

## Conflict (302)

### Elective (ELES 302)

#### **ELES 302**

##### **Wolf Warrior: Chinese Film and Music**

This course explores Chinese culture in the genre of film and music. Topics include a brief history of Chinese cinema, historical memories (the Opium Wars and ensuing encroachment of imperialist powers, the political movements since the establishment of People's Republic of China, and China's economic reform), and national identity. Through analysis of film and music, students explore historical and cultural contexts of what it means to be "Chinese" in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries and how such contexts cultivate confrontational rhetoric and behavior in China's wolf warrior diplomacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **ELES 302**

##### **Muslims & Christians**

This course focuses on the study of narratives about Muslims and Christians during the medieval and early modern periods in Spain. Students will be provided with the foundation for understanding the complexity of the relationship between both the Moorish and Christian populations as both friends and foes. Through a critical lens, students will analyze various texts and attempt to make sense of the curious nature of Spain's creative imagination that defined the social, cultural, religious, and political environment.

#### **ELES 302**

##### **Water Security/Climate Change**

The most serious and high-profile impacts of climate change are being felt through water: floods, droughts, melting of ice, and reduced snow cover, amongst others. Water is also a major sustainable development challenge: worldwide, 844 million people lack access to drinking water, and 2.3 billion do not have access to latrines or other basic sanitation facilities, mostly in low- and middle-income countries. High-income countries are also faced with water-related policy and engineering dilemmas. Therefore, water is at the center of sustainable development and climate action agendas, and water security is seen as the goal of effective water management. The course explores the concept of water security, threats to water security, and established and emerging practices for managing water under climate change. The course introduces key water issues around the world, including access to water supply and sanitation, flood and drought risk management, irrigation water service provision, and freshwater ecosystem degradation. Established and emerging engineering and policy practices for addressing these issues under climate change will be reviewed, including risk-based water resources planning, water allocation reform, and nature-based solutions.

## English (ENGS 302)

#### **ENGS 302**

##### **Reading the American West**

Beginning with the pioneer and memoir literature of the 19th century, continuing on the silver screen, and culminating in the revisions of the contemporary anti-Western, the Western genre and its derivatives have long reinforced elements central to American national mythology. Particularly in the post-frontier US, the project of sustaining these myths has largely fallen to iconic pulp stories and films from authors such as Jack Schaefer and Zane Grey and actors such as John Wayne and Clint Eastwood. In this class, we will explore the shifting landscape of the literary American West in order to identify how the experience of the West catalyzed the evolving project of American national and cultural identity. In doing so, we will think through ways in which recent interpretations of the genre attempt to illuminate perspectives that have traditionally been suppressed or elided and consider the role of textual interpretation in resolving contemporary issues stemming from the legacy of the symbolic American West.

#### **ENGS 302**

##### **Literature of War**

This class provides a broad overview of the major themes of modern war through a mixture of fiction and non-fiction texts. Although the majority of the works cover the Global War on Terror (GWOT), other classic selections have been

woven in to provide evolving perspectives. Subjects covered include training in combat, modern combat, the crippling military bureaucracy, PTSD and other post-combat experiences. Finally, the course hopes to raise awareness of psychological stressors in both the military and civilian world and consider healthy coping techniques.

## **ENGS 302**

### **Wrestling with Evil in Literature & Film**

A study of significant works of literature reflective of the specific theme of the strand. Students will analyze how the theme emerges from conflict in literature and film. They will also investigate film adaptations of literary classics. Finally, they will learn to employ literary concepts to interpret important passages and significant details of selected works of literature and to compose effective arguments for their interpretations.

## **ENGS 302**

### **Contested Urban Spaces**

Stark photographs and raw footage of ruined Ukrainian cities in the aftermath of Russian bombings convey the harsh reality of ruined human lives amid the rampant destruction and devastation of war. Natural disasters wreak similar havoc on landscapes, most viscerally of late on American soil with the wreckage left of the Gulf Coast of Florida caused by Hurricane Ian in the fall of 2022. Notwithstanding major incidents, climatologists have long warned against coastal erosion and the increasingly intense impacts of weather systems on residential areas. This Conflict Strand class explores the narratives of the displaced and disenfranchised as society sorts out how to rebuild communities, serve the needs of refugees, and house the marginalized. The syllabus includes a classic work of literature that depicts the struggle to gain a foothold in a hostile environment and live autonomously—Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun*, a play that chronicles the lives of three generations of a working-class Black family living in mid-twentieth-century Chicago—and a collection of poetry engaged with similar themes of the obstacles to existential safety and security disproportionately affecting the marginalized segments of society. Susan Crawford’s investigative assessment of Charleston’s vulnerability to the destructive force of floodwaters predicts that those left in harm’s way will be those who cannot afford to save themselves. We will also read selected excerpts from P. E. Moskowitz’ *How to Kill a City*, a modern-day investigation of the particular challenges facing New Orleans, Detroit, San Francisco, and New York, which will help us to think about contemporary issues of urban development, public policy, and the competing priorities that jeopardize lives and livelihoods, and their impacts on where people choose to make their homes as well as the communities from which they are excluded.

## **History (HISS 302)**

## **HISS 302**

### **Great Britain and the experience of World War I**

World War I was a watershed event in European history, with transformative effects in international relations, economics, politics, society, and culture. This course will consider the British experience of the war. In addition to an overview of the military experience of the war, we will examine the various ways in which the war influenced the home front, including conscription, rationing, air attacks on those at home, the changing role of government, gender roles, relationships with the British Empire, and understandings of what it means to be a citizen.

## **HISS 302**

### **The Last of the Mohicans**

The “massacre” at Fort William Henry in 1757, during the French and Indian War, is one of the epic moments of American history. British soldiers who had surrendered Fort William Henry to their French opponent, the Marquis de Montcalm, were attacked by Native American allies of the French and many were killed or taken as captives. The writer James Fenimore Cooper enshrined that moment in American mythology in his 1826 novel, *The Last of the Mohicans*, which has since become the subject of numerous Hollywood films such as the 1992 blockbuster featuring Daniel Day-Lewis. This course unfolds the story of Fort William Henry through history, archaeology, literature, and memory. This single moment in 1757 brings together the broader history of North America and its French Canadian, British American, and Native American inhabitants in one of the most pivotal conflicts of world history: The French and Indian War (1754-1763) was part of a global struggle for empire between Great Britain and France known as the Seven Years’ War.

## **HISS 302**

### **The British Homefront in WWI and WWII**

By focusing on the British experience in World War I and World War II, this course will consider the ways in which “home” becomes a “front” in a time of conflict, and the effects upon the civilian population and the roles of government. We will consider the consequences of recruitment campaigns, rationing, military service, attacks on civilian populations, and the loss of loved ones, both in Britain and in the empire, and will explore the variety of ways these experiences changed expectations of what it means to be part of a nation.

## **HISS 302**

### **Islamic Conquest**

This course examines the era of the Islamic Conquests from the 7th through the 8th centuries. Attention is given to the historical, political and religious contexts of the conquests, motivations, the makeup of Islamic armies and those of their adversaries, and how these armies changed over time. Includes a detailed look at the conquests of Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Egypt, Iran, North Africa, India, Central Asia, Spain and the invasion of France. Finally, the course discusses Arab migration and settlement into conquered territory, the treatment of conquered peoples and the impact of the conquests.

## **HISS 302**

### **America Divided: The Civil Wars of the 1960s**

This course uses music, film, literature, art, along with historical documents to explore the 1960s as a decade of social, political, and cultural conflict. We will place particular emphasis on American nationalisms and their continual redefinition through acts of the US Congress, the shared experience of attending music festivals, and the US military's efforts to establish Strategic Hamlets in Vietnam.

## **Natural Science (NTSS 302)**

## **NTSS 302**

### **Chemistry of War: Police Politics and Pollution**

Students explore many aspects of chemical creation, distribution, and sources. The importance of natural elements like metals in creating everything from television screens to cars is discussed in terms of the policing needed and politics involved in acquiring, processing, and distributing chemicals throughout the world. Students will learn that implementing sustainable uses and disposal processes of chemicals has been a complex issue throughout history, especially when lives are impacted.

## **NTSS 302**

### **Blood & Guts: Conflict and Cooperation in Nature**

Conflict is an inherent part of existence. Though often characterized by violence, conflict in the natural world is sometimes more subtle and frequently resolved by means that don't require persistent and direct competition. In other words, nature is not always “red in tooth and claw”. In fact, many species have evolved cooperative relationships or symbioses that work so well neither participant can function efficiently on their own. This is why some fish glow in the dark and why coral reefs are so brightly colored. Even within a species we can observe an array of physical variations and behaviors that help to maintain a division of labor and mediate conflict among conspecifics. This explains why leafcutter soldier ants are much larger than their smallest sisters and why bats share blood. In this course, we'll examine sources of conflict in nature and explore different mechanisms that have evolved to stabilize or destabilize ecological communities.

## **NTSS 302**

### **Chemistry in War and Peace**

Humans have used chemicals and chemical properties to create weapons for centuries, but the conflict associated with the use of chemicals is not just related to war. Both negative and positive impacts on people, animals, and the environment (natural and fabricated) frequently occur with the use of chemicals. For example, food waste and cost can be reduced when lightweight plastics are used for shipping and storing. However, recycling of many plastics can be cost prohibitive due to the same chemical properties that make them useful. Students will learn some common chemical structures and properties to better understand their uses. Students will research and discuss many quantitative factors that produce conflict from chemical use during times of war and peace.

## **NTSS 302**

### **Bioterrorism**

This course will examine diverse aspects of the creation, use, and response to the weaponization of biological agents. An understanding of the science underlying biological agents is critical to preventing the escalation of biological outbreaks. A detailed study of the biological characteristics of these organisms will be the focus of this course.

## **NTSS 302**

### **Forensic Science**

Forensic Science is designed to familiarize the non-science major with various aspects of crime scene investigation, specifically focusing on the scientific aspects of evidence such as DNA, serology, documents, hair, and fiber analysis. Discussion of historic and recent crimes will be used to illustrate the importance of scientific techniques in forensics.

## **NTSS 302**

### **Human-Wildlife Conflict**

As the human population grows and the habitat for wildlife shrinks, conflicts between humans and wildlife increase in frequency. These conflicts can be deadly, costly, and frustrating. This elective Conflict Strand course will discuss the biology of predators, pests, and plagues to better understand the nature of their impact on humans. We will also explore methods of wildlife damage management to answer the question: Can we balance the needs of humans with the needs of wildlife?

## **Social Science (SCSS 302)**

### **SCSS 302**

#### **Political Ideologies**

A study of political ideology as a source of social conflict and violence.

### **SCSS 302**

#### **Religion, Order, and Conflict**

A study of religion as a source of both order and conflict, with specific reference to the great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

### **SCSS 302**

#### **Practical Applications of Learning & Behavior Change**

This course will offer a critical review of the experimental literature in the area of learning, including the major learning theories and determinants of behavior. This body of theory and research provides the foundation for contemporary clinical, educational, and experimental psychology.

### **SCSS 302-04**

#### **The Economics of Conflict**

Human conflict has been present for all recorded history, and it has several dimensions. This course focuses on the economic bases and aspects of human conflict and the forms that it has taken. Conflict and conflict resolution have personal, domestic, and international dimensions. Human conflicts ultimately arise from the existence of various forms of scarcity, that is, how shall the limited means to serve human ends be obtained and utilized? Economists traditionally focus on peaceful and mutually beneficial methods of resolving such conflicts through peaceful and productive market competition, the outcome of which is mutual gains from trade, and generally higher and improved standards and qualities of living for the large majority of those participating in a market-based system of division of labor. However, for all recorded history, human beings have very frequently resorted to compulsory and violent methods to acquire the scarce means to achieve their ends and desires. This runs from common theft and robbery to war, conquest, slavery, plunder, and tyranny. Among the topics, therefore, that will be discussed in this course will be domestic command and regulatory and redistributive economies; the economics of international war and its impact on domestic economies and the global division of

labor; war and the economics of inflationary financing; the use of economic sanctions and trade protection and prohibitions among nations in conflict with each other; the economic reasons and rationales behind the uses of terrorism and genocide in the violent pursuit of economic ends. And economics of conflict resolution in terms of strategies of negotiation, terms of peace, and the rule and enforcement of international economic relations instead of mutual destruction and poverty.

## **SCSS 302**

### **The Psychological Landscape**

This course focuses on the dynamics of human learning and the psychological principles that serve as the foundation for practice in various fields. The overarching goal is to introduce students to concepts – that stem from the field of educational psychology – and how those concepts, theoretical principles, and research findings can be applied in their current academic and future professional lives. The class will be structured around six (6) concepts from various psychological fields. Those concepts include: 1). Language and Thought, 2). Human Memory and Information-Processing, 3). Motivation and Emotion, 4). Social Behavior, 5). Personality, and 6). Stress, Coping, and Health

## **SCSS 302**

### **Six-Legged Terrorism**

Six-Legged Terrorism Social Science Conflict Strand (SCSS 302-02, 302-05) Fall Semester 2025 Professor Roy Fenoff Course Overview Explore the dark side of nature in this Social Science Conflict Strand course, where you'll uncover how insects have been weaponized in war and terrorism to disrupt food and agriculture, harm military forces, and instill fear in civilian populations. This interdisciplinary course combines history, biology (entomology), and the social/behavioral sciences for a comprehensive look at the use of insects in global security. Start with a deep dive into insect biology, then move through historical examples of insects used as weapons. Finally, examine the impact of bioterrorism, homeland security, and current trends shaping this unique field. Don't miss out on this eye-opening exploration—enroll in six-legged terrorism today!

## **SCSS 302**

### **National Guard in Conflict**

The use of the National Guard in domestic and international conflicts to establish law and order has a contentious history in the United States. This course will examine the sources of conflict and the methods of conflict resolution. Beginning with the Colonial Militia at the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the curriculum follows the evolution of the citizen-soldier in conflict through the Global War on Terrorism. The deployment of the National Guard in domestic disputes and overseas combat implicates Constitutional and legal issues involving federalism, separation of powers, and political concerns. LTC Moring, Deputy General Counsel of the Department of Defense in the Trump Administration, explores the role of the citizen-soldier in war, insurrections, labor unrest, protests, and the conquest of the West.

## **SCSS 302**

### **Sitcoms and Society**

This course examines the role of sitcoms in shaping American culture. Through the analysis of popular sitcoms from different decades, students will explore how these shows reflect and influence societal values, political discourse, beliefs, and attitudes. The course will focus on the ways in which sitcoms can be used to promote civic engagement, explain societal trends, and provide a sense of shared identity.