

The following seminars will be offered during **Spring semester 2018**:

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 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 and to consider what it might mean to be posthuman.

GOVT 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 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.

LLRN 151-01 Classical Origins of Western Culture

This course explores literature from Classical Greece and Rome in order to see how the foundation of Western thought provides perspectives on challenges within contemporary Western culture. Topics include fate and free will; character virtues and vices; the tensions between duties to the self, to family and to the state; justice and civil disobedience; war and violence; language, art and propaganda; love and sexuality; and the body and emotions. Texts include Homer's *Iliad*; Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone*; and Plato's *Apology*, *Crito* and *Symposium*.

PHIL 152-01 & 02 Philosophy and Literature

This course is guided by two fundamental assumptions: first, all great literary works are inherently philosophical; second, great works of literature and great works of philosophy can complement one another in a way that deepens our understanding of both. By comparing and contrasting literary works, e.g., Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, Sophocles' *Antigone*, and Sartre's *No Exit*, with philosophical ones, e.g., Plato's *Apology*, Kierkegaard's *Fear and*

Trembling, and Sartre's *The Humanism of Existentialism*, we will explore fundamental philosophical themes such as self-knowledge, personal identity, and freedom.

PSYC 153-01 The Evolution of Empathy

Frans de Waal, in his book *The Age of Empathy*, argues that “Greed is out, empathy is in.” Although evolutionary principles are often used to explain the selfish nature of society, group collaboration and empathy also have evolutionary origins and are in fact important for survival. In this First Year Seminar, we will read *The Age of Empathy* as well as empirical research articles in order to examine how the capacity for empathy and other related cognitive abilities evolved in humans and other species. We will also learn about research methods used in the field of psychology to study such behavior. Be prepared to see humans and animals in a new light, and be challenged to think about reasons why we act the way we do.

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 -02 Religion and Protest in the US, Past and Present

Religious leaders and activists have played an important part throughout the history of the US leading and speaking for movements and protests, from the abolitionist movement, to the feminist movement, to Black Lives Matter today. This seminar will look at the writings of

religious leaders of social movements in order to learn about what they believed and practiced, both in terms of religion and justice, how they represent their religion, and how they found themselves in conflict with it. It will cover the Abrahamic religions as well as Indigenous religions and Indian religions like Hinduism and Buddhism. Finally, as a class that focuses on developing writing skills in conversation with these historical figures, it will emphasize and engage activists and leaders who were themselves great writers.

SOC 153-01 Capitalism

Our goals during this course will be to develop a better understanding of the dominant social system in the world today: Capitalism. More than just an economic idea, capitalism has transformed the world and influenced social organization globally for centuries. We will take a closer look at how the social system of capitalism works, how it changes, and how it continues to evolve today. We will also pay particular attention to how capitalism influences other social conditions (environment, inequalities, etc...) and how it has played a central role in influencing nearly everything around us.

SOC 153-02 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.