

## INQ Course Descriptions – Summer 2025 Offerings

### May Term

INQ-177-CN	Bluegrass and Old-Time Music in Southwestern Virginia	
<p>This course offers students a hands-on introduction to the traditional “mountain music” culture of southwestern Virginia. Students develop and present a group project that explores how a music-culture of their choice can be better understood in light of what they have learned about the ideas, activities, repertoires, and material culture of “old time” and “Bluegrass.” No prior experience performing music, either singing or playing, is required: a basic tenet of old-time music is that every member of the community can participate, regardless of familiarity or skill. Central to the course is the global idea that music is learned in the music-making experience.</p>		

### Summer Early: 5/12/25-6/7/25

INQ-260CO-OL	Media Effects	online asynchronous
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<p>How does media use affect people? Aside from working and sleeping, individuals in the US spend more time consuming media than any other single activity. By the time the average person reaches 65, he or she will have spent over six full years of life watching television – not to mention the additional time spent on the Internet, mobile communication devices, and playing video games. The importance of media in people’s lives makes it crucial for us to comprehend and critically examine our perception of media messages and their influences. This course will introduce students to the study of the effects of media on individuals and society. By introducing media theories through several key research areas, this course will explore such inquiries as “does exposure to media violence increase aggression?,” “does consuming sexual content lead to callousness against members of the opposite sex?,” and “does media stereotyping breed out-group intolerance?”</p>		

### Summer 1: 6/2/25-6/28/25

INQ-120-OL2	Science and the Good Life	online synchronous MTWTHF 10:50AM-01:00PM
<p>Many key issues facing us as a society have important scientific or quantitative components. This leads one to ask: In what ways is scientific and quantitative literacy necessary to leading a good and ethical life in the 21st century? As science progresses, technological developments in biology and nanotechnology are enabling us to alter the capabilities of organisms in novel ways. How should our ethical thinking be adapted as these capabilities continue to develop? As we educate ourselves about the science behind these topics, we will engage with various ethical thinkers in an effort to clarify the relevance of scientific and quantitative literacy, and technological progress, to the good and ethical life in the 21st century.</p>		
INQ-241-OL	Running the World Efficiently	online asynchronous
<p>What is the best way to deliver the mail? Deliver packages? Assign jobs to employees? Predict stable marriages? A variety of real world optimization problems will be analyzed using the methodology of graph theory and mathematics, especially in terms of how well the “solution” algorithms perform. We will discuss techniques for framing these and other questions in terms of graph structures and the algorithms used to find solutions. Special attention will be paid to efficient routes for goods and people, assigning tasks based on qualifications, and networks designed to reduce cost. Prerequisite: INQ 240 or a Mathematics or Statistics course</p>		

INQ-250CH-A	Chemistry and Crime	In person MTWTHF 09:00AM-11:10AM
INQ-250CHL-1	Chemistry and Crime Lab	in person MTWTHF 12:00PM-03:00PM
<p>How can chemistry contribute to the investigation of crime? The evening news, the primetime TV lineup, and the local bookstore are all filled with examples of the work of forensic scientists. This course will emphasize fundamental chemical principles that allow us to understand the techniques used to analyze evidence from a crime scene. From bloodstains to drug identification to DNA fingerprinting, commonly employed techniques of the forensic scientist will be studied. In the laboratory, students will perform some of these same analyses used by professional criminologists to solve simulated crimes. Students will also use general chemistry principles to design their own analysis methods.</p>		
INQ-270-OL	Myth, Philosophy, and Nature	online asynchronous
<p>This course will look at different ways in which people have approached the natural world, ranging from mythological accounts of the world and its origins to rationalistic attempts to understand natural processes in early Greek philosophy and in the tradition of thought it inspired. We will consider what mythological approaches to the world have in common with more rationalistic approaches developed in the western world, and how they differ, as well as ways in which contemporary understandings of the world differ from views articulated in earlier modes of thought.</p>		
INQ-271-OL	Why Hitler?	online synchronous MTWTHF 08:30AM-10:40AM
<p>This course will ask the question: Why Hitler? Why did one of the most sophisticated nations in Europe follow one of the most murderous and hateful leaders in world history? German history, the legacies of the First World War, and the biography of the dictator himself will be examined to help students begin to form an answer to this question.</p>		
INQ-300-OL2	Sport & Society	online asynchronous
<p>Many of us participate in or follow sports, but when we play tennis or watch the Super Bowl, we aren't usually thinking about how society affects sport or how sport influences who we are. What role does sport play in the socialization of children and adults? How is sport connected to the economy, our schools, politics, religion, family, or our government? How does sport perpetuate or disrupt social inequalities based on race, gender, social class, or disability? How do media shape sport and our understanding of it? What problems—violence, substance abuse, eating disorders, and gambling—are reflected in or exacerbated by sport? This course will ask you to choose a problem or issue in sport for which you can offer a solution, whether it be the development of a program, policy, business, non-profit, event, research project, information campaign, or some other creative outcome.</p>		
<b>Summer 2: 6/30/25-7/26/25</b>		
INQ-120-OL2	What a Waste!	online asynchronous
<p>What is gender? How can it be used to help us understand life in early societies? We will explore how gender roles were articulated and reinforced, how sexuality was related to gender or social position, and how deviations from the norm were regarded. Using a global perspective, we will analyze literature and visual art from China, Japan, India, Greece, and England (ranging from 1000</p>		

<p>BCE to the 12th Century CE), in order to observe and compare a wide range of gender constructions and norms. A humanistic approach asks how ideas about gender were presented in literature and art in a particular time and place, and analyzes the reception of those ideas. We will examine the role artistic expressions played in communicating, reinforcing, rejecting, or modifying understandings of gender, and how historical ideas about gender have played a role in our own era</p>		
INQ-240-OL	Statistics & Sports Industry	online asynchronous
<p>The sports industry is a multibillion dollar entity that generates some extremely interesting questions about quality assessment, business, ethics, and health issues. Some of the questions we will ask are: What type data are necessary to assess the quality of a player and how can we use that data to determine the value of a player? What are the long term health risks associated with playing full contact sports and how do we determine the prevalence of these injuries and their impact on the player's lives. The key to answering these questions is putting aside preconceived opinions and emotion and using statistical analysis to see what the data say. Under the broad umbrella of statistics, this course will use an abundance of rich data sets to uncover the enormous impact that statistical analysis has on the sports industry.</p>		
INQ-260AN-GOL	The Anthropology of Law	in person MTWTHF 08:30AM-10:40AM
<p>What is "law"? How do societies define what law is and what law does? What role does culture play in shaping law, and does law play in shaping culture? This course explores these questions from the perspective of anthropology, examining both how anthropologists study the role of law in society and what results they have achieved, and ultimately what the study of law across cultures tells us about the part law may play more universally as part of the human condition</p>		
INQ-260LI-OL	Language and Social Identities	online asynchronous
<p>Language is usually seen as a complex tool that human beings use for communication. However, we fail to perceive that language also has a crucial role in the construction of communities. What role does language have in the creation and shaping of social identities in human groups? Sociolinguist research has long shown that certain language features, namely patterns of pronunciation or the use of determined grammatical choices, signal membership to a social group and express our social persona. This course aims to explore in what ways language serves to construct and preserve social identities within a given group. Students will be able to recognize language features of English and other languages that have an active role in this process, and to quantify and measure the relation between linguistic items and societal issues. This course provides training in social science methods of research and scientific reasoning.</p>		
INQ-270-OL	Gods & Monsters	online synchronous MTWTHF 10:50AM-01:00PM
<p>Asian literature abounds with supernatural beings of all sorts—gods who hold grudges, monsters with 12 heads, hungry ghosts that wander the earth, and spiritual masters who can conquer all of them. These tales offer an excellent window into Asian religion and literature, because while they are fantastic (and fun to read), they make sense when read in the context of Asian belief systems. This class will survey Indian, Chinese, and Japanese religious and ethical world views as a foundation for reading the many genres of Asian literature. The class will consider the following questions: What ethical and religious beliefs help explain the nature of these gods and monsters? Why are people, gods, and monsters punished under these belief systems? What do the human</p>		

protagonists learn about themselves? What do the supernatural characters teach us about the human condition?

INQ-300-OL

Making Life Count

online asynchronous

What makes life fulfilling? Do you need material wealth? How does personal attitude contribute to a successful life? This course will explore how to make our life count by examining the relationship of attitude and our perception of living a meaningful life. Do we have to be an effective member of the community to make our life count? We will discuss the very real issues of poverty, homelessness, and people with physical disabilities in our nation and around the world and examine the question "Can everyone live a life with purpose?" This course requires a service learning component. The service learning experience will allow students to work with underprivileged community members in the Roanoke Valley and gain a deeper understanding of their situation.