

*BIC 4374 or 4389 may be required for graduation requirements, depending on the student's degree. Please check your degree audit to see if you are required to take one of these courses. Even if you have had one of the courses for graduation requirements, you are welcome another section of BIC 4374 or 4389 for an upper level course (free elective). We also welcome students not required to take BIC 4374 or 4389, if you have room in your schedule.*

### **World V Options Spring 2024:**

#### **BIC 4374-01**

##### **Dr. Lynn Tatum**

Dr. Lynn Tatum's small group concentrates on Middle Eastern culture with a particular view towards religion and the role it has played, and is playing, in the region's history and development. The course will look particularly at the Israeli-Arab dispute and America's role in that struggle. It will also look at the ISIS phenomenon and the roots of this violent jihadist movement.

### **Capstone Options Spring 2024:**

#### **BIC 4389-02: Death, Dying, and Grief**

##### **Dr. Candi Cann**

We talk about death all the time—in books and movies, our favorite characters die; in games, when a person loses the game, we often say they died; and we describe the world around us using death terminology—“my car died,” “I laughed so hard, I died.” Yet, we rarely encounter or know how to manage death and the complex feelings surrounding death, dying and grief.

This course is an interdisciplinary analysis of death, dying, & bereavement. It includes such topics as facing death; coping with dying; hospice care; bereavement, grief, & mourning; funeral practices; lifespan perspectives on death; legal issues; suicide; and assisted suicide & euthanasia. This course will emphasize definitions, theories and models of grief and loss. Students will explore their own perspectives of loss and gain understanding of how their perspective impacts their response to others. In addition, this course will focus on how faith, culture and religion impact one's understanding and acceptance of death and dying. We will deal with difficult topics, go on fieldtrips, listen to guest speakers, and grapple with many aspects of the intersection of death, culture and technology.

*\*\* This course is not suitable for students who have death or suicide ideation. \*\**

#### **BIC 4389-04: Philosophical Issues in Feminism (cross-listed with PHI 3320)**

##### **Dr. Lenore Wright**

Feminist theorists have challenged the negative assessment of the body within philosophical discourse. This course will survey developments in feminist philosophy with an emphasis on the meaning and experience of embodiment. Topics will include theories and definitions of gender, assessments of gender oppression, relationships between bodies and gender identity, cultural inscriptions and evaluations of bodies, theories of power and politics of bodies, bodies in science

and medicine, and embodiment and human identity. No philosophy background is required, but readings will approach feminism from philosophical perspectives.

*These courses have limited enrollment for BIC students since most participants will be taking the course for Philosophy credit. Please register for BIC 4389 if you desire Capstone credit.*

### **BIC 4389-05: Not a Hero, Not a Villain: Outlaws, Rebels, and Freedom Fighters**

**Dr. Davide Zori and Dr. Sam Perry**

So many of the fictional and historical characters that fascinate us, characters that we love, and characters that we find alluring are not prototypical heroes. They live beyond the limits of community and outside of the laws of society. They are not “nice” people, in fact many of these people are egocentric, pursue their own goals, and eschew many of the traits we associate with good people. Yet when we read or watch their stories unfold in books, in TV shows, or in movies we root for them. This course explores why this is so. We approach the fascination with outlaws, rebels, and freedom fighters as a human question. Part of the explanation must lie in our imaginative nature—we want to imagine being the things and the people we are not. Some people are driven to become outlaws or rebels out of their life circumstances. But some people do choose to be outlaws: they are “rebels without a cause”. This course takes up why the anti-heroes move beyond the rules of society. We will question if there is a morally distinguishable line between heroes and villains, and if so, then where is the line? The sources of this course are short stories, movies, television shows, primary historical texts, and academic articles that explore and explain the ways in which we characterize heroes and villains. The course examines the social construction of protagonists and antagonists as a means of examining our own lives and goals.

### **BIC 4389-06: Bridging Our Differences**

**Dr. Mike Whinton**

This course aims to heal polarization, promote belonging across meaningful differences, and address the challenges arising from freedom of expression in diverse democracies like the United States. Over the course of the semester, we will explore and acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively foster engagement with people who believe differently in our highly polarized society. We call this bridgebuilding. The course includes both theory and praxis, including skill-building, encounters across difference, and practical application, bridging across differences on issues of societal importance. We will read the most important theoretical texts for bridgebuilding, hone your own bridgebuilding skills through the completion of evidence-based bridging curricula, and construct and apply your own framework for bridgebuilding. By the end of the semester, you will have all the knowledge, tools, and experience you need to confidently integrate bridging into your life after Baylor.

We will begin by exploring polarization in the United States. How did we get here? What are the key contributors? What lies ahead if we do not steady the ship? We will then turn our attention to the theory of bridgebuilding work, before turning our attention to building the practical skills for bridging in our polarized society. For this aspect of the course, we will work through evidence-based curricula for bridging. Finally, we will apply those skills by doing calculated bridging work as a course. As a result, you will have the confidence, knowledge, and skills to contribute

to the growing community of bridgebuilders who unite people with stark differences for the common good.

## **Summer 2024—STUDY ABROAD**

### **BIC 4389 Pilgrimage and Martyrdom**

**Dr. Jason Whitlark**

This course explores the concepts of pilgrimage and martyrdom. Medieval pilgrimages by Christians were a significant spiritual discipline. “Pilgrimage is a journey to sacred places. Every place has a story, and sacred places are those places whose story is associated with God’s self-revelation and with the lives of the holy” (*New Westminster Dictionary of Spirituality*). These pilgrimages had as their goal to visit the places of martyrdom and martyr relics. Thus, we will examine how the stories of martyrs shape our own understanding of the life that is worth living. We will also examine how the metaphor of pilgrimage helps us examine the lives we have lived and the ones we hope to live.

### **Other Summer Opportunities Forthcoming**