

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

First-Year Seminars Offered Fall 2008

Information as of 20 August 2008

AFRICANA STUDIES

Africana Studies 10b,d. Racism. W 1:00-3:55. ROY 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. (Same as **Sociology 10**.)

Note: This course counts toward the major and minor in gender and women's studies.

Africana Studies 14c,d. Migration Narratives: Writers of the Caribbean. MW 1:00-2:25. JARRETT BROWN.

International as well as intranational, geographical as well as psychological, migratory movement is a powerful theme that offers explanations for modernity, memory, identity, and transnationalism. Examines selected writers engaged primarily with Caribbean migratory experience. Authors and texts may include Samuel Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*; Claude McKay, *Banjo*; Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy*; Maryse Conde, *Tales from the Heart: True Stories from my Childhood*; Caryl Phillips, *The Final Passage*; V. S. Naipaul, *Mr. Stone and the Knights Companion*; and Edwidge Danticat, *The Dew Breaker*. (Same as **English 14** and **Latin American Studies 14**.)

Africana Studies 16c,d. Love and Trouble: Black Women Writers. TTh 10:00-11:25. GUY MARK FOSTER.

Introduces students to the twin themes of love and sex as they appear in novels written by African American women from the nineteenth century to the contemporary era. These texts explore such issues as sexism, group loyalty, racial authenticity, intra- and interracial desire, homosexuality, the intertextual unfolding of a literary tradition of black female writing, as well as how these writings relate to canonical African American male-authored texts and European American literary traditions. Students are expected to read texts closely, critically, appreciatively. (Same as **English 16**.)

Africana Studies 17c,d. The Intermarriage Plot in American Fiction. TTh 10:00-11:25. TESS CHAKKALAKAL.

Engages a series of novels and short stories that respond, either negatively or positively, to the prohibitions against intermarriage in the United States. Examines the ways in which fiction participates in the political discourse of marriage during the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Although focused primarily on early American and African American narratives, students will also have the opportunity to see how the structure of the intermarriage plot operates in more recent works of fiction and films. Considers works by Lydia Maria Child, William Wells Brown, Charles Chesnut, and William Dean Howells, among others. (Same as **English 17**.)

ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology 24b. Culture at the Top of the World. TTh 2:30-3:55. JAN BRUNSON.

As the highest mountains on earth, the Himalayas have held the fascination of many people around the world. Investigates two divergent cultures that exist at the "Top of the World": the culture of climbing expeditions on Everest, and the culture of the ethnic group commonly referred to as Sherpas. How do the extreme conditions on Everest create a shared culture among mountaineers? Who are the Sherpas, and how has their interaction with climbers altered their identity? What is the nature of the interdependence and the brokerage of power between two such parties? Explores the issues of cultural identity that accompany global tourism by examining the intersection of these two groups.

ART HISTORY

Art History 15c. Art Works, Artists, and Audiences. TTh 10:00-11:25. STEPHEN 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.

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ASIAN STUDIES

Asian Studies 20b.d. Global Media and Politics. MF 2:30-3:55. HENRY C. W. LAURENCE.

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 **Government 20.**)

CLASSICS

Classics 17c. The Heroic Age: Ancient Supermen and Wonder Women. TTh 10:00-11:25. MICHAEL NERDAHL.

The modern concept of the superhero is an enduring vestige of the ancient concept of the “hero,” the ancient Greek word used to describe men of exceptional ability. Looks at heroes and heroines in ancient literature and culture, considering a range of sources from ancient Babylon to imperial Rome. Considers the changing definition of “hero,” the cultural values associated with heroism, the role played by gender and sexuality in the definition of the hero, and analogues to ancient heroes in modern cinema. Examines more nebulous and problematic models for the ancient “villain” and considers how contrasting definitions of hero and antihero can be used to understand ancient thought concerning human nature.

EDUCATION

Education 20c. The Educational Crusade. MW 1:00-2:25. CHARLES DORN.

Why do you go to school? What is the central purpose of public education in the United States? Should public schools prepare students for college? The workforce? Competent citizenship? Who makes these decisions and through what policy process are they implemented? Explores the ways that public school reformers have answered such questions, from the “Common School Crusaders” of the early nineteenth century to present advocates of “No Child Left Behind.” Examining public education as both a product of social, political, and economic change and as a force in molding American society, highlights enduring tensions in the development and practice of public schooling in a democratic republic.

ENGLISH

English 10c. Modern American Poetry. TTh 1:00-2:25. CELESTE GOODRIDGE.

Analysis of the work of authors who may include Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams, Wallace Stevens, and Marianne Moore.

English 11c. The Greatest American Play? MW 2:30-3:55. WILLIAM WATTERSON.

American drama does not come into its own until after World War I but then enjoys a real flowering, particularly on Broadway. Focuses on O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, Wilder's *Our Town*, and Williams's *The Glass Menagerie*. Also considers work by Odets, Inge, Albee, Wilson, Mamet, Shepherd, Vogel, Bock, and others. Students will have an opportunity to make theater as well. Course writing requirements include four five-page papers and a final ten-page paper.

English 12c. Jane Austen. MW 8:00-9:25. ANN KIBBIE.

A study of Jane Austen's major works, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, and *Persuasion*, and their film adaptations. (Same as **Gender and Women's Studies 13.**)

English 13c. Transfigurations of Song. TTh 2:30-3:55. DAVID COLLINGS.

A course in close reading. Explores poetry, primarily in the Romantic tradition, which dallies with the dangers of lyrical transport, whether in the form of fusion with the divine, aesthetic seduction, impossible quest, or physical transfiguration. Authors may include Coleridge, Wordsworth, Keats, Tennyson, Yeats, Crane, and Stevens.

English 14c.d. Migration Narratives: Writers of the Caribbean. MW 1:00-2:25. JARRETT BROWN.

International as well as intranational, geographical as well as psychological, migratory movement is a powerful theme that offers explanations for modernity, memory, identity, and transnationalism. Examines selected writers engaged primarily with Caribbean migratory experience. Authors and texts may include Samuel Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*; Claude McKay, *Banjo*; Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy*; Maryse Conde, *Tales from the Heart: True Stories from my Childhood*; Caryl Phillips, *The Final Passage*; V. S. Naipaul, *Mr. Stone and the Knights Companion*; and Edwidge Danticat, *The Dew Breaker*. (Same as **Africana Studies 14** and **Latin American Studies 14.**)

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English 15c. Stoic Heroes and Disenchanted Knights. TTh 11:30-12:55. MARY AGNES EDSALL.

An inquiry into the construction of heroic and chivalric masculinities in literature from Virgil to Chaucer, with a strong focus on the historical and social contexts that help make these pre-modern texts intelligible. Attention given to sex/gender systems; to the ideological power of myth, legend, and romance; and to the afterlife of ideals of heroism and chivalry. Texts may include Virgil's *Aeneid*, *Beowulf*, *The Song of Roland*, Chrétien de Troyes' *The Knight of the Lion*, Chaucer's *Knight's Tale*, and selections from the nineteenth-century "chivalric revival."

English 16c,d. Love and Trouble: Black Women Writers. TTh 10:00-11:25. GUY MARK FOSTER.

Introduces students to the twin themes of love and sex as they appear in novels written by African American women from the nineteenth century to the contemporary era. These texts explore such issues as sexism, group loyalty, racial authenticity, intra- and interracial desire, homosexuality, the intertextual unfolding of a literary tradition of black female writing, as well as how these writings relate to canonical African American male-authored texts and European American literary traditions. Students are expected to read texts closely, critically, appreciatively. (Same as **Africana Studies 16.**)

English 17c,d. The Intermarriage Plot in American Fiction. TTh 10:00-11:25. TESS CHAKKALAKAL.

Engages a series of novels and short stories that respond, either negatively or positively, to the prohibitions against intermarriage in the United States. Examines the ways in which fiction participates in the political discourse of marriage during the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Although focused primarily on early American and African American narratives, students will also have the opportunity to see how the structure of the intermarriage plot operates in more recent works of fiction and films. Considers works by Lydia Maria Child, William Wells Brown, Charles Chesnutt, and William Dean Howells, among others. (Same as **Africana Studies 17.**)

English 18c. Photographic Narratives. TTh 11:30-12:55. TERRI NICKEL.

Traces the impact of emergent photographic technology and explores various intersections between photography and literature in the Victorian era. Examines the representation of photographs and photographers in novels and short fiction, analyzes early photographs as texts, and assesses photography's impact on literary realism. Texts may include *The House of the Seven Gables*, *A Laodicean*, *The Romance of a Shop*, *Idylls of the King*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Red Badge of Courage*, short stories by Conan Doyle, Henry James, Thomas Hardy, and photographs by Lewis Carroll, Matthew Brady, Julia Margaret Cameron, Jacob Riis, Clementina Hawarden, Roger Fenton, Arthur Munby, and Oscar Rejlander.

GAY AND LESBIAN STUDIES

Gay and Lesbian Studies 16c. Sex and the Church. TTh 10:00-11:25. ELIZABETH PRITCHARD.

An examination of the themes, varieties, and conflicts of Christian teachings and practices regarding sex and sexuality. Source materials include the Bible, historical analyses, Church dogmatics, and contemporary legal cases. Although the focus of the course is on Catholic traditions, the course will include comparative analyses of the sexual ethics of other Christian denominations. (Same as **Gender and Women's Studies 17** and **Religion 16.**)

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

Gender and Women's Studies 13c. Jane Austen. MW 8:00-9:25. ANN KIBBIE.

A study of Jane Austen's major works, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, and *Persuasion*, and their film adaptations. (Same as **English 12.**)

Gender and Women's Studies 17c. Sex and the Church. TTh 10:00-11:25. ELIZABETH PRITCHARD.

An examination of the themes, varieties, and conflicts of Christian teachings and practices regarding sex and sexuality. Source materials include the Bible, historical analyses, Church dogmatics, and contemporary legal cases. Although the focus of the course is on Catholic traditions, the course will include comparative analyses of the sexual ethics of other Christian denominations. (Same as **Gay and Lesbian Studies 16** and **Religion 16.**)

GOVERNMENT

Government 10b. The Pursuit of Peace. TTh 11:30-12:55. ALLEN L. 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 11b. The Korean War. MW 2:30-3:55. CHRISTIAN P. 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 between China, Russia, and Japan continues to have important policy ramifications for the United States. 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.

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Government 20b,d. Global Media and Politics. MF 2:30-3:55. HENRY C. W. LAURENCE.

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 **Asian Studies 20.**)

Government 26b. Fundamental Questions: Exercises in Political Theory. TTh 2:30-3:55. JEAN M. YARBROUGH.

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, the Bible, Machiavelli, Shakespeare, Marx, Mill, and Nietzsche.

Government 28b. Human Being and Citizen. MW 2:30-3:55. PAUL N. 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 span both ancient and modern philosophical literature. Authors include Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Rousseau, Hegel, Mill, and Nietzsche.

HISTORY

History 12c. Utopia: Intentional Communities in America, 1630–1997. MW 1:00-2:25. SARAH 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 18c. The Racial Argument in Historical Perspective. MW 2:30-3:55. RANDOLPH STAKEMAN.

Pursues a critical analysis of historical arguments in general and racial historical arguments in particular. Examines the debates over the 3/5 rule in the Constitution, slavery, Native American policy, segregation, nonwhite immigration, Japanese internment in World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, and post CRM “nonracial” racial policy including the Obama presidential campaign. Each debate will be looked at in its own context and for the structure of its argument. Includes online and classroom components.

History 22. Modern Nightmares: Dystopia and the Twentieth Century. MW 11:30-12:55. AARON WINDEL.

Examines the cultural history of modern Europe through the eyes of those who rejected the popular notion that science and technology could bring about universal improvement. Examines skeptical visions of modernity’s future that existed alongside more hopeful views of progress. Examines imaginative works of dystopian fiction and science fiction films and contextualizes them by examining the real world events and historical transformations that inspired such nightmares. Topics include the expansion of the state; the birth of psychoanalysis, marketing, and propaganda; the development of industrial war technologies; the rise of totalitarianism; genocide; mass communication and the information revolution.

History 27c. Political Kinetics: Social Movement vs. Social Arrest. TTh 11:30-12:55. MEHMET DOSEMECI.

Why have various types of social groups historically referred to themselves as “social movements”? Is this concept still relevant today? Does its mirror concept, “social arrest,” better describe the motion and principle behind political programs such as slow-food, conservationism (whether ecological or local-cultural), anti-globalization, and environmentalism? What does it mean that the nineteenth- and twentieth-century focus on “development” or “progress” toward a democratic or socialist ideal has given way to a twenty-first century struggle to “stop” global warming and unbridled capitalism? Through discussion of various historical readings, explores the centrality of kinetic language to the conception and performance of critical political struggle.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Latin American Studies 14c,d. Migration Narratives: Writers of the Caribbean. MW 1:00-2:25. JARRETT BROWN.

International as well as intranational, geographical as well as psychological, migratory movement is a powerful theme that offers explanations for modernity, memory, identity, and transnationalism. Examines selected writers engaged primarily with Caribbean migratory experience. Authors and texts may include Samuel Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*; Claude McKay, *Banjo*; Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy*; Maryse Conde, *Tales from the Heart: True Stories from my Childhood*; Caryl Phillips, *The Final Passage*; V. S. Naipaul, *Mr. Stone and the Knights Companion*; and Edwidge Danticat, *The Dew Breaker*. (Same as **Africana Studies 14** and **English 14.**)

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PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 16c. Personal Ethics. MW 1:00-2:25. MATTHEW STUART.

Examines some ethical problems and paradoxes that arise in ordinary life, some philosophical theories that bear upon them, and some strategies for making thoughtful decisions about them. Topics may include friendship, lying, love, family obligations, charity, the treatment of animals, abortion.

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology 10b. What's on Your Mind? An Introduction to the Brain and Behavior. MW 8:00-9:25. SETH J. RAMUS.

A general introduction to the science of psychology, with a specific emphasis on the brain's control of human and animal behavior. Uses historical texts, "popular" science books, and primary literature to explore the mind-body connections within topics such as learning and memory, perception, development, stress, social behavior, personality, and choice.

RELIGION

Religion 16c. Sex and the Church. TTh 10:00-11:25. ELIZABETH PRITCHARD.

An examination of the themes, varieties, and conflicts of Christian teachings and practices regarding sex and sexuality. Source materials include the Bible, historical analyses, Church dogmatics, and contemporary legal cases. Although the focus of the course is on Catholic traditions, the course will include comparative analyses of the sexual ethics of other Christian denominations. (Same as **Gay and Lesbian Studies 16** and **Gender and Women's Studies 17**.)

Religion 19c. Interpreting Religious Quests. M 6:30-9:25pm. JOHN HOLT.

A critical reading of four autobiographies (Black Elk, Malcolm X, Gandhi, and Robert Pirsig) drawn from four separate religious traditions to analyze social, psychological, and historical processes that condition religious quests cross-culturally.

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology 10b,d. Racism. W 1:00-3:55. ROY 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. (Same as **Africana Studies 10**.)

Note: This course counts toward the major and minor in gender and women's studies.

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