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College experience is about first-time freedom, career exploration and the pursuit of knowledge, but today's students have the opportunity to take a host of strange classes that may not exactly lead down a career path. A class dedicated entirely to watching YouTube videos? College credit for studying internet pornography? And how would your parents feel if you took the course of lifting Lady Gaga to fame? This may seem outlandish, but students are taking such classes at colleges and universities across the country. Read on to learn about some of the weirdest college courses offered today. danhollisterduck / Flickr. Are you a fan of The Walking Dead? Is zombieland your favorite movie? If so, Columbia College in Chicago has only a class for you. His zombie in the Popular Media class traces the history of zombies in movies and literature and explores how zombies relate to themes of capitalism, individuality and xenophobia. Carnivorous undead are also the focus of a new course at the University of Baltimore called Media Genres: The zombies. The class program includes titles such as Pride and Prejudice and the zombie and patient zero, and students will screen classic zombie horror films like George A. Romero's Night of the Living Dead. Guan Nyau/Getty Images. This class may sound like a waste, but the Joy of Garbage Class at Santa Clara University delves into the science and consequences of what people consume and give up. Students follow the path of garbage like this treatment, burned, dumped, recycled or reused, and they look at the issues of social justice that arise, such as how landfills are often located in poor areas. The class also develops sustainable solutions for modern waste problems and even takes excursions to sanitary facilities and landfills. Photo: Alexei Boldin/Shutterstock.com Professor Alexandra Juhash of Pitzer College said the class was a pedagogical experiment focused on the potential and limits of digital media culture. Unlike most college courses, YouTube is open to the public, which reflects YouTube users. Although the class structure is fairly open, there is one big rule: all class assignments, assignments, and discussions should take place on YouTube. Classroom meetings, curriculum and other documents are even posted on the video-sharing site. Photograph: Ingus Krukltis/Shutterstock Can Genetic Engineering Explain Fluffy Three-Head Dog? Can antigravity studies lead to the production of flying broomsticks? A class at Frostburg State University in Maryland is trying to answer these questions and more. In the Science of Harry Potter course, students analyze magic with concepts of physics, biology, chemistry and engineering, and they look at everything from the latest teleportation research (the apparatus to Bertie Bott's Every Fragrance and the science of taste. however, he is known to dress up as Hogwarts director Albus Albus Steve Fenn, ABC/AP. Do all these daytime activities prevent you from being aware of our Days of Life? No worries. Just sign up for the University of Wisconsin Women's Day Series Course: Family and Social Roles. Students in this class watch daytime soap, analyze their topics, and study the social impact of gender roles on family and the workplace. DNAMichaud/Flickr. Tired of studying theory and history in college and ready to learn real practical skills? Then Alfred University Maple Syrup: The real thing is the course for you - especially if you like pancakes. In addition to studying the history of maple syrup production, students also create and eat their own syrup and even take guided tours for local maple syrup producers, restaurants and festivals. If you're worried you don't have the right chemical, botanical or culinary background to take this course, set these fears aside - the class description carries this caveat: No prior experience is expected. Nam Y. Huh / AP. When Michael Deflem, a professor of sociology at the University of South Carolina, saw Lady Gaga on Tonight last January, he was immediately amazed. Since then, he has participated in 38 of her shows around the world, collected more than 300 of her CD albums and launched her own fan site Lady Gaga. Now he is offering a college course on Mother Monster called Lady Gaga and Sociology Fame. Watching Lady Gaga become famous, Deflem became interested in what makes a person famous and what it means to be famous in modern society, and that's exactly what the class is getting into - from a sociological point of view, of course. Michael Gatewood/iStockphoto. While the phrase underwater basket weaving is often used as an idiom for useless optional, it is actually taught at several colleges. While this may bring to mind images of students quickly weaving reeds at the bottom of a campus pool, the underwater weaving basket actually involves creating baskets, dipping the cane into the water and letting them soak - at least that's how Reed College of Portland in Oregon, and the University of California at San Diego taught it. T/Flickr. Georgetown University's philosophy and Star Trek is the dream of every Trekkia College. The class is taught as an introduction to metaphysics and the philosophy of epistemology, but these topics are discussed as philosophical issues arise when the cast ventures the show in places where no one has gone before. In addition to watching Star Trek episodes, the class also reads philosophical writings and struggles with questions such as time travel? and can reality be radically different from what we think? If you want to take a more religious approach to the hit sci-fi show, you can sign up for Star Trek and Religion at Indiana University. The class watches Star Trek episodes and then explores the show's religious themes. Sodafishi/iStockphoto. You'll probably never thought you could get away with watching pornography class, but it's not only allowed -- it's necessary -- if you're taking New York State University's Cyberporn and Society course. Students in this class survey online sites and explore issues of obscenity and what drives culture to define pornography differently. Cody Griffith / Flickr. How do you turn physics into a more exciting topic? The University of California at Irvine does this by studying the science behind superheroes like Superman, Wonder Woman and Batman. For example, students of the Science of Superheroes course study the physics of flight dynamics and fluids by studying Spider-Man. The class also explores the nature of the spidey feeling and the mechanics of the invisible Wonder Woman jet. Globe Photos. It seems that daytime television inspired another college class. However, UCLA Controversy with Judge Judy: Popular Logic on TV Judge shows the course isn't exactly what you'd expect. This class identifies popular logical misconceptions on shows like Judge Judy and the People's Court and discusses why these false strategies are so widespread. In other words, the course is associated with illogical arguments made by the entertainment litigants of the show. Photo. Jacek Chabraszewski/Shutterstock Professor Jacqueline Johnson's course of fat research at George Washington University is just one of many that appear on college campuses across the country. The class teaches students to think about body size critically and politically, and it aims to promote weight awareness and recognition among people of all shapes and sizes. Fox Broadcasting Co./AP. This class is a student-led program that is part of the University of California at Berkeley's alternative education program. The StarCraft Strategy discusses not only strategy and tactics, but also a popular video game to teach the art of war. Jae C. Hong / AP. If you have a hit TV show that has been running for more than 20 seasons - one that consistently delves into political and intellectual material - you may not be surprised when it becomes a popular college class. The University of California at Berkeley's two-unit Simpsons course and philosophy is described as a rather rigorous philosophical course that asks weighty questions, how can Nietzsche abandon traditional morality justify Bart's bad behavior? Although Jojo is a sweet name for a small child or a flashy name for a skater, it's hard to imagine her as a bank manager, senator, or stockbroker. JoJo applying mascara as she FaceTimes with one eye open. We were supposed to meet in person to discuss her new album, Good To Know, but the spread of COVID-19 forced us online. Girl, if I wasn't on a virtual promotional tour, I wouldn't be sticking makeup on, she laughs. The fact that she's even on a promotional tour isn't something JoJo, born Joanna Noel Levesque, takes for granted. Her 2004 debut single, Leave (Get Out), released when she was just 13 years old, viral before you go was really the thing that makes her the youngest solo artist in history to reach No. 1 on the Billboard Pop Songs chart. But then it all got complicated. The two albums, released in quick succession, were accompanied by a 10-year musical hiatus due to a long, protracted legal battle with her label Background Records and Da Family. Finally released at the end of 2013, she signed with Atlantic Records and released her third album Mad Love in 2016, but it didn't go the way she had hoped. With Mad Love I don't really feel like I have a lawyer, creatively, I don't feel very strong because I'm just coming off a lawsuit that I've been in for a long time and I felt really deflated,' she recalls. I've felt so out of control in my career for so long, not just with labels, but with people who were on my team and I just didn't feel like I really had full authority, or full agency over my own choices. Working on her new album, Good To Know, finally gave her the autonomy she craved. She assembled a group of her favorite writer friends in nearby Los Angeles Airbnb, where she turned some bedrooms into studios. I knew I wanted the punches to be harder and I wanted it to be something that the guys weren't shy about playing in their car, she says. Beats can be tricky, but just like the lyrics. JoJo rose to prominence in an era when the pop music machine was on top. In a decade when Beyonce went from growing solo artist TO industry icon, and Taylor Swift's personal letter redefined our expectations of female pop artists, JoJo needed not only to rethink her sound, but also to rethink her story. Thankfully, she was ready to go there, ruminating on two specific recent relationships that were more like again, outside again. I'd be very close to someone and then come off, or sabotage it, and do something to bring drama or spice into the mix,' she says. It made me feel like I was in control of something. Some people do it with food, some people do it with money... I think you could call me a love junkie. These trends pop up on her new album with So Bad. This song, for example, is about meeting someone and, in fact, about deliberate deception, she says. I wasn't the smartest with how I got home after going to clubs in Los Angeles. I woke up many times and didn't know how I got home. I had a complete disregard for myself and others. The album mines the familiar coming-of-age mantra of acceptance, echoing Demi Lovato's Confident or Selena Gomez's Rare. I felt like some of the things I was saying on this record feel a bit like an overshare, just with my emotions or with my desperate sexuality on some of them, and I was just like: Oh, well, bitch. Is that how you feel? know, she says. It's about finally looking at yourself and being like: OH OK, you're still here. It's all good. Take yourself. Love yourself. While the other stars in the middle of the aughts were in JoJo was off the net - and struggling. The behavior I've been dealing with could easily have brought me out of here anymore,' she says of the experience she documented on the record. I wasn't the smartest with how I got home after being at clubs in Los Angeles. I woke up many times and didn't know how I got home. I had a complete disregard for myself and others. One of the songs on Good To Know, Pedalyte, is a reminder of those emotional and physical hangovers. I used to want to go crazy because I was uncomfortable with myself and I wanted to avoid reality, she recalls. As she got older, the singer found herself moving away from the coping-mechanism behavior she once relied on. I actually love myself better when I blur with my words and my abilities, and I know I'm not going to embarrass myself and need to apologize for something in the morning, she says. The search for this control also meant a revision of the old land. Her protracted legal battle with the label prevented her music from being available on streaming services and iTunes, so in 2018 she re-watched vocals and production on her first two albums. To be able to own the Masters and then make money from these new versions, and be able to have songwriters making money, it made me feel like a businesswoman, she says. She's a long way from the 13-year-old girl who released her first Billboard hit, having outlived the darkness of the music industry and her own demons. I've been a businesswoman since before I was an adult, but it was a move that made me feel powerful and I didn't feel that in a while. Given her past personal chaos and the current global chaos, JoJo is very grateful to be where she is now. Her mom, who played a photog assistant on a virtual Photo shoot for Bustle, recently moved to Los Angeles from her home state of Massachusetts to be closer to her daughter. She keeps busy having a FaceTime happy hour with family and friends. Oh, and she's back to the virus. In late March, she turned Leave (Get Out) to Chill (Stay In) to urge fans to quarantine. Lyrics like I've been waiting all day here for I'm a babe / So don't cha come and sit and talk to me in now pandemic-friendly verses, as I never thought the crown could be such a nasty b'tch / But now that she's here, boy, all I want/t's for you to use common sense. Since its release, the song has garnered more than half a million views on YouTube. I'm glad it made people laugh because I think it's a cure right now for us, she says. Image caption Tori RustAssisted Diana LevesqueMakeup consulted Ashley Ciucci Ciucci

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