

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 November 4, 2014 - Subject to Change

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.)

GAY AND LESBIAN STUDIES

Gay and Lesbian Studies 1016. Christian Sexual Ethics. Spring 2015. Elizabeth Pritchard.

An examination of the themes, varieties, and conflicts of Christian teachings and practices regarding sex and sexuality. Source materials include the Bible, historical analyses, Church dogmatics, legal cases, and ethnographic studies. Topics include celibacy and marriage, the development and status of sexual orientations, natural law, conversion therapy, reproductive rights and technologies, and comparative religious ethics. (Same as Gender and Women Studies 1017 and Religion 1017.)

GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES

Gender and Women’s Studies 1017. Christian Sexual Ethics. Spring 2015. Elizabeth Pritchard.

An examination of the themes, varieties, and conflicts of Christian teachings and practices regarding sex and sexuality. Source materials include the Bible, historical analyses, Church dogmatics, legal cases, and ethnographic studies. Topics include celibacy and marriage, the development and status of sexual orientations, natural law, conversion therapy, reproductive rights and technologies, and comparative religious ethics. (Same as Gender and Women Studies 1017 and Religion 1017.)

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.)

RELIGION

Religion 1017. Christian Sexual Ethics. Spring 2015. Elizabeth Pritchard.

An examination of the themes, varieties, and conflicts of Christian teachings and practices regarding sex and sexuality. Source materials include the Bible, historical analyses, Church dogmatics, legal cases, and ethnographic studies. Topics include celibacy and marriage, the development and status of sexual orientations, natural law, conversion therapy, reproductive rights and technologies, and comparative religious ethics. (Same as Gay and Lesbian Studies 1016 and Gender and Women Studies 1017.)