

Bowdoin College

First-Year Seminar Offerings for Fall Semester 2006

AFRICANA STUDIES

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

Africana Studies **015c,d. Contemporary International Children's Literature.** TTH 1:00 - 2:25 (Same as **English 015**) E. Muther

ART HISTORY

Art History **010c,d. The Art of Zen.** TTH 1:00-2:25 (Same as **Asian Studies 010**) C. Olds

An examination of the influence of Ch'an or Zen Buddhism on the art of China and Japan, including painting, architecture, gardening, and the tea ceremony.

Art History **015c. Art Works, Artists, and Audiences.** TTH 8:30-9:55 S. Perkinson

Explores key issues in the interpretation of artworks from a variety of cultures and time periods. Begins with mastery of a descriptive vocabulary for analysis of paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, sculpture, and architecture. Investigates ways that artists are responsible for determining the "meaning" of the works they create, as they represent the visible world, abstract ideas, thoughts, or emotions. Explores ways that art acquires meaning, following artworks as they are received, interpreted, used, and even abused by various audiences (e.g., critics, curators, collectors, the public at large). Examines ways that artists have sought to influence public opinion by creating works that address the most pressing social and political issues of their times. Includes hands-on experience with artworks from the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

ASIAN STUDIES

Asian Studies **010c,d. The Art of Zen.** TTH 1:00-2:25 (Same as **Art History 010**) C. Olds

Asian Studies **011c,d. Living in the Sixteenth Century.** MW 1:00 - 2:25 (Same as **History 013**) T. Conlan

Examines the nature of state and society in an age of turmoil. Studies patterns of allegiances, ways of waging war, codes of conduct, and the social matrix of sixteenth-century Japan, based on primary and secondary sources. Kurosawa's masterpiece *Kage Musha* provides the thematic foundation for this course.

Asian Studies **018c,d. Reincarnations of the Monkey.** TTH 10:00 - 11:25 (Same as **English 014**) B. Kong

Asian Studies **019b,d. East Asian Politics: Introductory Seminar.** TTH 1:00 - 2:25 (Same as **Government 019**) H. Laurence
Surveys the diverse political, social, and economic arrangements across East Asia. China, Japan, and North and South Korea are the main focus, but attention is also paid to the other countries in the region. Examines the relationship between democracy and economic change in East Asia, and asks if the relationship is different in Asia than elsewhere in the world. Other questions include: Are there common "Asian values" and if so, what are they? What is the role of Confucianism in shaping social, political, and economic life in the region? How are economic and technological developments affecting traditional social institutions such as families? How is the status of women changing? What lies ahead for Asia?

CLASSICS

Classics **011c. Shame, Honor and Responsibility.** MW 1:00 - 2:25 J. Kosak

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

ENGLISH

English 010c. The Victorian Fantastic. TTH 2:30 - 3:55 (Same as **Gender and Women's Studies 010**) A. Briefel
Explores non-realist modes of Victorian narrative, including melodrama, science fiction, children's literature, and the gothic. Examines the ways in which literary texts re-imagine contemporary social issues and anxieties through their telling of fantastic stories. Pays special attention to what kinds of dreams (and nightmares) these narratives generate about gender, sexuality, and race. Authors may include Barrie, Carroll, Dickens, Doyle, Le Fanu, Stevenson, Wells, and Wilde.

English 011c. Dallying with the Impossible. MW 2:30 - 3:55 D. Collings
Explores poetry, primarily in the Romantic tradition, which dallies with impossible satisfactions, whether in the form of fatal quest, lyrical transport, aesthetic seduction, beautiful horror, or physical transfiguration. Authors may include Coleridge, Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley, Christina Rossetti, Tennyson, Browning, Whitman, Yeats, and Crane.

English 012c. Becoming Modern. TTH 8:30-9:55 A. Kibbie
See First-Year Seminar Clusters for description.

English 013c. Literature and Metamorphosis. TTH 1:00 - 2:25 A. Kitch
Stories of physical and spiritual transformation have fascinated authors for centuries, from Ovid to Shakespeare to Virginia Woolf to Salman Rushdie. Examines such stories starting with *The Metamorphoses*, which links tales of death, sexual desire, and divine identity through interconnecting narratives of transmutation. Explores questions of physical vs. psychological change, narrative vs. characterological alteration, and the translation of myths across genres, cultures, and historical periods. Texts include Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis*, Rilke's Orpheus poems, Woolf's *Orlando*, Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*, and two films: Marcel Camus' *Black Orpheus* and David Cronenberg's *The Fly*.

English 014c.d. Reincarnations of the Monkey. TTH 10:00 - 11:25 (Same as **Asian Studies 018**) B. Kong
The legendary Monkey, or Sun Wukong of sixteenth-century Wu Ch'eng-en's *Journey to the West*, is a contradictory figure that embodies fierce independence of spirit and rebellious mischief as much as tamed energy and loyal service. Explores contemporary refigurings of Monkey in diasporic contexts (primarily in the United States, but also in Britain, Canada, and Australia) and in multiple genres (novel, essay, film, music). What are the literary, cultural, and philosophical traditions that animate Monkey, and how are the values he represents transformed in the diaspora? For what audiences is he reincarnated, and to what purpose? Authors include Wu Ch'eng-en (in translation), Timothy Mo, Maxine Hong Kingston, Frank Chin, Patricia Chao, Binh Duy Ta, Wayson Choy, and Gerald Vizenor. Philosophical texts may include the writings of Laozi, Zhuangzi, and Thich Nhat Hanh.

English 015c,d. Contemporary International Children's Literature. TTH 1:00 - 2:25 (Same as **Africana Studies 015**) E. Muther
Explores imaginative writing for children in United States and South African contexts. Strong emphasis on history and national identity as reframed in children's literature since the Civil Rights era and the end of apartheid. Considers the uses of oral sources—riddles, folktales, legends, proverbs, magical lore; the politics and economics of children's book publishing, and literacy and access to texts in mother tongue languages. Students experiment with elements of imaginative writing for children and read and discuss poetry and stories with children of various ages.

English 016c. The Nuclear Plot. MW 11:30 - 12:55 M. Reizbaum
An examination of the nuclear age in literature and film, documents and documentary. Works include Hersey's *Hiroshima*, Frayn's *Copenhagen*, *The Atomic Cafe*, *Dr. Strangelove Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*, *Them*, *Fail Safe*. Excerpts from Einstein, Kahn, Arendt, Lifton.

English 018c. 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*, and James Mellow's *Nathaniel Hawthorne in His Times*.

English 019c. Unlikely "Couples." TTH 10:00 - 11:25 (Same as **Gender and Women's Studies 015**) G. Foster
According to French theorist Luce Irigaray, "the couple is the basic social unit." If this is true, how then has the "couple," broadly speaking, been used in literary and cultural texts either to shore up this "social unity" or to critique its normative assumptions regarding the linkages between embodiment and various forms of "desire"? What narrative strategies have cultural producers used to challenge and rewrite those assumptions? Possible authors' texts include Edward Ball's *Peninsula of Lies*, Peter Lefcourt's *The Dreyfus Affair*, Lydia Davis's *The End of the Story*, Monica Jay's *Geraldine*, Joyce Carol Oates's *Rape, A Love Story*, Darin Strauss's *Chang and Eng*, Ian McEwan's *Enduring Love*, Caroline Knapp's *Drinking*, and the films *A Love Story*, *Thelma and Louise*, *Brokeback Mountain*, and *Bob and Rose*, among others.

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

Gender and Women's Studies **010c. The Victorian Fantastic.** TTH 2:30 - 3:55 (Same as **English 010**) A. Briefel

Gender and Women's Studies **011b. Girlhood and Adolescence.** MW 2:30-3:55 (Same as **Sociology 011**) K. McQueeney
Explores how young girls construct a sense of self amidst considerable social inequalities. Many scholars identify adolescence as a critical turning point for girls in multiple social realms (e.g., school, sports, body image, self-esteem). What accounts for the often detrimental impact of this transition from girlhood to adolescence? How do social institutions; cultural messages; and interactions with peers, teachers, coaches, and parents influence the transition differently for girls than for boys? How might popular images of adolescent girls as violent, prematurely sexual, mean, and materialistic be disentangled from the lived realities of everyday "girl cultures"? How do race, class, sexuality, and other social differences and inequalities shape the path to developing an adolescent self? Examines the sociological realities of girls' lives, taking young people seriously as actors who are shaped by—but sometimes subvert—entrenched inequalities in educational, sexual, and consumer cultures in the contemporary United States.

Gender and Women's Studies **015c. Unlikely "Couples."** TTH 10:00 - 11:25 (Same as **English 019**) G. Foster

GOVERNMENT

Government **010b. Pursuit of Peace.** TTH 11:30 - 12:55 A. Springer

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.

Government **011b. 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 **012c. Becoming Modern.** TTH 8:30-9:55 P. Franco

See First-Year Seminar Clusters for description.

Government **019b,d. East Asian Politics: Introductory Seminar.** TTH 1:00 - 2:25 (Same as **Asian Studies 019**) H. Laurence

HISTORY

History **012c. Utopia: Intentional Communities in America, 1630–1997.** MW 1:00 - 2:25 S. McMahon

An examination of the evolution of utopian visions and utopian experiments that begins in 1630 with John Winthrop's "City upon a Hill," explores the proliferation of both religious and secular communal ventures between 1780 and 1920, and concludes with an examination of twentieth-century counterculture communes, intentional communities, and dystopian separatists. Readings include primary source accounts by members (letters, diaries, essays, etc.), "community" histories and apostate exposés, utopian fiction, and scholarly historical analyses. Discussions and essays focus on teaching students how to subject primary and secondary source materials to critical analysis.

History **013c,d. Living in the Sixteenth Century.** MW 1:00 - 2:25 (Same as **Asian Studies 011**) T. Conlan

History **018c,d. A History of Latino Immigration.** TTH 10:00-11:25 (same as **Latin American Studies 018**) N. Blacker-Hansen

An examination of Latino immigration in the context of United States foreign policy. Begins with an overview of United States expansion and empire-building, positioning the histories of Latino "immigration" (Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Caribbean, and Central Americans) in international context. United States cultural attitudes of race, class, labor, and gender frame the study. Explores classic "push" and "pull" factors in the histories of immigration. Political, cultural, and economic differences among the many diverse populations defined as "Latino" are explored. Concludes with analysis of contemporary debates on immigration positioned in its historic context of US-Latin American relations. Course materials include primary and secondary sources, both historiographic and cultural (videos, music, autobiography).

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Latin American Studies **018c,d. A History of Latino Immigration.**TTH 10:00-11:25 (same as **History 018**) N. Blacker-Hansen

PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy **023c. Utilitarianism.** TTH 1:00-2:25 M. Stuart

What if there was a theory that could tell you which actions were morally right and which morally wrong? Utilitarianism aspires to be such a theory. We will consider arguments for and against several varieties of utilitarianism and look at practical applications of the theory to questions about abortion, animal rights, famine relief, and environmentalism. Readings from classic nineteenth-century utilitarians Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, as well as contemporary utilitarians Peter Singer and Brad Hooker.

Philosophy **026c. The Soul.** TTH 2:30-3:55 D. Young

A philosophical investigation into the nature of the soul. The focus is on determining what the soul is (if anything), what it can do, whether it is immaterial and whether it is immortal. The debate about the relation between the mind and brain is also investigated and its relevance assessed. Readings are drawn from classical and contemporary sources.

RELIGION

Religion **015c. Religion, Violence and Secularization.** TTH 11:30 - 12:55 E. Pritchard

Introduces the rationales and repercussions of the rise of the modern secular nation state as a solution to “religious violence,” one of the most pressing challenges of the contemporary world. In so doing, complicates the association of violence and backwardness with “religion,” and peace and progress with “secularism.” Topics include the demarcations of state and church and public and private; the relationship between skepticism and toleration; the rise of so-called “fundamentalism”; the shifting assessments of the injuriousness of religious belief, speech, and act; and the assumptions surrounding what it is that constitutes “real religion.”

SOCIOLOGY

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

Sociology **011b. Girlhood and Adolescence.** MW 2:30-3:55 (Same as **Gender and Women’s Studies 011**) K. McQueeney

Sociology **016b. Deviance and Conformity.** TTH 10:00 - 11:25 J. Lohmann

Introduces the sociological understanding of what gets defined as rules for behavior and what it means to violate those expectations. Studies have generally only thought of deviance in relation to negatively amplified reactions, but there are also examples in which violating expectations facilitates “positive” social change. Examines the sociological, personal, and political events that compel people to engage in deviant acts and the ramifications of such actions. Similarly, exploration of what it means to conform and the power that influences individuals not to challenge the status quo also examined.

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR CLUSTERS

Modernity and Its Discontents. A year-long interdisciplinary seminar devoted to examining the experience of modernity from its inception up to the present. Drawing on important works of literature, philosophy, and art of the past 500 years, the seminar explores the manifestation of a distinctively modern sensibility in science, religion, morality, politics, the understanding of the self, and its relation to society. The seminar is taught as a two-semester sequence, and students are required to take both semesters. Several sections of the seminar are offered each semester, and these sections are taught by faculty drawn from English, Government, and Art History. Detailed descriptions of the individual semesters follow.

English **012c,d. Becoming Modern.** TTH 8:30 - 9:55. Fall 2006. A. Kibbie

An examination of early modernity from 1500-1800. 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.

Government **012b. Becoming Modern.** MW 2:30 - 3:55. Fall 2006. P. Franco

An examination of early modernity from 1500-1800. 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.