

University Courses

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In an intellectually creative atmosphere, ideas for new academic approaches and new kinds of courses may and should arise. Among these courses are offerings that address themselves to major themes and problems requiring a different perspective than generally governs departmental offerings. They provide students with the opportunity to integrate their understanding of major areas of learning and explore relationships among diverse forms of human experience; or to relate one or more disciplines to a broader context; or to focus on large and fundamental problems that need to be approached through several disciplines or by ways not found in existing disciplines. University courses originate with individual instructors and are retained in the curriculum only so long as these instructors wish to teach them.

Courses

UNIV 0067. Learning to See: An Introduction to Contemplative Photography.

The process of selecting what to record in the photographic image depends upon the state of awareness, the connection with the present moment. The main objective of this course is the union between art and contemplative practice. In particular, this course will introduce the experience of mindfulness to photography. We will explore the relationship between the contemplative states of mind and the creative experience through photography. The following topics will be covered during this course: creativity and the empty mind, introduction to reality and selection, space and time, illusion and ambiguity. Enrollment limited to 20.

UNIV 0090. Meditation and the Brain: Applications in Basic and Clinical Science.

This course draws upon the multi-disciplinary expertise of four instructors to provide a detailed exploration of recent neuroscientific research on meditation combined with guided first-person experiential learning in various meditation practices. The course focuses on the cognitive, affective, and neurophysiological effects of meditation practices and their clinical applications in health, psychiatry and medicine.

We will identify persistent methodological challenges as well as the potential solutions for cutting-edge research that can emerge from an informed interdisciplinary perspective.

UNIV 0100. Living the Open Curriculum.

Like many institutions dedicated to the liberal arts, Brown encourages undergraduates to study broadly and deeply, to become self-reflective, and to develop a moral core. However, at Brown, students are empowered to attain these goals by becoming "the architects of their own education." But what does that mean and how do you do it? This class will address these questions by considering Brown's open curriculum in the context of American collegiate education and by providing students with the tools to clarify and articulate their educational goals and direction as an outgrowth of their values, interests, and life plans.

UNIV 0101. Being Proactive and Reflective in Your Education.

This half-credit course is designed for incoming students who are excited to reflect on and challenge their learning experiences while building necessary skills for effective classroom and life-long learning. Students will engage with one another through discussions and reflective activities in class, group activities such as a scavenger hunt, reflective journaling, and written assignments. The course will culminate with students collaborating on a scaffolded project that will examine how to rehumanize (Gutierrez, 2018) the classroom by focusing on how students and Brown instructors engage with material in relation to their identities and learning environments. Students will develop effective group working skills; identify and practice effective study strategies; identify approaches to and engage with challenging problems through an exploration of their learning experiences; and develop the skills to be leaders in building a reflective Brown community.

UNIV 0102. Bridge Scholars: Intercultural Competence for Leadership.

In this discussion course, students will reflect on their own skills, experiences, and identities in a supportive classroom community. Exploring the fundamentals of 'intercultural competence,' students will become 'cultural detectives' in learning about themselves, one another, and Brown as they embark upon their college careers. Together, we will explore how we can become leaders in our own lives and in our communities as we pursue academic excellence and school/life balance. Class activities will include individual reflection, small group discussion, scaffolded written assignments, and opportunities for creative expression. Note: the first four weeks of this course will be online and the last two weeks will happen in person on Brown's campus in Providence. During the online portion of the course, we will have synchronous class meetings on Zoom and regular opportunities for students to ask questions.

UNIV 0123. Practical Introduction to Peer Advising.

A defining part of Brown's Open Curriculum is the central role that students play in supporting the learning of their peers. In this class, you – in community with your classmates as potential future peer advisors – will learn best practices in inclusive advising pedagogy while exploring specific academic, co-curricular, professional, and social challenges, opportunities, and resources at Brown. Coursework includes self-reflection, peer-to-peer sharing, hands-on exercises, and theoretical readings that culminate in a group project exploring an advising area of interest and importance to you. Those who successfully complete the course will receive preference for funded peer advising positions within the College, including the Meiklejohn Peer Advising program. (Mandatory S/NC, Half-Credit Course restricted to semester levels 01 to 06.)

Spr	UNIV0123	S01	25534	M	3:00-4:20	(R. Zia)
Spr	UNIV0123	C01	25535	M	7:00-7:50	(R. Zia)
Spr	UNIV0123	C02	25536	T	12:00-12:50	(R. Zia)
Spr	UNIV0123	C03	25537	T	7:00-7:50	(R. Zia)
Spr	UNIV0123	C04	25538	Th	12:00-12:50	(R. Zia)
Spr	UNIV0123	C05	25539	W	3:00-3:50	(R. Zia)
Spr	UNIV0123	C06	25540	W	7:00-7:50	(R. Zia)
Spr	UNIV0123	C07	25541	W	7:00-7:50	(R. Zia)

UNIV 0140. Insights into Chemistry: A Historical Perspective.

We begin with the chronicle of a great scientific quest: the 19th-century search for the structure of molecules. A consensus was reached only after many decades of experiments, interpretations and misinterpretations, polemics, and controversies both scientific and personal. Our purpose is to show how theories are shaped and to give insight into the human dimensions of science. We next detail the transfer of the new chemistry to the marketplace, from its beginnings in the synthetic dye industry. Finally, we conclude with the role of chemistry in World War I.

UNIV 0300. The Hispanic Experience in the United States.

This seminar will consider how Hispanics are transforming the United States even as they evolve as a people. We will discuss Hispanicity as an ethnic and racial identity, debate the ethical dilemmas posed by undocumented immigration, the significance of the unprecedented geographic dispersal, and what the burgeoning second generation portends for the future contours of economic inequality.

UNIV 0333. Contemplative Approaches to Living and Dying.

One of the central components of a religious tradition are beliefs about the meaning of human existence—a meaning that is constructed in relation to the significance of one's inevitable death, the nature of the afterlife, and conceptions of salvation. These core beliefs also deeply inform the ethics, rituals, and contemplative practices of religious communities. Through an investigation of four case studies, this course will explore how different religious traditions orient human life in relationship to a meaningful death. Particular emphasis will be placed on contemplative practices for skillful living and dying and on relating to death through rituals.

UNIV 0400. Beyond Narnia: The Literature of C.S. Lewis.

C.S. Lewis was one of the most widely read authors of the 20th Century, yet much of his philosophical, theological and political theories are unfamiliar. His fiction and philosophical writings will be explored to better understand his perspective on modern humanity, the relationship of man to family, the community and the state. C.S. Lewis had a very clear philosophy on the importance of the individual and how he relates to the larger social structures. Morality and the role of individuals as they interface with others around them and their responsibility for working with society both at community level and at the macro-state level will be explored.

Spr	UNIV0400	S01	20250	T	4:00-6:30(16)	(T. Flanigan)
Spr	UNIV0400	S02	20251	W	3:00-5:30(10)	(E. Wing)
Spr	UNIV0400	S03	20252	F	3:00-5:30(15)	(T. Flanigan)

UNIV 0456. Exploring Career Options.

It's normal not to know what you want to do for the rest of your life, or even for the next few months. You're definitely not the only one who doesn't have it figured out yet. This course is designed to help you begin the process of identifying and reflecting on your skills, interests, values, and strengths to help you consider and explore internships, jobs, and career fields that might interest you. The course will also introduce you to internship and job search skills – resume, cover letter and LinkedIn profile writing, networking, interviewing, and negotiating – as well as frameworks to help you approach career-related decision making. (Mandatory S/NC, Half-Credit Course restricted to undergraduate students in semester levels 03 or 04.)

Fall	UNIV0456	S01	17103	M	3:00-4:20	(R. Zia)
Fall	UNIV0456	C01	17104	T	12:00-12:50	(R. Zia)
Fall	UNIV0456	C02	17105	W	3:00-3:50	(R. Zia)
Fall	UNIV0456	C03	17106	W	11:00-11:50	(R. Zia)
Fall	UNIV0456	C04	17107	Th	9:00-9:50	(R. Zia)
Fall	UNIV0456	C05	17108	Th	3:00-3:50	(R. Zia)
Fall	UNIV0456	C06	17109	Th	4:00-4:50	(R. Zia)

UNIV 0500. A Comparative Phenomenology of Mystical Experience.

Mystical experience – personal engagement with an ultimate reality – is found in virtually all cultures, in explicitly religious and deliberately secular guises. It has received extraordinarily diverse appraisals: some have acclaimed it "the only truth there is," while others have been executed for asserting it. This course examines the nature of mystical experience and the variety of its manifestations in and out of the world's major religious traditions. Students will read broadly in primary sources and engage two contemporary theoretical questions: Is mystical experience conditioned by exclusively socio-cultural factors? Is it possible to derive an ethic from mystical experience? Enrollment limited to 16.

UNIV 0550. The Politics of European Integration and Disintegration.

What began as a post-war organization of six states to regulate coal and steel industries has evolved over seven decades into a Union of 26 states to regulate an extensive range of political, economic, and social issues at the transnational level. Viewed from this perspective, the project of European integration has been a remarkable success story. The EU has been engulfed in a seemingly endless series of crises that have seriously threatened the functioning of its institutions and the future of the integration project. We will study the politics of European integration and disintegration through some of these crises – the Euro crisis, the rule of law crisis, Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic, and most recently the Russian invasion of Ukraine – and their impact on the EU's legal and political system.

UNIV 0700. Story and Sound: Introduction to Audio Journalism and Storytelling.

Storytelling and interviewing have long been tools in the social sciences. Their importance has grown as smart phones have put the ability to record sound and video into everyone's hand. Nowhere is the egalitarian nature of storytelling more apparent now than in podcasting, a format that's come to occupy a growing role among researchers and scholars. This course asks students to develop critical abilities to analyze and interpret works of audio journalism and podcasting, and create their own. Students learn the fundamentals of nonfiction storytelling and the specifics of audio and podcast production. They'll learn about how audio fits into an ever-changing media landscape, and learn to think critically about what stories are told and why. Students learn the fundamentals of audio journalism, including finding and identifying stories, conducting interviews, writing for radio, editing, and sound design.

UNIV 0701. Fascism: 1933-Present.

The resurgence of ethno-nationalist and populist movements has upended the liberal democratic consensus of the past half century and elicited comparisons to Weimar Germany. With the rise of a distinctly authoritarian politics in Europe and America, many have questioned whether we are witnessing a return of Fascism. As a political worldview believed to have been defeated at the end of WWII, Fascism nevertheless continues to represent the anxiety looming over the liberal political order. This class will examine the intellectual history of Fascism as a politics of identity, from interwar Europe to the present day and interrogate its meaning today.

UNIV 1001. The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Contested Narratives.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been a central event in the history of the modern Middle East. We will compare the radically different narratives that Palestinians and Israelis tell themselves and others about their struggle over Palestine/Israel. Sources will include historical documents, memoirs, and accounts of the conflict by Israeli and Palestinian historians. We will read works of fiction and view films that present the story of the conflict from both perspectives. Attention will also be paid to efforts by Israelis and Palestinians to transcend their conflicting narratives and attain mutual understanding. All sources in English translation.

Fall	UNIV1001	S01	16767	M	3:00-5:30(03)	(D. Jacobson)
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UNIV 1003. Jerusalem: Jews, Christians, Muslims.

In this course, we will examine how competing heritage narratives of the city of Jerusalem have been shaped by Jewish, Christian, and Muslim histories and beliefs, as well as by Israeli, Palestinian, and international views and interests. We will explore the impact of media portrayal, educational platforms, and archaeological explorations in the contexts of social, religious, and political debates from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. At the focus will be the question of the city's indivisible heritage and boundaries that divide the city and its communities.

Spr	UNIV1003	S01	25440	W	3:00-5:30(10)	(K. Galor)
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UNIV 1005. Narratives of Racism: Lynchings, Miscarriages of Justice, and Internment Camps in America.

In this course, we will study narrative accounts of 20th-century American incidents in which racism led to the persecution of members of minority groups by means of lynchings, miscarriages of justice, or the placement of people in internment camps: the unjustly conducted trial and lynching of the Jewish factory manager Leo Frank accused of murdering a young girl in Georgia; the kidnapping and murder of African American adolescent Emmett Till in Mississippi; and the internment of Japanese descendants during World War II out of fear that they would aid America's enemy.

UNIV 1089. Global Dynamics and Critical Perspectives on Immigrant Entrepreneurship in the United States.

Immigrants own over a quarter of newly established businesses, despite accounting for less than 15 percent of the total U.S. population. 45 percent of immigrant business owners are women. These entrepreneurs have developed businesses in various industries including healthcare and medicine, biotech, hospitality, food services, garment and technology. Course traces U.S. history of 18th century immigrant entrepreneurs (Italians, Germans, ethnic and religious affiliated Jews) to more recent entrepreneurs from countries such as China, South Korea, Japan, Iran, Cuba. We examine today's emerging immigrant entrepreneurs including Mexicans and Filipinos, and among the more recent immigrant groups, including Vietnamese, Cambodians, Ethiopians, Eritreans.

UNIV 1100. Imagining an Equitable University.

The course studies moments over the past half century in which the University was faced with a need to be more inclusive, with an emphasis on issues of race and gender. Our goal is to create an alternative history of Brown that enables new voices to evaluate how the process of governance has worked. Participation by President Simmons depends on her availability. Interested students should apply using the application found at http://www.brown.edu/administration/presidential_seminar/. Applications are due by April 30th.

UNIV 1110. The Theory and Teaching of Problem Solving.

What is a problem and how do you solve one? What relationship exists between problem-solving and teaching? This course is designed for STEM focused students (but it is open to all) who are teaching/will teach and are interested in improving their problem-solving and teaching. You will gain the skills that will aid you in your own learning, promote learning in others, improve communication and problem-solving capabilities, and prepare you to engage more deeply in diverse learning spaces. In the final weeks of the course you will apply concepts to a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning project that focuses on improving/examining problem-solving and/or teaching in your field. S/NC

Fall UNIV1110 S01 17110 TTh 1:00-2:20(06) (C. Smith)

UNIV 1200. Making Choices: Ethics at the Frontier of Global Science.

Considers the ethical tradition in the sciences, and the ways in which ethical issues are engaged in science. Readings and case study examples are drawn from a range of fields, including engineering, chemistry, physics, astronomy and the biological sciences. The seminar has been designated with NSF funding, and is being co-taught at Brown University, Zhejiang University in China and the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay. The three sections of this seminar will meet together to share international perspectives several times during the semester. Enrollment limited to 25. Not open to freshmen.

UNIV 1211. Brown Experiential Learning Practicum.

This course is an optional 1-credit seminar for students participating in an off-campus semester internship. The course is centered around a 10-hour/week internship, which provides an immersive experiential learning opportunity. Seminar sessions, workshops, and reading and writing assignments enable students to reflect on their internship experiences, contextualize their work and organization within the broader environments, and develop academic and professional skills. (Mandatory S/NC; Instructor approval required.)

UNIV 1221. Brown Experiential Learning Practicum.

This course is a required 2-credit seminar for students participating in an off-campus semester internship. The course is centered around a 20-hour/week internship, which provides an immersive experiential learning opportunity. Seminar sessions, workshops, reading and writing assignments enable students to reflect on their internship experiences, contextualize their work and organization within the broader environments, and develop academic and professional skills. (Mandatory S/NC; Instructor approval required)

UNIV 1400. The Cultural History of Disability Minorities in the United States.

Due to the efforts of people with disabilities to secure their civil rights, "disability" has begun to be perceived as a social identity and role rather than solely a medical condition. This course analyzes the cultural history of disability, giving attention to cross-cultural comparisons. Broad topics include: concepts of disability; disability and bioethics; images of disability in film, the media, art, and literature; and political movements of people with disabilities.

UNIV 1520. The Shaping of World Views.

To many students, an exclusive emphasis on specialized studies fragments the "world" in which they live. A widespread feeling of loss pervades the minds of students who often come to universities to learn right from wrong, to distinguish what is true from what is false, but who realize at the end of four years that they have deconstructed their freshman beliefs, values, and ideologies, but have created nothing to replace them. This course examines the diversity of worldviews both synchronically and diachronically and surveys various explanations for such diversity. Enrollment limited to 30. Conducted in English.

UNIV 1700. Transformation of the Research University.

This seminar will focus on recent transformations of the academic, instructional and administrative character of the elite American research universities. Emphasis will be on selected pressure points (such as research funding, diversity, technology, market influence) that drive change and shape the future.

UNIV 1702. Discrimination and Public Policy.

This course examines structural discrimination and interpersonal discrimination as possible drivers of race, gender, and social class inequalities primarily within the U.S. but also in other parts of the world. Key questions involve: What is (and what is not) discrimination? How do social scientists measure discrimination? What do differing methods allow us (and not allow us) to say about the existence and mechanisms of discrimination? What are the consequences of discrimination? What are possible policy approaches to addressing discrimination?

UNIV 1801. Brown in Washington, D.C. Practicum.

This course is a required 2-credit course for students participating in the Brown in Washington, D.C. program. The course is centered around a challenging 30-hour/week internship in a public-sector or not-for-profit organization in Washington, D.C., which provides an immersive experiential learning opportunity at an organization or agency involved in the public policy process. Seminar sessions, workshops, field trips, and reading and writing assignments enable students to reflect on their internship experiences, contextualize their work and organization within the broader DC policy environment, and develop academic and professional skills

UNIV 2020. Professional Development.

This course is designed for master's students. This half-credit course provides an overview of a range of skills to prepare entering master's students for success in their academic program and in their career. The course engages faculty and staff from across the university, to both provide training in key skills and to give students connections to useful resources to support them throughout their program. Students will develop a foundation for professional career development and career searches, as well as becoming familiar with many of the resources available at Brown to support their professional development.