

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Information as of 30 October 2009

First-Year Seminars Offered Spring 2010

AFRICANA STUDIES

Africana Studies 10b. Racism. TTh 1:00-2:25. 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 25c. The Civil War in Film. MW 1:00-2:25. PATRICK RAE.

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 evening film screenings. (Same as **History 25.**)

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.

BIOLOGY

Biology 23a. Personal Genomes. MW 1:00-2:25. JACK BATEMAN.

An introduction to the field of genetics and its impact on the modern world. As the cost of DNA sequence analysis plummets, many believe that sequencing entire genomes of individuals will soon become part of our routine preventive health care. How can information gleaned from your genome affect decisions about your health? Beyond medical applications, how might personal genetic information be used in other areas of your life, and society as a whole? What ethical, legal, and social issues are raised by widespread use of genetic information? These questions are explored through readings, discussion, and writing assignments.

ENGLISH

English 20c. Ghosts. TTh 11:30-12:55. AVIVA BRIEFEL.

Explores "actual" and metaphorical instances of ghosts in nineteenth- and twentieth-century literary and cinematic contexts. Considers genres such as the Victorian ghost story, the gothic novella, and the horror film to grasp the various significations of a figure that is often defined by its ungraspability. Also introduces students to critical literature on ghosts. May include writings by Charles Dickens, Arthur Conan Doyle, Sigmund Freud, and Henry James, as well as films by Alejandro Amenábar, Alfred Hitchcock, M. Night Shyamalan, and Robert Wise.

English 21c. Trolls, Frogs, and Princesses: Fairy Tales and Retellings. TTh 1:00-2:25. ELIZABETH MUTHER.

Explores the resilience of fairy tales across cultural boundaries and historical time. Traces the genealogical origins of the classic tales, as well as their metamorphoses in historical and contemporary variants, fractured tales, and adaptations in literature and film.

English 22c. Literature of the Southern United States. TTh 10:00-11:25. CELESTE GOODRIDGE.

Analysis of the work of authors who may include Katherine Ann Porter, Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty, Carson McCullers, Truman Capote, and Lillian Smith.

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English 23c. Addictions, Obsessions, Manias. MW 11:30-12:55. TERRI NICKEL.

Traces the emergence of various pathological behaviors in selected nineteenth-century narratives. Explores how cultural and social structures take shape through regulation of and indulgence in bad habits. Topics include alcoholism, fetishism, kleptomania, gambling, smoking, using narcotics, shopping, and collecting. Texts may include *Madame Bovary*, *John Barleycorn*, *McTeague*, *The Kreutzer Sonata*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Artificial Paradises*, *Against Nature*, *Death in Venice*, and selected Sherlock Holmes' stories.

FILM STUDIES

Film Studies 29c. Historians, Comediennes, Storytellers: Women Filmmakers in the German-Speaking Countries. TTh 11:30-12:55. BIRGIT TAUTZ.

Examines the work of women filmmakers in the German-speaking countries since the 1960s. By analyzing a range of films and cinematic genres—to include narrative cinema, biography, documentary, and comedy—explores key interests of these directors: the telling of stories and (German, European, global) histories, the exploration of gender identity, sexuality, and various waves of feminism, the portrayal of women, the participation in the cinematic conventions of Hollywood as well as independent and Avant-garde film, spectatorship. Also introduces students to film criticism; includes weekly film screenings. No Knowledge of German required. (Same as **Gay and Lesbian Studies 29**, **Gender and Women's Studies 29**, and **German 29**.)

GAY AND LESBIAN STUDIES

Gay and Lesbian Studies 29c. Historians, Comediennes, Storytellers: Women Filmmakers in the German-Speaking Countries. TTh 11:30-12:55. BIRGIT TAUTZ.

Examines the work of women filmmakers in the German-speaking countries since the 1960s. By analyzing a range of films and cinematic genres—to include narrative cinema, biography, documentary, and comedy—explores key interests of these directors: the telling of stories and (German, European, global) histories, the exploration of gender identity, sexuality, and various waves of feminism, the portrayal of women, the participation in the cinematic conventions of Hollywood as well as independent and Avant-garde film, spectatorship. Also introduces students to film criticism; includes weekly film screenings. No Knowledge of German required. (Same as **Film Studies 29**, **Gender and Women's Studies 29**, and **German 29**.)

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

Gender and Women's Studies 21c. Bad Girls of the 1950s. MW 1:00-2:25. JENNIFER SCANLON.

Explores the representation and life experiences of women who did not fit the cultural norm of suburban motherhood in 1950s America. Focuses on issues of class, race, sexuality, and gender in a decade shaped by fears about nuclear war and communism, and by social and political conformity. Topics include teenage pregnancy, women's grassroots political leadership, single womanhood, civil rights, emergent feminism and, finally, the enduring cultural resonance of the apron-clad 1950s mom. Engages a variety of primary and secondary sources. (Same as **History 19**.)

Gender and Women's Studies 29c. Historians, Comediennes, Storytellers: Women Filmmakers in the German-Speaking Countries. TTh 11:30-12:55. BIRGIT TAUTZ.

Examines the work of women filmmakers in the German-speaking countries since the 1960s. By analyzing a range of films and cinematic genres—to include narrative cinema, biography, documentary, and comedy—explores key interests of these directors: the telling of stories and (German, European, global) histories, the exploration of gender identity, sexuality, and various waves of feminism, the portrayal of women, the participation in the cinematic conventions of Hollywood as well as independent and Avant-garde film, spectatorship. Also introduces students to film criticism; includes weekly film screenings. No Knowledge of German required. (Same as **Film Studies 29**, **Gay and Lesbian Studies 29**, and **German 29**.)

GERMAN

German 29c. Historians, Comediennes, Storytellers: Women Filmmakers in the German-Speaking Countries. TTh 11:30-12:55. BIRGIT TAUTZ.

Examines the work of women filmmakers in the German-speaking countries since the 1960s. By analyzing a range of films and cinematic genres—to include narrative cinema, biography, documentary, and comedy—explores key interests of these directors: the telling of stories and (German, European, global) histories, the exploration of gender identity, sexuality, and various waves of feminism, the portrayal of women, the participation in the cinematic conventions of Hollywood as well as independent and Avant-garde film, spectatorship. Also introduces students to film criticism; includes weekly film screenings. No Knowledge of German required. (Same as **Film Studies 29**, **Gay and Lesbian Studies 29**, and **Gender and Women's Studies 29**.)

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GOVERNMENT

Government 18b. NGOs in Politics. MW 11:30-12:55. LAURA A. HENRY.

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are thought to play a crucial role in politics—monitoring the state, facilitating citizen participation in politics, and articulating policy alternatives. Yet the activities of NGOs vary significantly from one political system to another, most notably differing among developing and developed states and democratic and authoritarian states. In addition, NGOs' role in the political process is being transformed by globalization and the increasingly transnational nature of political activism which allows NGOs to import ideas and tactics from other political systems and to appeal to international actors for support when their own domestic political environment is unreceptive. Explores the following questions: How do factors such as a state's level of economic development, its political culture, the nature of the political regime, and the arrangement of its political institutions shape NGOs' role and influence in the political process? When and where have NGOs been successful in influencing political developments? How do the growing transnational linkages among NGOs affect their role in domestic politics?

HISTORY

History 14c. The Nuclear Age. MW 2:30-3:55. DAVID HECHT.

Explores the impact of nuclear weapons on American society, politics, and culture. Few aspects of post-World War II United States history were unaffected by the atomic bomb, which decisively shaped the Cold War, helped define the military-industrial complex, and contributed to profound changes in the place of science in American life. Examines the surprisingly varied effects of nuclear weapons and energy throughout American society: on Cold War and post-Cold War diplomacy, consumer culture, domestic politics, education, industry, the environment, family life, and the arts. Uses a wide range of sources—newspaper articles, interviews, memoirs, fiction, film, and policy debates—to examine the profound effects of nuclear weapons and energy in United States history.

History 19c. Bad Girls of the 1950s. MW 1:00-2:25. JENNIFER SCANLON.

Explores the representation and life experiences of women who did not fit the cultural norm of suburban motherhood in 1950s America. Focuses on issues of class, race, sexuality, and gender in a decade shaped by fears about nuclear war and communism, and by social and political conformity. Topics include teenage pregnancy, women's grassroots political leadership, single womanhood, civil rights, emergent feminism and, finally, the enduring cultural resonance of the apron-clad 1950s mom. Engages a variety of primary and secondary sources. (Same as **Gender and Women's Studies 21.**)

History 25c. The Civil War in Film. MW 1:00-2:25. PATRICK RAE.

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 evening film screenings. (Same as **Africana Studies 25.**)

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology 10b. Racism. TTh 1:00-2:25. 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.**)

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Sociology 22b. In the Facebook Age. TTh 10:00-11:25. DHIRAJ MURTHY.

Explores new media forms through discourses of culture, race, space, and power. From the development of the first electronic messaging systems in the 1960s to the advent of interactive social networking Web sites such as Facebook, Bebo and hi5, the role of computer-mediated communication in shaping economies, politics, and societies is discussed. Uses a wide range of sources—recent social science research, Web sites, Facebook, YouTube videos—to examine the roles of new media both in the United States and abroad.

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