

The following seminars will be offered during **Spring 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                     The Literature of Witness**

This First-Year Seminar asks students to analyze what it means to witness and to write about that witnessing. How has a literature of witness changed over the course of time, space, and place? How do social, economic, and cultural factors impact the creation of a literature of witness and its consumption? Through analytical and creative writing assignments, students will be asked to explore what the literature of witness teaches us about being human.

**ENGL 151- 02                 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.

### **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                      Revolutions and Revolutionary Thought**

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 Western imperialism and capitalism have shaped modern revolutions, and the way in which revolutions emerge as a response to the interaction between local concerns and global developments.

**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                      Philosophy of 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? 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.

**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, 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.

## **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 Ethical Foundations of Criminal Justice**

This course discusses ethical theories and their philosophical foundations in relation to the criminal justice system. Drawing on a historical and contemporary criminological and sociological theoretical foundation, the students will investigate how the criminal justice system has evolved into what it is today and how it navigates systemic ethical problems. Addressing and acknowledging the ethical dilemmas that plague our current system, the students will gain an in-depth understanding of the various issues that dictate laws, law enforcement behavior, court proceedings, and the use of corrections and incarceration. Throughout the semester, students will develop and hone ethical reasoning skills and gain familiarity with professional standards and codes of ethics that should, ideally, be utilized in the criminal justice field. The course will prompt critical thinking through reading-based group discussions and friendly debates and out-of-class writing assignments. 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 race and justice, the death penalty, and the sanctioned use of torture. This class also often hosts guest speakers, such as police officers, to provide holistic perspectives on these issues. This is a fast-paced, high-intensity course designed to broaden perspectives and challenge previously held beliefs.

**SOC 153-02****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.