

**Bowdoin College**

**Office of Student Records**

**First-Year Seminars Being Offered Fall Semester 2005**

**Information as of March 29, 2005**

**AFRICANA STUDIES**

Africana Studies **010b,d. Racism.** W 1:00-3:55 (Same as **Sociology 010**) R. Partridge

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.

**ART HISTORY**

Art History **013c,d. Stories and Scrolls.** MW 11:30-12:55 (Same as **Asian Studies 013**) D. Lee

Introduces and examines lessons, legends, myths, and ideal worlds pictured in handscroll paintings of China and Japan. Considers how later viewers reinterpreted these artworks using text sometimes inscribed on the actual scrolls. Students play the roles of artist and audience by creating their own scrolls and composing colophons. Still, emphasis is placed on analyzing images and texts, researching, and writing clearly and intelligently about art. Materials for the course will draw on web resources and the library's Special Collections.

**ASIAN STUDIES**

Asian Studies **013c,d. Stories and Scrolls.** MW 11:30-12:55 (Same as **Art History 013**) D. Lee

Asian Studies **018c. Reincarnations of the Monkey.** MWF 1:30 - 2:25 (Same as **English 012**) B. Kong

Asian Studies **028c,d. Seeker's Lives.** MW 11:30 - 12:55 (Same as **History 028**) K. Smith

**ENGLISH**

English **010c. Modern American Poetry.** TTH 1:00 - 2:25 C. Goodridge

Analysis of the work of authors which may include: Frost, Williams, Stevens, Moore and H.D.

English **011c. Film Noir.** MW 2:30 - 3:55 A. Kibbie

A survey of the film genre from the 1940s to the 1990s. Films include *The Big Sleep*, *Gun Crazy*, *Gilda*, *Chinatown*, and *Bound*. Readings include film criticism and theory, as well as some of the novels adapted for the screen. In addition to regular class sessions, attendance at evening screenings is required.

English **012c. Reincarnations of the Monkey.** MWF 1:30 - 2:25 (Same as **Asian Studies 018**) B. Kong

The legendary Monkey, or Sun Wu Kong of sixteenth-century Wu Cheng-en's *Journey to the West*, is a figure that embodies fierce independence of spirit as much as rebellious mischief and loyal service. This course explores contemporary refigurings of Monkey in diasporic contexts (primarily the U.S., but also Britain and Hong Kong) and in multiple genres (novel, essay, film, and music). How is Monkey transformed, to what purposes, and for what audiences? Authors and artists may include Wu Cheng-en (in translation), Timothy Mo, Maxine Hong Kingston, Frank Chin, Patricia Chao, and Fred Ho.

English **013c. Hawthorne.** TTH 2:30 - 3:55 W. Watterson

Readings include selected short stories, *Fanshawe*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Blithedale Romance*, *The House of the Seven Gables*, *The Marble Faun*, *Septimus Felton*, and James Mellow's *Nathaniel Hawthorne in His Times*.

English **014c. Animal Life.** MWF 10:30 - 11:25 H. Thompson

This course explores the ways in which the figure of the animal serves as both a point of analogy and opposition to the concept of the human, and thus has been crucial for our definitions of human life. Focusing on contemporary world literature, we will investigate the fantastic images and ethical quandaries that are unleashed when the dividing boundaries between human and animal life lapse. Authors to be studied may include J. M. Coetzee, Brigid Brophy, Philip K. Dick, Italo Calvino, Haruki Murakami, and Anita Desai.

English **015c. Eight American Poets.** MW 11:30 - 12:55 A. Walton

A seminar on a group of American Poets representative of a certain strain in the tradition, loosely called "transcendental." Strong emphasis on prosody, close reading "excavation" of multiple meanings and sources in poems, and the poet's negotiation of the implicit tension between technique and subject matter. Poets include Emerson, Dickinson, Frost, Stevens, Berryman, Plath, Ammons, and Charles Wright.

## **GOVERNMENT**

Government **101b. Citizenship and Representation.** MW 11:30 - 12:55 M. Franz

This course examines the issues of citizenship and representation in American politics by investigating a number of diverse and contemporary political debates. By discussing such controversies as (comparatively low) rates of voter turnout, implementation of campaign finance reform, responses to terrorism, and debates over economic policies (such as taxes), we first consider how citizens can or should participate in American politics. For example, is a non-voter (or an ill informed voter) irresponsible? Is money in elections equivalent to speech? Is racial profiling to prevent terrorism legitimate? Are tax cuts or personal social security accounts empowering? At the same time, we also evaluate how the American political system reacts to citizen input. Who do politicians represent when elected with low turnout? Does money in elections lead to access or corruption? What do we sacrifice or gain when we trade civil liberties for security? Is the government responsible for poverty? The goal of the course is to use these and other political debates to identify links between citizen inputs and governmental outputs, and to help students evaluate the implications of different linkages.

Government **108b. Human Being and Citizen.** MW 2:30 - 3:55 P. Franco

An introduction to the fundamental issues of political philosophy: human nature; the relationship between individual and political community; the nature of justice; the place of virtue; the idea of freedom; and the role of history. Readings will span both ancient and modern philosophical literature. Authors include: Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Rousseau, Hegel, Mill, and Nietzsche.

Government **111b. The Korean War.** TTH 10:00 - 11:25 C. Potholm

The Korean War is often called "the forgotten war" because it is overshadowed by World War II and the Vietnam war, yet many important aspects and results of it are mirrored in the contemporary world. Korea is still divided and its situation as a buffer state in between China, Russia, and Japan continues to have important policy ramifications for the United States. The course focuses not just on the course of the war, but on the foreign policy assumptions of the two Korean governments, the United States, the People's Republic of China, and Russia.

Government **114b. Democracy and Democratization.** MW 2:30 - 3:55 L. Henry

Examines the wave of democratization that swept through Southern Europe, Latin America, East Asia, and Eastern Europe in the late 20th century and looks at recent efforts to promote democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq. Questions include: What is the meaning of democracy? What factors facilitate or constrain a transition from authoritarianism to democracy? What is the relationship between democratization and economic reform? Are there limits to democratization and are we seeing the return of authoritarianism in many states? Is the lens of "democratization" the most effective way to study political transformation?

## HISTORY

History **014c. The Thirties.** TTH 2:30 - 3:55 D. Levine

Examines the Depression, the New Deal, American Communism, the formative years of the "New York Intellectuals," and the transformations in the American labor movement. In addition to a number of short writing assignments, a research paper is required.

History **023c. Death in the Ancient World.** MW 2:30 - 3:55 (Same as **Religion 023**) N. Denzey

An interdisciplinary first year seminar on death in the ancient world. We will examine mortuary culture and ritual, the literature of consolation letters and eulogies, and evidence for changing attitudes toward death across cultures from ancient Egypt to the "cult of the saints" in the Early Christian Rome.

History **028c,d. Seeker's Lives.** MW 11:30 - 12:55 (Same as **Asian Studies 028**) K. Smith

Employs the disciplines of history, religion, and textual studies to examine the autobiographies of contemplatives, past and present. Emphasis on Hinduism and Buddhism in India, Tibet, and Japan, with contrasts drawn from European Catholicism.

## PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy **024c. How to be Good.** MWF 2:30 - 3:25 M. Stuart

An introduction to ethical theory, and an exploration of some very challenging arguments about what it takes to be a morally good person. Our focus will be on whether being a morally good person requires that one devote a large portion of one's resources to relieving the suffering of distant strangers. Readings include Simon Blackburn's "Being Good," the Nick Hornby novel "How to Be Good," and Peter Unger's "Living High and Letting Die."

## RELIGION

Religion **014c. Heresy and Orthodoxy.** MW 2:30 - 3:55 J. Buckley

This writing-intensive course focuses on readings in heretical texts, orthodox creeds and scholarly treatments of the religious-ideological construction of heresy and orthodoxy. Fundamentally, heresy is dangerous precisely because of its proximity to orthodoxy. Examples will focus on Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions; attention is given to categories such as dogma vs. freedom, pure vs. impure, society vs. individual. Facets of present-day debates on fundamentalism will be included.

Religion **023c. Death in the Ancient World.** (Same as **History 023**)

## SOCIOLOGY

Sociology **010b.d. Racism.** W 1:00-3:55 (Same as **Africana Studies 010**) R. Partridge