

Fall 2019 First-Year Seminar Offerings

AFRICANA STUDIES

AFRICANA STUDIES 1005 b. Women of Color in Politics. Fall 2019. 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 GOV 1005)

AFRICANA STUDIES 1010 b. Deconstructing Racism. Fall 2019. Greene, Theo

Examines the social, political, and historical evolution of racism as a system and the challenges to studying and eradicating racism in contemporary American society. Investigates the construction of race, the various logics used to justify racial thinking, and the visible and invisible forces that perpetuate racial stratification and inequality in American life. Understands the various political and social debates that complicate and undermine how racism is defined and identified. Explores its impact on individuals, institutions, and cultures in the United States, and the various formal and subversive strategies deployed by individuals and collectives for challenging and combatting it. Emphasis on developing a language for discussing, debating, and writing about race and racism sociologically for public and academic audiences. (Same as SOC 1010)

AFRICANA STUDIES 1026 c. Fictions of Freedom. Fall 2019. Chakkalakal, Tess

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 ENGL 1026)

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 1016 b. Imagining Futures. Fall 2019. Lempert, Willi

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 2019.

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 religious practice. Student writing assignments draw inspiration from select objects from the

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collection that include many examples of sculpture, pottery, and coins. Illustrated presentations and assigned reading provide the archaeological contexts for the artifacts under study, as well as explore the cultural narratives recounted in history and myth. Sites such as Giza, Kalhu, Delphi, Olympia, Athens, Pompeii, and Rome are explored as the settings for the rituals and myths that helped define the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world. Class meetings take place in the Museum of Art. (Same as)

ART HISTORY

ART HISTORY 1010 c. Visual Culture & the Holocaust. Fall 2019. Goldman, Natasha

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. Nathan Rapoport's Warsaw Ghetto Monument in Poland, Peter Eisenman's Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, among other sites, are addressed. Historical and art historical context, as well as theories of memory and trauma, provide lenses through which works are interpreted. A range of stylistic approaches of memorials, including representational, abstract, minimal, conceptual, postmodern, and new media art, are explained and explored. Two field trips include visits to the Boston Holocaust Memorial and the Holocaust and Human Rights Center in Augusta, Maine. (Same as)

ART HISTORY 1014 c. Matisse and Picasso. Fall 2019. Fletcher, Pamela

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. (Same as)

ASIAN STUDIES

ASIAN STUDIES 1046 b. Global Media and Politics. Fall 2019. Laurence, Henry

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 GOV 1026)

BIOLOGY

BIOLOGY 1026 a. Approaches to Neuroscience. Fall 2019. Horch, Hadley

Students will be introduced to the basics of neurobiology, and begin to understand the challenges inherent to studying the brain. Topics will include basic neuronal function, animal behavior, mutations and mental illness, drugs and addiction, neuroethics, and consciousness. Readings from journal articles, websites, and popular press science books will be used. Critical thinking skills will be practiced through several writing assignments as well as in-class discussions and debates. (Same as)

CLASSICS

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CLASSICS 1017 c. Ancient Supermen&Wonder Women. Fall 2019. Nerdahl, Michael

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. (Same as)

DIGITAL COMPUTATIONAL STUDIES

DIGITAL COMPUTATIONAL STUDIES 1020 c. How to Read a Million Books. Fall 2019. Hall, Crystal

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)

DIGITAL COMPUTATIONAL STUDIES 1024 c. Serious Play: Games & History. Fall 2019. Rael, Patrick

Did you know that Monopoly began life a game that criticized modern capitalism? Have you ever wondered what sense it makes that in Sid Meier's Civilization, Abraham Lincoln can found the American tribe in 4,000 BCE? This course explores how commercial video and board games can help us understand the past. In return, understanding something about how the discipline of history works will help us think about games as representations of the past. Games to be studied and played may include: Catan, Diplomacy, Monopoly, Sid Meier's Civilization V, Spirit Island, and Twilight Struggle. Students should expect to complete four structured writing assignments and several shorter writing assignments. The course includes a weekly evening game lab. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: US. (Same as HIST 1024)

Did you know that Monopoly began life a game that criticized modern capitalism? Have you ever wondered what sense it makes that in Sid Meier's Civilization, Abraham Lincoln can found the American tribe in 4,000 BCE? This course explores how commercial video and board games can help us understand the past. In return, understanding something about how the discipline of history works will help us think about games as representations of the past. Games to be studied and played may include: Catan, Diplomacy, Monopoly, Sid Meier's Civilization V, Spirit Island, and Twilight Struggle. Students should expect to complete four structured writing assignments and several shorter writing assignments. The course includes a weekly evening game lab. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: US. (Same as HIST 1024L1)

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 1007 c. Joan of Arc. Fall 2019. Solberg, Emma Maggie

Explores the cultural history of Joan of Arc—heretic, witch, martyr, and saint—beginning with the historical records of her trial and execution and then moving through the many lies and legends that proliferated about her in the centuries after her death. Compares and contrasts the drastically different representations of her in texts, films, paintings, and songs ranging from the medieval to the

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modern. (Same as)

ENGLISH 1009 c. *The Ravages of Love*. Fall 2019. Collings, David

Examines examples of overwhelming love in eighteenth and nineteenth century novels from England, France, and Germany. Through close reading and intensive writing, considers the intersection of love with the difficulties created by class and gender difference; the power of desire to challenge social convention and the terms of ordinary reality; the confrontations between love, egotism, and seduction; and the implications of love's attempt to dare all, even at the risk of death. Discusses the political overtones of these narratives of love and their place within the construction of gender, sexuality and subjectivity in Western culture. Authors may include Prevost, Goethe, Laclos, Hays, Austen, Bronte, and Flaubert. (Same as GSWS 1009)

ENGLISH 1012 c. *Jane Austen*. Fall 2019. Kibbie, Ann

A study of Jane Austen's major works, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, and *Persuasion*. (Same as GSWS 1025)

ENGLISH 1026 c. *Fictions of Freedom*. Fall 2019. Chakkalal, Tess

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 AFRS 1026)

ENGLISH 1027 c. *The Real Life of Literature*. Fall 2019. Foster, Guy Mark

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)

ENGLISH 1034 c. *America in the World*. Fall 2019. Hansen, Morten

Examines America as it is seen in literature from home and abroad. How have American authors described America's place in the world? How has America's present role as the sole global superpower affected how we view its past? What does America look like today from the perspective of the third world? Explores the way literature represents space and time, from current events to world history. Authors include Henry James, James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Jamaica Kincaid, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. (Same as)

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 1027 b. *Politics of Climate Change*. Fall 2019. Henry, Laura

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Provides an overview of where climate politics happening and which actors are involved. Examines the politics of climate change at multiple levels—from the individual to global governance—and review climate policy in different countries. Pays particular attention to cases where active policy making or public mobilization around climate is occurring, asking why we see initiative and innovation in climate policy in these cities, states, and international venues and not elsewhere. Considers themes such as how climate policy is developed in democracies and authoritarian regimes, how climate policy may affect economic development, the role of non-state actors such as NGOs and business groups in climate politics, and the ethical implications of different climate policy options. (Same as GOV 1027)

GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES 1009 c. *The Ravages of Love*. Fall 2019. Collings, David

Examines examples of overwhelming love in eighteenth and nineteenth century novels from England, France, and Germany. Through close reading and intensive writing, considers the intersection of love with the difficulties created by class and gender difference; the power of desire to challenge social convention and the terms of ordinary reality; the confrontations between love, egotism, and seduction; and the implications of love's attempt to dare all, even at the risk of death. Discusses the political overtones of these narratives of love and their place within the construction of gender, sexuality and subjectivity in Western culture. Authors may include Prevost, Goethe, Laclos, Hays, Austen, Bronte, and Flaubert. (Same as ENGL 1009)

GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES 1021 c. *Bad Girls of the 1950s*. Fall 2019. Scanlon, Jennifer

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. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as HIST 1001)

GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES 1025 c. *Jane Austen*. Fall 2019. Kibbie, Ann

A study of Jane Austen's major works, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, and *Persuasion*. (Same as ENGL 1012)

GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT 1001 b. *Amer Gov: Represen & Particip*. Fall 2019. Martin, Janet

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 2019. Rudalevige, Andrew

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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 2019. 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 2019. Yarbrough, Jean

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)

GOVERNMENT 1012 b. Human Being and Citizen. Fall 2019. Hawley, Michael

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. (Same as)

GOVERNMENT 1026 b. Global Media and Politics. Fall 2019. Laurence, Henry

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 ASNS 1046)

GOVERNMENT 1027 b. Politics of Climate Change. Fall 2019. Henry, Laura

Provides an overview of where climate politics happening and which actors are involved. Examines the politics of climate change at multiple levels—from the individual to global governance—and review climate policy in different countries. Pays particular attention to cases where active policy making or public mobilization around climate is occurring, asking why we see initiative and innovation in

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climate policy in these cities, states, and international venues and not elsewhere. Considers themes such as how climate policy is developed in democracies and authoritarian regimes, how climate policy may affect economic development, the role of non-state actors such as NGOs and business groups in climate politics, and the ethical implications of different climate policy options. (Same as ENVS 1027)

GOVERNMENT 1028 b. Women at War. Fall 2019. Potholm, Christian

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)

GOVERNMENT 1030 b. The Pursuit of Peace. Fall 2019. Springer, Allen

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)

GOVERNMENT 1031 b. Weapons of the Weak. Fall 2019. Elias, Barbara

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)

HISTORY

HISTORY 1001 c. Bad Girls of the 1950s. Fall 2019. Scanlon, Jennifer

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. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as GSWS 1021)

HISTORY 1022 c. Science on Trial. Fall 2019. Hecht, David

Examines moments of scientific controversy in modern United States history. From teaching evolution to legalizing abortion to accepting climate change, science has been at the center of some of our most persistent political debates. But science is neither as objective nor as detached from society as we commonly assume; it is inextricably bound to cultural, social, and even moral norms.

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This course uses moments of legal and political tension to explore the complexities of how scientific knowledge is produced, disseminated, and accepted (or rejected). Case studies include the Scopes Trial, the eugenics-era decision in *Buck v. Bell*, lawsuits against the tobacco industry, and *Roe v. Wade* -- as well as the making of environmental policy on questions of pesticide use and radiation exposure. Course writing gives students the opportunity to engage with a range of historical sources in science, law, policy and media. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: US. (Same as)

HISTORY 1024 c. Serious Play: Games & History. Fall 2019. Rael, Patrick

Did you know that Monopoly began life a game that criticized modern capitalism? Have you ever wondered what sense it makes that in Sid Meier's Civilization, Abraham Lincoln can found the American tribe in 4,000 BCE? This course explores how commercial video and board games can help us understand the past. In return, understanding something about how the discipline of history works will help us think about games as representations of the past. Games to be studied and played may include: Catan, Diplomacy, Monopoly, Sid Meier's Civilization V, Spirit Island, and Twilight Struggle. Students should expect to complete four structured writing assignments and several shorter writing assignments. The course includes a weekly evening game lab. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: US. (Same as DCS 1024)

Did you know that Monopoly began life a game that criticized modern capitalism? Have you ever wondered what sense it makes that in Sid Meier's Civilization, Abraham Lincoln can found the American tribe in 4,000 BCE? This course explores how commercial video and board games can help us understand the past. In return, understanding something about how the discipline of history works will help us think about games as representations of the past. Games to be studied and played may include: Catan, Diplomacy, Monopoly, Sid Meier's Civilization V, Spirit Island, and Twilight Struggle. Students should expect to complete four structured writing assignments and several shorter writing assignments. The course includes a weekly evening game lab. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: US. (Same as DCS 1024L1)

HISTORY 1026 c. 20th Century Revolutions. Fall 2019. Mohandesi, Salar

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

HISTORY 1046 c. 'Deviant' Lives in Latin Amer. Fall 2019. Cikota, Javier

Explores the lives of particular Latin American people who found themselves being "boxed in," and the ways in which they have sought to remain outside, or even in-between, categories. We will consider issues of personal identity, social belonging, and state power through the lives and stories—some well-known, and some surprisingly obscure—of Latin Americans, from the 1500s to the present. Course writing gives students the opportunity to engage with primary sources, perform independent research, and explore how personal identities have been created, maintained, and challenged over the centuries. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Latin America. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for History majors and minors. (Same as LAS 1046)

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES 1046 c. 'Deviant' Lives in Latin Amer. Fall 2019. Cikota, Javier

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Explores the lives of particular Latin American people who found themselves being "boxed in," and the ways in which they have sought to remain outside, or even in-between, categories. We will consider issues of personal identity, social belonging, and state power through the lives and stories—some well-known, and some surprisingly obscure—of Latin Americans, from the 1500s to the present. Course writing gives students the opportunity to engage with primary sources, perform independent research, and explore how personal identities have been created, maintained, and challenged over the centuries. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Latin America. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for History majors and minors. (Same as HIST 1046)

MATHEMATICS

MATHEMATICS 1040 a. Educated Guessing. Fall 2019. Broda, James

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 1028 c. A Philosopher's Dozen. Fall 2019. Stuart, Matthew

An introduction to philosophy by way of twelve famous thought experiments. Explores central questions in metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics by considering such imaginary scenarios as the runaway trolley, Mary in the black and white room, the ailing violinist, the split-brain transplant, the evil neurosurgeon, twin earth, and the experience machine. (Same as)

PHILOSOPHY 1032 c. Crime and Punishment. Fall 2019. 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)

RELIGION

RELIGION 1008 c. Religious Conversion. Fall 2019. Mutter, Jessica

Examines conversion in various religions, including Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and Hinduism. Through primary and secondary source materials, students will explore historical and modern understandings and practices of conversion as a signifier, rite, or ritual of entrance or immersion into a religious tradition and its community. Students will read firsthand accounts of conversions, secondhand conversion narratives, attempts to define conversion, religious guidelines for conversion, and texts examining the implications of converting away from one community and into another. Among others, accounts of apostasy, coerced conversion, conversion for the purposes of marriage or inheritance, and conversions described as spiritual epiphanies will be examined. Students will also complete a writing-focused research project on conversion over the course of the semester. The project will incorporate a series of guided assignments for each step of the research project (proposal, annotated bibliography, draft, and presentation). This managed, writing-intensive research project will allow first-year students to develop their research and writing skills at the college

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level while familiarizing them with the resources Bowdoin has to offer for their research. The course questions how to define conversion and whether it is possible to formulate a universal definition for conversion across religions and cultures. (Same as)

SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY 1010 b. Deconstructing Racism. Fall 2019. Greene, Theo

Examines the social, political, and historical evolution of racism as a system and the challenges to studying and eradicating racism in contemporary American society. Investigates the construction of race, the various logics used to justify racial thinking, and the visible and invisible forces that perpetuate racial stratification and inequality in American life. Understands the various political and social debates that complicate and undermine how racism is defined and identified. Explores its impact on individuals, institutions, and cultures in the United States, and the various formal and subversive strategies deployed by individuals and collectives for challenging and combatting it. Emphasis on developing a language for discussing, debating, and writing about race and racism sociologically for public and academic audiences. (Same as AFRS 1010)