

The following seminars will be offered during **Fall semester 2020**:

HIST 152 - Race and Revolution

What is a revolution? How has our understanding of revolution changed over time? How do revolutions relate to global structures of inequality and oppression such as coloniality, white supremacy and capitalism? We will explore these questions through a study of revolutions and revolutionary movements from the fifteenth century to the present. We will pay particular attention to the way in which racialized people around the world have envisioned and struggled for liberation from oppression, leading to different conceptions of decolonization and racial justice across time and space.

SOC 153 - Ethics of the Criminal Justice System

Ethics of the Criminal Justice System discusses ethical dilemmas and their philosophical foundations that occur in the American Criminal Justice System. Drawing on a criminological framework, the students will investigate problems that surface with law enforcement, prosecutorial power, judicial discretion, the death penalty, and mass incarceration. Throughout the semester, students will develop and hone ethical reasoning skills and gain familiarity with the nuanced problems that arise in the criminal justice system due to race, class, power, and socioeconomic status. To refine students' abilities to articulate their ideas, written assignments will take the form of empirical-based, formal analyses on various, highly debated criminal justice topics including power and policing, race and justice, the criminalization of the poor, and the collateral consequences of mass incarceration. In addition to traditional writing, reading and critical thinking assignments, the course also offers a Digital Arts and Humanities (DAsH) aspect, which includes hands-on tech and data analysis projects as well as listening to and creating podcasts. This class also often hosts guest speakers, such as police officers and attorneys, to provide holistic perspectives on the issues discussed throughout the semester. This is a fast-paced, high intensity DAsH course designed to broaden perspectives and challenge previously held beliefs while learning new technological skills.

ART 151 - Roots of the Modern World

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.

LLRN 151 - 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 how and why the cultural and political themes of that period have stayed relevant enough to have been continuously 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, Frank Miller (Zach Snyder), Debra Granik, and Sarah Ruhl.

PSYC 153 - The Age 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.

PHIL 152-02 - Philosophy and Literature

Two fundamental assumptions guide this course: 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, virtue, and freedom.

POSC 153 - Mass Media, American Politics and the 2020 Election

This course will provide students with analytical tools to understand the role of the media in American politics and the impact it has on policy making, campaigning, and most importantly, the 2020 presidential election. First, we will examine the structure of news media as a political and economic institution. This will include the historical evolution of media and how it is being transformed by the internet today. Next, we will explore the ways in which political actors, both inside and outside of government, try to shape the messages broadcast through media toward policy or electoral goals. During this part of the course we will pay particular attention to how various politicians, organizations, and campaigns try to influence, circumvent, or critique the media, and the status of the press in American politics. Finally, we will examine the effects that the media has on citizens, and the role the public is playing in political media in the internet era.

ENGL 151 - Other Women's Voices: Intersectional Feminism, #MeToo, and Reckoning with Authority

It is widely shared and advertised that an American woman makes 78 cents to an American man's dollar. But this statistic only applies to white women. Black women earn 64 cents a white man's dollar and Hispanic women earn 56 cents. If traditional feminism overlooks or ignores the struggles of women of color, LGBTQ women and women of other minority groups, then is it truly feminism at all? Intersectional feminism challenges us to consider the multitude number of ways women experience discrimination. It challenges us to consider how and why other women's voices have been left out of larger political debates over suffrage, representation, pay equality, gender discrimination, etc. In this seminar We will discuss the intertwined ideas of femininity, agency, race, sexuality, and representation, across a variety of literary genres. Readings will include works by Roxanne Gay, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Paula Vogel, *Five Lesbian Brothers*, Alison Bechdel, Margaret Atwood, Audre Lorde, Suzan-Lori Parks, Lynn Nottage, among others. In the nineteenth century, middle class and upper class

American women saw their behaviors 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, economic, and political questions facing the nation, culminating in the first formal, nationally engaged feminist movement. This First Year Seminar (FYS) considers the work that is still being done, as well as the work that remains.

PSYC 153-01 - Not All Wounds are Visible: The Psychological Effects of 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 trauma, a phenomenon that has received greater attention in the aftermath of American military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Topics of focus in this course include the challenge of distinguishing between chronic stressors and traumas (e.g., is the COVID-19 epidemic a chronic stressor or a trauma?), 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*), and news magazines.

PHIL 152-01 - Roots of Philosophy

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 televisions' 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.

RELS 152-01 - The Sacred and the Secular in Religious Imagination.

Religion is interwoven into the fabric of our society. It permeates everything: the way people live, speak, dress, eat, vote and even tell stories. The Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel tells us “God love stories and our lives are the stories God tells.” Religion is life itself and it transmits truth through the centuries. As varied as life is, religions can be described as processes that transmit and attempt to preserve truth through sacred and secular stories. What is truth today? What is your personal truth? In this course, students will examine a variety of religious stories as well as methods of storytelling including myth, history, biography, film, and memoir, in an effort to understand the basic contours of religiosity. They will also produce sacred stories of their own.

RELS 152 - 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 and secular 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.