

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Data Date: 18 Jan 2008

First-Year Seminars Offered Spring 2008

AFRICANA STUDIES

Africana Studies 21c,d. Migration Narratives: Writers of the Caribbean. Spring 2008—MW 1:00-2:25. JARRETT BROWN.

International as well as intra-national, 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 may include Samuel Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*; Claude McKay; Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy*; Toni Morrison, *Jazz*; Caryl Phillips, *A Distant Shore*; V. S. Naipaul; Dionne Brand, *In Another Place, Not Here*; and Edwidge Danticat, *Farming of Bones*. (Same as **English 21.**)

ART HISTORY

Art History 11c. Science, Magic, and the Occult in Renaissance Art. Spring 2008—MW 1:00-2:25. JENNIFER BIRD.

A survey of the intersections between art and science in Italy during the Renaissance (c.1400-1560). Examines how various fields of inquiry were defined in the Renaissance and how artists themselves (such as Filippo Brunelleschi, Leonardo da Vinci, and Benvenuto Cellini) played an active role in the development of new knowledge, in areas such as optics, metallurgy, the study of natural systems, and anatomy.

Art History 12c. Picasso and Matisse. Spring 2008—TTh 1:00-2:25. PAMELA FLETCHER.

Examines the painting of Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse, in the context of modern painting, philosophy, and history. Particular attention is paid to the creative exchanges and rivalries between the two artists, as well as their role in the popular understanding of modern art and the role of the artist in society.

DANCE

Dance 10c. Understanding Theater and Dance: Critical Perspectives on the Performing Arts. Spring 2008—TTh 10:00-11:25. JUNE VAIL.

Investigates various analytical perspectives on dance, drama, and other theatrical events. Develops viewing and writing skills: description, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and organization. Live performances, on and off campus; film; and videos provide the basis for four extended essays and other modes of critical response—written, oral, or visual. Individual conferences and visits by professionals in the field. (Same as **Theater 10.**)

EDUCATION

Education 20c. The Educational Crusade. Spring 2008—TTh 10:00-11:25. 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, we highlight enduring tensions in the development and practice of public schooling in a democratic republic.

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

ENGLISH

English 19c. Femmes Fatales, Lady Killers, and Other Dangerous Women. Spring 2008—TTh 2:30-3:55; Film Screenings M 7:00-8:55pm. 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, explores the various forms that this female figure assumes: the femme fatale, the jealous or vindictive woman, the murderous lesbian, the revenge seeker, etc. In addition to examining the various permutations of the dangerous female, explores 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*, *Eve's Bayou*, *Fatal Attraction*, *Gilda*, *Kill Bill*, *Mildred Pierce*, *Rebecca*, and *Thelma and Louise*. (Same as **Gay and Lesbian Studies 19** and **Gender and Women's Studies 19**.)

English 20c. Lesbian Personae. Spring 2008—TTh 8:30-9:55. PETER COVIELLO.

A study of the varied representations of same-sex desire between women across a range of twentieth-century novels and films. Concerned with questions of the visibility, and invisibility, of lesbian life; of the contours of lesbian childhood and adolescence; of the forms of difference between and among lesbians; and of the tensions, as well as the affinities, that mark relations between queer women and queer men. Authors may include Nella Larsen, Willa Cather, Carson McCullers, Ann Bannon, and others. (Same as **Gay and Lesbian Studies 20** and **Gender and Women's Studies 23**.)

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English 22c. Of Comics and Culture. Spring 2008—TTh 1:00-2:25. ELIZABETH MUTHER.

Explores hybrid works of image and text: illuminated manuscripts to cyber-constructs, comics in mass and “zine” formats, and graphic narratives and novels. Focuses on the history and social function of “sequential art” of various forms. Contemporary comics and cultural theory are of special interest. Writing Project course.

English 23c. The Nuclear Plot. Spring 2008—MW 11:30-12:55 & Film Screenings at 7:00pm on days TBA. MARILYN REIZBAUM.

An examination of the nuclear age in literature and film, documents and documentary. Works include Hersey's *Hiroshima*, Frayn's *Copenhagen*, *The Atomic Café*, *Dr. Strangelove Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*, *Them*, *Fail Safe*. Excerpts from Einstein, Kahn, Arendt, Lifton.

English 24c. Poetry-Writing Workshop. Spring 2008—MW 2:30-3:55. WILLIAM WATTERSON.

In addition to crafting original work, students read poems by Robert Frost, Derek Walcott, Elizabeth Bishop, Seamus Heaney, Robert Lowell, Philip Larkin, James Wright, Sharon Olds, James Schuyler, and others.

GAY AND LESBIAN STUDIES

Gay and Lesbian Studies 19c. Femmes Fatales, Lady Killers, and Other Dangerous Women. Spring 2008—TTh 2:30-3:55; Film Screenings M 7:00-8:55pm. 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, explores the various forms that this female figure assumes: the femme fatale, the jealous or vindictive woman, the murderous lesbian, the revenge seeker, etc. In addition to examining the various permutations of the dangerous female, explores 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*, *Eve's Bayou*, *Fatal Attraction*, *Gilda*, *Kill Bill*, *Mildred Pierce*, *Rebecca*, and *Thelma and Louise*. (Same as **English 19** and **Gender and Women's Studies 19**.)

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Gay and Lesbian Studies 20c. Lesbian Personae. Spring 2008—TTh 8:30-9:55. PETER COVIELLO.

A study of the varied representations of same-sex desire between women across a range of twentieth-century novels and films. Concerned with questions of the visibility, and invisibility, of lesbian life; of the contours of lesbian childhood and adolescence; of the forms of difference between and among lesbians; and of the tensions, as well as the affinities, that mark relations between queer women and queer men. Authors may include Nella Larsen, Willa Cather, Carson McCullers, Ann Bannon, and others. (Same as **English 20** and **Gender and Women's Studies 23**.)

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

Gender and Women's Studies 19c. Femmes Fatales, Lady Killers, and Other Dangerous Women. Spring 2008—TTh 2:30-3:55; Film Screenings M 7:00-8:55pm. AVIVA BRIEFEL.

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PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 14c. The Nature of Poetry. Spring 2008—TTh 10:00-11:25. DENIS CORISH.

What is the nature of poetry? This is a philosophical question, considered by using traditional and contemporary poems as examples. Also considers the relation of philosophy to poetry in the particularly interesting case of the condemnation of poetry by the Greek philosopher Plato.

Philosophy 16c. Personal Ethics. Spring 2008—TTh 10:00-11:25. 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. Writing Project course.

RUSSIAN

Russian 22c. Fantasy and Satire in East Central Europe. Spring 2008—TTh 2:30-3:55. RAYMOND MILLER.

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', Fyodor Dostoevsky, Mikhail Bulgakov, Karel Capek, Stanislaw Lem, and Franz Kafka.

THEATER

Theater 10c. Understanding Theater and Dance: Critical Perspectives on the Performing Arts. Spring 2008—TTh 10:00-11:25. JUNE VAIL.

Investigates various analytical perspectives on dance, drama, and other theatrical events. Develops viewing and writing skills: description, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and organization. Live performances, on and off campus; film; and videos provide the basis for four extended essays and other modes of critical response—written, oral, or visual. Individual conferences and visits by professionals in the field. (Same as **Dance 10**.)