

Bowdoin College

First-Year Seminar Offerings for Spring Semester 2007

Africana Studies 025c. The Civil War in Film. Spring 2007. PATRICK RAEI.

Explores the American Civil War through an examination of popular films dedicated to the topic. Students analyze films as a representation of the past, considering not simply their historical subject matter, but also the cultural and political contexts in which they are made. Films include *The Birth of a Nation*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Glory*, and *Cold Mountain*. Weekly film screenings are held in the evening. (Same as **History 025**.)

Anthropology 025b,d. Tasting Hierarchies: Food in Latin America. Spring 2007. KRISTA VAN VLEET.

Food generates meanings and feelings beyond a full stomach. This is well known by anthropologists who have studied the symbolic significance of food in a variety of cultures. Course uses case studies from Latin America to explore how food produces social relationships. From the daily practices of eating and feeding that create familial bonds and bodies in the Andes, to the diagnosis of hunger as “nerves” in Brazil, to the global circulation of sugar through networks of power and deprivation in the Caribbean, food in Latin America is implicated in political as well as cultural and social relations. Class discussion and writing based on readings of ethnographies, scholarly articles, and novels and the viewing of documentary and feature films. Focusing on the local practices and transnational relationships of producing, exchanging, and consuming food, examines how food reinforces and transforms political, economic, and social hierarchies. (Same as **Latin American Studies 025**.)

Art History 019c. Questioning the Modern. Spring 2007. PAMELA FLETCHER.

See First-Year Seminar Clusters for description.

Economics 016. Sustaining Maine’s Northern Forest: Economy, Ecology and Community. Spring 2007.

David Vail.

A multi-disciplinary introduction to the ecological, economic and social dimensions of Maine's vast Northern Forest - the largest unbroken forest east of the Mississippi. Begins with a historical look at the evolving forest ecosystem, economy and culture, including Native American settlement, Thoreau's Maine Woods and the tourism tradition, the 9th century "lumber barons", and the 20th century "Paper Plantation" era. A review of key forces of change is followed by six case studies: transformation of land ownership and public access, green certified forest management, the quest to become a "world class" tourist destination, community re-vitalization, energy from the forest, and the impact of global warming. (Same as **Environmental Studies 016**.)

English 020c. Femmes Fatales, Lady Killers, and Other Dangerous Women. Spring 2007. AVIVA BRIEFEL.

Explores a popular cinematic image: the dangerous—and sometimes deadly—woman. By analyzing a range of films from classical Hollywood cinema to the present day, we explore the various forms that this female figure assumes: the femme fatale, the tragic mulatto, the jealous or vindictive woman, the murderous lesbian, the revenge seeker, etc. In addition to examining the various permutations of the dangerous female, we examine why she has attained such a prevalent place on the silver screen. What is so seductive about the deadly woman? Also introduces students to film criticism. Films may include *Basic Instinct*, *Carrie*, *Double Indemnity*, *Fatal Attraction*, *Gilda*, *Kill Bill*, *Mildred Pierce*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Thelma and Louise*, and *Vertigo*. (Same as **Gender and Women’s Studies 019**.)

Note: This course is offered as part of the curriculum in Gay and Lesbian Studies.

English 021c. Reflections on Empire. Spring 2007. DAVID COLLINGS.

Considers novels written by members of colonizing, imperialist, or racist governing groups—in India, Malaysia, Burma, Vietnam, and South Africa—which reimagine, undercut, or oppose empire. Discusses the success or failure of these attempts at self-critique. Authors may include Kipling, Conrad, Forster, Orwell, Greene, Gordimer, and Coetzee.

English 022c. Questioning the Modern. Spring 2007. PETER COVIELLO.
See First-Year Seminar Clusters for description.

English 024c. Jane Austen. Spring 2007. 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 024.**)

English 025c. Elizabethan Heroes. Spring 2007. WILLIAM WATTERSON.

English drama, poetry, and prose fiction of the later sixteenth century abound in heroes and heroic paradigms. Moral, intellectual, civic, rhetorical, chivalric, picaresque, and "ordinary" heroes are examined. Works considered include Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* and *Tamburlaine*, excerpts from Sidney's *Arcadia*, Books I and II of Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, Shakespeare's *Henry V*, *Hamlet*, and *Antony and Cleopatra*, Nashe's *The Unfortunate Traveller*, and Deloney's *Jack of Newbury*.

English 026c. Shakespeare's Afterlives. Spring 2007. AARON KITCH.

Richard III in Nazi Germany. Romeo on the beach. King Lear on a farm in Iowa. Examines the industry that is adapting and rewriting Shakespearean plays, plots, characters, and themes, tracking both the ordinary and bizarre ways multiple genres have been revised and adapted for film, television, novels, and the stage. Explores issues of political allegory, cultural translation, and the mythification and de-mythification of the Bard by authors trying to assert their own literary authority. In addition to reading several plays by Shakespeare, students screen Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet*, Richard Loncraine's *Richard III*, and Peter Greenaway's *Prospero's Books*. Other authors may include Nahum Tate, John Keats, Bertolt Brecht, Paula Vogel, and Jane Smiley.

Environmental Studies 016b. Sustaining Maine's Northern Forest: Economy, Ecology and Community. Spring 2007. David Vail.

A multi-disciplinary introduction to the ecological, economic and social dimensions of Maine's vast Northern Forest - the largest unbroken forest east of the Mississippi. Begins with a historical look at the evolving forest ecosystem, economy and culture, including Native American settlement, Thoreau's Maine Woods and the tourism tradition, the 19th century "lumber barons", and the 20th century "Paper Plantation" era. A review of key forces of change is followed by six case studies: transformation of land ownership and public access, green certified forest management, the quest to become a "world class" tourist destination, community re-vitalization, energy from the forest, and the impact of global warming. (Same as **Economics 016.**)

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Note: This course is offered as part of the curriculum in Gay and Lesbian Studies.

Gender and Women's Studies 024c. Jane Austen. Spring 2007. 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 024.**)

History 010c. Monsters, Marvels, and Messiahs: Europe during the Age of Discovery. Spring 2007. DALLAS DENERY

Examines how Europeans have sought to understand themselves and the world around them through travel and travel literature. Particular attention is paid to the fascinating ways in which Europeans have used travel narratives to define and distinguish themselves from their “others.”

History 011c. Memoirs and Memory in American History. Spring 2007. CONNIE CHIANG

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 the American past. Introduces many central themes in twentieth-century American history such as immigration, gender, race relations, and war. Writing-intensive, including several short papers and a family history research paper.

History 025c. The Civil War in Film. Spring 2007. PATRICK RAEI.

Explores the American Civil War through an examination of popular films dedicated to the topic. Students analyze films as a representation of the past, considering not simply their historical subject matter, but also the cultural and political contexts in which they are made. Films include *The Birth of a Nation*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Glory*, and *Cold Mountain*. Weekly film screenings are held in the evening. (Same as **Africana Studies 025.**)

Latin American Studies 025b,d. Tasting Hierarchies: Food in Latin America. Spring 2007. KRISTA VAN VLEET.

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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, explores the manifestation of a distinctively modern sensibility in science, religion, morality, politics, the understanding of the self, and its relation to society. Taught as a two-semester sequence, and students are required to take both semesters. Several sections are offered each semester, and are taught by faculty drawn from English, Government, and Art History. Detailed descriptions of the individual semesters follow.

Questioning the Modern. Spring 2007. **English 022c**, PETER COVIELLO; **Art History 019c**, PAMELA FLETCHER.

An examination of late modernity from 1800 to the present, focusing on the vexed relations between the shaping principles of modernity and several of the more violent human undertakings with which it was historically conjoined: enslavement, the subjugation of women, and the Holocaust. How in the light of these matters do we understand modernity’s chief concerns with freedom, autonomy, the self, scientific mastery, and historical progress? Authors and artists may include Kant, Goya, Marx, Manet, Freud, Woolf, Picasso, DuBois, and Nabokov.