



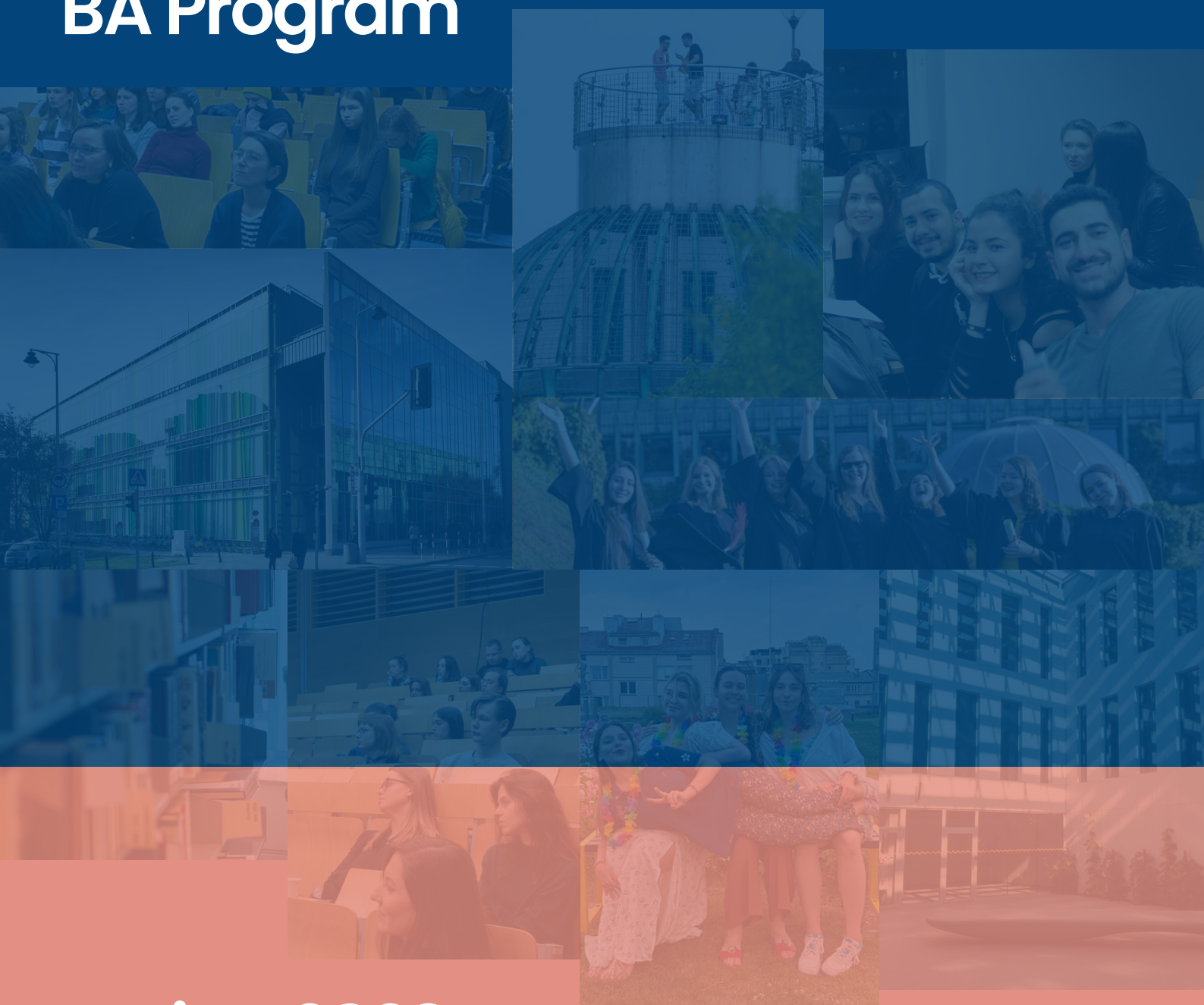
UNIWERSYTET
WARSZAWSKI



American
Studies
Center

COURSE CATALOGUE

BA Program



Spring 2023

BA COURSES

lectures

sections

electives

1st year

LECTURES

History of the United States II dr William Glass, prof. ucz.

4 ECTS

4219-AW002

This lecture provides a general survey of American History from Reconstruction through the early 21st century. Students will become acquainted with the main developments in American politics, society, and culture. The central theme is the rise of big business and its impact on how Americans lived, worked, and played, as well as the role of government and emergence of America as a superpower after World War II. To a lesser extent, the topics of religion, sports, and popular culture (film, radio, and TV) will also be addressed.

United States and the World dr Ryszard Schnepf

4 ECTS

4219-AW005-AM

The lecture offers a historical survey of the most important trends and facts in American foreign policy from the beginning of independence to contemporary times. During our meetings we will get closer to the changing role of the US in its region and then in the world: from isolationism and defense posture in the face of prospective European power's intervention on American territory at the beginning of its independence up to the position of leader influencing world's politics and economy with dynamic and attractive culture.

Political Culture in the US dr Marcin Gajek

4 ECTS

4219-AW023

The course discusses the problem of political culture in the United States. It explains the relationship between political process and values, beliefs and attitudes of American society. We are going to find out how Americans perceive politics, government and their role as citizens; study when, why, and how Americans participate in politics; examine the attitudes to political institutions and the system; look at the way public opinion is formed and how it impacts the dynamics of American politics; finally, we will study different (sub)political and regional cultures existing in the USA.

History of American Cinema

dr hab. Paweł Frelik, prof. ucz.

4 ECTS

4219-AW014-AM

The course presents an overview of the history of American cinema, from early American cinema and silent cinema, through classical and post-classical Hollywood, to contemporary cinema. We will also discuss selected cinematic genres, such as western, film noir, science fiction, horror and tackle selected topics in American cine, as well as get familiar with some important film titles.

Migrations, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States

dr Héctor Calleros Rodriguez

4 ECTS

4219-AW018-AM

The course aims to address one of the most important and contested problems of contemporary American society. Immigration, race and ethnicity are at the center of social, cultural and political tensions. These phenomena are examined from an interdisciplinary perspective. The course's main focus is placed on the history of selected ethnic and racial groups that constitute the United States; those groups are considered from the perspective of immigration policies and experiences, ethno-racial policies, cultural differentiation together with processes of social adaptation and exclusion.

SECTIONS

Academic Writing II

Coord. dr Joanna Mąkowska

5 ECTS

4219-ZP002

The course prepares students to read, analyze and respond to academic texts and take part in academic discussions concerning various academic and social issues. The aim of the course is to teach students how to put in writing arguments and opinions derived on the basis of research. This course will equip students with skills needed to write in a formal, academic style in English. The second semester focuses on research skills and provides students with the means of finding, evaluating, using, and responding to sources in academic writing. Using selected academic essays, students will learn how to read, understand, structure, and produce academic texts.

ELECTIVES



The elective courses are classified within the cluster of **Humanities (H)** or the cluster of **Social Sciences (S)**, or both. You must complete **9 elective courses** in total during your BA, choosing at least **2 elective courses** from each cluster.

In this semester, you should take min. **1 course** to meet the requirements of the study program, however, feel free to take more if you wish to realize your electives ahead of time.

S

Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies dr Marta Usiekniewicz, dr Aleksandra Kamińska, dr Agnieszka Kotwasińska

5 ECTS

4219-SH085

Why talk about "masculinities"? Who doesn't want same-sex marriage, and why? Why saving the women from the global South may be suspect? What is wrong with "identity"? The course Introduction to Gender/Sexuality Studies does not promise to answer these questions once and for all, but we will definitely engage in most current debates around these and similar issues.

S

Introduction to Politics dr Clifford Angell Bates, prof. ucz.

5 ECTS

4219-SF025

This is a general social science level introduction to the study of politics. The course offers a general introduction to political science. The topics to be introduced to the students include basic concepts such as power, authority, legitimacy; types of political systems and approaches to the study of politics; problems common to all political systems.

S

H

American Media: Introduction dr Małgorzata Gajda-Łaszewska

5 ECTS

4219-SD0071

The idea of the course is to present basic concepts from the media world, and the entire media environment. Students will be introduced to the historical media development, media formats and their characteristics, the issues of media bias, media truthfulness and consumer appeal, as well as the presence of advertising and the legal framework within which media have to operate.



Seeing is Believing: American Century in Photographs dr hab. Włodzimierz Batóg, prof. ucz.

The purpose of this course is to present the most important events in American 20th century social and political history through the lenses of camera. A selection of the most important phenomena will be analysed not from the historical perspective but from the perspective of a photographer who chronicles the events and the viewer who reads and received the photograph.

5 ECTS

4219-SH004



The Vietnam War dr Zbigniew Kwiecień

The Vietnam War became the second great military confrontation of Cold War in Asia, after the Korean War. Between 1965 and 1973 the U.S.A. and several of its allies were militarily engaged there. The course will focus on those events as well as on the enormous impact of them on both international and domestic situation of the United States. The historical background of the conflict and its consequences for all the participants will be analyzed as well.

5 ECTS

4219-SA018



American Horror Fiction prof. dr hab. Marek Wilczyński

The goal of this course is a comprehensive presentation of horror fiction as one of the main currents in the thematic evolution of fiction in the USA. Classes will focus on the analysis of tales and short stories, with emphasis on the sources of horror and ways of suspense building, from Charles Brockden Brown and Edgar Allan Poe to Shirley Jackson who continued her literary career till the mid-1960s.

5 ECTS

4219-SC0013



Introduction to Diplomacy dr Ryszard Schnepf

Is it worth to be a diplomat and what does it mean to behave diplomatically? If you want to know more about diplomacy, functions it fulfills in international relations, and how to apply diplomacy in our everyday situations, this class is definitely for you. We will talk and argue about the past and current state of diplomacy, but also come to grips with the future.

5 ECTS

4219-SG052

2nd year BA

LECTURES

American Literature II

dr hab. Grzegorz Kość, prof. ucz.

This lecture presents developments in U.S. literature following the Civil War, focusing on aesthetics as well as ideological sources and cultural contexts. We begin with Mark Twain and the rise of realism, examine naturalism and local color fiction, and look at the work of Henry James in some detail. We examine key writers of Modernism, both poetry and prose, with the Harlem Renaissance discussed in a separate lecture. Major currents and schools in 20th century poetry are presented, as well as key developments in drama. Postmodernism is examined both as literary experimentation and a trend in cultural and literary theory. The final weeks are devoted to the diversity of recent American writing.

4 ECTS

4219-AW004

Economy of the United States

dr hab. Andrzej Kondratowicz, prof. SWPS

The goal of this lecture is to familiarize participants with the historical developments and the current state of the American economy. It will present the role of some important American economists and their influence on economics and the US economy. The course focuses on the 20th century, although earlier developments in some areas will be scrutinized too. The lecture intends to analyze both the economic processes along with their outcomes and the institutional/structural features of the US economy. To achieve this goal, during the course we will learn some basic economic concepts and analyze selected economic institutions from a historical perspective.

4 ECTS

4219-AW005-AM

SECTIONS

American Literature II

Coord. Prof. dr hab. Marek Wilczyński

4 ECTS

4219-AL002

This course discusses the developments in American literature — fiction, poetry, drama — from the end of the Civil War until the present. It looks at changing literary styles, themes and assumptions concerning the role of literature. We will look at realism, naturalism and local color fiction, modernism, the Harlem Renaissance, politically engaged literature of the 30s, the post-war generation, postmodernism and finally the diverse literatures of contemporary multi-ethnic America including examples of very recent fiction. Significant attention will be paid to the evolving cultural context of literature: debates about the meaning of American identity, the changing role of race, ethnicity, and gender.

Intercultural Communication

Coord. dr Małgorzata Durska

4 ECTS

4219-AL007

The course places emphasis on the practical, experiential nature of intercultural communication and provides students with the knowledge and competencies necessary to function in an international and diverse work environment. This interdisciplinary workshop examines how communication is affected by different values, attitudes and beliefs and practices in the context of globalization and volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) post-pandemic reality and provides the necessary awareness, know-how and practical guidelines to help students approach the complexities of intercultural communication. Participants will learn how to enter business and social contacts with representatives of other cultures, minimize the impact of culturally conditioned misunderstandings and use the full potential provided by working in a diverse environment.

Key Methods in American Studies

Coord. dr Ludmiła Janion

4 ECTS

4219-AL008

This introductory course in methodology is co-taught by a team of instructors, with three class meetings dedicated to each field. Students will read key theoretical texts as well as examples of research employing particular methods. Core concepts, controversies and methods of doing research in four areas — society, culture, history and politics — will be examined and discussed.

Information Technology

Coord. dr hab. Paweł Frelik, prof. ucz.

2 ECTS

4219-AL006

This course introduces students to a range of skills, programs, and services essential to conducting effective research in humanities and social sciences. Each class unit is devoted to a different set of contemporary digital tools and relies on hands-on practice by the students.

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S

Problems in the US-Cuban Relations dr Zbigniew Kwiecień

We will discuss the place and the role of Cuba in the doctrines and practice of American foreign policy throughout the history of their relations. We will discuss the special character of these contacts, starting from the late 18th century. Memoirs, pamphlets, speeches, and official publications, mostly American, will provide the basis for discussion.

5 ECTS

4219-SG030

S

Key Texts on the American Constitutional Tradition dr Clifford Angell Bates, prof. ucz.

This course will closely examine the key texts of the American Constitutional tradition — Montesquieu's *The Spirit of the Laws* and The Federalist Papers. These texts have shaped the understanding of the American Constitution for over nearly two centuries, and may still be used as a source of guidance in our understanding of the US Constitution.

5 ECTS

4219-SB125-A

H

America's Collective Memory dr hab. Grzegorz Kość, prof. ucz.

This course will deal with the ways Americans have built their national identity through myths, rituals, and various other commemorations and how they affect the shape of American society today. We will also explore how and why they remember certain events and heroes more than others. We will also wonder whether a pluralist society can build and perpetuate a single identity.

5 ECTS

4219-SB103-A

H

Reel History: Documentaries and American History dr William Glass, prof. ucz.

Some of the earliest movies were, in a sense, documentaries. This course will cover briefly this history and evaluate the way documentaries and docudramas have presented and interpreted the American past. We will consider films that tell a historical narrative as well as those that explore various aspects of modern US society.

5 ECTS

4219-SA031



Rural Worlds Lost: History and Culture of the Appalachian South

Prof. Penny Messinger

5 ECTS

4219-SH0026

This course explores the history and culture of Central and Southern Appalachia, tracing the idea of Appalachia as a distinct region. The idea that Appalachia is "super-rural" continues to shape the perception of Appalachia's "otherness" and as a region lost in time, left behind with the progression of America's industrial, urban society.



Contemporary African American Voices

dr Krystyna Mazur

5 ECTS

4219-SD097

The recent wave of influential essays and prize-winning fiction by Afroamerican writers, and the veritable renaissance of black film, is an important cultural and political phenomenon of the beginning of the 21st century. The work of Black U.S. writers, filmmakers, and artists of the last two decades will serve as a lens through which to examine African American experience, history, and culture.



American Fan Cultures

dr Agnieszka Kotwasińska, dr Anna Kurowicka

5 ECTS

4219-SD0067

This course will explore various aspects of fan cultures and fan studies in American culture. We will discuss debates around major popular movie and TV franchises along with fan-created content, such as fan videos and fanfiction. The course will be an opportunity to apply methodologies developed in fan studies, media studies and cultural studies to contemporary phenomena.



Anti-Americanism in Contemporary World

dr hab. Bohdan Szklarski, prof. ucz.

5 ECTS

4219-SG052

This course focuses on the negative perceptions of the USA in the 21st century. We will discuss various forms of Anti-Americanism, as well as a search for its sources. We will also try to capture the complexity of the phenomenon in various areas of the world, and see what role this negativity plays in America itself and what reactions it causes.



The United States in the 1950s

dr hab. Włodzimierz Batóg, prof. ucz.

5 ECTS

4219-SH001

The 1950s are depicted as a decade of widespread optimism, affluence and stability, as well as the period of anti-communist hysteria, witchhunt, and the fear of nuclear war. This course presents American society from different points of view through the study of events, issues, culture and literature, that challenged the racial and social status quo in the 1950s.



**Family, Immigration, Sexuality and Ethnicity:
Jane the Virgin and American Society**
dr hab. Anna Sosnowska-Jordanovska

5 ECTS

4219-SD0068

The TV series *Jane the Virgin* addresses topics such as undocumented immigration, Latin American culture in the US, female sexuality, parenthood, surrogacy, abortion and gender dynamics. During the course, we will delve into these issues, by watching selected episodes, and analyzing them alongside the academic literature, novels and newspaper reviews.



Migration Matters: Narratives of Immigration to the U.S.
dr Izabella Kimak

5 ECTS

4219-SC0012

The course aims to familiarize students with major trends in 20th- and 21st-century immigrant literature in the US. The literary texts selected for analysis will shed light on the cultural context at the start of migration from various parts of the world, including Asia, Europe (including Eastern Europe), Latin America and the Caribbean.



U.S. Policies in Eastern Europe after the Fall of the Soviet Union
prof. Nataliya Gorodnia

5 ECTS

4219-SG049

This course provides a brief overview of the United States policy on the post-Soviet states of Eastern Europe – Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Moldova, from 1991 to the present time. We will track the important milestones in the U.S. relations with these states, with the emphasis on Russia and Ukraine, as well as the regional approach in the U.S. policy.



**Healing the Human/Nature Binary: Ecopoetry
in 21st Century America**
prof. Karen Holmberg

5 ECTS

4219-SC0014

This course introduces students to American ecopoetry and gives an overview of major ecocriticism. We will consider the vigorous way in which American 21st century poetries have claimed space at the table, examining Black, queer, indigenous, ecojustice/activist, and disabled poetry of place and nature. We will also discuss the cultural phenomenon associated with eco-literature.



Alternative Ways of Life: Utopian Communities in the USA
dr Karolina Lebek

5 ECTS

4219-SH0025

Organized along a historical trajectory, the course introduces alternative communities organized along different values than those of the mainstream American society, such as Harmony Society, Brook Farm, Oneida, the Phalanxes, or the Icarians. Each case will be informed by writings and theories that inspired it, the discussion of its social principles of cohabitation and conditions of possibility, as well as a consideration of its potential dystopic kernel.



Introduction to Social Class and Social Mobility **dr Andrzej Turkowski**

This course tackles some fundamental concepts in social sciences related to social classes, social stratification and inequalities, in order to fully understand recent debates around social classes and inequalities. The program also includes critical analysis of ongoing debates concerning class relations in the United States, with some case studies from the Great Britain and Poland.

5 ECTS

4219-SH0018



US-China Relations in the 21st Century **dr Ewa Fronczak**

The course outlines the most important issues concerning the US-China relations in the 21st century, from the Bush administration till the Biden administration. The aim is to analyze and foresee the future course of the bilateral relations of the two countries during the last decade presented in the context of great geopolitical changes across the globe.

5 ECTS

4219-SG048



Native American Writings of Memory and Self **mgr Gabriela Jeleńska**

This course's aim is to present Native American autobiographies, journals and memoirs written in English. Through thorough analysis of the discussed works students will observe the change in purpose, style and attitude of the authors, and reflect on how they situate themselves in mainstream literature, depending on time and socio-political context they were writing in.

5 ECTS

4219-SC004



Frontier and Manifest Destiny and the end of American Isolationism **dr Justyna Bartkiewicz-Godlewska**

The goal of the class is to understand the processes that led to the end of American isolationism, which had been the leading doctrine of American foreign policy in the 18th and 19th centuries. The goal is to introduce students to knowledge of the internal and external factors that influenced the decisions that took the US into the international arena.

5 ECTS

4219-SG051



American Jewishness at the Turn of the 21st Century: Culture, Film, Literature **dr hab. Karolina Krasuska**

We will discuss the issues of assimilation and acculturation, remembering the Shoah but also analyze gender and sexuality in the context of Jewishness, Jewish responses to 9/11, and the problems of new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Apart from literary works, we will consider a number of filmic and TV representations and explore Jewish-American presence on the Internet.

5 ECTS

4219-SC062

3rd year BA

BA SEMINAR

BA Seminar

10 ECTS

Research based course, aimed at guiding students in the process of writing their BA theses; advisable areas of research include:

- **Social History of the US in the 19th and 20th Century**
dr hab. Włodzimierz Batóg, prof. ucz.
- **Social change and social movements in contemporary United States**
dr hab. Elżbieta Bekiesza-Korolczuk
- **Contemporary Topics on Culture and Politics**
dr Hector Calleros Rodriguez
- **Envisioning the Future. Media Science Fiction in the United States**
dr hab. Paweł Frelík, prof. ucz.
- **Government, Politics, and Society in the U.S.**
dr Marcin Gajek
- **Cultural/Media Studies**
dr Ludmiła Janion
- **Visual Narratives in American Culture**
dr Aleksandra Kamińska
- **Sexualities in American Culture and Society**
dr Anna Kurowicka
- **African American Literature and Culture**
dr Krystyna Mazur
- **American Literature in the Times of Crisis**
dr Joanna Mąkowska
- **Body, Power, and Representation in the US Culture**
dr Natalia Pamuła
- **Cities and Immigrants – Social Studies**
dr hab. Anna Sosnowska-Jordanovska
- **American Politics Domestic and Foreign: Culture, Institutions and Leadership**
dr hab. Bohdan Szklarski, prof. ucz.
- **Gender in Popular Culture**
dr Marta Usiekiewicz

ELECTIVES



The elective courses are classified within the cluster of **Humanities (H)** or the cluster of **Social Sciences (S)**, or both. You must complete **9 elective courses** in total during your BA, choosing at least **2 elective courses** from each cluster.

In this semester, you should take min. **2 courses** to meet the requirements of the study program, unless you have already realized all 9 electives.

The offer of elective courses for the third-year BA students is the same as for the second-year BA students.

The course catalogues are a quick and convenient way to browse through the Center's most recent course offerings.

As our offer changes each year, some of the courses may not be available in the future.