

Winter Intersession Courses and Spring Electives Offered by the Department

by C. Garrett Keidel

For the 2019/2020 Winter intersession and Spring 2020 semester, the Manhattan College Communication Department is offering a variety of opportunities for students to explore different courses in communication as well as different locations.

During the upcoming Winter intersession, the department is hosting a study abroad trip for students to travel to India and study course(s) on Transnational Communication and/ or Intercultural Communication. The study abroad trip to India is structured around the Kashmiri and/or Rohingya refugee crisis, and they will be viewed through cultural, political, historical, and social viewpoints and particularly how different media outlets in India represent these issues.

Students on the trip will gain an immersive experience with on-site visits to National landmarks like the Taj Mahal, and will be able to experience for themselves the rich history and culture of India, as well as the unique intersection of peoples and languages that India has to offer. Along with a visit to the Taj Mahal, students who embark on the study abroad trip will observe palaces, cultural sites, media houses, and partake in history tours that exemplify a deep understanding of what India has to offer to students who wish to participate in the trip.

Currently the departure date for India is on December 28, 2019 with a return date of January 10, 2020. Dr. Arshia Anwer will be teaching the course(s) this upcoming intersession, and is hopeful that students are excited to take the opportunity to travel to one of the most popular destinations in the world, and experience it firsthand for only a few hundred dollars more than if they were to take the course on campus here at Manhattan College.

Also offered during the upcoming intersession is a course in game design and development. The course is designed to include information for students of all experience levels, with no amount of previous experience necessary as a prerequisite.

Students who wish to take the course will become familiar with basic photoshop skills along with professional game engines like UNREAL and Unity 5. The goal of the course is to learn to create 3D game environments and does not include programming. The course is open to all students regardless of major for this upcoming Winter intersession.

For the Spring 2020 semester, the Communication Department is offering a variety of elective courses that are designed for students to further explore and compliment their current concentration studies.

Chair of the department, Dr. Michael Graboswki will be teaching a course on virtual reality entitled VR: Perception, Production, Possibilities.

“This elective course explores the emerging field of virtual reality. Through interactive screenings in this partially-online class experience, students will analyze various forms of perception, the future of interactive media, and the ethics of this new medium for storytelling and communication,” said Grabowksi. “Students will create a virtual reality experience using the Unreal Engine, gaining hands-on experience with cutting-edge virtual reality technology.”

An elective that will be offered for the first time this upcoming spring semester is Professional Communication, also taught by Prof. Anwer. The course was designed by Dr. Anwer as a way to prepare students for the way professional communication is practiced in today’s marketplace, with a focus on topics like communicative appropriateness, timeliness, audience-specific communication, and more.

Students will learn about written and oral communication formats that include interviews, resumes, nonverbal communication, memos, use of technology, and more. Students who enroll in the course can expect to learn and practice professional/marketplace communication before they enter the job market.