

**THE
EXPERIMENTAL
COLLEGE**



C O U R S E

**EXCO FAIR
ROOT ROOM,
CARNEGIE
BUILDING**

**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 2ND
6 – 8 PM**

*Save Trees!
Share this with your*

**SPRING
2010**

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The Experimental College—affectionately known as ExCo—is a credit-offering, student-run department of Oberlin College. It was established in 1968 through legislation passed by the Educational Plans and Policies Committee and the College Faculty. ExCo's main goal is to serve as a free community educational program open to everyone, with a non-traditional definition of education. The number of classes offered through ExCo varies each semester, but there are usually between 60 and 90. Because the ExCo committee designs no specific curriculum for the department, each semester's courses reflect the current interests of the Oberlin community. ExCo instructors may be townspeople, College or Conservatory students, or faculty and staff members. Instructors are fully responsible for the content of their courses: materials, class size, meeting places and times – everything.

About Registration

The ExCo Fair for Spring 2010 courses will take place on Wednesday, February 10th, 2010 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Root Room in the Carnegie Building on the Oberlin College campus.

The ExCo Fair is a place for students to learn about and to sign up for ExCo courses (proxies may be sent to sign up for absent students). Admission (receiving consent to register) to all classes is done by lottery, except when an application or audition is used. Registration is done either through PRESTO or at the Registrar's office.

To register for College credit for an ExCo course, students must be consented by the ExCo instructor and can then register using PRESTO. **The deadline for ExCo add/drop is Wednesday, February 17th, the same as the Registrar's deadline for other College courses. No exceptions can or will be made, and ExCo has no control over this deadline. Please consult the Spring 2010 Schedule of Classes on the Registrar's webpage, <http://www.oberlin.edu/regist/excofall09.html>, for ExCo Course Registration Numbers (CRNs).**

For courses with enrollment limits, admission will be determined after the Fair has closed. Instructors are also responsible for contacting all students who signed up about whether or not they were admitted.

About Credit

Students currently enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences and/or the Conservatory of Music may receive academic credit for work in ExCo courses. Course work requirements vary from course to course, as supervised by the Committee. At present, students may apply no more than 5 ExCo credits towards graduation.

ExCo courses are offered for a specific amount of credit (1 or 2 hours). However, *PRESTO assigns 0 credit hours as a default, so students must use the Variable Hours Option to receive higher amounts of credit.* Students wishing to receive less than the standard amount of credit are still expected to complete all the work required for the course. Instructors may receive credit for up to one credit more than the number for which the course is being offered.

The ExCo Committee

The ExCo Committee is made up of Oberlin College students who volunteer their time and energy. Committee members are responsible for reviewing class applications, coordinating registration and paperwork, and dealing with public relations and the day-to-day concerns of ExCo instructors and students. We also put together the catalog that you are now holding.

Currently the committee members are:

Sage Aronson

Joshua Brancazio

Sarah Fries

Elissa Israel

Kateryna Kuksenok

Jacob Myers

Teddy Pallis

If you have questions or comments about ExCo, or if you want to join the committee, please stop by our office, Wilder Hall room 302. If the office is closed when you visit, please note the office hours posted on the door, e-mail us at exco@oberlin.edu, or visit our webpage at <http://www.oberlin.edu/exco>.

COURSE OFFERINGS

SPRING 2010

COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY

To Be A Radical Jew in the 21st Century: Engaging American Jewish Identity Through a Lens of Privilege and Oppression

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Danielle Gershkoff, Rachel Beck, & Julie Retig

EXCO 111

Our goal is to create a space for working through anti-racist/social justice ideology and analysis, and exploring these issues within the context of Jewish identity. We will read, discuss and explore: whiteness, racism, activism, class, Jewish social movements, feminism, queerness, ritual, tradition, faith, generational gaps, family histories, historical narrative, diasporism, Zionism, anti-Arab racism, orientalism, victimization, anti-semitism, the range of Jewish ethnic cultures, and community building.

Grassroots Organizing

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Amanda Nichols & Catherine Petru

EXCO 125

The goal of this course is to train students to become active and effective grassroots organizers through campaign work with OhioPIRG and class trainings. The course structure is three-fold: theory, training, and practice. The theory will explore philosophies through readings and discussions, which will be complemented by trainings of grassroots activism skills. Finally, students will apply this to hands-on practice as they develop and implement a critical component of a campaign, such as coalition-building, media, grassroots, or research.

Antiracist Organizing and White Privilege

0-2 Credits

Instructor: Max Beshers

EXCO 130

Many of us have seen and been part of predominantly white activist organizations on campus that are struggling to analyze the different ways power functions, figure out what it means to do anti-racist/multi-issue organizing, and/or change our work to reflect anti-racist priorities. This course is intended to fill some of those needs. This course is designed for white privileged folks, but is open to anyone.

The Art of Warcraft: A Closer Look at the Virtual World Phenomenon

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Jules Brouillet

EXCO 131

This course looks at virtual world through an academic lens. We begin the academic section by defining and identifying the essential features of modern virtual worlds, how they originated and how they are expected to evolve in the future. The focus will be on the subcategory of virtual worlds known as massively multiplayer online games (MMOGs). We will discuss why the majority of successful online games are role playing games and how that has influenced their design. The second section of the course will address the internet gaming community, the challenges of operating a mmog, virtual property and civil rights, emigration to virtual universes, and related

topics. The final section will examine the incentives used to keep the player base active in *World of Warcraft* and how they are used effectively.

Civic Leadership

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Luke Squire, Poy Winichakul, Jiayu Lin, & Phebe Philips

EXCO 135

What should citizens know and be able to do? What should civic leaders know and be able to do? What is the role of a civic leader? How do we cultivate leaders? This course is an in-depth study of civic leadership. Students will study, discuss, and practice the skills necessary to be a civic leader. Concepts such as why civic leaders are necessary and why it is lacking in citizens will also be discussed.

Community Radio ExCo

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Max Rivlin-Nadler & Caroline Lewis

EXCO 138

Do you enjoy social and/or media activism? Freedom of expression for all? Audio protection? Are you looking for a (relatively) easy way to stick it to the man? The process of making a community radio station is empowering and fun, too. And by the end of this course, you (and your partner or group) will have developed a proposal for a community radio project and will have learned both the practical organizing and audio production skills necessary to execute one. But don't worry, first, we'll tackle key questions like what IS community radio and why is it important? Then we'll move on to the nuts and bolts by examining legal obstacles for low-power FM radios stations in the U.S. and abroad, and the radio activism countering them. We'll address challenges in horizontal organizing, sustainability, and censorship, among other things, and make us of WOBC and the TIMARA lab.

Paint the Town Red: Activist Art in Practice

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Katherine Leonetti

EXCO 150

In this course, we will combine the study of art in various forms as it is used as a tool for activism while completing creative activist projects of our own throughout the course of the semester. Discussions will cover an array of media including political posters, radical theater, street art, photography, film, architecture, and explore how they are being applied to social and political causes today. After research and discussion, students will pick a topic of particular significance to their lives and design and execute a creative project to draw attention to their issue in a meaningful way. Students of all kinds of creative backgrounds are encouraged to take this class.

ESL Tutoring and Immigration Issues

0-2 Credits

Instructor: Meredith Diamond

EXCO 156

This class will teach students how to teach English as a Second Language. You will spend most of the ExCo time teaching, along with myself or another experienced ESL teacher. We will also have at least four meetings as a class to familiarize you with teaching techniques and resources, evaluate class progress, and share experiences and problem-solving techniques. We also hope to familiarize you with and engage you in local immigration issues through assigned readings and facilitated discussions.

SexCo

0-2 Credits

*Instructors: Emily Robinson, Gabrielle Martinez,
Lisa Yanofsky, & Sarah Burnette*

EXCO 165

This course offers information about sexuality and sexual health issues, including sexual practices, contraception, safer sex, anatomy, common sexual health problems, STIs, pornography/erotica, birth, adoption, abortion, sex work/prostitution, gender issues, and sexual orientation. Class meets once a week for 2 hours, and an optional counseling skills session is offered for an additional 1 hour a week. Students successful in both sessions may apply to be SIC counselors, but you need not want to be a counselor to take the class.

From Seed to Sinsemilla: The History, Politics, and Life of Cannabis **0-2 Credits**
Instructor: Darrin Schultz *EXCO 169*

In this course, students will explore the history, politics, and various other aspects of cannabis and its products (food, marijuana, hemp, etc.). We will be doing so by utilizing a blend of scientific and popular readings, along with documentaries and movies.

Mixed Dreams: Exploring "Multi" Experiences in the U.S. **0-1 Credit**
Instructor: Nicole Nfonoyim *EXCO 174*

This course will provide an introduction to contemporary discussions, debates and narratives surrounding "mixed-race" experiences in the U.S. Through group discussions and a final project, students will also be encouraged to explore their own identities and subjectivities as they relate to larger discourses and narratives around race and intersecting identities.

Practicum in Community Based Learning **0-1 Credit**
Instructors: Heather Sedlacek & Michelle Jahnke *EXCO 195*

Community-based learning is an up-and-coming approach to education. The practice encourages students to apply the knowledge and analytic tools gained in the classroom to the pressing issues of their local communities. This practice is especially important in Oberlin, a place largely divided among the lines of college and town, and in which 20% of people live below the poverty line. The Practicum in Community-Based Learning will combine readings and classroom discussion with service in the community to address social issues and create a unique, hands-on learning experience. Each student will choose a semester-long service organization or project that they will volunteer with at least once a week; we will meet as a class every other week.

LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND RELIGION

Exploring Catholic Music Ministry **0-2 Credits**
Instructor: Val Karuzis *EXCO 201*

This course aims to broaden students' views and knowledge of music ministry in the Catholic Church. It is primarily comprised of an academic approach to Catholic music ministry, but strongly emphasizes practical implementations (especially in collaboration with the Oberlin Newman Catholic Community) and provides exercises designed to promote spiritual growth. Individual projects range from hymn arrangements and compositions to presentations, papers, and spiritual reflections. Non-musicians and non-Catholics are also encouraged to take the course.

Vietnamese Language and Culture**0-1 Credit***Instructors: Nhi Ngo & Thao Phan**EXCO 202*

Aimed at students with no prior knowledge of Vietnamese, this course will introduce basic Vietnamese grammar, sentence formation, and conversational vocabulary. Through learning modern Vietnamese, students will also approach the Vietnamese culture and Vietnam as it is now rather than the country written about in history books. Conducted in English.

From Bean to Bar: The History, Politics, and Taste of Chocolate**0-1 Credit***Instructors: Nathaniel Mich & Andrew Liang**EXCO 208*

This discussion and reading-based course will examine the evolution of chocolate from its Mesoamerican origins through the rise of modern corporate chocolate empires, as well as modern agriculture, production, consumption and the ethics of chocolate. These subjects will also be supplemented by an introduction of palate training and chocolate work (yes, you will get to eat chocolate). There is a course fee of approximately \$30 per student.

Introduction to Basic International Cooking**0-2 Credits***Instructor: Rosalie Boyle**EXCO 211*

This is a class designed for people who have very little background in cooking or feel uncomfortable in the kitchen. The class will meet once a week for four hours at my house. You will be required to buy a notebook, a chef's knife, and a paring knife. Each class will focus on a different world cuisine. There will be a \$20 course fee. Eating and cleaning time are included.

Introduction to Quakerism**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Ben Jakubowski**EXCO 213*

This course will provide an introduction to the beliefs and practices of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The class will approach Quakerism as a lived religion, and will explore topics including silent worship and Quaker testimonies.

History of the German Language (Geschichte der Deutschen Sprache)**0-2 Credits***Instructor: Stephen Burrows**EXCO 226*

This course is an introduction to the history of the German language from Indoeuropean roots (prehistory) to Middle High German (~1350 CE) and up to the present. In addition to getting an overview of German linguistics and the history of German literature, students will learn to read and translate from Middle High German to modern German using excerpts from the Arthurian epic poem *Arme Heinrich*. A solid knowledge of German is assumed (such as is sufficient for enrollment in a 300 level course in the Oberlin German Department).

Medieval German Readings**0-2 Credits***Instructor: Stephen Burrows**EXCO 227*

This course is open to any students who have previously taken an introductory course in Medieval German (Mittelhochdeutsch). A solid knowledge and ability to read and translate from Mittelhochdeutsch to Neuhochdeutsch is assumed, though extra sessions would be available for any students of German who want to concurrently acquire that knowledge.

Hip Hop 101: From '93 Til Infinity**0-1 Credit**

Instructor: Theo Reuter

EXCO 231

Nas, Tupac, Run DMC, Biggie, Dre, Snoop, Scarface, DJ Screw, Wu-Tang Clan, A Tribe Called Quest, and Grandmaster Flash are just some of the hip-hop masters that will be explored in this ExCo. This ExCo will cover artists from all periods and the major genres within hip hop beginning with its roots with the Sugar Hill Gang and Grandmaster Flash all the way to Lil Wayne, and everything in between. This ExCo is about learning the history and variety in hip hop and its effect on culture and the music industry, and it's hearing some good music. Students will present artists of their choice to the class during the last two weeks. No experience required other than a love of music.

Persian Calligraphy: Calligraphy as Meditation

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Alesandra Zsiba & Prof. Jafar Mahallati

EXCO 234

The calligrapher practices the art of quieting the mind and distilling the world around into basic elements of design. With this, the writing of script unfurls into an artful practice of meditation all it's own. Throughout this ExCo we will learn and hone techniques in two styles of Persian calligraphy, Naskh and Nastealiq, in addition to Khat-Naghashi, a form of calligraphy that incorporates both inking and painting. Students will illuminate texts self-selected from a variety of classical Persian 13th and 14th century poets such as Rumi, Sa'di, and Hafez etc. A selection of classic and contemporary Persian calligraphers will provide a solid technical grounding for our exploration, in addition to a variety of verses set to music by one of Iran's greatest living national treasures, a musician and composer of traditional Persian music, Mohammed Rza Shajarian. Weekly meetings will be lead by Professor Jafar Mahallati.

Swedish Language and Culture

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Joseph Pope & Benjamin Fram

EXCO 247

If you are interested in the coolest place in the entire world (Sweden), this class is for you! Join us for an exploration into the language, music, art, film, etc. of this Scandinavian wonderland. This course will be a refreshing approach to learning a unique language and rich culture!

Storytelling ExCo

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Aries Indenbaum & Andrew Gombas

EXCO 255

Learn how to tell stories! We will explore a wide range of styles, approaches and genres from personal experience to creation, love, and scary stories.

Elementary Korean I

0-2 Credits

Instructors: Hae-Young Chung, Mo-Ran Park, & Seung Yun Jee

EXCO 257

Designed for students with no prior knowledge of Korean, this course is an introduction to basic grammar, sentence formation, and vocabulary of the modern Korean language. Reading and writing Hanguk, the Korean alphabets, will be emphasized. Culture is an important thread that is tightly woven throughout the course. Conducted in English.

Elementary Korean II

0-2 Credits

Instructors: Hwan Choi & Eugene Kang

EXCO 258

Designed for students who already took Elementary Korean I, this course is a second introduction to basic grammar, sentence formation, and vocabulary of the modern Korean

language. Reading and writing Hangul, having conversation in Korean, will be emphasized. Culture is an important thread that is tightly woven throughout the course. Conducted in English.

History of Piracy

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Anthony Bonifonte

EXCO 262

This course will examine piracy from a historical perspective, primarily during the time scale of the Golden Age of Piracy from 1650's to the 1720's. Discussion topics include the nature of piracy, famous pirates, life on the sea, sea shanties, weapons and tactics, literature's treatment of pirates, and modern piracy. Requirements include short readings each week, a 1-page midterm, and a 2-page final paper or creative project. Jack Sparrow references will be punished with 20 lashes.

Development of the Perceptive Mind

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Shaina Wedmedyk

EXCO 267

Have you ever had a bad feeling about something? Has your intuition ever told you not to do something, and you didn't listen, to disastrous effects? Your nagging feelings don't have to only be a tiny voice in the back of your mind. In this ExCo, you will learn many tools that will allow you to connect to that voice and make it stronger and more accurate. In the structure of a psychic development circle, participants will have the opportunity to try many different methods of intuitive perception to recognize what is truth and what is guesswork. This will be a very spiritual ExCo focused on connecting to the self and to the spirit world.

COMPUTERS, MATH AND SCIENCE

Combat Robots ExCo

0-1 Credit

Instructor: David Lesser

EXCO 301

Yes, we will be building combat robots. Yes, they will be awesomely terrifying and terrifyingly awesome. Join us, or be forever tormented by our future robot overlords.

UFO ExCo

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Aaron Clark

EXCO 355

The subject of UFOs and aliens is one that has fascinated people for a long time. It is usually brushed aside by mainstream science while the media use it for entertainment purposes. Most of what the public knows about UFOs is from movies and the occasional thirty-second sound clip on the evening news. Over the last fifty years many researchers have collected lots of important data. We will look at this information to get a better perspective on the UFO and alien question. Topics to be covered include Ancient UFOs, the Roswell Incident, Men in Black, Alien Abductions, Crop Circles and more.

Competitive Computer Programming

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Kateryna Kuksenok & Emma Conner

EXCO 360

In this course, we will meet once a week to learn techniques and discuss strategies for programming competition. We will conduct mock programming contests using the same software environment used at ACM International Collegiate Programming Competition and discuss methodologies for solving problems quickly. Prior programming experience required; C,

C++, or Java recommended.

Herpetology

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Marisa Ishimatsu & Alex Krohn

EXCO 377

This is an introductory course on reptiles and amphibians, designed for both biology and non-biology majors. We will focus on evolution, morphology, mythology, and general cool facts about these misunderstood animals. You will learn that snakes are not slimy, handling toads will not give you warts, and that birds evolved from reptiles.

Reading the Brain: A Journal Club in Neuroscience

0-2 Credits

Instructors: Mary Burke & Anna Hertzberg

EXCO 378

The brain is quite a popular subject, perhaps for obvious reasons. Yet as neuroscience becomes more popular it becomes increasingly important for those in the field to be able to read both popular and primary literature with a keen eye. This course is a journal club aimed at students with a demonstrated interest in science. We will use the field of neuroscience specifically to teach students how to efficiently find, read, and understand primary research literature and compare it to popular publication on similar topics. Topics include autism, obesity, addiction, intelligence, etc. We will also explore the market created around the brain and the implications developments in the field on popular culture.

MEDIA AND LITERATURE

Calvin and Hobbes ExCo

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Ondrea Keith

EXCO 404

Modern cartoonists consider *Calvin and Hobbes* to be incredibly influential and any fan will attest to its quality and relatability. But what makes it such a great strip? This class will explore the question, looking to the singular personality of its author, Bill Watterson, and to its wealth of themes and ideas. Fan and non-fans equally welcome.

Steel Drum ExCo

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Tyler Stoll, Will Georges, & Sarah Grabinski

EXCO 413

Learn how to play steel drums! A portion of class time will also be spent learning auxiliary percussion instruments. The class culminates in a required performance in the Cat in the Cream. For those interested, this performance is the only way to audition for Oberlin Steel.

Chappelle's Show ExCo

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Reshard el-Shair & Andres Feliciano

EXCO 419

Chappelle's Show ExCo is a comparative exploration of Dave Chappelle's sketch comedy show in relation to other prominent black comics' relevant social commentary. Participants will watch and discuss various sketches and clips of stand-up comedy from Dave Chappelle, alongside stand-up and sketches from his contemporaries and predecessors, such as Richard Pryor, Paul Mooney, Chris Rock, and Katt Williams. Participants will be evaluated based on class participation, weekly journal entries, and one 2-4 page essay.

Star Trek**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Neil Cole-Filipiak**EXCO 422*

Designed for the novice, this course will be a basic overview of *Star Trek*. Everything from canon to history to social impact will be examined over the course of this semester. The goal of this course will be to familiarize you (the student) with the basics of *Star Trek*, an understanding of the show's vision, and the importance of the show in popular culture.

Introduction to Japanese Cinema: Postwar to Modern**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Joseph Campbell**EXCO 433*

This course will examine the historical influences and criticism of the Japanese film industry through viewing classics and lesser-known landmark films ranging from Akira Kurosawa to Suzuki Seijun. Readings will be incorporated as well as group discussions with each viewing. At the end of the semester students will be given the chance to produce a short film of about 2-5 minutes in length, utilizing the techniques/styles studied in the course. Some knowledge of Japanese modern history would be helpful.

Reality and Fantasy in The West Wing**0-1 Credit***Instructors: Luke Squire & Colin Koffel**EXCO 435*

Critically acclaimed television drama *The West Wing* explores the behind the scenes of contemporary politics in America. This course will look at current political issues and discuss their presentation on the show versus how they exist in reality. Episodes will be played that touch on course concepts.

Superheroes**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Samuel Knight**EXCO 442*

What makes a hero? In this course, we will discuss the question from a variety of angles including history, ethics, psychology, and literature. In addition, we will study a variety of different superheroes from both comics and other media, culminating in the creation of a new team of original superheroes.

Slam and Performance Poetry**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Ryan Magiera**EXCO 449*

Slam Poetry. Ever been to a Slam and thought, maybe I could do that? Or been so moved that your emotions were but into a mayonnaise jar and shook around along with the lightening bugs in it and you came out on fire for more? Or been Slamming and just want to be a part of a sweet team-piece? We will explore the techniques of Slam champions, practice writing and performing our own pieces, and learn some history and the future of Slam.

Penetrate the Veil: Examining the Films of David Lynch**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Daniel Grosser**EXCO 456*

This course aims to introduce and subject to analysis the films of David Lynch. Screenings will be separate from discussions, so the class will meet twice a week. Films will include *Eraserhead*, *The Elephant Man*, *Blue Velvet*, *Wild at Heart*, *Lost Highway*, *The Straight Story*, the pilot and first season of *Twin Peaks*, *Mulholland Drive*, *Inland Empire*, and several short films. There are no prerequisites. Students will be expected to participate actively and thoughtfully in discussions and to produce several pages of written material on a chosen film(s) by the end of the course.

Screening attendance or some other viewing of the film as well as completion of a brief worksheet is required before each discussion.

Murder in the U.S.: The Evolution of the Mystery

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Victoria Neuman

EXCO 461

Find yourself wanting a good mystery to curl up with at night? Look no further than Murder in the US! The course will compare and contrast British and American murder mysteries and associated genres, such as courtroom drama. Each week we will view one or two different movies/episodes of television and discuss them, sometimes augmenting viewings with games such as *Clue* and *Mafia*. Viewings include *Poirot*, *Miss Marple*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Murder She Wrote*, *Psych*, *House*, *Nero Wolfe*, and many other excellent shows. Students of all levels of familiarity with mystery are welcome. Come for a fun experience with learning, mystery, laughter, fellowship, and much snarky commentary!

Man in the Mirror

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Megan Latimore

EXCO 463

Exploring the life, works, accomplishments, and heart of the one and only King of Pop: Michael Jackson. We know about the controversy. Let's discover the human that changed the world and tried to heal it.

Genre Fiction Workshop

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Bryn A. McDonald & Julieanne Lopresto

EXCO 471

This is a space for writing and reading "genre" fiction, i.e.: science-fiction, fantasy, noir, etc. Students will complete weekly short assignments (e.g.: a 1 page character sketch), one or two complete stories to be workshopped by the group, and a final revised version of your story. Time will also be spent reading and discussing published genre fiction stories (both good and bad). This class will focus on short form fiction (as opposed to long fiction or poetry), but students are welcome to write a longer piece for their final story. Class will meet twice a week, a one-hour session for lecture and discussion of published works, and a two-hour session for workshopping student stories.

Documentary China

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Yidi Wu

EXCO 480

Students get a sense of modern China through watching documentaries from both Chinese and Westerners' perspectives. Topics range from modern Chinese history, politics and society to the environment and arts. There is no prerequisite, as long as students are interested in China and watching documentaries, but proficiency in Chinese will be highly appreciated.

Genius Has Side Effects: The House ExCo

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Hope Rehak & Charles Burroughs

EXCO 486

This class is designed to integrate a fun weekly viewing experience of television's #1 scripted prime time drama with exercises in critical analysis of its scripts, acting and direction. We will be discussing character development and story arcs within the show, but also covering the audience's experience of watching by delving into online message boards and dissecting interviews with the people who make *House MD* happen. Liking the show already is strongly recommended, but all levels of obsession are welcome. There will be a one-hour weekly

discussion prior to viewing parties for each episode.

Simpsons ExCo

Instructors: Teddy Pallis & Alex Chapman

The large majority of scripts for television sitcoms pitches to American networks are not picked up. This is why a sitcom spanning three decades and twenty-one seasons is no small feat. *The Simpsons* has evolved from small origins to become the longest running American sitcom in history and has earned a special place in the world of comedy and society as a whole. This class is aimed toward people of all levels of expertise, from those who have seen every episode to those who have never seen an episode. We will scrutinize the show from its pre-primetime roots until the show's 17th season.

0-1 Credit

EXCO 499

CHOSEN: The Buffy the Vampire Slayer ExCo

Instructors: Elena Gambino & Connor Goldsmith

An intellectual reading of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, the often underestimated cult hit and landmark program in serialized television. This course will assume basic familiarity with the program, though new viewers are certainly welcome.

0-1 Credit

EXCO 604

DANCE AND THEATER

Argentine Tango 1

Instructors: Tim Pogros & Joanne Pogros

This class will present Dancing the Argentine Tango in the Close Embrace style of the Milonguero. Each student will learn the art of Lead and Follow, dancing chest to chest, the technique of sharing the same axis and moving along the dance floor in a straight line or in a very tight turn. Students will learn how to communicate with each other without speaking a word, and to give the gift of one's self for 3 minutes to each other. The key concept is how to move with liquid motion from spot to spot with the utmost elegance without bumping into the people around us. Musicality will play a very important role in learning how to move within the cadence of the music, hearing all the special sounds created especially for tango and what makes the tango what it is. The tango is a dance of passion, grace, speed and intricate steps. It is intensely individualistic and improvisational. The theme of tango is emotional and longing.

0-1 Credit

EXCO 503

Argentine Tango 2

Instructors: Tim Pogros & Joanne Pogros

This class will present Dancing the Argentine Tango in the Close Embrace style of the Milonguero. Each student will learn the art of Lead and Follow, dancing chest to chest, the technique of sharing the same axis and moving along the dance floor in a straight line or in a very tight turn. Students will learn how to communicate with each other without speaking a word, and to give the gift of one's self for 3 minutes to each other. The key concept is how to move with liquid motion from spot to spot with the utmost elegance without bumping into the people around us. Musicality will play a very important role in learning how to move within the cadence of the music, hearing all the special sounds created especially for tango and what makes the tango what it is. The tango is a dance of passion, grace, speed and intricate steps. It is intensely individualistic and improvisational. The theme of tango is emotional and longing.

0-1 Credit

EXCO 504

Beginning Modern American Swing**0-1 Credit***Instructors: Alia Mulder-Rosi, Joe Thome, & Alexandra Eurich**EXCO 505*

This course will teach students the basic steps of East Coast swing (6-count) and Lindy Hop (8-count), including some Charleston and Blues dance. Students will be introduced to the following concepts: Social Dancing, Choreography, Connection, Listening to Music.

Continuing Tap Dance**0-1 Credit***Instructors: Rachel Messing & Andrew Lipian**EXCO 519*

For those who have completed the Beginning Tap Dance ExCo or who have prior tap dancing experience and wish to continue. Tap shoes are required.

Contact Improvisation**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Pari Fariborz**EXCO 522*

Come learn and play the art/dance/sport of Contact Improvisation, in a safe and open atmosphere! Share weight as people move through levels and space, using one another's bodies as the dance surface. Study through dancing concepts of movement and social proximity to your fellow people. No dance background required, come exactly as you are, we are open to all. Body-work included. Fun included. Energy, smiles, spirals included, too!

Kick It Old School: Breakin', Poppin', and Lockin'**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Kevin Moy**EXCO 555*

This class will focus on teaching the fundamentals of the various Hip-Hop styles of dance. The different styles we will cover are bboying/bgirling (breaking), popping, and locking. We will go in depth about the importance of these styles in the culture and history of Hip-Hop. By teaching the fundamentals, we will provide students with the vocabulary, skills, and inspiration to develop their own style.

PoiCo**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Joshua Greenfield**EXCO 560*

You've seen it with glow sticks at the 'Sco, you've seen it with flags at TGIF, and you've seen it with fire at parties - now it's your turn to learn the majestic art of swinging balls. Students of all skill levels will learn a wide array of moves using several styles of swinging (traditional/sock poi, flags, glow sticks, and meteors). A midterm consisting of a short improvisational performance and a final routine with a circus are requirements to receive credit for the course. Students who do not already own poi may pay a \$5 course fee or may be taught to build poi themselves.

Continuing Modern American Swing**0-1 Credit***Instructor: John Andreoni**EXCO 571*

This course is for the continuing swing dancer. In order to take the course, you MUST know the lindy hop basic. Prerequisites are either the Beginning Swing Exco or instructor consent (granted through a brief placement audition).

Introduction to Cuban Salsa**0-1 Credit**

Instructor: Nora Frederickson

EXCO 583

This course will introduce students to basic salsa dancing in the Cuban tradition. In addition to getting students comfortable with the basic rhythms and moves, we hope to develop dancers' musicality, style, and creativity through improvisation of their own moves in the salsa tradition. The course covers Cuban salsa exclusively.

Introduction to Latin Dance

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Angelica Canizares & Modesto Acosta

EXCO 591

The purpose of this ExCo is to teach the basics of different Latin dances. Because we can't teach all of them fully, we will focus on Salsa. We will show the basics of other typical Latin dance styles, such as Merengue, Lambada, Bachata and Reggeaton. By teaching these typical dances we hope to increase the students' appreciation for the Latin culture, widen their dancing abilities, and expose them to new musical styles as well as increase their confidence. This course has a fee of \$5 for activity purposes.

MUSIC

Musicianship in the 21st Century

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Andrew Lawrence

EXCO 611

This course explores what it means to be a creative musician in the 21st century, and whether or not the conservatory as it stands now is adequately preparing musicians for the current scene. We will critically examine the context and the content of making music, and in doing so hopefully challenge old habits and modes of thinking. There will be short lectures nearly every class, but it will be very much discussion based, with students finding answers together. There will be some mandatory readings and exercises. All students will need to keep a journal reflecting on their experiences. You don't need to be in the conservatory, but you do need to be a serious musician interested in bettering your craft through community-led exploration of new and old territory.

The Metal

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Ben Williams

EXCO 613

The ExCo entitled The Metal is meant to educate both newcomers and veteran enthusiasts alike. This ExCo will explore the past, present, and the future of metal in all of its glory, including both large and small groups in several different subgenres from brutal death metal to groovy psychedelic sludge. Newcomers will be introduced to large mainstream bands while veterans will be given the opportunity to learn more about independent, underground bands from their favorite subgenres. And, since Williams is the Metal Director for WOBC, students will be kept up-to-date on the latest releases, big and small, in the metal world as well as upcoming concerts.

Classical Music of North India

0-2 Credits

Instructor: Hasu Patel

EXCO 615

This course is offered by a Professional musician and is aimed to give students an introduction into the theory and practice of classical instruments of Hindusthani Music: Sitar, Tabla, and Vocal. Students will be given knowledge of Raga Sangeet and context surrounding this Sacred music. The course will be taught in traditional style and certain rules regarding the instruments,

practice, fellow students, and Guru. Instruments are available for learning through the teacher and the Conservatory. A must for the students pursuing music major at Conservatory to differentiate the music in its entirety. Course fee: \$160.

Make Your Own Band

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Kameko Jacobs & Sara Boxell

EXCO 622

Have you ever thought about starting a band? Do you dream about crowd surfing into a sea of adoring fans? Well, its about time you stop dreaming, grab your instrument and start rocking out! This course explores the punk ethos that anyone can start a band by actually starting bands. We will first explore how to start a band, what types of bands we would like to start, and problems that may arise in the creation of our band, and through this process we will split into several groups and actually form our own bands. Throughout the semester we will be meeting as a group to discuss how our bands are developing, and by the end of the semester any band that feels ready will have the chance to perform in a band showcase.

Introduction to Turntablism

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Jamie Shorey

EXCO 642

Here is your chance to learn the basics behind the instrument of the future! In this class we will survey everything a beginning DJ needs to know; turntablism, sampling, beatmatching, laptop DJing and of course how to scratch. This course comes with a \$35 entry fee. The catch? All the entry fees will be pooled together to buy two turntables and a mixer (a.k.a the DJ's set up) which will be the classes' set-up to practice on for the next 12 weeks. At the end of the semester we will have a party and DJ battle between everyone in the class, where the winner will walk away with the set-up to call their own. OH SNAP. Beginners only.

Marching Band

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Emily Robinson

EXCO 645

During the fall semester, the Oberlin College Marching Band teaches field marching and music to perform at our OC Football half time breaks, at other sports games, and football away games. We also play as a pep band for fall sports. We offer opportunities for music composition and arrangement, as well as planning for the spring Big Parade. We perform with brass, woodwinds, percussion and color-guard. All levels of experience are welcome.

Music Mentors

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Annie Gordon & Netta Rappaport

EXCO 660

We will be working in the Langston Middle School Music Department teaching private and group instrumental lessons. You don't need to be in the Conservatory but we do require that you be able to read music. In past semesters we have only worked with the middle school band, but we are working to expand the program to include chorus and orchestra. This is a very rewarding experience for all involved!

Introduction to Javanese Gamelan

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Sean Hanson & Jane Sandberg

EXCO 666

This course serves as an introduction to Javanese Gamelan, a percussion orchestra and musical tradition over seven hundred years old. This course will serve as a pre-requisite for Jennifer Fraser's APST course, and will introduce students to the gamelan, basic concepts, and beginning

elaboration patterns while fostering an appreciation of Javanese musical traditions. Students are recommended to have prior musical expertise, particular with regards to playing in ensembles or dealing with rhythm.

ARTS, CRAFTS AND DO IT YOURSELF

Screen to Table: Recipes From Mouthwatering Movies on Family, Culture, and Transformation

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Leann Dameron

EXCO 701

Have you ever watched a movie that made your mouth water and gave you the urge to grab an apron? In this course we will watch "foodie" films and learn to cook dishes we see on screen. The cooking practicum portion of the class will focus on creativity, how to use a recipe as a skeleton and add your own spice to things. While cooking and sharing our creations around the dinner table, we will discuss the films, exploring the transformative and connecting power of food. There will be a \$35 course fee for ingredients.

Pottery ExCo

0-1 Credit

Instructor: Ian Copeland & Will Robbins

EXCO 705

All levels of pottery welcomed! We will learn new skills and experience guided and independent projects, both through wheel work and handbuilding. Students will also learn basic studio management skills like recycling clay and will prepare pieces for a show at the end of the semester. Course fee of \$30.

Practicum in Artisan Bread Baking

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Sara Perez & David Huck

EXCO 712

Students will cover the bread baking process from pre-ferments through mixing, shaping and ultimately, hearth baking. Every week, we will bake a different bread to explore different techniques. As the class progresses, students will be asked to care for their own sourdough culture and use it to bake small batches of bread outside of class. We hope that students will gain a greater understanding of different methods of bread production and continue to bake and eat bread. Via the bread journal students will be able to evaluate their formulas and refine them to improve their baking. There will be a small course fee assessed for flour of \$15. You will get to eat the bread made from that flour so it should come out to your benefit.

Fermentation and Food Activism

0-1 Credit

Instructors: Katherine Knowles & Elisabeth Smeltzer

EXCO 714

Fermentation is a form of food preservation that works with live cultures instead of chemical preservations or ultra-high temperatures. People ferment foods in order to stabilize food for long periods of time, to alter the flavor of food, to make food more digestible and nutritious, and today, as a way to foster a sense of self-reliance and as a way to become more involved in the processing of food. We will explore these various avenues, paying close attention to fermentation as a grassroots initiative for reclaiming food processing as both an individual and communal adventure. Each week, we will make and sample fermented foods as well as present the history, nutrition, science, and politics of food fermentation using the readings as a teaching tool. There will be a \$10 fee to cover food costs; if this poses a financial problem for any individual, we can work around it.

Introduction to Armory*Instructor: Violet Peña***0-1 Credit***EXCO 727*

Learn to build, test, and fix fencing equipment. Foil, saber, and epee will be covered, with an emphasis to be determined by the class. No technical experience will be required but previous fencing experience is highly recommended. Material fee \$15.

Craft Circle*Instructor: Sierra T. Zuber***0-1 Credit***EXCO 740*

Want to learn to make stuff? In this course, students will cover knitting, crocheting, sewing, dying, weaving, and a host of other crafts. Students are also encouraged to bring in projects to work on that are unrelated to the crafts covered. Experience is recommended but not necessary. Students are expected to provide their own materials.

Fearless Knitting*Instructors: Cory Ellen Boberg & Ondrea Keith***0-1 Credit***EXCO 746*

In this course, students will move past the basics of knitting and into the realm of garments, lace, colorwork, and cables. For beginning knitters, we will teach intermediate skills such as knitting in the round, purling, and shaping; for intermediate knitters, we have a variety of challenges to offer such as cablework, Fair-Isle knitting, and lace. The goal of this class is to expand the students' fluency with knitting technical language, to increase confidence, and to introduce new concepts. We will also increase the students' knowledge of different fibers and their uses and behaviors.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES AND GAMES

Aikido ExCo*Instructors: Joseph Zummo & Matthew Miller***0-1 Credit***EXCO 806*

The Aikido ExCo is an introduction to the basic principles of Aikido, a modern Japanese martial art. Aikido teaches peaceful conflict resolution by blending with and leading an attack, rather than fighting against an opponent. As the martial effectiveness of this art is not dependent on strength or size, it can be practiced by everyone.

Living Yoga*Instructor: Hannah Slipakoff***0-1 Credit***EXCO 808*

Living Yoga is a collaborative exploration of our bodies, practices of yoga as we know them, and an understanding of our environments through the two. We will draw from a few styles of yoga, movement anatomy, meditation, and most importantly, our curiosity. The course is friendly to folks of all levels who are enthusiastic about engaging in a community centered on well being.

Beginning Fencing*Instructors: Alex Edwards & Aaron Kokotek***0-1 Credit***EXCO 810*

Come learn the beautiful and sexy art of fencing! We will be teaching beginning foil, so no experience is required. Next time you need to defend your honor, you'll be ready. \$5 course fee for equipment maintenance.

Massage Therapy*Instructor: Samuel Berger***0-1 Credit***EXCO 817*

In Massage Therapy ExCo we will learn the basic principles of Swedish massage therapy. Students will both give and receive bodywork during each class. Students will learn musculoskeletal anatomy as well as palpation skills. Students must come into this class with a willingness to touch and be touched, and must have the ability to listen to what their clients tell them.

Hula Hooping*Instructor: Lauren Smith***0-1 Credit***EXCO 821*

This course will introduce hula hooping skills from beginner to intermediate. It is designed to help every student individually learn each of the skills and put together a performance for the final exam. The level of skills to be taught will allow any of the students to be involved in the spring OCircus show if they so choose.

OBehave: Advanced Improv Theater*Instructor: Greg Schram***0-1 Credit***EXCO 829*

OBehave: Advanced Improv Theater continues the previous OBehave ExCo's mission to explore the boundaries of human spontaneity and have a ridiculously fun time doing so. Like last semester, this class focuses on short scene work with an emphasis on comedy. But this time, the exercises are even more challenging and the material more advanced. ExCo activities include improv games and workshops, group discussions, analysis of professional works such as *Whose Line is It Anyway?* and a few improv shows.

Introduction to Crossword Puzzle Strategy*Instructor: Robin Comisar***0-1 Credit***EXCO 837*

This course will focus on common crossword puzzle solving strategies. No prior experience necessary.

Fundamentals of Rock Climbing*Instructors: Alex Totoiu & Liz Witcher***0-1 Credit***EXCO 850*

The main purpose of this class is to train student to be staff and instructors at the Oberlin College Climbing Wall, located in Phillips gym. The wall is entirely student-run. No experience is necessary for the course, just enthusiasm and a commitment to advance the climbing community at Oberlin College.

Play Bridge Like Your Grandma*Instructor: Kate Zipin***0-1 Credit***EXCO 861*

Bridge is a card game that combines a fun social setting with intellectual involvement. Grandmas play to keep their brains sharp and to chat about grandma-like things - why not start early? Learn how to play bridge throughout the semester, complete with the nuances of bidding, playing the hand, and tricky conventions! We will practice by playing online and reviewing the newspaper hands and we will culminate the semester with a duplicate tournament.

Women's Self-Defense**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Lena Amick**EXCO 876*

In this course, we will learn and practice a variety of violence prevention and self-defense strategies and techniques. Throughout the course, women will build up a repertoire of grab releases, effective kicks and strikes, and groundwork while practicing de-escalation strategies, effective ways to confront harassment and conflict, and strategies for strong communication and self care. We will practice using our voices and body language to say what we really mean as we discover together what it is we mean to say. As the class progresses, exercises will encompass a wide range of physical techniques and more in-depth role playing situations. The classes are heavily movement-based and can be adapted to any level of physical ability, but they also incorporate group and partner discussions, role-playing, and writing activities.

The Mystery of Amazing Card Tricks**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Yuhua Lu**EXCO 879*

Are you getting bored with ordinary card games? Did you see any magician in your real life? Have you ever imagined that one day you can stand in front of people and make them entertained? Join us to explore the mystery of amazing card tricks.

Men's Rugby**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Joseph Sheeran**EXCO 888*

This course is designed to teach the game of Rugby football. Participants will develop the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in this beautiful sport. While learning the basics of the game, i.e. tackling, rucks, mauls, passing, scrums, lineouts, the back line, in class, the students will be able (though not required) to participate in the Oberlin Men's Rugby practices and potentially, matches. The only prerequisites are general physical good health, willingness to take a hit, and a positive attitude.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Matthew Chaves**EXCO 889*

Students will learn basic Brazilian Jiu Jitsu techniques as well as the historical origins and development of BJJ. The history of BJJ will be traced from its origins in the early 20th century to its present day roles in self-defense, sport competition, and mixed martial arts fighting. Practical instruction will focus on illustrating the fundamental principles of Jiu Jitsu and preparing students for further instruction. Jiu Jitsu is designed to work for people of all shapes and sizes, and absolutely NO martial arts experience is required or assumed for this class.

Oh My, He's On Fire: NBA Jam ExCo**0-1 Credit***Instructor: Will Stamell & Daniel Jaffe**EXCO 899*

NBA Jam ExCo explores the golden age of the national basketball association through the mediums of NBA Jam for Sega Genesis, highlight videos, recorded classic games, looking at old news articles, and listening to classic radio broadcast. Students should have an interest in learning about the NBA but previous knowledge of the NBA or NBA Jam is not necessary.

ExCo Needs YOU!

Want to join the ExCo Committee?

Want to teach your very own ExCo?

Let us know...

Email exco@oberlin.edu

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