

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Students are required to complete a first-year seminar; this should normally be completed by the end of the first semester and no later than the end of the second semester in college.

Courses may meet on Monday (M), Tuesday (T), Wednesday (W), Thursday (R), and/or Friday (F).

Information as of August 29, 2014 - Subject to Change

Fall 2014 First-Year Seminars

AFRICANA STUDIES

Africana Studies 1010 {10} b. Racism. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. 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 1010 {10}.)

Africana Studies 1015 c. Women and the Blues. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Susan Taffe Reed.

An in-depth interdisciplinary examination of historical, social, and cultural contexts of women and blues music of the twentieth century. Focuses on the lives, careers, and social realities of female African American blues singers such as Bessie Smith and Gertrude "Ma" Rainey and their contributions at the forefront of blues development. Also looks at the influence of blues oral tradition on song lyrics and vocal techniques, from the psychedelic blues of Janis Joplin to women performing jazz, from a socio-cultural perspective. No musical performance background is expected. Involves both analytical writing and creative projects. (Same as Gender and Women's Studies 1030 and Music 1015.)

Africana Studies 1017 c. Black Humor. TR 11:30 am – 12:55 pm. Patrick Rael

Explores a long American cultural tradition of humor centering on people of African descent. Representations of African Americans, and African Americans themselves, have long been a component of American laughter -- either as objects of derision, or as potent social commentators. This course explores the history of black humor stretching from nineteenth-century blackface minstrelsy to Saturday Night Live. We will view recorded performances, read historical material, and engage a complex theoretical literature on this subject. Students should be ready to encounter edgy material that may be considered offensive. Subjects may include Amos and Andy, Moms Mabley, Richard Pryor, Eddie Murphy, Whoopi Goldberg, Wanda Sykes, and Dave Chapelle. (Same as History 1017.)

Africana Studies 1026 {16} c. Fictions of Freedom. TR 8:30 am-9:55 am. Tess Chakkalakal.

Explores the ways in which the idea of American freedom has been defined both with and against slavery through readings of legal and literary texts. Students to come to terms with the intersections between the political, literary, and historical concept of freedom and its relation to competing definitions of American citizenship. (Same as English 1026 {26}.)

ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology 1026 b. The Borderlands of United States Empire: Puerto Rican Histories and Identities. MW 8:00 am-9:25 am. Melissa Rosario.

Examines the Puerto Rican experience on island and in mainland US. Begins with a review of the history of U.S. –Puerto Rico relations in political and legal spheres. Explores the theory of borderlands (Gloria Anzaldúa) and considers its connections with this history. Next, focuses on language, migration and settlement in the diaspora, and explores the role of these processes in gendering and racializing Puerto Ricans. Creative writings and forms of cultural production on identity by Puerto Ricans will be examined at various intervals over the course of the semester to supplement historical and ethnographic texts. (Same as Latin American Studies 1026.)

ART HISTORY

Art History 1010 {11} c. Visual Culture and the Holocaust. MW 11:30 am-12:55 pm. Natasha Goldman.

Since 1945, memorials, works of art in public space, and museums have been dedicated to remembering the Holocaust. Examines works of art and museums produced in, among other countries, Germany, Israel, Poland, and the United States. Addresses Nathan Rapoport's Warsaw Ghetto Monument in Poland, Peter Eisenman's Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., among other sites. Interprets works through the lenses of historical and art historical contexts, as well as theories of memory and trauma. Explains and explores a range of stylistic approaches of memorials, including representational, abstract, minimal, conceptual, postmodern, and new media art. Two field trips include visits to the Boston Holocaust Memorial and the Holocaust and Human Rights Center in Augusta, Maine.

Art History 1011 c. Why Architecture Matters. MW 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Jill Pearlman.

Architecture is unavoidable: we spend our lives in and around buildings and in spaces and landscapes defined by them. Too often we take built environment for granted, oblivious of how it affects us and shapes our lives. This seminar aims to explore architecture's critical role in creating a sense of place, settings for community, symbols of our aspirations and fears, cultural icons and political ideals. As we investigate the fundamental principles of architecture, we will study closely some of history's great buildings and spaces. Students will learn how to talk about architecture and write about it. (Same as Environmental Studies 1011.)

Art History 1019 {19} c. Representing the Modern Artist in Word and Image. TR 1:00 pm – 2:25 pm. Susan B. Bakewell.

Artists' experiences as recorded in self-portraits and life writings, and in others' writings and images, shape this investigation into art-making in Europe. Examines the commonalities and particularities of early-modern and modern artists' situations within the larger contexts of artistic training, belief, class, economics, gender, geography, historical events, patronage, and politics. Class meetings feature viewings, discussions, and field trips. Sequenced research and writing assignments introduce students to research and resources, develop critical-thinking skills, and offer valuable practice in drafting, revising, and refining written work.

ASIAN STUDIES

Asian Studies 1006 c. China Encounters the West. MW 11:30 am-12:55 pm. Leah Zuo.

Explores the historical relationship between China and the West through examining a selection of their encounters from the seventeenth through the early twentieth centuries. Key episodes include: the Jesuit and Protestant missions, the arrival of the Industrial West (imperialism and war), the Cold War, and beyond. Examines such themes as religion and religiosity, science and technology, and the dynamics of cultural accommodation and communication. Draws upon readings of history, the history of science, religion, and political science. *Note:* This course fulfills the pre-modern requirement for history majors. (Same as History 1036.)

Asian Studies 1013 c. Japan in the World. MW 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Tristan Grunow.

Introduces students to the history, culture, and global interactions of Japan with a focus on the modern (post-1868) period through examination of primary and secondary sources, popular literature, and film. Along the way, the class will “De-exoticize” Japan, deconstruct the terms “Eastern” and “Western,” and consider how tensions between “Tradition/Modernity,” and “Inside/Outside,” have propelled modern Japanese historical development. Topics include: differing narratives of modernization; invention of “traditional” Japanese culture; the Western discovery of Japan/Japanese discovery of the West; changes in everyday life; tensions of modernity and tradition; war and defeat; and “Cool” Japan. (Same as History 1033.)

Asian Studies 1043 {23} c. East Asian Genre Cinema: The Martial Arts. TR 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Shu-chin Tsui.

Explores East Asian cinema from a genre perspective with a focus on transnational martial arts films. The course calls on social-cultural history and genre theory in examining the form and content of such films. The role of local/global and national/transnational relations in cinema is considered. And genre-specific issues, such as spectators' perception or industry practices, are studied to discern the role of gender, nation, power, and historiography. After taking the course, students will be able to explain the theoretical concepts of genre cinema, analyze the genre's visual formation, and comprehend the social-cultural implications of the genre. (Same as Film Studies 1043 {23}.)

Asian Studies 1046 {20} b. Global Media and Politics. MF 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. 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 1026{20}.)

BIOLOGY

Biology 1023 {23} a. Personal Genomes. MW 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. 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 healthcare. 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? Explores these questions through readings, discussion, and writing assignments.

CINEMA STUDIES

Film Studies 1004 c. Film Noir. TR 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Ann Kibbie.

A survey of film noir from the hard-boiled detective films of the 1940s to later films that attempt to re-imagine the genre. Films will include *The Big Sleep*; *Murder, My Sweet*; *Double Indemnity*; *Gun Crazy*; *In a Lonely Place*; and *Chinatown*. Readings will include some of the original novels that were adapted for the screen, as well as works of film criticism and/or theory. Includes mandatory evening film screenings: a choice of two screening times will be available for each film. (Same as English 1004 {11}.)

Film Studies 1043 {23} c. East Asian Genre Cinema: The Martial Arts. TR 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Shu-chin Tsui.

Explores East Asian cinema from a genre perspective with a focus on transnational martial arts films. The course calls on social-cultural history and genre theory in examining the form and content of such films. The role of local/global and national/transnational relations in cinema is considered. And genre-specific issues, such as spectators' perception or industry practices, are studied to discern the role of gender, nation, power, and historiography. After taking the course, students will be able to explain the theoretical concepts of genre cinema, analyze the genre's visual formation, and comprehend the social-cultural implications of the genre. (Same as Asian Studies 1043 {23}.)

CLASSICS

Classics 1017 {17} c. The Heroic Age: Ancient Supermen and Wonder Women. TR 8:30 am-9:55 am. 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.

ECONOMICS

1027 b. The Quiet Revolution: Women, Work, and Family in the Twentieth Century. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Rachel Connelly.

Explores the revolutionary changes in fertility, marriage, divorce, educational attainment and employment affecting all aspects of women's lives that occurred over the course of the twentieth century (and onto today). From Lillian Gilbreth (the mother in the book, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, who was one of the first working female engineers holding a PhD) to Rosie the Riveter; from June Cleaver to *Murphy Brown*; from "Opting Out" to "Leaning In," these changes are all around us. Focuses mainly on women in developed countries. Students are not required to have any prior knowledge of economics. (Same as Gender and Women's Studies 1011.)

ENGLISH

English 1001 c. Gods and Monsters: Medieval Mythology. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Emma Maggie Solberg.

Introduces students to the Celtic, Germanic, and Norse mythologies that flourished in and around the British Isles before (and later, in spite of) the triumph of Christianity—the stories of gods (Thor and Loki), heroes (Beowulf and Cú Chulainn), and monsters (orcs, giants, and dragons) that are the blueprints of so many of our fairy tales and fantasies. Texts include: Beowulf; The White Book of Rhydderch and The Red Book of Hergest; The Prophecies of Merlin; The Tain; Snorri Sturluson, The Prose Edda; The Völsunga Saga.

English 1002 c. Provocative Art. MW 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Morten Hansen.

Examines the history of avant-garde and experimental literature and art through the twentieth century, from Dada cabarets to Pussy Riot. Can art and literature really bring about political or social change? Can we talk about a tradition of provocative art or is each new provocation a break with the past? What happens when writers and artists start mixing different media and mixing highbrow with lowbrow? Works include surrealist poems and films; poetry by Allen Ginsberg, Amiri Baraka, Adrienne Rich, and Kenneth Goldsmith; essays and manifestos by André Breton, Antonin Artaud, John Cage, and Valerie Solanas; visual art by Marcel Duchamp, Andy Warhol, Robert Smithson; as well as punk and rap.

English 1004 {11} c. Film Noir. TR 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Ann Kibbie.

A survey of film noir from the hard-boiled detective films of the 1940s to later films that attempt to re-imagine the genre. Films will include *The Big Sleep*; *Murder, My Sweet*; *Double Indemnity*; *Gun Crazy*; *In a Lonely Place*; and *Chinatown*. Readings will include some of the original novels that were adapted for the screen, as well as works of film criticism and/or theory. Includes mandatory evening film screenings: a choice of two screening times will be available for each film. (Same as Film Studies 1004.)

English 1026 {26} c. Fictions of Freedom. TR 8:30 am-9:55 am. Tess Chakkalalal.

Explores the ways in which the idea of American freedom has been defined both with and against slavery through readings of legal and literary texts. Students come to terms with the intersections between the political, literary, and historical concept of freedom and its relation to competing definitions of American citizenship. (Same as Africana Studies 1026 {16}.)

English 1048 {25} c. Contemporary Short Fiction in English. TR 10:00 am-11:25 am. Celeste Goodridge.

Examines some of the formal features of narrative: plot, character development, point of view, the role of the reader, and closure, arguing that short stories have different requirements of economy than longer narratives. Emphasizing Gothic elements and representations of transgression, power, secrets, dysfunctionality, and domestic arrangements, authors may include Tessa Hadley, Alice Munro, Colm Toibin, William Trevor, and Claire Keegan.

English 1049 c. The Literature of Adolescent Sexuality. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Sarah Braunstein.

Fiction shows us the rules of life: how these rules confine us, free us, shape us, threaten us, and make us who we are. There's one set of rules for children, another for adults, that much is clear. But what about adolescents? Whose rules do they play by? Adolescents may be too young and vulnerable to withstand life under adult rules but too smart and full of emotion to stand the old rules of childhood. The result can be chaos, passion, drama, and great discovery. Examines artistic representations of adolescent sexual life during and after the great shift in sexual norms of the 1960s. Creative work—novels, short stories, narrative nonfiction, and films—is the primary source material, with supporting scholarly readings. Investigates such topics as subject/object dichotomies, LGBTQ identities, violence, virginity, pleasure, health education, narrative ownership, and the politics of empowerment. Students write both analytic papers and creative prose. (Same as Gay and Lesbian Studies 1049 and Gender and Women's Studies 1012.)

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Environmental Studies 1004 c. A Global History of Food. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Thomas Fleischman.

Examines the shifting relationship between people, food, and the environment that ties them together. It asks how have distance and space between the sites of production and consumption affected the economic and social relations of food? How has geography influenced the types of food people eat? How do views of scarcity and plenty shape approaches to farming? What is the role of governments and markets in agriculture? How does food refract and transform social divisions, cultural attitudes, and daily life? Topics include rural development; subsistence gardening; famine; histories of sugar, corn, pork, fish, whales, ice cream, and anything else that fits on a plate. (Same as History 1004.)

Environmental Studies 1011 c. Why Architecture Matters. MW 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Jill Pearlman.

Architecture is unavoidable: we spend our lives in and around buildings and in spaces and landscapes defined by them. Too often we take built environment for granted, oblivious of how it affects us and shapes our lives. This seminar aims to explore architecture's critical role in creating a sense of place, settings for community, symbols of our aspirations and fears, cultural icons and political

ideals. As we investigate the fundamental principles of architecture, we will study closely some of history's great buildings and spaces. Students will learn how to talk about architecture and write about it. (Same as Art History 1011.)

Environmental Studies 1026 b. Landscape, Energy, and Culture. TR 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Shaun Golding.

Explores current controversies in energy, giving particular attention to debates surrounding the implementation of renewable energy in Northern New England. Through both popular and scholarly readings and one mandatory field trip, engages with critical perspectives on consumer-oriented culture and identities and on tensions between urban and rural visions of landscape. Contemplates the social structures governing regional development and planning in which renewable energy strategies are framed. (Same as Sociology 1026.)

GAY AND LESBIAN STUDIES

Gay and Lesbian Studies 1049 c. The Literature of Adolescent Sexuality. TR 2:30pm-3:55pm. Sarah Braunstein.

Fiction shows us the rules of life: how these rules confine us, free us, shape us, threaten us, and make us who we are. There's one set of rules for children, another for adults, that much is clear. But what about adolescents? Whose rules do they play by? Adolescents may be too young and vulnerable to withstand life under adult rules but too smart and full of emotion to stand the old rules of childhood. The result can be chaos, passion, drama, and great discovery. Examines artistic representations of adolescent sexual life during and after the great shift in sexual norms of the 1960s. Creative work—novels, short stories, narrative nonfiction, and films—is the primary source material, with supporting scholarly readings. Investigates such topics as subject/object dichotomies, LGBTQ identities, violence, virginity, pleasure, health education, narrative ownership, and the politics of empowerment. Students write both analytic papers and creative prose. (Same as English 1049 and Gender and Women's Studies 1012.)

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

Gender and Women's Studies 1011 b. The Quiet Revolution: Women, Work, and Family in the Twentieth Century. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Rachel Connelly.

Explores the revolutionary changes in fertility, marriage, divorce, educational attainment and employment affecting all aspects of women's lives that occurred over the course of the twentieth century (and onto today). From Lillian Gilbreth (the mother in the book, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, who was one of the first working female engineers holding a PhD) to Rosie the Riveter; from June Cleaver to *Murphy Brown*; from "Opting Out" to "Leaning In," these changes are all around us. Focuses mainly on women in developed countries. Students are not required to have any prior knowledge of economics. (Same as Economics 1027.)

Gender and Women's Studies 1012 c. The Literature of Adolescent Sexuality. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Sarah Braunstein.

Fiction shows us the rules of life: how these rules confine us, free us, shape us, threaten us, and make us who we are. There's one set of rules for children, another for adults, that much is clear. But what about adolescents? Whose rules do they play by? Adolescents may be too young and vulnerable to withstand life under adult rules but too smart and full of emotion to stand the old rules of childhood. The result can be chaos, passion, drama, and great discovery. Examines artistic representations of adolescent sexual life during and after the great shift in sexual norms of the 1960s. Creative work—novels, short stories, narrative nonfiction, and films—is the primary source material, with supporting scholarly readings. Investigates such topics as subject/object dichotomies, LGBTQ identities, violence, virginity, pleasure, health education, narrative ownership, and the politics of empowerment. Students write both analytic papers and creative prose. (Same as English 1049 and Gay and Lesbian Studies 1049.)

Gender and Women's Studies 1030 c. Women and the Blues. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Susan M. Taffe Reed.

An in-depth interdisciplinary examination of historical, social, and cultural contexts of women and blues music of the twentieth century. Focuses on the lives, careers, and social realities of female African American blues singers such as Bessie Smith and Gertrude "Ma" Rainey and their contributions at the forefront of blues development. Also looks at the influence of blues oral tradition on song lyrics and vocal techniques, from the psychedelic blues of Janis Joplin to women performing jazz, from a socio-cultural perspective. No musical performance background is expected. Involves both analytical writing and creative projects. (Same as Africana Studies 1015 and Music 1015.)

Gender and Women's Studies 1033 c. Sexuality and Imperialism: Race and Gender in Colonial Asia. TR 11:30 am - 12:55 pm.. Frances Gouda.

Examines how East and West clashed over competing notions about sexuality, gender relations, and family structures. In colonial societies such as British-India, French Indochina (Vietnam), and the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia), institutions like polygamy, the harem, temple prostitution, widow burning, and child marriage were shocking to civil servants and settlers

from Europe. White-skinned Europeans felt surrounded by alien cultures because of their subjects' skin color as well as their peculiar, even abhorrent, sexual practices. Viewing Asian cultures as inferior bolstered a Western sense of racial superiority and vindicated Europeans' so-called natural right to occupy and rule large territories in South and Southeast Asia. By exploring nineteenth- and early twentieth-century ethnographic accounts, travel literature, scientific texts on racial hierarchies, and colonial novels—in addition to analyzing several films set in colonial India, Vietnam, and Indonesia—students explore the evolving power relationships between European settlers and the native inhabitants of colonial Asia.

GERMAN

1026 c. Memories, Secrets, and Lies: Autobiographical Texts from Rilke to Spiegelman. TR 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Kathryn Sederberg.

Autobiographical texts are all around us, from the bestseller table in the bookstore to movie theater marquee. But although the tagline “Based on a True Story” is summoned to indicate a faithful relation between “real” events and their representation, all texts rely on the techniques of storytelling, or narrative mediation. This course investigates how people tell stories about themselves, looking closely at issues of identity, subjectivity, memory, and representation. We will explore various forms of life writing, including autobiographies, memoirs and diaries, as well as forms that blur the distinction between fiction and memoir. Our reading will include works from well-known authors and artists, as well as texts from “ordinary” people who wrote to explore, manage and represent themselves.

GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL STUDIES

Government 1001 {25} b. Representation, Participation, and Power in American Politics. MW 8:00 am-9:25 am. Janet M. Martin.

An introductory seminar in American national politics. Readings, papers, and discussion explore the changing nature of power and participation in the American polity, with a focus on the interaction between individuals (non-voters, voters, party leaders, members of Congress, the President) and political institutions (parties, Congress, the executive branch, the judiciary). Not open to students who have credit for or are concurrently taking Government 1100 {150}.

Government 1002 {27} b. Political Leadership. TR 10:00 am-11:25 am. Andrew C. Rudalevige.

We talk about political leadership all the time, mostly to complain about its absence. Leadership is surely one of the key elements of politics, but what does it mean? Do we know it when we see it? What kinds of leaders do we have, and what kinds do we want? How do modern democratic conceptions of governance mesh with older visions of authority? Of ethics? Looks both at real world case studies and the treatment of leadership in literature. Offers a wide variety of perspectives on leadership and the opportunities and dangers it presents—both for those who want to lead, and for those who are called upon to follow.

Government 1011 {26} b. Fundamental Questions: Exercises in Political Theory. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. 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, Aristotle, the Bible, Machiavelli, Locke, Rousseau, Shakespeare, the American Founders, Tocqueville, and Nietzsche.

Government 1012 {28} b. Human Being and Citizen. MW 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. 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 may include Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, the American Founders, Tocqueville, Mill, and Nietzsche.

Government 1025 {18} b. NGOs in Politics. TR 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. 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. 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?

Government 1026 {20} b. Global Media and Politics. MF 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. 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 1046 {20}.)

Government 1031 b. Weapons of the Weak. TR 10:00 am-11:25 am. Barbara Elias.

Despite enjoying a preponderance of resources, the rich and mighty don't always win in life, or in war. Why? How do peasants and insurgents impose their will on more “powerful” organizations? How do wealthy armies at times lose wars to impoverished rebels? Whereas money and material can be measured, divided, and counted in a spreadsheet, less quantifiable factors in conflict such as ideas, identity, legitimacy, willpower, and fortitude are also important in determining war outcome, perhaps providing surprising opportunities for political forces that are traditionally considered “weak.” Exploring the American experience in WWII and Vietnam for context, texts include declassified U.S. national security documents and strategic documents from insurgent leaders.

HISTORY

History 1004 c. A Global History of Food. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Thomas Fleischman.

Examines the shifting relationship between people, food, and the environment that ties them together. It asks how have distance and space between the sites of production and consumption affected the economic and social relations of food? How has geography influenced the types of food people eat? How do views of scarcity and plenty shape approaches to farming? What is the role of governments and markets in agriculture? How does food refract and transform social divisions, cultural attitudes, and daily life? Topics include rural development; subsistence gardening; famine; histories of sugar, corn, pork, fish, whales, ice cream, and anything else that fits on a plate. (Same as Environmental Studies 1004.)

History 1006 {10} c. Monsters, Marvels, and Messiahs. MW 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Dallas Denery.

Examines how Europeans have sought to understand themselves and the world around them through travel and travel literature. Particular attention paid to the fascinating ways in which Europeans have used travel narratives to define and distinguish themselves from their “others.” *Note:* This course fulfills the pre-modern requirement for history majors.

History 1014 {12} c. Utopia: Intentional Communities in America, 1630–1997. MW 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. 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 1017 c. Black Humor. TR 11:30 am – 12:55 pm. Patrick Rael

Explores a long American cultural tradition of humor centering on people of African descent. Representations of African Americans, and African Americans themselves, have long been a component of American laughter -- either as objects of derision, or as potent social commentators. This course explores the history of black humor stretching from nineteenth-century blackface minstrelsy to Saturday Night Live. We will view recorded performances, read historical material, and engage a complex theoretical literature on this subject. Students should be ready to encounter edgy material that may be considered offensive. Subjects may include Amos and Andy, Moms Mabley, Richard Pryor, Eddie Murphy, Whoopi Goldberg, Wanda Sykes, and Dave Chapelle. (Same as Africana Studies 1017.)

History 1022 {14} c. Science and Society. MW 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. David Hecht.

Focuses on twentieth-century science, technology, and medicine. Uses a number of seminal events and ideas—evolution, nuclear weapons, environmentalism, genetics, climate change and public health—to examine changing meanings of “science.” Science is neither as objective nor as detached from society as is commonly assumed; but is deeply intertwined with the political, institutional, and cultural history of modern America.

History 1033 c. Japan in the World. MW 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Tristan Grunow.

Introduces students to the history, culture, and global interactions of Japan with a focus on the modern (post-1868) period through examination of primary and secondary sources, popular literature, and film. Along the way, the class will “De-exoticize” Japan,

deconstruct the terms “Eastern” and “Western,” and consider how tensions between “Tradition/Modernity,” and “Inside/Outside,” have propelled modern Japanese historical development. Topics include: differing narratives of modernization; invention of “traditional” Japanese culture; the Western discovery of Japan/Japanese discovery of the West; changes in everyday life; tensions of modernity and tradition; war and defeat; and “Cool” Japan. (Same as Asian Studies 1013.)

History 1036 c. China Encounters the West. MW 11:30 am-12:55 pm. Leah Zuo.

Explores the historical relationship between China and the West through examining a selection of their encounters from the seventeenth through the early twentieth centuries. Key episodes include: the Jesuit and Protestant missions, the arrival of the Industrial West (imperialism and war), the Cold War, and beyond. Examines such themes as religion and religiosity, science and technology, and the dynamics of cultural accommodation and communication. Draws upon readings of history, the history of science, religion, and political science. *Note:* This course fulfills the pre-modern requirement for history majors. (Same as Asian Studies 1006.)

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Interdisciplinary Studies 1010 {10} b. Health Care Disparities in the United States – A Public Health Challenge. TR 8:30 am – 9:55am. Stephen Loeb.

Health care occupies center stage in state and national elections. Inequities in health care in the United States have a direct impact on children and adults, especially those living in poverty, as well as on the national economy. Multicultural differences on health care present barriers to improving health status. Introduces the application of different academic disciplines, such as economics, political science, and sociology, to the contours of health care policy and debates, with the following questions forming the core: Why are there inequities in such a wealthy nation as ours? Are health care inequities a fixture of our pluralistic and market based economy? What can be learned from comparison with other, similar nations? Why is so much spent on health care with questionable outcomes? Several written essays and active class participation expected.

Interdisciplinary Studies 1020 c. How to Read a Million Books. MW 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Crystal Hall.

The explosion of digital editions and collections of books gives us unprecedented access to rare individual texts and massive bodies of literary and cultural material. What does it mean to “read” a million books? How does it relate to (or obscure) traditional “close reading” of texts? Are computer codes and algorithms something we might read? What kinds of new literary analysis do they make possible? The course will apply and critique “distant reading” as a method of making large text collections accessible to human readers. Readings will include single texts from different genres, multimillion book collections, and the most recent criticism and theory related to digital texts.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Latin American Studies 1026 b. The Borderlands of United States Empire: Puerto Rican Histories and Identities. MW 8:00 am-9:25 am. Melissa Rosario.

Examines the Puerto Rican experience on island and in mainland US. Begins with a review of the history of U.S. –Puerto Rico relations in political and legal spheres. Explores the theory of borderlands (Gloria Anzaldúa) and considers its connections with this history. Next, focuses on language, migration and settlement in the diaspora, and explores the role of these processes in gendering and racializing Puerto Ricans. Creative writings and forms of cultural production on identity by Puerto Ricans will be examined at various intervals over the course of the semester to supplement historical and ethnographic texts. (Same as Anthropology 1026.)

MUSIC

Music 1015 c. Women and the Blues. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Susan M. Taffe Reed.

An in-depth interdisciplinary examination of historical, social, and cultural contexts of women and blues music of the twentieth century. Focuses on the lives, careers, and social realities of female African American blues singers such as Bessie Smith and Gertrude “Ma” Rainey and their contributions at the forefront of blues development. Also looks at the influence of blues oral tradition on song lyrics and vocal techniques, from the psychedelic blues of Janis Joplin to women performing jazz, from a socio-cultural perspective. No musical performance background is expected. Involves both analytical writing and creative projects. (Same as Africana Studies 1015 and Gender and Women's Studies 1030.)

PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 1035 {15} c. Altruism. MW 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Lawrence Simon.

What is altruism? Does it really exist or are all our actions really self-interested? Are self-interest and altruism in conflict? How do we understand altruism from an evolutionary perspective? Can other animals act altruistically? Does morality require that we be altruistic? Are there limits on the amount of altruism morality can require of us? Examines these and related questions concerning the nature of altruism and its role in human life from biological, psychological, and philosophical perspectives.

Philosophy 1039 c. Existentialism. MW 2:30 pm-3:55 pm. Sarah Conly.

Does life have meaning? If so, what is it? If not, how should we proceed? What is the nature of human existence, and how can we understand this? Existentialism is the name given to a diverse group of thinkers who have tried to answer these questions both through philosophy and fiction. Readings include Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, Camus, and de Beauvoir.

RELIGION

Religion 1014 {14} c. Heresy and Orthodoxy. TR 10:00 am-11:25 am. Todd Berzon.

Writing-intensive, with a focus on readings in heretical texts, orthodox creeds, and scholarly treatments of the religious-ideological construction of heresy and orthodoxy. Fundamentally, heresy is dangerous precisely because of its proximity to orthodoxy. Examples focus on Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions; attention given to categories such as dogma vs. freedom, pure vs. impure, society vs. individual. Facets of present-day debates on fundamentalism included.

RUSSIAN

Russian 1022 {22} c. “It Happens Rarely, Maybe, but It Does Happen”—Fantasy and Satire in Russia and East Central Europe. TR 2:30 pm-3:55 pm Kristina Toland.

Explores the fantastic in Russian and East European literature from the 1830s into the twenty-first century. Studies the origins of the Russian and 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, aesthetics, and totalitarianism. Authors include E. T. A. Hoffman, Nikolai Gogol, Mikhail Bulgakov, Karel Capek, Vladimir Sorokin, Victor Pelevin, Ludmilla Petrushevskaya, Stanislaw Lem, and Franz Kafka, among others.

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology 1010 {10} b. Racism. TR 2:30 pm-3:55pm. 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 1010 {10}.)

Sociology 1026 b. Landscape, Energy, and Culture. TR 1:00 pm-2:25 pm. Shaun Golding.

Explores current controversies in energy, giving particular attention to debates surrounding the implementation of renewable energy in Northern New England. Through both popular and scholarly readings and one mandatory field trip, engages with critical perspectives on consumer-oriented culture and identities and on tensions between urban and rural visions of landscape. Contemplates the social structures governing regional development and planning in which renewable energy strategies are framed. (Same as Environmental Studies 1026.)

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Spring 2015 First-Year Seminars

AFRICANA STUDIES

Africana Studies 1019 c. Holy Songs in a Strange Land. Spring 2015. Judith Casselberry.

Examines Black American sacred music from its earliest forms, fashioned by enslaved Africans, through current iterations, produced by Black global actors of a different sort. What does bondage sound like? What does emancipation sound like? Can we hear corresponding sounds generated by artists today? In what ways have creators of sacred music embraced, rejected, and re-envisioned the “strange land” over time? Looks at musical and lyrical content and the context in which various music genres developed, such as Negro spirituals, gospel, and sacred blues. Contemporary artists such as Janelle Monáe, Beyoncé, and Lupe Fiasco included as well. (Same as Music 1011.)

HISTORY

History 1044 c. The Historical and Contemporary Maya. Spring 2015. Allen Wells.

Examines the historical and contemporary Maya from pre-Columbian times to the present with special attention paid to the Maya of Guatemala and the Yucatán peninsula. We will read Spanish chronicles, Maya testimonies, travelers’ accounts, scholarly monographs, and ethnographies. Among the topics to be explored are, the importance of family, community and spirituality, resistance and adaptation to the conquest, the challenges of acculturation, and the importance of the environment in shaping material life. (Same as Latin American Studies 1044.)

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Latin American Studies 1044 c. The Historical and Contemporary Maya. Spring 2015. Allen Wells.

Examines the historical and contemporary Maya from pre-Columbian times to the present with special attention paid to the Maya of Guatemala and the Yucatán peninsula. We will read Spanish chronicles, Maya testimonies, travelers’ accounts, scholarly monographs, and ethnographies. Among the topics to be explored are, the importance of family, community and spirituality, resistance and adaptation to the conquest, the challenges of acculturation, and the importance of the environment in shaping material life. (Same as History 1044.)

MUSIC

Music 1011. Holy Songs in a Strange Land. Spring 2015. Judith Casselberry.

Examines Black American sacred music from its earliest forms, fashioned by enslaved Africans, through current iterations, produced by Black global actors of a different sort. What does bondage sound like? What does emancipation sound like? Can we hear corresponding sounds generated by artists today? In what ways have creators of sacred music embraced, rejected, and re-envisioned the “strange land” over time? Looks at musical and lyrical content and the context in which various music genres developed, such as Negro spirituals, gospel, and sacred blues. Contemporary artists Janelle Monáe, Beyoncé, and Lupe Fiasco will be included as well. (Same as Africana Studies 1019.)