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.

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Information as of Aug 20, 2018 - Subject to change

First-Year Seminars

AFRICANA STUDIES


Explores the significant roles that women of color have played in American politics and around the world. Begins with the US context, starting in the antebellum era and moving forward by reading biographies/autobiographies that provide voice to the experiences faced by women of color in both traditional and non-traditional political spaces. These include women of color as close confidants to male political figures (first ladies, wives, and mistresses) and as politicians, judges, activists, and revolutionaries. Then shifts to a more global context considering the perspectives of women of color in countries where they have championed gender equality and feminism, and where they have become powerful political actors. (Same as GOV 1005)


Oil, diamonds, gold... riches in the midst of poverty. How can Africa boast so many natural resources and yet remain the poorest continent on earth? What is the "resource curse?" Begins by putting Africa in the context of global resource extraction, oil in particular. Establishes Africa's long pre-colonial experience with trade in iron, gold, salt, and slaves. The colonial period deepened the reliance of many territories on specific resources, a pattern that continues to the present. Uses Burkina Faso as a specific example of gold extraction, contrasting industrial and artisanal mining. Modern streams of prospectors throughout West Africa echo the California gold rush, but with important distinctions. An introduction to political science, the interplay between national and foreign governments, international and domestic firms, and local and migrant prospectors as they vie for access to valuable resources are highlighted. (Same as GOV 1029)

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 1016 b. Imagining Futures. Fall 2018. Lempert, William

How, why, and for whom do we imagine the future? Focuses on the future through the lens of indigenous science fiction and off-Earth exploration and settlement. Students engage with indigenous films and science fiction, popular and scholarly literature about space exploration, and the writing of cultural anthropologists to develop skills in analyzing visual and written texts and to reflect on "the future" as created by our individual and collective hopes, fears, and expectations.

( Same as )

ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGY 1012 c. Archaeology of Ritual and Myth. Fall 2018. Higginbotham, James

Examines ancient religious traditions and practice through the study of artifacts from the ancient Mediterranean housed in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. Students actively engage in the analysis of artifacts from Egypt, Assyria, Etruria, Greece, and Italy that represent aspects of ancient
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.

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Information as of Aug 20, 2018 - Subject to change

First-Year Seminars

ART HISTORY

ART HISTORY 1013 c. Ideas on the Move. Fall 2018. Gerry, Kate

In our increasingly global world, it’s easy to forget that people have been traveling and exchanging ideas throughout history. The visual arts have been one of the most effective ways to share ideas, and ‘material culture’ – the ‘stuff’ of our everyday lives – is a profound marker of the ongoing exchange of ideas between cultures. Students in this course use works of visual art and written texts to explore the ways in which people and ideas have moved and developed across cultures. Subject matter focuses on the pre-modern world (before c. 1800), with some consideration of more recent material. (Same as )


Since the 1960s, artists in Western Europe and the United States have used the environment as a site of visual exploration, discussion, critique, and action. From Robert Smithson and his ever-disintegrating “Spiral Jetty,” to Agnes Denes’s “Wheatfield” growing alongside Wall Street, to Mierle Ukeles’s installation and performance art in conjunction with the New York Department of Sanitation, to Eduardo Kac’s “GFP Bunny,” artists have explored the ways in which art objects are in dialogue with the environment, recycling, and biology. Works engage with concepts such as entropy, the agricultural industry, photosynthesis, and green tourism encouraging us to see in new ways the natural world around us. Visits to the Bowdoin College Museum of Art’s collections complement the material studied. Writing-intensive course emphasizes firm understanding of library and database research and the value of writing, revision, and critique. (Same as ENVS 1016)

ART HISTORY 1020 c. Defining Contemporary Art. Fall 2018. Fletcher, Pamela

Contemporary art can be challenging. Black squares, white cubes, appropriated advertising images, activist posters, street art, and performances all pose to viewers questions of intention, interpretation, and evaluation. Why did twentieth- and twenty-first-century artists redefine traditional media and invent new forms of artistic practice and experience? How do we know when something is “art?” How do we know if it is good art? Topics covered include: abstraction, appropriation, performance, activism, the workings of the contemporary art market, and theories of value and taste. (Same as )

ASIAN STUDIES

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.

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Information as of Aug 20, 2018 - Subject to change

First-Year Seminars

Animation is a dominant cultural force in Japan and perhaps its most important cultural export. Examines the ways Japanese animation represents Japan’s history and society and the diverse ways in which it is consumed abroad. How does animation showcase Japanese views of childhood, sexuality, national identity, and gender roles? How does its mode of story-telling build upon traditional pictorial forms in Japan? Focuses on the aesthetic, thematic, social, and historical characteristics of Japanese animation films; provides a broad survey of the place of animation in twentieth-century Japan. Films include “Grave of Fireflies,” “Spirited Away,” “Ghost in the Shell,” “Akira,” and “Princess Kaguya.” (Same as)

BIOLOGY


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 routine preventative health care. How can information gleaned from genome affect decisions about health? Beyond medical applications, how might personal genetic information be used in other areas of 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. (Same as)

CINEMA STUDIES

CINEMA STUDIES 1007 c. Perform & Theory in James Bond. Fall 2018. Bay-Cheng, Sarah

Introduces students to performance theory, critical analysis, and cultural studies through diverse works related to the fictional British spy character, James Bond. Considers selected Bond films, Ian Fleming’s novels, and other works related to the iconic series including parodies and spoofs (e.g., Austin Powers), advertising, and games, among others. A weekly group screening is encouraged, but students also have the opportunity to view required films individually. Writing assignments include performance and media analysis, critical reviews, and essays based on original research. (Same as ENGL 1011 / THTR 1007)

Introduces students to performance theory, critical analysis, and cultural studies through diverse works related to the fictional British spy character, James Bond. Considers selected Bond films, Ian Fleming’s novels, and other works related to the iconic series including parodies and spoofs (e.g., Austin Powers), advertising, and games, among others. A weekly group screening is encouraged, but students also have the opportunity to view required films individually. Writing assignments include performance and media analysis, critical reviews, and essays based on original research. (Same as ENGL 1011L1 / THTR 1007L1)

CINEMA STUDIES 1025 c. Crime Film. Fall 2018. Welsch, Tricia

Considers gangster films in depth, exploring how popular narrative film manages the threat posed by the criminal’s racial, ethnic, or gender difference. Examines shifts in the genre’s popularity and assesses the implications of considering genre entertainment art. Weekly writing, extensive reading, and
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Information as of Aug 20, 2018 - Subject to change

**First-Year Seminars**

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<tr>
<td>DIGITAL COMPUTATIONAL STUDIES</td>
<td><strong>DIGITAL COMPUTATIONAL STUDIES 1020 c. How to Read a Million Books. Fall 2018. Hall, Crystal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The explosion of digital editions and collections of books gives 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 that might be read? What kinds of new literary analysis do they make possible? Applies and critiques distant reading as a method of making large text collections accessible to human readers. Readings include single texts from different genres, multi-million book collections, and the most recent criticism and theory related to digital texts. (Same as )</td>
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<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td><strong>EDUCATION 1028 b. Sociology of Campus Life. Fall 2018. Nelson, Ingrid</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Explores higher education in the contemporary United States through a sociological lens, highlighting the ways that elite colleges and universities both promote social mobility and perpetuate inequality. Examines the functions of higher education for students and society; issues of inequality in college access, financing, campus experiences, and outcomes later in life; the history and consequences of affirmative action; how and why historically white colleges and universities have diversified their student bodies; the challenges and benefits of diversity and inclusion on campus; and other topics. Emphasis on writing sociologically for public and academic audiences (Same as SOC 1028)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td><strong>ENGLISH 1010 c. Literature and Medicine. Fall 2018. Kibbie, Ann</strong></td>
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<td>Explores representations of the practice of medicine in a wide range of short stories and novels, with special emphasis on strange, even horrific cases. Topics include portrayals of disease and disability, the complex relationships between physicians and patients, and the emphasis on women as subjects of medical inquiry and treatment. Readings include Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein,” Robert Louis Stevenson’s “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,” and H.G. Wells’s “The Island of Doctor Moreau.” (Same as )</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td><strong>ENGLISH 1011 c. Perform &amp; Theory in James Bond. Fall 2018. Bay-Cheng, Sarah</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH 1014 c. Memoir as Testimony. Fall 2018. Marzano-Lesnevich, Alexandria</td>
<td>Explores cultural movements and moments in the US and beyond through memoirs, graphic memoirs, and personal essays as well as critical essays on the memoir form. Examines how the story of an individual life is always, also, the story of a historical moment. Readings may include work by Alison Bechdel, Eula Biss, Thi Bui, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Garrard Conley, Maxine Hong Kingston, Sonya Livingston, Rian Malan, Claudia Rankine, Loung Ung, J.D. Vance, Jesmyn Ward, and others. Writing assignments critical and creative in form. Students both analyze these works and produce their own, capturing and interrogating what historical moments they themselves are living through. (Same as )</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 1018 c. Jane Eyre, Everywhere. Fall 2018. Briefel, Aviva</td>
<td>Charlotte Brontë’s 1847 novel, “Jane Eyre,” had a profound impact not only on subsequent nineteenth-century fiction, but also on twentieth- and twenty-first century literary representations of female experience. Begins with a close reading of Brontë’s novel and then moves on to exploring modern literary rewritings of this narrative. Considers both how Brontë’s themes are carried out through these various texts and why her narrative has been such a rich source of reinterpretation. In addition to Brontë, authors may include Du Maurier, James, Messud, Park, and Rhys. (Same as GSWS 1018)</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 1027 c. The Real Life of Literature. Fall 2018. Foster, Guy Mark</td>
<td>Examines literary fiction set against the backdrop of actual historical events, such as wars, social protest events, terrorist attacks, earthquakes, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the Holocaust, and political assassinations. Students not only analyze the literary strategies writers employ to fictionalize history and to historicize fiction, but also explore the methodological and philosophical implications of such creative gestures. In the end, this two-fold process transforms both categories in ways that permanently unsettle the status of fiction as merely imaginative and the historical as merely fact. Potential authors: Virginia Woolf, Octavia Butler, Yasmina Khadra, David Mura, Nicole Krause, Andrew Holleran, among others. (Same as )</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 1043 c. Fact and Fiction. Fall 2018. Clarke, Brock</td>
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BOWDOIN COLLEGE

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First-Year Seminars

An introduction to the study and creation of various kinds of narrative forms (short story, travel essay, bildungsroman, detective fiction, environmental essay, satire, personal essay, etc.). Students write critical essays and use the readings in the class as models for their own short stories and works of creative nonfiction. Class members discuss a wide range of published canonical and contemporary narratives and workshop their own essays and stories. In doing so, the class dedicates itself to both the study of literature and the making of it. (Same as)

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES


Since the 1960s, artists in Western Europe and the United States have used the environment as a site of visual exploration, discussion, critique, and action. From Robert Smithson and his ever-disintegrating “Spiral Jetty,” to Agnes Denes’s “Wheatfield” growing alongside Wall Street, to Mierle Ukeles’s installation and performance art in conjunction with the New York Department of Sanitation, to Eduardo Kac’s “GFP Bunny,” artists have explored the ways in which art objects are in dialogue with the environment, recycling, and biology. Works engage with concepts such as entropy, the agricultural industry, photosynthesis, and green tourism encouraging us to see in new ways the natural world around us. Visits to the Bowdoin College Museum of Art’s collections complement the material studied. Writing-intensive course emphasizes firm understanding of library and database research and the value of writing, revision, and critique. (Same as ARTH 1016)

GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN’S STUDIES


Charlotte Brontë’s 1847 novel, “Jane Eyre,” had a profound impact not only on subsequent nineteenth-century fiction, but also on twentieth- and twenty-first century literary representations of female experience. Begins with a close reading of Brontë’s novel and then moves on to exploring modern literary rewritings of this narrative. Considers both how Brontë’s themes are carried out through these various texts and why her narrative has been such a rich source of reinterpretation. In addition to Brontë, authors may include Du Maurier, James, Messud, Park, and Rhys. (Same as ENGL 1018)


Explores the myriad ways that prostitutes have been represented in modern Western culture from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. By analyzing literary texts, visual artworks, and films from Europe and the United States, examines prostitution as a complex urban phenomenon and a vehicle through which artists and writers grapple with issues of labor, morality, sexuality, and gender roles. Introduces students to a variety of literary, artistic, musical, and filmic genres, as well as to different disciplinary approaches to the study of prostitution. Authors, artists, and film directors may include Baudelaire, Toulouse-Lautrec, Kirchner, Wedekind, Pabst, Marshall, Scorsese, Spielmann, and Sting. (Same as GER 1027)

GERMAN
BOWDOIN COLLEGE

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First-Year Seminars

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GOVERNMENT

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. (Same as )

GOVERNMENT 1002 b. Political Leadership. Fall 2018. Rudalevige, Andrew
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. (Same as )

GOVERNMENT 1005 b. Women of Color in Politics. Fall 2018. Laird, Chryl
Explores the significant roles that women of color have played in American politics and around the world. Begins with the US context, starting in the antebellum era and moving forward by reading biographies/autobiographies that provide voice to the experiences faced by women of color in both traditional and non-traditional political spaces. These include women of color as close confidants to male political figures (first ladies, wives, and mistresses) and as politicians, judges, activists, and revolutionaries. Then shifts to a more global context considering the perspectives of women of color in countries where they have championed gender equality and feminism, and where they have become powerful political actors. (Same as AFRS 1005)

GOVERNMENT 1011 b. Exercises in Political Theory. Fall 2018. Hawley, Michael
BOWDOIN COLLEGE

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<td></td>
<td>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. (Same as )</td>
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<td>Introduces the student to the nature of warfare throughout various cultures and epochs by focusing on the “Daughters of Mars,” women warriors and warrior queens. Includes case studies from the Trojan war, the early Eurasian steppes, classical Greece and Rome, the High Middle Ages, nineteenth-century Africa, Samurai Japan, the American Civil War, World War II, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Also focuses on the arguments for and against having women in combat, culminating with the contemporary realities and debates concerning American women in combat today. Student research projects investigate these and other related subjects. (Same as )</td>
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<td>Oil, diamonds, gold . . . riches in the midst of poverty. How can Africa boast so many natural resources and yet remain the poorest continent on earth? What is the “resource curse”? Begins by putting Africa in the context of global resource extraction, oil in particular. Establishes Africa’s long pre-colonial experience with trade in iron, gold, salt, and slaves. The colonial period deepened the reliance of many territories on specific resources, a pattern that continues to the present. Uses Burkina Faso as a specific example of gold extraction, contrasting industrial and artisanal mining. Modern streams of prospectors throughout West Africa echo the California gold rush, but with important distinctions. An introduction to political science, the interplay between national and foreign governments, international and domestic firms, and local and migrant prospectors as they vie for access to valuable resources are highlighted. (Same as AFRS 1029)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>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. (Same as )</td>
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BOWDOIN COLLEGE

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<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT 1031 b.</td>
<td>Weapons of the Weak. Fall 2018. Elias, Barbara</td>
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<td>HISTORY 1011 c.</td>
<td>Health Histories. Fall 2018. Hecht, David</td>
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<td>HISTORY 1014 c.</td>
<td>Utopian Communities in America. Fall 2018. McMahon, Sarah</td>
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<td>HISTORY 1026 c.</td>
<td>20th Century Revolutions. Fall 2018. Mohandesi, Salar</td>
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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 of conflict such as ideas, identity, legitimacy, will power and fortitude are too often discounted as secondary factors. But these may, in truth, be at the heart of war, and weapons for the weak to bring down the mighty. (Same as )

Examines the histories—cultural, political, and scientific—through which what constitutes healthy individuals and healthy societies have come to be understood. These definitions are by no means obvious, and they emerge only after protracted struggle. Considers a wide variety of such debates, all set in the post-World War II United States. Possible case studies include scientific investigation into the health risks of nuclear fallout; the evolution of abortion rights before and after Roe v. Wade; the development of federal nutrition standards; artistic representation of the AIDS crisis through Tony Kushner’s “Angels in America”; and the politics of whether or not gun violence can be considered a health issue. Course writing gives students the opportunity to engage with primary sources, perform independent research, and explore the concept of public health as it exists beyond doctor’s offices and hospitals. This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as )

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. This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as )

The twentieth century was the great age of revolt. Dramatic social, political, and economic changes sparked revolutions across the globe. Examines revolution as a historical process, political event, and theoretical concept, exploring such questions as: why revolutions started; who participated; what participants wanted; and if these revolutions succeeded. To address these questions, investigates some of the major revolutions of the last century. Cases may include the Bolshevik Revolution, the Spanish Civil War, the Algerian War of Independence, the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China, and the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Concludes by reflecting on the utility of “revolution” as a category of historical analysis. This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Europe. (Same as )
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.

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**First-Year Seminars**

**LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**


What are human rights? How do literature, art, history, and other methods of cultural production engage with human rights? These are some of the questions explored as the concept of ‘human rights’—with the hemispheric context by developing a critical dialogue with novels, poems, short stories, scholarly articles, music, performance poetry, photography, and film—is investigated. This exploration helps to inform an understanding of how struggles of culture, gender, and race work to shape these discourses in the Americas, from colonialism to present-day immigration issues. Students’ skills in close reading, critical thinking, and analytical writing are refined, while the relationships between these skills are closely considered. In addition to discussing the texts in class, students write responses to them in a variety of forms, from literary analysis essays to creative projects to a final research paper. (Same as )

**MATHEMATICS**


A writing-intensive course that explores the many ways in which randomness affects everyday life. Introduces historical and computational aspects of mathematical logic, probability, and statistics. Addresses decision-making strategies as well as sources of flawed reasoning, including cognitive biases and logical fallacies. Topics include: games of chance, weather phenomena, financial markets, legal proceedings, and medical diagnostics. Students engage in all facets of the writing process: from invention, library research, drafting, and revision to final editing. (Same as )

**PHILOSOPHY**

**PHILOSOPHY 1040 c. Personal Identity. Fall 2018. Stuart, Matthew**

What is it that makes you a person, and what is it that makes you the same person as the little kid in your parents’ photo album? Philosophers have defended a number of different answers to these questions. According to some, it is persistence of the same soul that makes for personal identity. Others argue that it is persistence of the same body that matters, or the continuity of certain biological processes. Still others contend that it is psychological relations that matter. Canvases all of these answers and considers thought experiments about soul swapping, brain transplants, and Star Trek transporters. Readings from both historical and contemporary sources. (Same as )

**PHILOSOPHY 1042 c. Crime and Punishment. Fall 2018. Olson, Kristi**

Examines philosophical issues raised by the criminal law, including the moral justification of punishment, the proper subject matter of criminal law (that is, what should be a crime?), ethical issues in law enforcement, and the theoretical underpinnings of different criminal defenses. (Same as )
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First-Year Seminars

RELIGION

RELIGION 1013 c. God and Money. Fall 2018. Pritchard, Elizabeth

Money is frequently assumed to be antithetical to religion even as the two are utterly inseparable. This is what makes it a particularly useful category for exploring what counts as religion—concerns that are integral to the discipline of religious studies and central to humanistic inquiry more broadly. Considers money as a measure of time, as a way human communities construct relationships, as well as how it interacts with moral categories such as value, guilt, and obligation, and theological understandings of sin, debt, poverty, charity, and prosperity. Course readings and visual media consist of predominantly Christian sources with some comparison to other traditions and focus on the significance of money in modern life. (Same as )

SOCIOLOGY


Explores higher education in the contemporary United States through a sociological lens, highlighting the ways that elite colleges and universities both promote social mobility and perpetuate inequality. Examines the functions of higher education for students and society; issues of inequality in college access, financing, campus experiences, and outcomes later in life; the history and consequences of affirmative action; how and why historically white colleges and universities have diversified their student bodies; the challenges and benefits of diversity and inclusion on campus; and other topics. Emphasis on writing sociologically for public and academic audiences (Same as EDUC 1028)

THEATER

THEATER 1007 c. Perform & Theory in James Bond. Fall 2018. Bay-Cheng, Sarah

Introduces students to performance theory, critical analysis, and cultural studies through diverse works related to the fictional British spy character, James Bond. Considers selected Bond films, Ian Fleming's novels, and other works related to the iconic series including parodies and spoofs (e.g., Austin Powers), advertising, and games, among others. A weekly group screening is encouraged, but students also have the opportunity to view required films individually. Writing assignments include performance and media analysis, critical reviews, and essays based on original research. (Same as CINE 1007 / ENGL 1011)

Introduces students to performance theory, critical analysis, and cultural studies through diverse works related to the fictional British spy character, James Bond. Considers selected Bond films, Ian Fleming's novels, and other works related to the iconic series including parodies and spoofs (e.g., Austin Powers), advertising, and games, among others. A weekly group screening is encouraged, but students also have the opportunity to view required films individually. Writing assignments include performance and media analysis, critical reviews, and essays based on original research. (Same as CINE 1007L1 / ENGL 1011L1)