

CWI 101 Spring 2022 Courses

Scientific Explorations

Marianne Nelson [Biology](#)

How Not to Die; Surviving the Extremes

Why is it so hard to breathe at the top of Mt. Everest and why can't a scuba diver race to the surface from 90 feet underwater? We will explore those topics as well as the extreme survival conditions in the desert and out at sea. How does the human body adapt physiologically to maintain homeostasis when we are challenged to survive? Similarly, how can you survive and thrive as a college student? Let's explore all the ways to make smart decisions in conditions you will face in and out of a classroom. **[How Not to Die]**

Teresa Rich [Life Sciences](#)

Scary Diseases: Understanding Epidemics & New Diseases in Today's Society

Are the diseases that make the front-page headlines such as COVID and Zika worse than local outbreaks of more commonly known diseases such as influenza and measles? This course will take a scientist's perspective on diseases, including the development of vaccines. The COVID vaccines will be compared to the fifty-plus-year-old measles vaccine. As well as learning the science behind disease, students will learn thinking and study strategies that will help them become more confident in the college learning environment. **[Scary Diseases]**

Where Art and Humanities Intercept Life

Carl Della Badia, Joy Palmer, Lynne Tucker [English](#)

Fantastical Futures and What They Teach Us

Science fiction is a genre that explores not only a fantastical future or alternative present, but it also plays a pivotal role in critically examining our current societies. Through literature and film, we will investigate the larger questions of what it means to exist on earth today. How are science and technology shaping our societies? What are humanity's greatest challenges? What role can science fiction play in helping us understand our own communities and ourselves, and ultimately, what it means to be human? **[Fantastical Futures]**

Jeff Peterson [Theatre](#)

Really Good Bad Guys

From the beginning of western theatre, we see characters who think they are doing the right thing, but as an audience we can see their actions as evil or treacherous. In this CWI 101 class students will look at plays and literature showcasing protagonists with fatal, tragic flaws that turn "good guys" into "bad guys." We will be exploring how the ideas of a hero/antihero in theatre and in modern entertainment has shifted

and how our own perceptions of what a protagonist should be has changed drastically in the last one hundred years. While learning about how the role and expectations of a hero have changed over time, students will also be learning strategies for being successful learners in college and beyond. **[Really Good Bad Guys]**

Laura Gray, PH.D. [Integrated Studies](#)

Earning your Associate's Degree in Zombie Eradication: Surviving your First Year of College by Stopping the Zombie Apocalypse.

Ever think of your professors as other-worldly beings? Maybe even the Undead? Concerned that navigating your way through college might be akin to surviving a zombie apocalypse? Maybe you're right. Come join us as we gather the tools and skills necessary to slay zombies and prevent a Treasure Valley Apocalypse takeover... all the while exploring every resource imaginable to ensuring your success as a student at CWI. In this class, we'll draw parallels between zombie hunting and thriving—not just surviving—in college. You'll learn the latest in study skills, choosing and preparing for a career, being involved on campus, and finding help when you need it, in addition to discovering your unique zombie hunter archetype. If you have an interest in squashing both the undead and your fears of higher education, this CWI 101 class is definitely for you! **[Get Your AA in Zombie Eradication]**

Brenda Fisher [Visual and Performing Arts](#) Andrea Ascuena [English](#), Christian Purvis Aldrich [English](#)

Using Design Thinking to Build a Life You Love (also called Harnessing Our Creativity, Designing Our Future.

Many of us want to be creative and often work to find creative outlets, but most people have yet to examine how to use the creative process purposefully. This course will focus on applying design thinking to harness our creativity and make it part of a process we can use to achieve important things and tackle challenges. Design thinking is—as discussed in the book *Designing Your Life: How to Live a Well-Lived, Joyful Life*—a method of solving difficult and complex problems through thinking creatively and testing ideas. We will focus on how to use design thinking to build possibilities for your future education, career, and life. **[Build A Life You Love]**

Autumn Brackley [English](#)

The New Dystopian Hero

Dystopian stories like *Divergent*, *The Hunger Games* or *The Giver* are set in a time when things have gone horribly wrong in the world, and they warn about where our culture may end up if we aren't careful. In this class we will examine some of these storylines to see what kind of messages they are sending about current American values. Ultimately, we will try to decipher how these books and movies define the new American hero. **[The New Dystopian Hero]**

Michal Yadlin [Integrated Studies](#)

Discover Your World; Discover Yourself

Who am I? If you're like me, you've asked yourself this numerous times. (If you're also like me, your answer is "I'm Jean Valjean"- shout out to the theater nerds in the class!) But, all jokes aside, it's a fair question. Who are we and how do we figure out where we're going? In this course, we'll learn about other cultures and in doing so, hopefully gain a better understanding of how the world works and how we work. By the end of the semester, the hope is to be able to identify our culture. This doesn't necessarily mean your racial culture but could be your gender, your community culture, your virtual culture or something else entirely. I will be right alongside you during this journey so you can be sure that one of the things that you are not when asking "Who am I?" is alone. We're all in this together (cue High School Musical....) **[Discover the Word/Yourself]**

Goran Fazil [Visual and Performing Arts](#)
History of Animation

Animation is a popular medium in our contemporary world and it has been for hundreds of years. During this time animated movies have made a huge impact on our popular culture. This course will explore the origins of animation and its history. We will look into various different genres, styles, media, and techniques in regards to animated movies and their evolution over time. Animation is an international global medium, and therefore in this class we will examine various different leading practitioners from all over the world. Through the examination of animated movies we will gain an insight into various social and cultural contexts in which these movies were created. **[History of Animation]**

Eric Mullis [Studio and Visual Arts](#)
Harness Our Creativity

Many of us want to be creative and often work to find creative outlets, but most people have yet to examine what creativity really is and how to use it purposefully. This course will focus on design thinking to harness our creativity and make it part of a process we can use to achieve important things. Design thinking is—as discussed in the book *Designing Your Life: How to Live a Well-Lived, Joyful Life*—a method of solving difficult and complex problems through thinking creatively and testing ideas. We will focus on how to use design thinking to build possibilities for your future education, career, and life. **[Harness Our Creativity]**

Malia Collins [English](#)
Transformative Storytelling: Shift Your World View

Angela Davis said, "You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time." What does it mean to transform the world? It's an idea you'll hear as you begin your college journey, and this class will examine what that transformation can look like. We'll start building our classroom community by telling the stories of ourselves and our people; we will connect with each other by listening, reflecting, and thinking critically about the stories we tell ourselves and the world around us. Students will share their voices through oral storytelling and creative writing, and examine what the world can look like when it's rooted in interdependence, resilience, and regeneration. **[Transformative Storytelling]**

Jessica Hutton [English](#)

Your Playbook for Success

Your Playbook for Success Let's face it, college is tough-the classes are rigorous and time just doesn't ever seem to be on your side. But what if I told you there were ways to make your college experience more manageable? The truth is, there are skill sets that can work to your advantage, but it's not a one-size-fits-all model. In this course, you will identify and practice the student success skills that work best for you. Some of the topics we will investigate include time management, communication, study skills, critical thinking, planning, accessing resources, and managing your health. By the end of this course, you will have an individualized game plan to help you succeed in the classroom and in life. **[Playbook for Success]**

The Interconnectedness of Society

Liza Long [Integrated Studies](#), Andrea Schumaker [Agricultural Science](#), Elizabeth Cook, [Visual and Performing Arts](#)

You Are What You Eat: Exploring Our Relationships with Food

This course explores the complicated relationship between humans and their diet, using Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma* as a guide. In 21st century America, we have nearly limitless choices about what to eat. But those choices come with hidden costs. What we choose to eat affects everything from our personal physical and mental health to our communities to the global environment. Our diet may reflect deeply held ethical or religious beliefs. It may indicate our economic status or our cultural background. Or it may represent a mindful choice designed to fuel a healthy lifestyle. In this course, we will learn where our food comes from, how diet impacts our health, and what our individual diet choices mean within a global context. We will also learn practical tools and strategies to promote success in college and in life.**[You Are What You Eat]**

Kim Scheffer [Sociology](#) Allison Molitor [Psychology](#)

Heroes and Villains

What does it mean to be a hero or a villain? We will consider both famous and obscure examples of unique individuals and their circumstances. Heroic stories can inspire us to be persistent and resilient in the face of trials, whereas stories of villains can serve as a warning and strengthen our resolve. What factors lead to an individual's success or failure? Various case studies will be examined relating to topics such as culture, opportunity, personality, genius, persistence, and achievement. This is an interdisciplinary course, primarily drawing from sociology, psychology and history. You will be able to develop practical tools to define your own personal and professional goals and determine how you can overcome obstacles to achieve your goals. **[Heroes and Villains]**

Kim Scheffer [Sociology](#), Daren Olson [Integrated Studies](#)

TED-CWI: Lessons Worth Learning

TED, which stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design, is an organization famous for its “ideas worth sharing” in the form of 20-minute video presentations. Many are familiar with TED Talks and have probably watched a few, such as (insert example of popular talk?). TED uses ideas to inspire change in attitudes, lives, and ultimately, the world. Using Ted Talks and Ted-Ed(ucation) as our platform, this course will provide strategies to be successful in college while simultaneously sparking and celebrating your own ideas about learning and how to apply those ideas to your education. The final project of this course will allow you to showcase your innovation and skills through the creation of your own TED-Ed Lesson on student success skills. **[TED-CWI]**

Janel Holt **Spanish**
Media and Self

Media is central to culture and contributes daily to our communication, socialization and core beliefs. This course is designed to help students develop skills to effectively analyze media messages for function, intent and bias, and understand how this information contributes meaning to the lives of individuals and to society as a whole. Students will also create a personal media project to demonstrate concepts covered in the course. **[Media and Self]**

Abby Wolford **English**
The Dead and the Undead

Do you love The Walking Dead? Do you know how you would survive a zombie apocalypse? Are you obsessed with Dracula or Twilight? Have you ever thought about why we love zombies and vampires? This course will examine our fascination with zombies and vampires and what that reveals about our culture and ourselves. We will also look at traditions and beliefs surrounding death, particularly in American culture, but also throughout the world. Examining our cultural beliefs about death and our fascination with the undead will lead to examining other parts of our culture through a more critical lens, which will benefit students in all parts of their education, regardless of their primary area of study. This course will culminate in students showcasing analysis and research on a zombie specific area of interest. **[The Dead and the Undead]**

Stephanie Ritchie Breach **Criminal Justice**
Myth Busters in Criminal Justice

Are you a crime drama junkie? Do you think you know all there is to know about the criminal justice system? This course will explore and dispel common myths in the criminal justice, such as crime rates, Miranda warnings, and the death penalty. Additionally we will critically examine statistics and research, as well as look to Supreme Court cases for explanations. **[Myths in Criminal Justice]**

Megan Hudson **Integrated Studies**
Reading and Navigating through Idaho Whitewater

Idaho is considered the "whitewater playground" for river enthusiasts. The state boasts numerous whitewater river trips that are easily accessible for day or multiday

trips. River adventures will provide an experience you will never forget. How you remember the trip completely depends on your planning, preparedness and appreciating the force of Mother Nature. Those who take the time to understand, respect and utilize the energy of the river will undoubtedly return time and again to create memories that last a lifetime. This course will compare the enthusiasm of whitewater rafting to the enthusiasm of higher education learning. Both fields require extensive research, planning, goal setting, mentoring, first-hand experience, support and navigation to have a positive, successful experience. Each concept of whitewater rafting preparation will parallel a concept of preparing for and being successful in college. **[Reading and Navigating: Idaho Whitewater]**

Courtney Colby-Bond **Integrated Studies**
The Art of Influence

"I haven't the slightest idea how to change people, but still I keep a long list of prospective candidates just in case I should ever figure it out." — David Sedaris, *Naked*. This course will assess the elements necessary to create lasting and meaningful change in yourself and the world around you. We will delve into the topic of what makes change happen and how the world around us is uniquely designed to influence our behaviors. Using this knowledge, you will create unique projects of influence and change intended to make a positive difference in your life. **[Art of Influence]**

Howie Long **Communication**
Modern Romance

Find love and happiness in this class! In our modern world you need to have skills with mobile technology and the internet along with the communication tools to find your true love and win their heart. In this class we will develop the written and verbal communication skills used in romance. In this course, we will learn to learn from current research and your personal experiences to explore how to search for love and keep building true love from your continued learning that will last after the in-love experience has run its course. Moreover, we will learn how to "fight fair" making cultural connections in relationship and how to solve the problem of getting over someone without losing your cool. The college years are when many people meet their significant other. Additionally, there is a necessity in college to make and develop relationships that will use the same type of tools (yet not so intense) as do romantic relationships. With this class you'll better understand all relationships in general and specifically LOVE. You will come away with a game plan for success! **[Modern Romance]**

Erica R. Compton **Sociology**
The American Story

The United States is a nation from various backgrounds including those of early colonizers, immigrants, indigenous populations, enslaved, Latinx, and refugees. This interdisciplinary course will give students an opportunity to explore the themes that have resulted in *The American Story*: culture, heritage, and historical context. This

course will provide you with both practical successful student strategies and better awareness and understanding of America's rich diversity. **[The American Story]**

Investigations of Identity

Kevin Rensink **Business**

Determined Destination

This course will provide guidance in career choice and job-searching skills. Students will use career planning tools to find an answer to the question, "What do I do now?" We will learn to avoid roadblocks on the path to a well-chosen career, increase motivation, and build self-awareness, self-confidence, and patience. We will also discuss how to turn rejections into successes, write resumes and cover letters, and how to plan an education to best match a future career. Students will also learn to navigate Microsoft Office and goal-setting tools. **[Determined Destination]**

Amy Vassar & Andrew Horning **Modern Languages**

Language and Identity

How literate are you? What parts of your life does literacy affect? What role does a person's speech and writing play in first impressions and stereotypes? Does your lexicon determine whether or not you get a job? A date? Should it? What causes linguistic stereotypes, such as French being the language of love and German the language of war? These questions and more will be addressed through movies, social media and literature. We will explore how the basic building blocks of language affect communication and how language and culture impacts a person's identity and their perspective of the world. Students will learn how an awareness of language and identity can help them to better navigate and participate in a multilingual world. **[Language and Identity]**

Greg Wilson **Integrated Studies**

The Good Life

Soren Kierkegaard, a philosopher from the 19th century, had some interesting ideas about what it means to live a good life that are surprisingly relevant today. Through a study of some of his main themes of philosophy such as "passionate inwardness," "subjectivity," "the individual," and "the leap of faith," we will go on a cultural treasure hunt to see these very popular themes reflected in the movies, music, and short stories that are all around us. By the time you have finished this course, you will be able to recognize the passions in your own life—as a student and as an individual. **[The Good Life]**

Scott Straub **Education**

Movies that Move Us

Do you like films that are inspiring, uplifting, and intriguing? Do you wonder whether movies can move people to action? The classroom, with all its inherent drama, conflict, and diversity, has provided the perfect setting for many books and movies in

our culture. In this course we'll explore how education portrayed in cinema and literature compares to the real world, and we'll have some fun along the way. Additionally, we'll discuss how adults learn, in both a traditional and online environment. Students completing this course will be better prepared to succeed in college and in life. Whether you are just curious about how movies influence our lives or perhaps you are considering a career in teaching, join us to uncover the tips and tricks to achievement in school, and beyond. **[Movies that Move Us]**

Brent Hart [Modern Languages](#)

Myths and Legends of the Spanish World

In this class we will discuss a variety of Spanish Myths and Legends. Does La Llorona live in the water ready to gobble up unsuspecting children? Will the Chupacabra ever be caught? What are the origins of these and other legends and what can we learn about the cultural/historical context in which they originated? How do they compare with other legends we are familiar with? In this course we will investigate legends and the countries where they first appeared, and develop a variety of academic skills to allow us to think critically about the connection between history, culture, and literature. Format will include reading, writing, discussion, and presentations. **[Spanish Myths/Legends]**