

The following seminars will be offered during **Fall semester 2017**:

ART 151-01 & ART 151-02 Roots of the Modern Age: ART

We are inundated with images on a daily basis – on our phones, computers, televisions, and throughout the public sphere. Largely because of this image overload, however, we often take our visual environment for granted, failing to appreciate the decision-making processes that went into its design. This course teaches students how to analyze their visual surroundings as complex forms of communication, thoughtfully created to convey varying social, political, religious, cultural, and commercial values. Moving between group discussions, site visits, and lectures, students conduct casestudies of art and architecture from the Medieval World to our contemporary moment, with an eye toward the relationship between each work’s visual form and historical context. Throughout the semester, the class will take advantage of the world-class art, architecture, and archives of New York City and Manhattan College.

ENGL 151-01 (Un)Making Monsters

This First-Year Seminar in literature will focus on reading and writing about monsters, the monstrous and monstrosity. Humans have made and remade human identity and existence throughout history, often creating monsters in the process. As Judith Halberstam claims, “Monsters are meaning-making machines,” condensing a multitude of fears and desires. Because of their otherness, monsters ask us to ponder the relationship between self and other, between the dominant culture and its margins, between comfort and alienation, between the human and the non-human. Monsters challenge us to consider—personally and culturally—the exclusionary aspects of identity formation and to explore the limits of community and sympathy. They offer unique ways of being that can also be alternative ways of seeing.

ENGL 151-02 Act like a Lady: Gender and Domesticity in 20th and 21st Century Literature

Nineteenth century, middle class American women saw their behavior regulated by a social system known today as the cult of domesticity, which was designed to limit their sphere of influence to home and family. Yet within this space, they developed networks and modes of expression that allowed them to speak out on the major moral questions facing the nation. This

first year seminar explores the politics of gender and domesticity in British and American literature from the 19th century to the present. Quite simply, what does it mean to describe someone as masculine or feminine? What does it mean to “act like a lady?” What informs these descriptions? Do these definitions suggest understandings of gender and sexuality that are biologically determined or socially constructed? In this seminar we will discuss the intertwined ideas of femininity and domesticity, as presented across a variety of artistic mediums (art, poetry, film, print media). Readings will include works by Kate Chopin, Susan Glaspell, Sophie Treadwell, Margaret Fuller, Marsha Norman, Margaret Atwood, Paula Vogel, Sarah Kane, and Wendy Wasserstein, among others. We will also read selections from women's rights periodicals, *Godey's Lady Book*, ladies fashion magazines, advertisements, and medical journals.

GOVT 153-01 American Maelstrom

In this era of unprecedented polarization, understanding American politics has proven to be extraordinarily difficult. This course will provide students with analytical tools to understand the contemporary political moment. We will read historical documents as well as works of political theory, to ground our discussions of American politics. But the bulk of the course will be focused on "Page One" of The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, etc. We will study political ideology, learn about the different types and political orientations of news sources, discuss "fake" vs. "real" news, etc. The formal readings will provide lenses through which students will examine the most important contemporary issues in American politics.

HIST 152-01 Revolutions

This course is an introduction to the history of revolutions and revolutionary thought from the late fifteenth century to the present. The first half of the course will focus primarily on revolutionary transformations in Europe/North America in the early modern period, while the second half of the course will focus on revolutions that have taken place across the world throughout the modern era. We will pay particular attention to the way in which Western imperialism and capitalism have shaped modern revolutions, and the way in which revolutions emerge as a response to the interaction between local concerns and global developments.

LLRN 151-01**Classical Origins of Western Culture**

This First-Year Seminar will concentrate on the concept of love in the Greek and Roman world. Beginning with the ancient concept of *eros* (erotic love, love of beauty) in Hesiod's *Theogony*, the Athenian portion of the seminar will proceed to investigate its use in Plato's *Phaedrus*, along with that dialogue's emphasis on rhetoric. *Philos* (love for family, friends, ideas) will be studied through Euripides' plays *The Trojan Women* and *Andromache*. *Agape* (selfless love) will appear in Cicero's *On Duties* and *On Old Age*. The final work of the semester, Virgil's *Aeneid*, will combine all three approaches to love.

PHIL 152-01**Philosophy and Resistance**

This seminar will explore the world of Western philosophy while engaging the question, what is philosophy for? We will engage with philosophy as a practical tool in the struggle for justice, as a mode of political, social, and spiritual resistance. We will think about various forms of oppression and ask, when do I have not only the right, but the duty to resist? What form should resistance take? What is the relationship between resistance and the duty to follow the law? To explore these questions, we will engage with both the Western canon of philosophical thought as well as feminist and critical race challenges to that canon. Our readings and discussions will take us from ancient Greece to the present day, and will incorporate classic philosophical texts as well as contemporary texts concerned with our duties of resistance in the face of raced, gendered, and classed oppressions.

PHIL 152-02**Roots: Philosophy**

This course provides an introduction to philosophy through the study of major Western philosophic works, with an emphasis on the modern era. Guided by the question "What is the self?" we explore a range of philosophic problems, including: What am I? Who am I? What can I know? Are there different ways of knowing? What is the relationship between my mind and my body? Does God exist? Can I know God? Do I have free will? How can I achieve happiness? What is my relationship to other selves? How should my relationships with others be? We study responses to these problems from authors such as Plato, Aquinas, Descartes, Camus, Sartre and De Beauvoir to learn about our intellectual history, to learn from their example how to approach

philosophic problems, and to begin to insert ourselves into ongoing scientific, religious, moral and political debates that rest on competing philosophical views about the nature of humanity.

PSYC 153-01 The Tell-Tale Brain

Come unlock the secrets within our brains. Understanding the normality and abnormality of brain function gives us insight into our daily lives. We will tour the brain with prominent neuroscientists, psychiatrists, and cognitive scientists. As we ponder wild and outlandish cases, we will reveal the awesome power of the brain to make us who we are.

PSYC 153-02 Not All Wounds are Visible: The Psychological Effects of War Trauma

The goal of a Roots: Psychology course is to provide you with an explanation and critical examination of the field of psychology, which concerns itself with the scientific study of the brain, mind and behavior. Students in this class will examine the logic and methods of psychological research and engage in analysis of contemporary social issues from the perspective of the discipline of psychology. Our specific course theme is war trauma, a phenomenon that has received greater attention in the aftermath of American military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq. We will examine the many reactions to trauma – which include resilience, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) & posttraumatic growth – as well as psychological theories and empirical research that attempts to make sense of these reactions. The course uses psychology research articles, memoirs (David Morris' *The Evil Hours*), journalistic non-fiction (David Finkel's *Thank You for Your Service*), films (Joshua Oppenheimer's *The Look of Silence*), news magazines, and newspapers.

RELS 152-01 Dismantling Stereotypes of Religion

This course explores world views on religion but the motives that impel us toward world understanding are always varied. The goal of the course is to dismantle stereotypes of religion and identity. We will look at a series of theoretical, scriptural, and contemporary texts from Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam. We will read a novel and a book on Identity entitled; *In the Name of Identity: Violence and the Need to Belong* by Amin Maalouf and *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson to provide a broader and literary understanding of the three religions

including the various religious tenets in eastern and western experiences. We will look at how scripture is interpreted and appropriated to give meaning to individual lives. We will discuss stereotypes of religions and understand how to dismantle these through narrative, and cultural diversity. We will use media, lived experience, and text to explore the diverse dimensions of religion and existential experience. Religion is an experience and profound aspect of our lives as we ask the real and important questions of life and meaning.

RELS 152-02 Sacred Storytelling: Narrative, Tradition, and the Holy

Religion is everywhere—our culture reflects a wide variety of religious influences in the way people live, speak, dress, eat, and even vote. But religion is not a static, unchanging entity that can easily be identified. Instead, religions can be described as processes that transmit and attempt to preserve sacred stories.

In this course, students will examine a variety of religious stories as well as methods of storytelling including myth, history, biography, poetry, and memoir, in an effort to understand the basic contours of religiosity. They will also produce sacred stories of their own.

SOC 153-01 Unmasking the Structures of Power

This First Year Seminar is dedicated to understanding barriers that come from sex and gender, namely the social construction of masculinity and femininity and how they inform rape culture. Here, exploring sex and gender are a means of enriching knowledge and thinking critically while discouraging marginalization and oppression. As engaged students of sociology, you will focus on broadening your intellectual horizons, fostering lifelong learning skills, developing as leaders of tomorrow, promoting community involvement, and instilling an appreciation of world cultures. We will do so by discussing, reading, and examining cultural artifacts, social movements, and theorizations around categories of power – sex and gender - and hopefully lead to a re-thinking of these categories through their grounding in particular localities, practices, truths, and histories. This course nurtures cultural competence by celebrating the rich diversity of our communities and welcoming the participation of all.

SOC 153-02**Social Structures and Art**

Sociology is the study of human interaction. It is also the study of human beings interacting with *things*... particularly things created by other humans. This course will examine some of those things – specifically, music, film, and art – and try to understand how sociology helps us understand where these things come from, how they function in societies, why we love and hate them, how they challenge and influence us, and essentially, why we feel as if we cannot live without them.