



**wsu** WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# SPRING 2024 **LIFELONG**LEARNING

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Wichita State University is offering 0.5 credit-hour (non-degree) courses that are FREE for students 60+ years old if enrolled by February 7, 2024.

316.978.3731

[lifelonglearning@wichita.edu](mailto:lifelonglearning@wichita.edu)

[wichita.edu/lifelonglearning](https://wichita.edu/lifelonglearning)



THEA 150D | CRN 26695

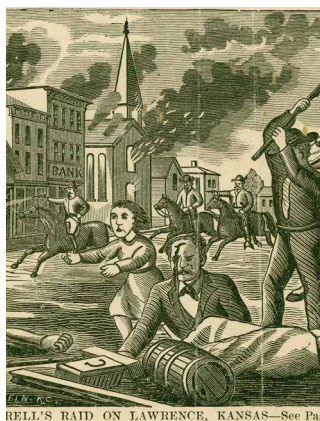
**THEATER**

## The Storytelling Beneath the Screen: Film Composers

**Mondays, February 26, March 18, 25 & April 1 | 1-3p**

Imagine your favorite movie without music underneath. Would you know when the shark was approaching in *Jaws* or when something terrible was happening to Janet Lee in the shower in *Psycho*? This course is designed to explore the storytelling aspect of film scoring and its importance in making movies memorable. As filmmaking was developing in Hollywood, “silent films” were never really silent—there was no spoken dialogue, but it was expected that music would be added in the theaters. After the technology for “talking pictures” became possible in 1929, studios capitalized by cranking out popular movie musicals and then realized that hiring composers for their non-musicals might be beneficial as well. The use of music as a storytelling device has been around since the beginning of time and it didn’t take long for studio heads to realize that adding music to enhance dialogue, dramatic action and visual imagery could be popular and profitable. A new profession was created: the film composer.

*Instructor: Linda Starkey, Retired Faculty, Lecturer, School of Performing Arts, Wichita State University*



BELL'S RAID ON LAWRENCE, KANSAS—See Pa

HIST 150BC | CRN 26815

**HISTORY**

## The Border War: Conflict in Kansas and Missouri during the Civil War

**Tuesdays, February 27, March 19, 26 & April 2 | 1-3p**

This course examines the story of the conflict along the Kansas and Missouri border from 1854-1865. We will examine the primary sources, images and collections related to the individuals and events of that period. Attention will be given to the issues of slavery, sectionalism, settlement and political viability during this period and its lasting legacy for the region and the nation.

*Instructor: Ken Spurgeon, Lecturer, Department of History, Wichita State University*



HIST 150CJ | CRN 26722

**HISTORY**

## African Americans' Impact on US History

**Wednesdays, February 28, March 6, 20 & 27 | 1-3p**

This course seeks to examine ideas, attitudes, movements and governmental policies that shaped the African American experience of the U.S. through the 20th Century. We will use primary sources, books, letters and images as well as short video clips to learn about this history that some Americans do not want to have their children learn. We will learn about men, women and organizations that shaped the Black experience of America and about the records they kept of their experience.

*Instructor: Dr. Gretchen Eick, Lecturer, Department of History, Wichita State University*



REL 150B | CRN 26693

RELIGION

## Jesus: Traditions and Images

**Tuesdays, April 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 1-3p**

Jesus is a foundational figure of Christianity. This course examines traditions about Jesus in the New Testament and other early Christian literature, particularly the Gospels. Next, the course will investigate what scholars know about Jesus as an historical figure. The course then charts the development of doctrines about Christ and controversies in emerging Christianity over the person of Jesus. Finally, the course will also explore depictions of Jesus in visual art, poetry and music, in various religious traditions, both in the past and in contemporary cultures.

*Instructor: Dr. Rannfrid Thelle, Associate Professor, Department of History, Wichita State University*



GEOL 150P | CRN 26764

GEOLOGY

## Ring of Fire: The Geology of Volcanoes

**Wednesdays, April 10, 17, 24 & May 1 | 1-3p**

Volcanoes have built our continents, released gases that helped form the oceans and atmosphere, heated and cooled the earth, sometimes to extremes and contributed to mass extinction events throughout our geologic past. They have destroyed historic civilizations such as Santorini and Pompeii and continue to be a modern threat to human safety with 1 in 20 people living in the danger range of an active volcano. Yet without them, the earth would be uninhabitable. Join us as we learn how volcanoes form, the classification of volcanoes and their eruptions, the ways in which they affect the earth, how eruptions are monitored, what we can do to be prepared for an eruption and what risk super volcanoes, such as Yellowstone, hold for the future. Along the way, we'll examine the geology and devastation of some of the world's most famous eruptions!

*Instructor: Heather Merchant, Lecturer, Department of Geology, Wichita State University*



PHIL 150AI | CRN 26694

PHILOSOPHY

## Ethics of Big Data and AI

**Fridays, April 19, 26 & May 3, 10 | 1-3p**

In this era of ChatGPT, Alexa and algorithmically controlled social media, how can we develop informed opinions and make responsible decisions? This course presents a framework for ethical evaluation and explores its implications for current and emerging technologies that use big datasets to train machine learning and deep learning algorithms for predictive and generative AI. Since AI development is astonishingly rapid right now, some of the specific examples and ethical considerations we'll highlight will be determined on the fly.

*Instructor: Dr. Susan Castro, Associate Professor/Chair, Department of Philosophy, Wichita State University*

# LIFELONG LEARNING



*We are once again offering in-person and online options for participation. All classes will take place from 1-3 p.m. All in-person classes will be held at Wichita State University's Metropolitan Complex located at 5015 E. 29th St. N., Wichita, KS 67220. If you choose the online option, you will receive a link via email each week to view the class on your device at your convenience.*

## Contact Info

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[www.wichita.edu/LifelongLearning](http://www.wichita.edu/LifelongLearning)

**Enroll early! Classes will fill quickly!**