

The following Core courses will be offered during **Spring semester 2018**:

ART 150-01 Roots of the Modern Age: Art

This course examines paintings, sculptures, and buildings produced from the thirteenth through the twentieth centuries in the western world. Working within an interdisciplinary framework, students will investigate the form and social-historical context of these works of art – and hence their “meaning” – as well as how they serve as a foundation for our own contemporary visual culture. The course will explore these issues through reading-based group discussions and a variety of in-class and out-of-class writing assignments. Intended to sharpen students’ abilities to articulate their ideas in written form, these assignments include brief formal analyses, comparison/contrast essays, and a research paper. Through this integrated approach, students will also consider broader questions such as: What historical themes recur throughout the centuries that continue to affect the production of art? What outside factors impact the audience’s experience of a work of art? Why have the works that we study been incorporated into the canon? How do museums and galleries construct meaning? In addition to scheduled lectures, we will take advantage of the rich collections and museums in New York City museum visits.

ENGL 150-01 Roots of the Modern Age: Literature, Travel, Exile

This course will introduce you to some of the great works of literature that contribute to our understanding of the modern world. We will travel through textual universes and across vast historical and literary terrain, reading tales of religious medieval pilgrimages, stories of trade and imperial expansion, modernist accounts of tourist angst and present-day narratives of migration and return. We will tackle questions of identity, movement, and the dynamics of cultural encounters with those ‘different’ from us. How has literature about travel—willing or coerced—formed and transformed our ideas about ourselves and our relations to others? What happens when personal, cultural, and physical boundaries are traversed? How does the experience of encountering a foreigner or becoming one impact our understanding of who we are and where we are from? During our semester-long journey, we will read and write about literature as a springboard for reflection and as a form of critical inquiry, practicing various modes of literary interpretation, including close readings and contextual analysis. We will not only examine how

literature communicates changing values across time and place, but we will also create new literary meanings ourselves.

ENGL 150-02 What is Man? Literary Explorations of the Human Being

In this course, which is designed to follow on your study of Greek and Roman literature in Classical Origins of Western Culture, students will read and critically examine important literary texts of the Western cultural tradition beginning with the medieval period and moving chronologically up to the modern age.

ENGL 150-03 & 04 Literature, Race and Empire

Over the course of the semester, we will explore the literary representation of empire from the 17th to the 21st century. The modern era saw a vast expansion of European empires, changing the global distribution of power and the interrelationships of different peoples and cultures. Through the contact initiated by exploration and imperial trade, modern ideas about race, difference and power developed and evolved. In this core class, we will consider the role of literary culture in imperial ideology and in the formation of modern conceptions of race, gender and nationality. Our texts, responding in various ways to situations of empire and post-colonialism, represent and interrogate values associated with imperialism and deal with questions of difference and displacement across a wide range of historical and cultural contexts.

ENGL 150-05 Secrets, Lies, and Literature

What do Shakespeare's most famous play and a contemporary American graphic novel have in common? One answer: both of them explore the challenges faced by the main character, ensnared in a web of secrets and lies. In between *Hamlet* (1603) and *Fun Home* (2006), there are a range of literary works that similarly represent the practice of deceit, the fear of (or desire for) discovery, and the pursuit (or repression) of knowledge as fundamental experiences of human existence. What do people typically keep secrets or lie about? How? Why? What are the consequences of keeping secrets or telling lies? And of their exposure? Finally, is it ever really possible to discover the "truth"?

As we look at literature from a variety of historical moments, we'll also consider how the kinds of things people hide—and what happens when they are found out—have and have not changed over the centuries. The causes of deceit in Shakespeare's England—and the consequences of discovery—are not the same as in contemporary America. Or are they?

ENGL 150-06 Literature, Law, and Identity

In this course, we will examine how literature teaches us our various social identities: as subjects of a government, as men and women, as members of a racial or ethnic group, as members of religious groups, and as human beings. The central purpose of literature may be to entertain, but literature also teaches us our relationship to “the law,” both in the literal sense and in the sense of the unspoken rules that produce our identities. Keeping these ideas in mind, students in the course will study how a range of writers construct social identities for themselves and their readers through their representation of laws, governments, and the people who live under them. Writers to be studied include Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, Frederick Douglass, William Butler Yeats, Toni Morrison, and Junot Diaz.

GOVT 150-01 & 03 Roots of Government: America Now!!

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of government and politics through analyses of the basic concepts of politics, political theories, ideologies, political systems and institutions. Its primary focus is on the historical evolution of the American political system, as concepts such as liberty, freedom, justice, equality, and power, are explored. How they impact salient public policy issues that confront individuals and society in the American domestic and foreign policy arenas will also be examined. Students will, in addition, analyze public policy challenges, by simulating elected legislators, candidates and citizens of the United States of America in discussion, policy presentations and debate formats as they take sides on contemporary political issues.

GOVT 150-02 & 04 Justice

What is Justice? What constitutes a just society? These questions are at the heart of every tradition of political philosophy – ancient or modern. And yet there is very little agreement regarding what these concepts are, what they can or should be, and whether the many, the few or

the one should have the power to decide. Questions such as: should there be a limit on how much wealth an individual is allowed to accumulate? Should all citizens be granted a minimum amount of what is needed (such as food and/or medical care) to sustain their existence? Or, are we entitled to nothing more than perhaps a fair competitive framework in which to compete for wealth, power, and influence?

This course will explore the many differing ideas about what constitutes “Justice.” First we will explore several traditions of political theory, such as utilitarianism, libertarianism and Marxism, to see what the proponents of these various philosophies have to say about what justice is. Then we will apply what we have learned to at least two concrete public policy areas: African-American incarceration, and healthcare.

HIST 150-01 Nationalism and Empire

This course surveys the history of the West from the European encounter with the non-Western world to the present day. In many ways, it is these interactions that have shaped the modern world. We will explore major trends including the rise of modern states; new ideas about rights; the emergence of modern nationalism; the expansion of European imperialism; colonial resistance; and the shifting balance of power in the postcolonial world.

HIST 150-02 Slavery and Liberation

This core course examines practice of slavery and the process of liberation in the Atlantic world (Europe, the Americas and Africa). We will emphasize how and why slavery expanded after 1450, came under assault after 1750, and was eliminated (legally at least) in the twentieth century. Colonization and decolonization, imperialism, two world wars and the exercise of genocide were all part of these intersecting, intertwined histories. Yet, various forms of slavery persist in the contemporary world: this course ends with a consideration of that situation and its causes and consequences.

HIST 150-03 & 04 Roots: The West and The World: 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 revolutions have emerged as a response to the interaction between local concerns and global developments, especially Western colonialism, capitalism, and the spread of the nation-state system.

LLRN 102-01 & 04 Classical Origins of Western Culture

In Spring, 2018, the two sections in which I am Instructor will investigate the beginnings of the universe through Hesiod, as well as his moral issues with his brother's shady legal dealings. We will move on to Athenian politics, including Pericles and the public prosecution of Socrates. The Greek interest in the legendary past will appear in Euripides' plays, *The Trojan Women* & *Andromache*. The unit on Rome will find us reading Cicero's takes on morality and the grand epic of the foundation of the roman empire, Virgil's *Aeneid*.

LLRN 102-02 Love and War in Ancient Greece: Classical Origins, Modern Retellings

Through close reading and intensive writing about literary texts from the Classical world, this course examines how cultural wars during the rise and fall of the Ancient Greek empire affected power relationships in the family and in society at large. By studying representations of gender and sexuality in literary, historical, philosophical, and political texts, we will examine the way in which cultural and political crises – such as the Trojan War, the Persian Wars, and the Peloponnesian Wars – are often explored through personal relationships between men and women. This course also investigates the way in which these power dynamics in the culture of Ancient Greece have been adapted and retold in the modern era. In addition to studying Classical pieces of literature that explore conceptions of gender, sexuality, heroism, and love—such as Homer's *The Odyssey*, and Sophocles's *Antigone*—we will explore how notions of patriarchy, orientalism, femininity, masculinity, and even “feminism,” have endured and evolved into the modern age. Classical texts will include works by Homer, Euripides, Aristotle, Plato, Sophocles, and Aristophanes, among others; Modern texts and films will include work by Charles Mee, Margaret Atwood, the Coen brothers, Ang Lee (Yann Martell), Frank Miller (Zach Snyder), Debra Granik, and Sarah Ruhl.

LLRN 102-03**Classical Origins of Western Civilization**

This course helps students develop critical thinking and writing skills through an introduction to central texts and documents from Ancient Greece that have become foundational narratives for Western civilization. Classes will engage students in an interdisciplinary approach to cultural history, and discussions will pair literary works with relevant contemporary documents from the fields of material culture, the visual arts, political theory, and anthropology. The learning objectives for this course include: strengthening close reading skills, developing strong skills in expository writing, and acquiring a precise vocabulary for literary, artistic, historical, and cultural studies.

LLRN 102-05**Classical Origins of Western Culture**

This roots course aims to develop in students a knowledge and appreciation of Greek and Roman thought and culture, especially its contribution to the culture of the western world, by a careful study of important primary texts from different disciplines in that era. We will develop in students the ability to read, analyze, understand, and respond critically (in oral and written form) to the ideas presented in these texts and to begin to develop in students an awareness and understanding of the different modes of thought, organization, and expression used by different academic disciplines.

MUSC 150-01 & 02**Roots of the Modern Age: Music**

Over the course of the semester, we will explore music from the medieval period through the 20th century, examining the changing attitudes, styles, and composers that define “music” in the Western world (Europe and the United States). In the process, we will approach music as part of a larger network of ideas and thoughts, placing it within the context of philosophical, social, economic, and aesthetic trends throughout history. While exploring these issues, we will also be cultivating critical listening skills and developing a useful vocabulary for discussing the role and function of sound within a historical and contemporary setting. Through the study of primary documents, coursework, lectures, discussions, and other assignments, you will work on developing a variety of skills, including an understanding of specialized vocabulary; an ability to analyze structures and relationships within a musical work; the ability to engage with a musical work using a range of tools, such as aesthetic sensitivity, personal experience, an understanding

of social context, and the recognition of a variety of cultural/historical references; familiarity with representative works and composers of Western musical history; and critical thinking skills.

MUSC 150-03 & 04 Roots of the Modern Age: Music

Roots: Music emphasizes critical listening skills by studying music production practices, listening technologies, various styles and traditions from across the globe, and Western (US and European) music structures and compositional forms. Through the course of the semester we will explore music during the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th-century time periods, as well as ideas and styles from today's music. This being the case, the class covers material diachronically (the past in relation to the present) and synchronically (the past alone), incorporating aspects of science, history, art, literature, and economics and their influence on the music of that particular culture, subculture, and specific time period. All of these objectives are rather secondary to the primary goal of understanding how music communicates meaning in a highly complex world.

PHIL 150-01 & 03 Roots: Philosophy

Whether we realize it or not, our lives are filled with philosophical puzzles. Yet, few of us have time in our everyday lives to think deeply about philosophical questions---questions such as: "What is the difference between a good argument and a bad one?" "What makes me who I am?" "What if my life is all a dream?" "Could a robot ever be conscious?" "How can I be a good person?" "What is the meaning of life?" "What is the point of philosophy, anyway?" This course provides a unique opportunity to grapple with important philosophical issues and to develop your skills of argumentation and analysis.

In this course, you will be introduced not only to important classic and contemporary philosophical theories, but you will learn how to do philosophy. You will learn how to recognize philosophical issues as they arise in life. You will also learn how to extract and argument from a text, and to critically evaluate it in a rigorous way. These critical thinking skills are ones that you will be able to carry with you outside of class, and to apply to a wide range of arguments.

PHIL 150-02 Roots of the Modern Age: Philosophy and Resistance (Pascoe)

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 150-04 & 05 Roots: Philosophy

In this course, we will study the metaphysical and ethical views of modern philosophers. We will work our way through the birth of modern philosophy with Descartes' Meditations, up until the late modern era with Nietzsche in the 19th century (Genealogy of Morals). Emphasis will be placed on the methods of philosophic reasoning and the argumentative and rhetorical strategies used by each thinker, along with a historical overview of the shifting modes of thought from modern to late modern contexts.

PSYC 150-01, 02, 03, 04 Roots: Psychology

This course provides an explanation and critical examination of selected concepts in the broad field of psychology. Students will examine the logic and methods of social science research and engage in analysis of contemporary social issues from the perspective of the discipline of psychology. Students will develop an awareness of learning paradigms and memory, gain an understanding of major personality theories and several psychological disorders; gain an understanding of human development through the lifespan; and learn about how social aspects shape our existence.

SOC 150-01 & 02**Roots: Health and Society**

Our Roots courses provide an explanation and critical examination of selected concepts in the social sciences. Students examine the logic and methods of social science research and engage in analysis of contemporary social issues from the perspectives of the disciplines of sociology and anthropology. This particular course examines many important topics in health and health care. Specific issues addressed will include the social determinants of health (particularly class and race), causes of death, latest research on health and illness, the current state of medical care, modern health care systems, and more.

SOC 150-03**People, Power, and Politics**

This course is an introduction to sociological concepts through the study of power, politics and social movements. Starting with C. Wright Mills' *The Sociological Imagination*, we will look at the discipline of sociology through a series of readings (including fiction) that explore the interplay between power, race/ethnicity, social class, gender and social movements that challenge the status quo. For Mills, the study of society must include "history and biography". Assigned readings will explore the relationship between the two within society; and this itself is something we will come to understand and practice. We will conclude the course with Martin Luther King, Jr. *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* as well as a comparative study of life in the West Bank, Palestine. In the end, we will examine power from multiple, sociological perspectives, coming to understand how power intersects with people and politics. You should leave this course with a "quality of mind" that understands the history, and continued fault lines, of social, cultural, political and economic power relations and what it means to engage one's own sociological imagination.

SOC 150-04**Roots: Sociology**

This course explores the origins of sociology and anthropology and the basic methods developed for understanding social groups of all kinds. Students practice ethnographic research skills on campus and around the city. The readings provide examples of research on topics of current interest, including race, gender, the world of paid and unpaid work, and the dynamics of social class.

SOC 150-05**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.