

The following seminars will be offered during **Fall semester 2019**:

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

This course examines paintings, sculptures, and buildings produced from the eleventh through the twentieth centuries in Europe and the U.S. 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 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 with museum visits

ENGL 151-01 & 02 Making and Unmaking 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 complexity 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, even opening the door to the possibilities of being posthuman.

POSC 153-01**Power and Participation**

This course will explore politics as something that we as citizens can participate in, and politics as something that we as political scientists can observe, analyze, and understand. The particular focus of this class is on the ways that regular people participate in politics, through community activism, movement organizing, and electoral politics. Why do people participate? Why do so many people not participate? Is participation effective? If so, when and how is it most effective? In addition to learning how to think about politics, you will learn some basic skills of political action – researching an issue, writing persuasively, organizing a meeting and lobbying.

HIST 152-01**Human Rights**

This brand-new core course examines how the Western world perceived of people, both their own and those they encountered around the globe. This perception shifted dramatically after 1450 and continued to evolve until the Enlightenment when the concept of human rights was developed. However, the process of expanding those rights, even in principle, to include everyone took another two centuries. The last part of the course will consider why and how human rights continue to be withheld from significant proportions of the world's population.

LLRN 151-01**Love and War in Ancient Greece: Classical Origins, Modern Retelling**

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.

PHIL 152-01 Materialism & It's Discontents

Many modern philosophers are “materialists.” This course will examine the nature of philosophical materialism, trace its roots to earlier philosophical traditions, and consider some of the important philosophical attempts to oppose this trend. We will draw out the implications of materialism for a range of philosophical questions such as: What is the ultimate nature of reality? What is knowledge, and is it possible to gain knowledge? Is the mind the brain, or is it a spiritual entity? Does God exist? Do we have free will or are we controlled by external forces? What am I? How should we treat others? Is morality relative or absolute? What is the foundation of political authority? What kind of society should we create?

PHIL 152-02 Philosophy through Film

Few of us have the time in our daily lives to ponder deep philosophical questions such as: “What makes me who I am?” “Is there such a thing as Free will?” “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?” However, without realizing it most of us encounter profound philosophical questions such as these on the moment we sign into Netflix. For good reason, some of the most compelling films and television series are driven by philosophical questions and concerns. In this course we will use both film and television both as a starting point for philosophical discussion and as material for philosophical 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 film, in text, and in life. You will also learn how to extract an argument from a text or a film, and to critically evaluate it in a rigorous way. Additionally, you will learn how to clearly and effectively communicate philosophical ideas in writing.

PSYC 153-01 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.

PSYC 153-02 The Psychology of Me

If I offered you \$50 today or \$100 in two months, would you take the money and run or wait for the bigger pay out? If you call a new acquaintance by the wrong name, would you die of embarrassment or be able to laugh it off? All human behavior is the same result of electrical and chemical impulses in the brain, and yet those impulses can lead to an infinite number of outcomes. In this FYS, we will explore the psychology of YOU (and me and him and her and them!). What influences your behavior, your decisions, your likes and dislikes? How much control do you have over your behavior, decisions, likes and dislikes? We'll attempt to unlock the mind's biases and understand topics like our lack of self-control and the depths of our feelings of embarrassment.

RELS 152-01 & 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 Gender and Natural Resource Management

This seminar examines gender in the context of natural resource management. What makes Boy Scouts so different from Girl Scouts? Why is a lumberjack usually a man? Why does the duty of collecting water in Bangladesh usually fall to women? Masculinity and femininity, as social constructs, dictate human relationships with their environment all over the world. Gender is now a critical topic in climate change research, especially in developing countries, due to the disproportionate impacts that climate-induced events have on women. To add complexity, gender is only one of many axes of difference that intersect in places, spaces, and humans to form experiences of nature and global change. This course examines these differences through reflection and analysis.

SOC 153-02 Revolutionary Change

This class looks at moments of major social change in human history, from political revolutions to cultural revolutions to scientific revolutions. Change is a persistent condition of human societies and this class looks at what it takes to create moments of major change. Is change always possible? Is change always desirable? Do people ever fight against change? What does it take for change to be truly revolutionary? We'll look at theories of change and actual moments that changed how we live and understand the world around us.