Bowdoin College Course Guide First Year Seminars

Students are required to complete a first-year seminar; this should normally be completed by the end of the first semester and no later than the end of the second semester in college.

Changes made in Polaris are normally reflected in the Course Guide within 24-48 hours. Email courses@bowdoin.edu with any questions regarding the Course Guide.

Information as of Sep 16, 2015 - Subject to change
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Africana Studies

AFRS 1010 b. Racism. H. Partridge. Every Fall. Fall 2015
Examines issues of racism in the United States, with attention to the social psychology of racism, its history, its relationship to social structure, and its ethical and moral implications. (Same as SOC 1010)

AFRS 1012 c. Affirmative Action and United States History. Brian Purnell. Every Fall. Fall 2015
Interdisciplinary exploration of the rise and fall (and reappearance) of the “affirmative action debate” that shaped so much of the American “culture wars” during the 1970s–2000s. Students primarily study affirmative action in the United States, but there will also be comparative analysis of “affirmative action” systems in societies outside the United States, such as South Africa and India. Examines important Supreme Court cases that have shaped the contours of affirmative action, the rise of “diversity” discourse, and the different ways political and cultural ideologies, not to mention historical notions of American identity, have determined when, where, and how affirmative action has existed, and whom it benefits. Through examination of law, economics, sociology, anthropology, history, and political science, introduces students to different methodological approaches that inform Africana Studies and that field’s examination of the role people of African descent have played in contemporary and historical American society. Writing intensive. Analytical discussions of assigned texts.

Explores the ways in which the idea of American freedom has been defined both with and against slavery through readings of legal and literary texts. Students come to terms with the intersections between the political, literary, and historical concept of freedom and its relation to competing definitions of American citizenship. (Same as ENGL 1026)

Examines Black women's distinct forms of political resistance to long-standing practices of segregation, marginalization, and surveillance in the U.S. How did early Black women such as Ida B. Wells enter politics in the era of segregation? How did Black women like Fannie Lou Hamer, Angela Davis, and Ntozake Shange wrestle with the politics of racial solidarity during the civil rights/Black power era? How has the contemporary political and economic climate of the post-industrial city compelled working class Black women to develop new modes of resistance? Uses books, film, and performance art to expand our understanding of women's political history through the lens of Black women's experiences in and outside major resistance movements in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. (Same as GWS 1035)
AFRS 1041  c. Congo in Word and Image. David Gordon. Every Other Fall. Fall 2015

Introduces Congo as part of a global discussion about humanity through text, film, music, and art. Studies novels that condemned colonial and post-colonial exploitation of Congolese resources, appreciates staggering Congo art that inspired European artists, analyzes Congo politics that produced liberators and dictators, and reviews Congo rhythms that danced across the continent. Concludes by considering ongoing humanitarian interventions in Congo against child soldiering, genocide, and rape. By placing words and images developed by outsiders alongside those of Congolese peoples, explores both the Congo and how the Congo has been conjured as a subject of a global imagination. (Same as HIST 1041)
**Art**


Architecture is unavoidable: we spend our lives in and around buildings and in spaces and landscapes defined by them. Too often we take the built environment for granted, oblivious of how it affects us and shapes our lives. This seminar aims to explore architecture’s critical role in creating a sense of place, settings for community, symbols of our aspirations and fears, cultural icons and political ideals. As we investigate the fundamental principles of architecture, we will study closely some of history’s great buildings and spaces. Students will learn how to talk about architecture and write about it. (Same as ENVS 1011)

**ARTH 1026 c. Public Art and Social Engagement. Natasha Goldman. Every Other Fall. Fall 2015**

Examines public art that generates conversations about identity, disenfranchisement, and belonging, 1960 - present. Topics include but are not limited to: borders and immigration (Emily Jacir, Border Film Project), minority identities (Rick Lowe, Suzanne Lacy), queer subjectivity (Gran Fury, Felix González-Torres), environmental activism (Natalie Jeremijenko, Chris Drury), and memorials to tragedy (Ground Zero). Theories of memory and the public sphere help us to analyze works studied. Students work in groups to commission, design and jury a hypothetical work of public art.
Asian Studies


Animation is a dominant cultural force in Japan, and perhaps its most important cultural export. Examines the ways Japanese animation represents Japan's history and society and the diverse ways in which it is consumed abroad. How does animation showcase Japanese views of childhood, sexuality, national identity, and gender roles? How does its mode of story-telling build upon traditional pictorial forms in Japan? Focuses on the aesthetic, thematic, social and historical characteristics of Japanese animation films, provides a broad survey of the place of animation in twentieth-century Japan. Films include Grave of Fireflies, Spirited Away, Ghost in the Shell, Akira, and Princess Kaguya.


Interrogates contemporary globalization by examining how Indians have interacted with and been shaped by the broader world, with a focus on the last two centuries. Topics include the place of India in the European imagination and vice versa; India's role in the rise of modern global capitalism and imperialism; and the distinctive features of contemporary globalization. (Same as HIST 1038)

ASNS 1046  b. Global Media and Politics. Henry Laurence. Every Fall. Fall 2015

Examines the impact of media including the Internet, newspapers, and television, on politics and society in cross-national perspective. Asks how differences in the ownership and regulation of media affect how news is selected and presented, and looks at various forms of government censorship and commercial self-censorship. Also considers the role of the media and “pop culture” in creating national identities, perpetuating ethnic stereotypes, and providing regime legitimation; and explores the impact of satellite television and the Internet on rural societies and authoritarian governments. (Same as GOV 1026)
Biopics (biographical movies) of musicians usually bear a complicated relation to the documented historical truth of a
musician's life. Studies films from approximately 1960 onwards—about both classical and popular musicians, composers, and
performers; men and women—and compares them to the documentable, biographical facts about these musicians. This
evaluation allows for consideration of the films' depictions of genius, their sense of the place of the musician in society, the
narrative arc of an artist's life, and the nature of truth in biography. Films studied may include Amadeus (Mozart),
Impromptu (Chopin), What's Love Got to Do with It (Tina Turner), and Ray (Ray Charles). (Same as MUS 1016)


Considers gangster films in depth, exploring how popular narrative film manages the threat posed by the criminal's racial,
ethnic, or gender difference. Examines shifts in the genre's popularity and assesses the implications of considering genre
entertainment art. Weekly writing, extensive reading, and mandatory attendance at evening film screenings.

CINE 1029 c. Comediennes, Historians, and Storytellers: Women Filmmakers in the

Examines the work of women filmmakers in the German-speaking countries since the 1960s. Explores key interests of these
directors: the telling of stories and (German, European, global) histories, the exploration of gender identity, sexuality, and
various waves of feminism, the portrayal of women, the participation in the cinematic conventions of Hollywood as well as
independent and avant-garde film, spectatorship. Analyzes a range of films and cinematic genres—to include narrative
cinema, biography, documentary, and comedy. Also introduces students to film criticism; includes weekly film screenings.
No knowledge of German is required. Note: Fulfills the film theory requirement and the non-US cinema requirement for
Cinema Studies minors. (Same as GER 1029, GLS 1029, GWS 1029)

Examines Greek and Roman notions of responsibility to family, state, and self, and the social ideals and pressures that shaped ancient attitudes towards duty, shame, and honor. Readings may include works by Homer, Sophocles, Euripides, Virgil, Ovid, and Petronius.

Romeo and Juliet as garden gnomes, Richard III as Adolf Hitler, King Lear as aging patriarch of an Iowa family farm...these are some of the ways that Shakespeare's plays and characters have been adapted over the centuries. Reading plays from representative genres together with their adaptations, we examine the aesthetic, cultural, and political transformations of the Bard in prose, film, and other mediums. Readings include Oscar Wilde, Tom Stoppard, Jane Smiley, Marjorie Garber, and Arthur Philips, with a film by John Madden (Shakespeare in Love).


Examines various monsters and creatures that emerge from the pages of Victorian narratives. What do these strange beings tell us about literary form, cultural fantasies, and anxieties, or about conceptions of selfhood and the body? How do they embody (or disembody) identities that subvert sexual, racial, and gendered norms? Authors may include Lewis Carroll, Richard Marsh, Robert Louis Stevenson, Bram Stoker, and H.G. Wells. (Same as GLS 1005)


Explores the cultural history of Joan of Arc—heretic, witch, martyr, and saint—beginning with the historical records of her trial and execution and then moving through the many lies and legends that proliferated about her in the centuries after her death. Compares and contrasts the drastically different representations of her in texts, films, paintings, and songs ranging from the medieval to the modern.


An examination of early modernity from 1500 to 1800. Topics include modern doubt and skepticism; the quest for certainty; the rise of science; the emergence of individuality and its impact on ethics, politics, and religion; the Reformation; the Enlightenment; and the beginnings of Romanticism. Authors may include Montaigne, Shakespeare, Descartes, Bacon, Milton, Hobbes, Locke, Defoe, Rousseau, and Mary Shelley. This course is taught in association with another first-year seminar, GOV 1010. Both classes share a common syllabus and occasionally meet together for film viewings.


Close analysis of the work of three seminal American poets: Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams, and Wallace Stevens.

Explores the ways in which the idea of American freedom has been defined both with and against slavery through readings of legal and literary texts. Students come to terms with the intersections between the political, literary, and historical concept of freedom and its relation to competing definitions of American citizenship. (Same as AFRS 1026)

ENGL 1027  c.  The Real Life of Literature.  Guy Mark Foster.  Non-Standard Rotation.  Fall 2015

Examines literary fiction set against the backdrop of actual historical events, such as wars, social protest events, terrorist attacks, earthquakes, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the Holocaust, and political assassinations. Students not only analyze the literary strategies writers employ to fictionalize history and to historicize fiction, but also explore the methodological and philosophical implications of such creative gestures. In the end, this two-fold process transforms both categories in ways that permanently unsettle the status of fiction as merely imaginative and the historical as merely fact. Potential authors: Virginia Woolf, Octavia Butler, Yasmina Khadra, David Mura, Nicole Krause, Andrew Holleran, among others.


Examines America as it is seen in literature from home and abroad. How have American authors described America’s place in the world? How has America’s present role as the sole global superpower affected how we view its past? What does America look like today from the perspective of the third world? Explores the way literature represents space and time, from current events to world history. Authors include Henry James, Ernest Hemingway, James Baldwin, Laila Lalami, Michelle Cliff, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.


An introduction to the study and creation of various kinds of narrative forms (short story, travel essay, bildungsroman, detective fiction, environmental essay, satire, personal essay, etc.). Students write critical essays and use the readings in the class as models for their own short stories and works of creative nonfiction. Class members discuss a wide range of published canonical and contemporary narratives and workshop their own essays and stories. In doing so, the class dedicates itself to both the study of literature and the making of it.
A look at contemporary global fiction with an eye for the influence of Franz Kafka (1883-1924). Investigates how and why current writers from around the world have acknowledged Kafka's work as they have engaged with themes of modern alienation, modes of magical realism, ideas of existence's absurdity, images of arbitrary authoritarian power, and questions of human/animal difference. Considers what it means for a writer to spawn an adjective as well as whether an international literary world grown ever more Kafka friendly is necessarily evidence of a world grown ever more Kafkaesque. Authors, in addition to Kafka, may include Jorge Luis Borges, Italo Calvino, Can Xue, J. M. Coetzee, Yiyun Li, Haruki Murakami, and Jonathan Tel.
Environmental Studies


Architecture is unavoidable: we spend our lives in and around buildings and in spaces and landscapes defined by them. Too often we take the built environment for granted, oblivious of how it affects us and shapes our lives. This seminar aims to explore architecture’s critical role in creating a sense of place, settings for community, symbols of our aspirations and fears, cultural icons and political ideals. As we investigate the fundamental principles of architecture, we will study closely some of history’s great buildings and spaces. Students will learn how to talk about architecture and write about it. (Same as ARTH 1011)


Explores current controversies in energy, giving particular attention to debates surrounding the implementation of renewable energy in Northern New England. Through both popular and scholarly readings and one mandatory field trip, students will engage with critical perspectives on consumer-oriented culture and identities, and on tensions between urban and rural visions of landscape. The course will also contemplate the social structures governing regional development and planning in which renewable energy strategies are framed. (Same as SOC 1026)
Gender, Sexuality and Women St


Examines various monsters and creatures that emerge from the pages of Victorian narratives. What do these strange beings tell us about literary form, cultural fantasies, and anxieties, or about conceptions of selfhood and the body? How do they embody (or disembody) identities that subvert sexual, racial, and gendered norms? Authors may include Lewis Carroll, Richard Marsh, Robert Louis Stevenson, Bram Stoker, and H.G. Wells. (Same as ENGL 1005)


Examines the work of women filmmakers in the German-speaking countries since the 1960s. Explores key interests of these directors: the telling of stories and (German, European, global) histories, the exploration of gender identity, sexuality, and various waves of feminism, the portrayal of women, the participation in the cinematic conventions of Hollywood as well as independent and avant-garde film, spectatorship. Analyzes a range of films and cinematic genres—to include narrative cinema, biography, documentary, and comedy. Also introduces students to film criticism; includes weekly film screenings. No knowledge of German is required. Note: Fulfills the film theory requirement and the non-US cinema requirement for Cinema Studies minors. (Same as CINE 1029, GER 1029, GWS 1029)


Introduces a variety of historical perspectives on illness and health. Considers the development of scientific knowledge, and the social, political, and economic forces that have influenced public health policy. Topics include epidemics, maternal and child welfare, AIDS, and national health care. (Same as HIST 1010)


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Examines how East and West clashed over competing notions about sexuality, gender relations, and family structures. In colonial societies such as British-India, French Indochina (Vietnam) and the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia), institutions like polygamy, the harem, temple prostitution, widow burning, and child marriage were shocking to civil servants and settlers from Europe. White-skinned Europeans felt surrounded by alien cultures because of their subjects’ skin color as well as their peculiar, even abhorrent, sexual practices. Viewing Asian cultures as inferior bolstered a Western sense of racial superiority and vindicated Europeans’ so-called natural right to occupy and rule large territories in South and Southeast Asia. By exploring nineteenth and early twentieth-century ethnographic accounts, travel literature, scientific texts on racial hierarchies, and colonial novels -- in addition to analyzing several films set in colonial India, Vietnam and Indonesia -- students in this seminar will explore the evolving power relationships between European settlers and the native inhabitants of colonial Asia.

GWS 1035  b. Black Women's Political Activism. Brittany Lewis. New Course. Fall 2015

Examines Black women's distinct forms of political resistance to long-standing practices of segregation, marginalization, and surveillance in the U.S. How did early Black women such as Ida B. Wells enter politics in the era of segregation? How did Black women like Fannie Lou Hamer, Angela Davis, and Ntozake Shange wrestle with the politics of racial solidarity during the civil rights/Black power era? How has the contemporary political and economic climate of the post-industrial city compelled working class Black women to develop new modes of resistance? Uses books, film, and performance art to expand our understanding of women's political history through the lens of Black women's experiences in and outside major resistance movements in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. (Same as AFRS 1034)

Examines the work of women filmmakers in the German-speaking countries since the 1960s. Explores key interests of these directors: the telling of stories and (German, European, global) histories, the exploration of gender identity, sexuality, and various waves of feminism, the portrayal of women, the participation in the cinematic conventions of Hollywood as well as independent and avant-garde film, spectatorship. Analyzes a range of films and cinematic genres—to include narrative cinema, biography, documentary, and comedy. Also introduces students to film criticism; includes weekly film screenings. No knowledge of German is required. Note: Fulfills the film theory requirement and the non-US cinema requirement for Cinema Studies minors. (Same as CINE 1029, GLS 1029, GWS 1029)
Government and Legal Studies

GOV 1000 b. Citizenship and Representation in American Politics. Michael Franz. Every Other Fall. Fall 2015

Examines the issues of citizenship and representation in American politics. What does it mean to be a democratic citizen in the United States? Are we granted only rights, but no responsibilities? Or does citizenship demand that we take some active interest in our political life? Considers what it means for elected representatives to represent constituents. How do we know if our political system is accurately reflecting the interests of its citizens? When is an elected leader doing his or her job well? What evidence can we use to answer such questions?

GOV 1002 b. Political Leadership. Andrew Rudalevige. Every Fall. Fall 2015

We talk about political leadership all the time, mostly to complain about its absence. Leadership is surely one of the key elements of politics, but what does it mean? Do we know it when we see it? What kinds of leaders do we have, and what kinds do we want? How do modern democratic conceptions of governance mesh with older visions of authority? Of ethics? Looks both at real world case studies and the treatment of leadership in literature. Offers a wide variety of perspectives on leadership and the opportunities and dangers it presents—both for those who want to lead, and for those who are called upon to follow.

GOV 1010 c. Becoming Modern. Paul Franco. Every Other Fall. Fall 2015

An examination of early modernity from 1500 to 1800. Topics include modern doubt and skepticism; the quest for certainty; the rise of science; the emergence of individuality and its impact on ethics, politics, and religion; the Reformation; the Enlightenment; and the beginnings of Romanticism. Authors may include Montaigne, Shakespeare, Descartes, Bacon, Milton, Hobbes, Locke, Defoe, Rousseau, and Mary Shelley. This course is taught in association with another first-year seminar, English 1019. Both classes share a common syllabus and occasionally meet together for film viewings.

GOV 1011 b. Fundamental Questions: Exercises in Political Theory. Jean Yarbrough. Every Fall. Fall 2015

Explores the fundamental questions in political life: What is justice? What is happiness? Are human beings equal or unequal by nature? Do they even have a nature, or are they “socially constructed”? Are there ethical standards for political action that exist prior to law and, if so, where do they come from? Nature? God? History? Readings may include Plato, Aristotle, the Bible, Machiavelli, Locke, Rousseau, Shakespeare, the American Founders, Tocqueville, and Nietzsche.
Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are thought to play a crucial role in politics—monitoring the state, facilitating citizen participation in politics, and articulating policy alternatives. Yet the activities of NGOs vary significantly from one political system to another, most notably differing among developing and developed states and democratic and authoritarian states. In addition, NGOs’ role in the political process is being transformed by globalization and the increasingly transnational nature of political activism. Explores the following questions: How do factors such as a state’s level of economic development, its political culture, the nature of the political regime, and the arrangement of its political institutions shape NGOs’ role and influence in the political process? When and where have NGOs been successful in influencing political developments? How do the growing transnational linkages among NGOs affect their role in domestic politics?

Examines the impact of media including the Internet, newspapers, and television, on politics and society in cross-national perspective. Asks how differences in the ownership and regulation of media affect how news is selected and presented, and looks at various forms of government censorship and commercial self-censorship. Also considers the role of the media and “pop culture” in creating national identities, perpetuating ethnic stereotypes, and providing regime legitimation; and explores the impact of satellite television and the Internet on rural societies and authoritarian governments. (Same as ASNS 1046)

Introduces the student to the nature of warfare throughout various cultures and epochs by focusing on the “Daughters of Mars,” women warriors and warrior queens. Includes case studies from the Trojan war, the early Eurasian steppes, classical Greece and Rome, the High Middle Ages, nineteenth-century Africa, Samurai Japan, the American Civil War, World War II, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Also focuses on the arguments for and against having women in combat, culminating with the contemporary realities and debates concerning American women in combat today. Student research projects investigate these and other related subjects.

Examines different strategies for preventing and controlling armed conflict in international society, and emphasizes the role of diplomacy, international law, and international organizations in the peace-making process.
Despite enjoying a preponderance of resources, the rich and mighty don't always win in life, or in war. Why? How do peasants and insurgents impose their will on more “powerful” organizations? How do wealthy armies at times lose wars to impoverished rebels? Whereas money and material can be measured, divided and counted in a spreadsheet, less quantifiable factors of conflict such as ideas, identity, legitimacy, willpower and fortitude are too-often discounted as secondary factors. But these may, in truth, be at the heart of war, and weapons for the weak to bring down the mighty.
History


Introduces a variety of historical perspectives on illness and health. Considers the development of scientific knowledge, and the social, political, and economic forces that have influenced public health policy. Topics include epidemics, maternal and child welfare, AIDS, and national health care. (Same as GWS 1020)

HIST 1018  c.  Memoirs and Memory in American History. Connie Chiang. Every Other Fall. Fall 2015

Examines the ways in which Americans have remembered the past and documented their experiences in individual memoirs. Considers the tensions between memory and history, the value of memoirs as historical documents, and the extent to which memories deepen, complicate, and even convolute our understanding of twentieth-century United States history. The topical focus of the seminar will vary from year to year and may include immigration, labor, gender and race relations, and war. Writing-intensive, including several short papers and a family history research paper.

HIST 1038  c.  Globalizing India. Rachel Sturman. Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2015

Interrogates contemporary globalization by examining how Indians have interacted with and been shaped by the broader world, with a focus on the last two centuries. Topics include the place of India in the European imagination and vice versa; India's role in the rise of modern global capitalism and imperialism; and the distinctive features of contemporary globalization. (Same as ASNS 1035)

HIST 1041  c.  Congo in Word and Image. David Gordon. Every Other Fall. Fall 2015

Introduces Congo as part of a global discussion about humanity through text, film, music, and art. Studies novels that condemned colonial and post-colonial exploitation of Congolese resources, appreciates staggering Congo art that inspired European artists, analyzes Congo politics that produced liberators and dictators, and reviews Congo rhythms that danced across the continent. Concludes by considering ongoing humanitarian interventions in Congo against child soldiering, genocide, and rape. By placing words and images developed by outsiders alongside those of Congolese peoples, explores both the Congo and how the Congo has been conjured as a subject of a global imagination. (Same as AFRS 1041)
Health care occupies center stage in state and national elections. It has impact on individuals, families, communities, and public health throughout the nation. Inequities in health care in the United States have a direct impact on children and adults, especially those living in poverty, as well as the national economy. Multicultural differences on health care present barriers to improve health status. Introduces the application of different academic disciplines, such as economics, political science, and sociology, to the contours of health care policy and debates, with the following questions forming the core: Why are there inequities in such a wealthy nation as ours? Are health care inequities a fixture in our pluralistic and market based economy? What can be learned from comparison with other, similar nations? Why is so much spent on health care with questionable outcomes? Several written essays and active class participation expected.

Biopics (biographical movies) of musicians usually bear a complicated relation to the documented historical truth of a musician's life. Studies films from approximately 1960 onwards--about both classical and popular musicians, composers, and performers; men and women--and compares them to the documentable, biographical facts about these musicians. This evaluation allows for consideration of the films' depictions of genius, their sense of the place of the musician in society, the narrative arc of an artist's life, and the nature of truth in biography. Films studied may include Amadeus (Mozart), Impromptu (Chopin), What's Love Got to Do with It (Tina Turner), and Ray (Ray Charles). (Same as CINE 1005)
Philosophy


What is it that makes you a person, and what is it that makes you the same person as the little kid in your parents’ photo album? Philosophers have defended a number of different answers to these questions. According to some, it is persistence of the same soul that makes for personal identity. Others argue that it is persistence of the same body that matters, or the continuity of certain biological processes. Still others contend that it is psychological relations that matter. We will canvas all of these answers, and will consider thought experiments about soul swapping, brain transplants, and Star Trek transporters. Readings from both historical and contemporary sources.


Examines philosophical issues raised by the criminal law, including the moral justification of punishment, the proper subject matter of criminal law (that is, what should be a crime?), ethical issues in law enforcement, and the theoretical underpinnings of different criminal defenses.

What role do religious traditions play in shaping our sense of “normal” and “abnormal” when it comes to gender presentation? How do different religions decide on, enforce, or revise these norms? Is religion an obstacle to gender equality or a resource for thinking and “doing” gender in diverse ways? These questions will be examined by looking at contested religious practices such as veiling and circumcision, Western feminist critiques of non-Western ‘patriarchy’, Western appropriations of yoga, reports of spirit possession by women sweatshop workers, and sex-segregated religious spaces like Promise Keepers’ rallies. Includes general discussion of the categories ‘religion’ and ‘gender’.
Russian

RUS 1022 c. "It Happens Rarely, Maybe, but It Does Happen"---Fantasy and Satire in East Central Europe. Lindsay Ceballos. Every Fall. Fall 2015

Explores the fantastic in Russian and East European literature from the 1830s into the late twentieth century. Studies the origins of the East European fantastic in Slavic folklore and through the Romantic movement, and traces the historical development of the genre from country to country and era to era. Examines the use of the fantastic for the purpose of satire, philosophical inquiry, and social commentary, with particular emphasis on its critiques of nationalism, modernity, and totalitarianism. Authors include Nikolai Gogol, Mikhail Bulgakov, Karel Capek, Stanislaw Lem, and Franz Kafka.

Considers art from a comparative, cross-cultural perspective and examines the relationship between Western aesthetics and “art” produced in non-Western cultures (e.g. Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, and others). Through assigned readings and class discussion, we explore topics such as the role of aesthetics in production of art, the significance of how these works are produced and circulated, and the ways art objects acquire meaning.

SOC 1010  b. Racism. H. Partridge. Every Fall. Fall 2015

Examines issues of racism in the United States, with attention to the social psychology of racism, its history, its relationship to social structure, and its ethical and moral implications. (Same as AFRS 1010)


Explores current controversies in energy, giving particular attention to debates surrounding the implementation of renewable energy in Northern New England. Through both popular and scholarly readings and one mandatory field trip, students will engage with critical perspectives on consumer-oriented culture and identities, and on tensions between urban and rural visions of landscape. The course will also contemplate the social structures governing regional development and planning in which renewable energy strategies are framed. (Same as ENVS 1026)