and Syria they cover as well as the personal visions they explore. Insight into the diverse currents of documentary photography will be covered through the work of Bill Burke, Larry Clark, Larry Fink, Nan Goldin, Emmet Gowin, Sally Mann, Mary Ellen Mark, Nicholas Nixon, Richard Misrach, Joel Sternfeld, Birney Imes, Regan Louie, Edward Burtynsky, Laura Letinsky and Simon Norfolk. Our last classes will be an exploration of social media and the proliferation of diverse voices emerging in documentary photography. The class will meet three mornings a week for two hours. Slide presentations will occupy half of the first meetings and give way to discussion of issues in documentary photography. Each student will be required to make a brief presentation to the class on a documentary topic of their choice. A final paper expanding on this documentary topic will be due at the end of the course. Students will be evaluated on their classroom presentation, general participation and their written work. A field trip to New York will let us see first hand works from the collections at MoMA, etc.


Requirements/Evaluation: short paper and final project or presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: at the discretion of the instructor

Grading: pass/fail only

Materials/Lab Fee: $74 and approximately $28 for books

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

SPEC 21 ENGL 24

Not offered current academic year

SPEC 21 (W) Experience in the Workplace; an Internship with Williams Alumni/Parents

Field experience is a critical component of the decision to enter a profession. Through these field placements, students can clarify their understanding of the rewards and challenges that accompany the practice of many different aspects within a profession, and understand the psychology of the workplace. In order to participate in this course, students must apply to the winter study internships listed in this syllabus. The expectation is that each student will observe and participate in some aspect of the profession for at least 30 hours per week, 6 hours per day for 5 days each week. It is also expected that the instructor will assign a specific project to be completed within the 3-4 week duration of the course depending upon appropriateness. Participation in this winter study will require the student to quickly assess the work environment, make inferences about corporate culture, performance norms and expectations, and to take initiative not only to learn from this experience, but also to contribute where and when appropriate. Understanding the dynamics within a work environment is critical to success in any organization, and this hands-on experience will illuminate lessons learned in the classroom. Upon completion of the winter study, it is expected that the student write a thorough report evaluating and interpreting the experience.

Teaching Associates: Williams College Alumni/Parents will be recruited to become teaching associates for this course. A broad range of professions will be represented as the course develops. Alumni and parents will receive individual orientations with the course instructor in person or via telephone conference. Students will be required to read one of two books selected for this course. Bibliography: a bibliography of readings would be selected

**Requirements/Evaluation:** it is expected that students will complete assigned readings (read one of two books assigned to this course), write a daily journal, and write a 5- to 7-page expository review; evaluation will become public record as a resource for other students

**Prerequisites:** interested students must attend an information meeting in late September or early October and follow up with Dawn Dellea if students have questions about specific WS internships listed in the SPEC 21 syllabus; application are submitted via Handshake

**Enrollment Preferences:** 1st priority--students applying for winter study internships listed in the SPEC 21 syllabus; 2nd priority--students developing independent Internships with Williams alumni/parents; first-years limited to applying for local internships

**Grading:** pass/fail only

**Materials/Lab Fee:** cost of books

**Attributes:** EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Not offered current academic year

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**SPEC 22 (W) Outdoor Emergency Care**

The course will develop the technical proficiency and leadership skills required to effectively and efficiently administer emergency medical care in outdoor and wilderness environments. Successful completion of all 3 sections of the course, along with demonstrating ski/snowboard proficiency, can lead to certification as a member of the National Ski Patrol. The course is based upon: 1. National Ski Patrol's Outdoor Emergency Care (5th Edition), a curriculum containing textbook/web-based learning and hands-on, practical skill development 2. CPR for the Professional Rescuer 3. Approximately 18 hours of outdoor training in Ski Patrol rescue techniques Specifically, the course teaches how to recognize and provide emergency medical care for: - Wounds and Burns - Environmental Emergencies (e.g., frostbite, hypothermia, heat exhaustion) - Musculoskeletal Trauma (e.g., breaks, sprains, etc.) - Shock, Respiratory, Poisoning, Substance abuse emergencies - Medical emergencies (e.g., heart attack, stroke, seizures, etc.) The course will teach the use of various splints, bandages, and other rescue equipment as well as methods of extrication, use of oxygen, and how to deal with unusual emergency situations such as mass casualty incidents. On-line and textbook learning will be supplemented by classroom work that includes lectures, videos, and hands-on skill development and practice. There will be a written and practical final exam. The outdoor portion of the course includes rescue toboggan handling, organization and prioritization of rescue tasks, and practical administration of emergency care in the outdoor environment. Each week there will be ~15 hours of classroom work plus ~8 hours of practical outdoor work at Jiminy Peak ski area. Homework (online and textbook based) will be required. Attendance at all classes is mandatory. The course is limited to 12 students, chosen based on ski/snowboard interest and ability as well as prior first aid experience.  

**Adjunct Instructor Bio:** Tom Feist is an alumnus of Williams College ('85) and PhD in Materials Science and Engineering. Following a 20+ year career at General Electric, Tom taught Chemistry at Williams in 2017-18. He has been a ski patroller for over 35 years, having started patrolling at Williams. Tom is a certified Instructor and Instructor Trainer for Outdoor Emergency care and currently patrols at Sugarbush Resort in Vermont.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** completion of daily homework; written and practical final exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** ski/snowboard proficiency; prior first aid experience

**Grading:**

**Materials/Lab Fee:** $180 and approximately $110 for books

**Attributes:** EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Not offered current academic year

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**SPEC 25 (W) Williams in Georgia**

**Cross-listings:** SPEC 25 RUSS 25

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Williams has a unique program in the Republic of Georgia, which offers students the opportunity to engage in three-week-long internships in a wide variety of fields. Our students have helped in humanitarian relief organizations like Save the Children, interned in journalism at *The Georgian Times*, taught unemployed women computer skills at The Rustavi Project, documented wildlife, studied with a Georgian photographer, done rounds at the Institute of Cardiology, and learned about transitional economies at the Georgian National Bank. In addition to working in their chosen fields, students experience Georgian culture through museum visits, concerts, lectures, meetings with Georgian students, and excursions. Visit the sacred eleventh-century Cathedral of Svetitskhoveli and the twentieth-century Stalin Museum, see the birthplace of the wine grape in Kakheti, and explore the
region where Jason sought the Golden Fleece. Participants are housed in pairs with English-speaking families in Tbilisi, Georgia’s capital city. At the end of the course, students will write a 10-page paper assessing their overall trip experience. Adjunct Bio: Vladimir Ivantsov holds a PhD in Russian Studies from McGill University (Canada). Prior to coming to Williams, he taught at McGill University and St. Petersburg State University (Russia). His research interests cover a broad spectrum of topics, including Dostoevsky, existentialism, and rock and pop culture. He published a book on the contemporary Russian writer Vladimir Makanin.

Requirements/Evaluation: 10-page paper
Prerequisites: none; knowledge of Russian or Georgian is not required
Enrollment Limit: 8
Enrollment Preferences: interested students must attend an informational meeting and submit a short essay about their interest in the course
Grading: pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee: $2,922
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
SPEC 25 RUSS 25
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses  TRVL Winter Study Travel Course

SPEC 26 (W) Liberal Arts for Epic Challenges: Design Thinking for Social Change
A workshop that will involve learning and applying design thinking techniques to develop creative human-centered solutions to a significant, complex social problem, like loneliness in the community or transforming travel around small towns. The actual topic will be one of several proposed in a global competition from London’s Royal Society of Arts; course projects will be submitted against students from around the world in March. Work will occur in two teams; the experience will emphasize techniques for creative confidence, learning to take risks and advance from failures, creative collaboration, and focusing problem solving on human-centered solutions similar to how innovation is explored in design firms, start-ups, government agencies, and NGOs. The workshop will meet twice a week for 3 hours. There are few readings (mostly manuals on techniques from leading consultancies), but will involve ethnographic research in observing and exploring how real people perceive the problem and solution and team meetings between classes to brainstorm ideas. For more on design thinking, see Williams.edu/designthinking.

Requirements/Evaluation: final project or presentation
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: experience, curiosity, interests of students in applying problem solving techniques to complex world problems
Grading: pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee: $0

SPEC 26 (W) Essentials for Entrepreneurship: An Immersion In the San Francisco Start-Up Culture
Interested in Entrepreneurship and seeing first-hand what it takes to launch a venture? Visit over ten startups in the Bay area to find out! This course is designed to give students interested in Entrepreneurship in-depth insight into the Customer Discovery process, i.e. how startups figure out if their ideas are worth pursuing. We will meet with the founders of 10-15 start-ups in the Bay Area and track their professional and personal journeys. We will look at the impact of company culture, the Bay Area ecosystem and values, financing, and how a Liberal Arts background prepares students for the challenges of entrepreneurship. Student teams will have the opportunity to work on an actual project for one or more of the companies to be visited and present their findings to senior management. We will also visit the Google campus and Stanford School While many of the companies will be technology driven, no technical background is needed and we will strive to have a diverse background in the class. The course will start in Williamstown with a review of idea development tools used in today's startup environment, particularly those pioneered by Stanford d.School called the Business Model Canvas. Workshops on Design Thinking and maximizing the Williams network will round out the pre-trip coursework. Reading will include "The Lean Startup" by Eric Ries, "Zero to One" by Peter Thiel and Edward deBono's "Thinking Course" as well as articles and podcasts. Then we will go see what is actually happening in the market! Meeting times: 1/6/20 - 1/14/20 Williamstown. 10am-1pm  1/15/20 travel to San Francisco 1/16/20-1/28/20 San Francisco 10am-5pm or as needed based upon project 1/29/20 Travel back to Williamstown  Adjunct Instructor Bio: Tonio Palmer is the Entrepreneur in Residence at Williams. Tonio has had a long career in international business and founded a number of companies. He holds an MBA from Wharton and MA from Upenn as a graduate of the Lauder Institute.
SPEC 27    Community Development Health and Education Work Project in Liberia, W. Africa

Interested in a great opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of West Africa and do some service work at the same time? This course will explore the close historical ties that exist between Liberia, the US and Williams and how NGO’s have succeeded and not succeeded. We’ll experience rural living in the tropical environment of the interior of Liberia as we work in the River Gee county. Our project will include health care and preparing classes to be presented in the local schools. We will be directed and supported by the Honorable Francis Dopoh,ll, CDE class of 2010 who represents this county in the Liberian Congress.

Requirements/Evaluation: short paper and final project or presentation
Prerequisites: informational and training meetings with the instructor and some reading of current books on Liberia, eg. "The House at Sugar Beach" by Helene Cooper
Enrollment Limit: 8
Enrollment Preferences: any student interested in this offering will be required to attend an informational meeting and be required to submit a written statement of purpose as to why they want to participate and what they hope to gain from this experience
Grading: Materials/Lab Fee: $3,150
Attributes: TRVL Winter Study Travel Course
Not offered current academic year

SPEC 28    The GYROKINESIS® Movement Method

The Gyrokinesis Method is an original and unique movement practice, which has roots in Yoga, Tai Chi, gymnastics, dance and swimming. This method gently works the entire body, opening energy pathways, stimulating the nervous system, increasing range of motion and creating functional strength through rhythmic, flowing movement sequences performed with corresponding breathing patterns. We will work in a group setting. Students will learn the basic concepts of this movement system, as well as more complex sequences. They will be expected to learn and execute all sequences for Format I. They will be asked to practice between classes. Ultimately, students will be paired up to teach each other, which will increase their understanding of this unique form of exercise. Finally, students will be expected to perform all Format I sequences as a group with music. They will then be qualified to take the Gyrokinesis Pre-training Course. Each student will receive a questionnaire at the beginning of the course and, again, at the end, to understand how their experience has changed their answers and how they can apply this movement system to their everyday life, their sport and, their chosen course of study at Williams. Method of evaluation/requirements: Questionnaire at the beginning and then again at the end of this course, teaching each other, and a final performance as a group. Adjunct Instructor Bio: Patrie Sardo has been a Licensed Gyrotonic & Gyrokinesis Trainer and Pre-Trainer for over 10 years. She owns her own studio in Santa Monica, Ca and is licensed to teach all Gyrotonic Specialty equipment; Archway, Jumping Stretching Board, Leg Extension, and the Gyrotoner.

Requirements/Evaluation: short paper and final project or presentation
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Dance majors, athletes, seniors
Grading: Materials/Lab Fee: $0
Not offered current academic year
SPEC 99 (W) Independent Study: Special

Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study

Grading: pass/fail only

Distributions: No divisional credit

Winter 2020

IND Section: 01