

The following Core courses will be offered during **Spring semester 2019**:

ART 150-01 & 02 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 & 04 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, and Junot Diaz.

ENGL 150-02 & 06**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 150-03**Roots of the Modern Age: Literature, Empire and Desire**

This class will introduce you to some canonical (and some not so canonical) works of literature that continue to contribute to our understanding of the modern world. Over the course of the semester, we will explore the literary representation of the British 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 British imperialism and deal with questions of difference and displacement across a range of contexts. We will focus in particular on literary explorations of the relationship between England and her colonies, and the ways in which different forms of desire have been deployed to characterize these interactions during and after the period of colonization.

ENGL 150-05 Violence and Representation

What signifying power do we attribute to violence? Do authors incorporate acts of violence into their works to signal a breakdown in communication or a form of communication? This course, as part of the core curriculum, will investigate these and other questions by analyzing landmark texts ranging from a fourteenth century “comedy” to a twentieth-century novel. Rather than treating violence as a mystifying abstraction, we will strive to explain its nuanced intersection with issues such as class, race, and gender.

POSC 150-01 America Now!!

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of the social science discipline of political science, through analyses of the basic concepts of politics, political theories, comparative and international politics, political institutions and public policies. Its primary focus will be on the historical evolution and contemporary challenges of the United States’ political system, as salient concepts such as freedom, justice, equality and power, are analyzed. Students will also examine current public policy issues, as they simulate elected legislators, candidates and citizens of the United States, in discussions, debates and policy presentations.

POSC 150-02 & 03 Mass Media and American Politics

This course will provide students with analytical tools to understand the role of the media in American politics and the impact it has on policymaking, campaigning, and most importantly, the general public. 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. This section will cover fundamental concepts regarding political news media including the production of news, news bias(es), the current state of professional journalism, the freedom of the press, and the role of popular media. 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 increasingly central role that the public is playing in political media in the internet era.

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 & 03**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 150-04**Roots: The West and The World: Revolutions**

This course is an introduction to the history of revolutions from the late fifteenth century to the present. The first two thirds of the course will explore revolutionary transformations in Europe/North America from the late fifteenth century to the early twentieth century, while the last third of the course will focus on revolutions that have taken place across the world throughout the twentieth century in response to Western imperialism and capitalism.

HIST 150-05 & 06**Reflections: Political Conversations and Practice in the Western Tradition (1500-Present)**

Since the very beginnings of political thinking, both theorists and rulers have observed and reported on the events, people, and topics that shaped their respective societies and cultures. Many times, they used their writings to interpret or criticize those in power or even the implications of the broader establishments themselves. This course explores the reflections of many such individuals throughout the pre-modern and modern eras and how they understood or

even influenced their own political environments over time. By adding historical context to these theorists' writings, we will ultimately craft a valuable and unique understanding of many events from over the past 500+ years.

LLRN 102-01 & 02 Ancient Mediterranean Journeys

This course is a multi-disciplinary exploration of Greek and Roman contributions to the heritage of western culture. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of ancient Mediterranean cultures and societies in order to develop multicultural awareness and sensitivity and a value for the humanities, especially through building connections and comparisons between social-political trends and literary genres as well as between antiquity and modern times. The readings for Prof. De Sena's sections introduce students to the epic, historical, philosophical, and theatrical literature of the Classical World. Class discussions and assignments emphasize topics such as leaders and governance, ethics, intellect vs. instinct, history vs. myth, and role models. The course is also intended to help students improve skills in oral and written expression and critical thinking.

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 102-04 Classical Origins of Western Culture

This course will examine some of the major poetic, dramatic, and philosophical works of the classical West. Texts to be covered include Homer's *Iliad*, Sophocles' *Antigone*, Aristophanes' *Clouds*, Plato's *Apology*, Cicero's *On Friendship*, and selections from Lucretius' *On the Nature of Things*.

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.

LLRN 102-06**Classical Origins of Western Culture**

In Spring, 2019, 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*.

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

This course 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 popular music of today. 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, technology, and economics and their influence on the music of that particular culture, subculture, or specific time period. All of these objectives are rather secondary to the primary goal of understanding the thoughts and ideas surrounding sound (e.g., music vs. noise) in our day-to-day world and how sound influences people of the past and by consequence us today.

PHIL 150-01 & 03 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.

PHIL 150-02 Roots: Philosophy

This course introduces students to central metaphysical and epistemological questions in the history of philosophical inquiry into human nature. We will investigate questions such as: Can we really be free or is everything determined? What is knowledge and why is it valuable to us? Can we know anything and if so, how is this knowledge obtained? What does metaphysical freedom (or lack thereof) imply for taking responsibility for our actions? What is a person and what makes a person the same person over time? In addition to examining some of the fundamental questions philosophers have pursued in both classical and contemporary texts, this class will introduce you to the nature of philosophical reasoning. The course is divided into units

corresponding to the major categories of philosophical inquiry the course is concerned with. Within each unit we will look at well-known historical works as well as contemporary approaches to the core problems discussed. 60% of the course will focus on Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, St. Aquinas, and Descartes. The writings of these five authors form the basis of our inquiries in this course.

PHIL 150-04 Roots: Philosophy

Although no one course can possibly do justice to all of the remarkable ideas of the modern age, this course will introduce you to many of them. The goals of the course include: 1) understanding issues and philosophical ideas that helped to shape the modern age; and 2) learning to think, read, speak, and write analytically and critically about them. We will address some of the most influential thinkers of the modern world whose impact was felt far beyond the confines of philosophy and the scholarly world, for example, Rousseau, Marx, Freud, and Sartre. In order to introduce important ideas of the modern world, we will begin by setting the stage through discussing Ancient Greek culture and philosophy, and then cover figures from the last few centuries. We will close the semester with a discussion of existential freedom and choice in Jean-Paul Sartre, and its applications to feminism in Simone de Beauvoir.

PHIL 150-05 Roots of Knowledge, Power 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? What's the relationship between duty and truth? 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 critiques of philosophy dealing with race, gender, class, and globalization. We will focus on how conceptions of knowledge and truth inform structures of power and movements of resistance, both in the ancient world and in our contemporary moment.

PSYC 150-01 & 04 **Roots: Psychology**

This course provides an overview of the major content areas and theories in psychology. Topics learning, memory, perception, development, personality, social, and abnormal psychology. The course also features debates on several contemporary controversies in psychology. Together with readings and lectures, these debates are used to help students further develop their writing and critical thinking skills.

PSYC 150-02 **Roots: Psychology**

This course is intended to introduce you to the field of psychology. By the end of the course, you will be familiar with the main themes in the field of psychology as a social science. You will be able to describe the important concepts and common elements of each area of psychology from developmental to cognition to social to clinical. Because psychology is an enormously broad field, you will be required to attend lectures and read the textbook to gain a full grasp of the field.

PSYC 150-03 **Roots: Psychology**

This course will provide an overview of the science of Psychology by introducing basic principles, theories, research and scientific techniques that Psychologists use to describe, explain and predict human behavior and mental processes. Students will develop an understanding of the complexity of human behavior and will be able to explore the impact socio-cultural factors, diversity and environment have on Psychology. Critical thinking and analysis will aid students in applying psychological principles to problems and interactions in real life.

SOC 150-01 & 02 **Roots: The Adaptable Human**

Some argue that we are living in the Anthropocene, a new geologic epoch created by humanity's footprint, heralded by climate change. These shifting climatic regimes are projected to particularly negatively affect poor, marginalized populations, creating a heightened urgency to understand effective adaptation measures. This course explores the origins of research in human adaptation, including the origins of the "man-made" and "natural" worlds, the "settled" versus the "wild." The readings and lectures will investigate the tensions between ethnographic evaluations

of vulnerability, empirical modeling of human resilience, and how those disciplinary schisms stemmed from, and can productively return to adaptation research.

SOC 150-03 **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 150-04 & 05 **Roots: Contemporary American Society**

What is sociology? What does it mean to think from a sociological perspective? We all exist in the social world, but often the processes that make up that world are taken for granted.

Sociologists research matters relating to the origin, persistence, and change in social norms, the composition of diverse populations, and the meanings attached to the social construction of various social problems, including racial, class, and gender inequality.

This course is designed to provide you with a broad introduction to sociology using contemporary America as a case study. We will read a collection of readings each week, which will highlight important issues, theories, concepts, and methodologies in the field. We will focus on several aspects of American society including, race, education, gender, social class, the family, and poverty. In the long term, the exposure to the sociological approach to social problems will provide a more thorough and nuanced understanding of public issues that affect humans on both macro and micro levels.