

Freshman Seminars

FALL 2016

|

Sector I - Society

Desire and Demand

Marilynne Diggs-Thompson, House Dean, Riepe College House

Does consumption shape culture or does culture shape consumption? As even the most mundane purchase becomes socially symbolic and culturally meaningful, we can persuasively argue that the concept of "need" has been transformed. Analyzing a variety of physical and virtual consumer venues, the goal of this seminar is to understand and to analyze historical and contemporary issues related to a culture of consumption. We investigate social and political-economic factors that impact when and how people purchase goods and argue that behavior attached to consumption includes a nexus of influences that may change periodically in response to external factors. Readings and research assignments are interdisciplinary and require a critical analysis of global/local linkages. The city of Philadelphia becomes the seminar's laboratory as we ask how have issues of culture, consumption, and global capitalism become intertwined around the world?

Cultural Diversity in the U.S.

ANTH 086 301

Monday | 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Euro zone crisis – The EU in a Currency War for Survival?

Susanne Shields, Lauder Institute, Senior Lecturer

"Let me put it simply... there may be a contradiction between the interests of the financial world and the interests of the political world.... We cannot keep constantly explaining to our voters and our citizens why the taxpayer should bear the cost of certain risks and not those people who have earned a lot of money from taking those risks."

Angela Merkel,

Chancellor of Germany, at the G20 Summit,

November 2010

In January 1999, a single monetary system united Germany, a core nation, with 10 other European states. Amidst the optimism of the euro's first days, most observers forecast that Europe would progress toward an ever closer union. Indeed, in the ensuing decade, the European Union became the world's largest trading area, the euro area expanded to include 17 member states, and the Lisbon Treaty enhanced the efficiency and democratic legitimacy of the Union. In 2009, Greece's debt crisis exposed deep rifts within the European Union and developed into a euro zone crisis – arguably the most difficult test Europe has faced in the past 60 years. After two years of a more benign EURO debt situation, the risk of recession, EU sanctions against Russia, and a possible collision of a newly-elected Greek

government with its creditors, the euro crisis returns with a vengeance in 2015. Does the EU have what it takes to emerge from this crisis? Will the European nations find a collective constructive solution that will lead to a fiscal union that implies further integration?

At a time when Germany is increasingly expected to provide leadership to prevent the collapse of the EU, the goal of this seminar is to explore how and why the euro zone has arrived at the situation in which it now finds itself, and to consider how major European euro and non-euro members see the consequences of the crisis for their own role in the EU and what role the United States has to play in the future of the euro zone. Two major issues, the complexity of decision-making within the EU and the challenges to forming a European identity, further compound the issue. Studying different perspectives, the goal is to stimulate thinking about if and how different national identities of European member states and varying political, economic, and cultural climates still pose major obstacles to potential solutions to the crisis.

GRMN 027 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Womanism, Identity and Hip Hop

Shawna Patterson, House Dean, Fisher Hassenfeld College House

This course centers on the intersections of womanism, woman of color identity development, and agency within hip-hop culture. We will touch on several topics that uncover the condition of minoritized women in hip-hop media, including creating/owning space, lyrical assault, defining womanhood, sexuality, and fetishes. In exploring music, literature, advertisements, film, and television, we will discuss the ways women of color construct understandings of self, while navigating and reimagining reality within hip-hop contexts.

GSWS 040 401 URBS 050 401

Wednesday | 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Risky Business

J. Sanford Schwartz, Professor of Medicine, Health Management & Economics

This freshman seminar on medical decision-making will focus on personal and public medical and health decisions - how we make them and how they can be improved. While in theory medical decisions are in large part both informed and constrained by scientific evidence, in reality they are much more complex. Drawing upon a range of information sources including textbooks, original research and popular media, the seminar will introduce students to the challenges of making personal and public (i.e., policy) decisions under conditions of inherent uncertainty and resources constraints and how research and scholarship can inform and improve decision making processes and decisions. Using a variety of highly engaging approaches (in-class discussions, examination of primary research, popular media, simple experiments, expert panel debates) this highly interactive seminar will provide students a strong introductory foundation to medical decision making specifically and, by extension, to decision making under conditions of uncertainty more generally. The seminar will take a multi-disciplinary perspective, drawing upon knowledge developed from psychology, sociology, economics, insurance and risk management, statistical inference, neuroscience, operations research, communications, law, ethics and political science.

HSOC 032 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Autism Epidemic

David Mandell, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, School of Medicine

The CDC estimates that 1 in 150 children have autism. Three decades ago, this number was 1 in 5,000. The

communities in which these children are identified in ever increasing numbers are ill prepared to meet their needs. Scientists have struggled to understand the causes of this disorder, its treatment, and why it appears to be rapidly increasing. Families, policy makers, schools and the healthcare system have argued bitterly in the press and in the courts about the best way to care for these children and the best ways to pay for this care. In this class, we will use autism as a case study to understand how psychiatric and developmental disorders of childhood come to be defined over time, their biological and environmental causes identified, and treatments developed. We will also discuss the identification and care of these children in the broader context of the American education and healthcare systems.

HSOC 052 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Medical Missionaries and Partners

Kent Bream, *Assistant Professor of Clinical Family Medicine and Community Health*

Global health is an increasingly popular goal for many modern leaders. Yet critics see evidence of a new imperialism in various aid programs. We will examine the evolution over time and place of programs designed to improve the health of underserved populations. Traditionally categorized as public health programs or efforts to achieve a just society, these programs often produce results that are inconsistent with these goals. We will examine the benefits and risks of past programs and conceptualize future partnerships on both a local and global stage. Students should expect to question broadly held beliefs about the common good and service. Ultimately we will examine the concept of partnership and the notion of community health, in which ownership, control, and goals are shared between outside expert and inside community member.

HSOC 059 301

Wednesday | 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ethics

Milton W. Meyer, *Lecturer in Philosophy*

Three sorts of questions belong to the philosophical study of ethics:

- (a) Practical ethics discusses specific moral problems, often those we find most contested (e.g., abortion, euthanasia, killing noncombatants in war).
- (b) Ethical theory tries to develop systematic answers to moral problems, often by looking for general principles that explain moral judgments and rules (e.g., consequentialism, contractarianism).
- (c) Meta-ethics investigates questions about the nature of moral theories and their subject matter (e.g., are they subjective or objective, relative or non-relative?).

We will rigorously investigate all three of these types of questions. A large part of the course will be focused on two highly contentious moral problems, abortion and killing noncombatants in war.

The central aim of the required readings and discussion is a) to develop each question deeply and sharply enough for us to understand why it has been contentious; b) to see what new evidence could change the nature of the problem; and c) to suggest how to seek that further evidence. We will focus on how to read complex contemporary philosophical prose in order to outline and evaluate the arguments embedded with it. This will provide the basis for writing papers in which you defend a position with evidence and arguments.

These skills are central to the practice of Philosophy. This course does not presuppose that students already have these skills. It is intended to teach them and presupposes a willingness on the part of students to do what is necessary to learn them. What this involves is detailed in a note on Courses in Touch called "Success in the Course". You should read this note before enrolling in the course to understand the commitment this course involves.

Graded work: weekly paragraphs on a topic of your choice; three papers in multiple drafts; take-home final exam; class participation.

PHIL 002 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Terrorism & Civil Wars

Jessica Stanton, *Assistant Professor of Political Science*

This course is a freshman seminar, examining terrorism, insurgency, and civil war. The first half of the course explores the causes of these different forms of political violence, including how group leaders mobilize individuals to participate in violent political action, the role that economic and political grievances and inequality play in motivating rebellion, and the influence of ethnic and religious identity. The second half of the course examines responses to terrorism and civil war, with a particular focus on international efforts to address these forms of violence. This section of the course analyzes the effectiveness of different government counterterrorism and counterinsurgency strategies, as well as considers various international policy responses aimed at combatting transnational terrorism or resolving ongoing civil wars. The course focuses on contemporary conflicts.

PSCI 010 302

Monday | 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Business & Politics in Developing Countries

Devesh Kapur, *Professor of Political Science*

The purpose of the seminar is to understand the relationship between business and politics (or relatedly between state and capital) in developing countries, the factors which shape this relationship and its consequences. The seminar will analyze the difference between markets and ownership, the mechanisms by which business and politics influence each other and the implications for economic growth and equity. How do the characteristics of a country's politics as well as those of businesses — the sectors in which they operate, their market share, whether they are multinational or domestic firms, whether they are export oriented — affect this interaction? Finally we will examine the effects of globalization of markets on domestic politics in developing countries. The seminar readings draw upon both conceptual and historical material from a wide range of disciplines and geographical settings.

PSCI 010 303

Wednesday | 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Race, Crime and Punishment

Marie Gottschalk, *Professor of Political Science*

Why are African-Americans and members of other historically disadvantaged groups disproportionately incarcerated and subjected to other penal sanctions in the United States? What are the political, social, and economic consequences for individuals, communities, and the wider society of mass incarceration in the United States? What types of reforms of the criminal justice system are desirable and possible?

This freshman seminar analyzes the connection between race, crime, punishment, and politics in the United States. The primary focus is on the role of race in explaining why the country's prison population has exploded since the early 1970s and why the United States today has the highest incarceration rate in the world.

The class will likely take field trips to a maximum-security jail in Philadelphia and to a state prison in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Cultural Diversity in the U.S.

PSCI 010 401 AFRC 010

Tuesday | 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Planning to Be Offshore?**Srilata Gangulee**, *Assistant Dean for Academic Advising*

In this course we will trace the economic development of India from 1947 to the present. Independent India started out as a centrally planned economy in 1949 but in 1991 decided to reduce its public sector and allow, indeed encourage, foreign investors to come in. The Planning Commission of India still exists but has lost much of its power. Many in the U.S. complain of American jobs draining off to India, call centers in India taking care of American customer complaints, American patient histories being documented in India, etc. At the same time, the U.S. government encourages highly trained Indians to be in the U.S.

SAST 057 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Diversity, Technology and the Penn Experience**Janice Curington**, *Assistant Dean for Multicultural Affairs and Advising*

Penn is diverse in many ways. Let us explore this diversity together and understand its subtleties. How has the word "diversity" evolved over the years? Why is it (at times) such a loaded concept? When, where and how does diversity change within various contexts? What does the concept mean in a university context? How might it change in the future?

We will explore different constructions of diversity at Penn. Have new technologies changed the ways in which we perceive culture, communicate and share ideas? Increasingly, we construct notions of ourselves and of others using video and social media in addition to personal experiences. How do such technologies define who we are, and the boundaries we draw to define "us" and "them"? Do sub-cultures thrive now in new ways? How does each student's journey to Penn bring in new perspectives on the university?

Reflections on personal experiences in the context of theories (cultural capital, social capital) will be a core part of this seminar. Readings and research assignments are interdisciplinary and will require critical analysis of both classic and contemporary perspectives. In addition to other assignments, small weekly response papers are due before each class meeting to encourage engaged discussions.

Cultural Diversity in the U.S.

SOCI 041 303

Monday and Wednesday | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Environment & Society**Daniel Cohen**, *Assistant Professor of Sociology*

This freshman seminar will introduce students to a range of novel social perspectives on the contemporary global environmental crisis that is usually represented in strictly scientific terms or according to clichés about environmentalists, grouped into four themes.

First, we will emphasize the fundamentally global nature of environmental problems like greenhouse gases and water scarcity. Second, we will explore the rich analogies between human and non-human consciousness, and how the relationship between humans and non-humans varies across time and space. Third, we will explore new thinking on environmental inequality, which explores the subtle ways in which all social groups both make and suffer the global environment in distinctive ways. Fourth, against the intuitive despair that global environmental crisis is too great for

any of us to have any positive impact, we will explore the surprising ways in which motivated individuals, working together, can do more than ever to help alleviate our ecological crises.

SOCI 041 304

Tuesday and Thursday | 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Imported Futures: Technoscience and the Global South

Sebastian Gil-Riano, Assistant Professor of History and Sociology of Science

How have countries outside the economic, political, and geographic centers of the modern world made use of science and technology? Countries beyond North America and Western Europe have typically been absent from conventional historical and sociological analyses of modern science and technology. When they have been present it is often as peripheral sites where Northern scientists extract data or as primitive societies whose transition to the modern world will be sped up through imported knowledge and techniques. During the Cold War era, social scientists believed the future prosperity of countries in the "Third World" to depend on their adoption of technical knowledge from the "First World". This seminar seeks to unsettle this kind of narrative. Focusing primarily on Latin America and also considering sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and Australasia, this seminar will examine how the Global South has been a rich site of scientific creativity and technological invention. By studying the creation of scientific knowledge in the Global South this seminar dissolves conventional dichotomies – such as primitive/modern, core/periphery, developed/underdeveloped – and examines the role of technoscience in the formation of global asymmetries.

STSC 018 301

Tuesday | 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Homelessness & Urban Inequality

Dennis Culhane, Professor of Social Policy and Practice

This freshman seminar examines the homelessness problem from a variety of scientific and policy perspectives. Contemporary homelessness differs significantly from related conditions of destitute poverty during other eras of our nation's history. Advocates, researchers and policymakers have all played key roles in defining the current problem, measuring its prevalence, and designing interventions to reduce it. The first section of this course examines the definitional and measurement issues, and how they affect our understanding of the scale and composition of the problem. Explanations for homelessness have also been varied, and the second part of the course focuses on examining the merits of some of those explanations, and in particular, the role of the affordable housing crisis. The third section of the course focuses on the dynamics of homelessness, combining evidence from ethnographic studies of how people become homeless and experience homelessness, with quantitative research on the patterns of entry and exit from the condition. The final section of the course turns to the approaches taken by policymakers and advocates to address the problem, and considers the efficacy and quandaries associated with various policy strategies. The course concludes by contemplating the future of homelessness research and public policy.

Cultural Diversity in the U.S.

URBS 010 401 AFRC 041 401 SOCI 041 401

Friday | 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sector II - History & Tradition

Visions of America

Michael Hanchard, Professor of Africana Studies

This course will introduce students to a more hemispheric understanding of the American experience, through the writings of many authors from the New World, including the United States, on what it means to be an American. Students will read texts from many genres including but not limited to poetry, film, prose, political speeches, and autobiography, to come to terms with histories of native Americans, African-Americans, Latinos, and whites in the United States, as well as peoples of South America and the Caribbean. In the process students will become familiar with scholarship across the social sciences and humanities that considers issues of race, culture, nation, freedom and inequality in the Americas, and how racial slavery and the Afro-American hemispheric experience has informed multiple American visions.

AFRC 019 301

Thursday | 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Reading the Classics: Antiquity to Renaissance

Antonio Feros, *Associate Professor of History*

In this seminar we will study the early roots of Western culture -the Biblical, Greek and Roman traditions- as well as how sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Europeans reproduced, rethought and reshaped these early traditions. Instead of reading and discussing the required texts according to the date when they were written (first the early traditions and then the Renaissance views), we will focus our attention on a few themes that were central concerns to those living in Classic and Renaissance times and that continue to influence modern ways of thinking and acting in Western societies: conceptions of God and place of religion in society; nature of power and authority, and individuals' rights and duties; good and evil; views on women, their nature and roles in society; ethnography and the perception of other cultures and societies. In addition to reading and discussing several biblical books — Genesis, Exodus, The Book of Revelation — we will work with other seminal classical works — Sophocles' *Antigone*, Aristotle's *Politics* and *Ethics*, Herodotus' *The Histories*, Plato's *Apology* — and works by Michel de Montaigne, Maria de Zayas y Sotomayor, Marie de Gournay, Christopher Marlowe, William Shakespeare, Blaise Pascal, and several others. We will also work with books published in the last decades, analyzing the impact of these works in various periods of history, but also books that analyze the impact of these books and ideas today — Dreyfus and Kelly's *All Things Shinning: Reading the Western Classics to Find Meaning in a Secular Age*, Anthony Grafton's *Bring Out Your Dead: The Past as Revelation*, James Miller's *Examined Lives*, from Socrates to Nietzsche, and Sarah Bakewell's *How to Live: Or A Life of Montaigne in One Question and Twenty Attempts at an Answer*.

HIST 101 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

A Tale of Two Cities: London and Paris 1750-the present

Alex Chase-Levenson, *Assistant Professor of History*

"Paris is the capital of the nineteenth century," wrote Walter Benjamin. "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life," quipped Samuel Johnson. These two great cities have captivated authors and artists, politicians and philosophers, tourists and traders for centuries. They share many things in common, and they both helped set a paradigm for the "modern city" that has shaped urban centers around the world. And yet, many have also remarked on the differences between them. Examining novels, maps, stories, paintings, plays, political writings, and statistical inquiries, we'll study the characters, companies, and crimes that have made each city tick. What does it mean to be a Londoner or a Parisian? How have both cities changed over the last 250 years? Can the study of these two metropolises tell us something about modern urban life in general?

HIST 102 301

Wednesday | 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Africa in World History

Lee Cassanelli, *Associate Professor of History*

This seminar examines Africa's connections--economic, political, intellectual and cultural--with the wider world from ancient times to the 21st century, drawing on a diverse sample of historical sources. It also explores Africa's place in the imaginations of outsiders, from ancient Greeks to modern-day development "experts." Whether you know a lot or almost nothing about the continent, the course will get you to rethink your stereotypes and to question your assumptions about the importance of Africa in world history.

Cross-Cultural Analysis

HIST 106 301

Monday and Wednesday | 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Snip and Tuck**Beth Linker**, *Associate Professor of History and Sociology of Science*

Before the discovery of anesthesia in the nineteenth century, surgery was often a grizzly and horrific affair, inevitably involving extreme pain. Surgeons had a reputation as dirty, blood-thirsty "barbarians," and patients rarely sought out their services. But all of this changed during the twentieth century. Today surgery is one of the most prestigious medical specialties, and patients--especially those who long to look younger, thinner, and trimmer--voluntarily submit to multiple procedures. This course will investigate the cultural and scientific sources of these dramatic changes, with readings ranging from graphic descriptions of "bonesetting" and suturing during the Middle Ages to contemporary accounts of childbirth and plastic surgery in antiseptic hospitals and clinics.

HSOC 042 301

Tuesday | 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Proto-Indo-European Languages**Rolf Noyer**, *Associate Professor of Linguistics*

Most of the languages now spoken in Europe, along with some languages of Iran, India and central Asia, are thought to be descended from a single language known as Proto-Indo-European, spoken at least six thousand years ago, probably in a region extending from north of the Black Sea in modern Ukraine east through southern Russia. Speakers of Proto-Indo-European eventually populated Europe in the Bronze Age, and their societies formed the basis of the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome, as well as of the Celtic, Germanic and Slavic speaking peoples. What were the Proto-Indo-Europeans like? What did they believe about the world and their gods? How do we know? Reconstruction of the Proto-Indo-European language, one of the triumphs of comparative and historical linguistics in the 19th and 20th centuries, allows us a glimpse into the society of this prehistoric people.

Cross-Cultural Analysis

LING 051 301

Monday and Wednesday | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Bilingualism in History**Alison Biggs**, *Senior Lecturer in Linguistics*

This course introduces the foundations of linguistics - the scientific study of language - through exploration of multilingualism in the USA and in different societies around the world.

Contacts between groups of people speaking different languages are documented from earliest records, and around the world it remains the norm to find more than one language in regular use in a single community. In this course we will see that multilingualism is a catalyst for linguistic change: sometimes languages are lost; sometimes new languages are created; sometimes the structure of a language is radically altered. We will consider: Which parts of

linguistic structure are most susceptible to change under conditions of bilingualism? Does language contact - whether a result of trade, education, migration, conquest, or intermarriage - influence language structure in predictable ways? How do individual speakers handle multiple languages? How have attitudes to speakers of multiple languages changed through history? How have socio-historical events shaped the linguistic situation in the USA?

LING 054 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Slavery, Serfdom, and Cultures of Bondage in the U.S. and Russia

Jennifer Wilson, *Postdoctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity*

During the Cold War, the United States and Russia were locked in an ideological battle, as capitalist and communist superpowers, over the question of private property. So how did these two countries approach the most important question regarding property that ever faced human civilization: how could governments justify the treatment of its subjects, people, as property? In 1862, Russia abolished serfdom, a form of human bondage that had existed in its territories since the 11th century. Just a year later, in 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring America's slaves "then, thenceforward, and forever free." What forces, both domestic and international, both political and cultural, influenced this near simultaneous awakening in which huge swaths of the Russian and U.S. populations were liberated?

RUSS 149 401 AFRC 148 401 COML 148 401

Tuesday and Thursday | 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sector III - Arts & Letters

The Social Life of Things: Art, Objects, and the Cultural Politics of Philadelphia

Aaron Levy, *Senior Lecturer in the History of Art and in English; Executive Director of the Slought Foundation*

A city is more than just a collection of places. It is a living archive of stories, memories and histories. Whose stories do we hear? Whose stories should we preserve? Are all stories equal? In this course, students will be introduced to a variety of unique historical sites and civic institutions that make visible anew Philadelphia and its cultural history. From the first classroom of the university, which was located at the American Philosophical Society, to the Johnson House Underground Railroad Station and House Museum on Germantown Avenue, this course will highlight the social life of the city, approaching the city itself as a living museum. What can the artworks, objects and institutions we experience each week teach us about the society in which we live? To answer this question, we will meet with artists, archivists, curators and scholars who will illuminate for us the social life of their collections. Through this course, students will be introduced to the study of the history of art. Our discussions will focus on changing aesthetics, the cultural politics of collecting, aspects of display and contextualization, the institution of the museum, and the increasingly blurred boundaries between ethnography, anthropology, and art history.

Offered in conjunction with Penn's **Arts and Culture Initiative**.

ARTH 100 401 ENGL 016 401 URBS 106 401

Tuesday | 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Modern Sci-Fi Cinema

Christopher Donovan, *House Dean, Gregory College House*

Science Fiction has been a cinematic genre for as long as there has been cinema—at least since Georges Melies's

visionary *Trip to the Moon* in 1902. However, though science fiction films have long been reliable box office earners and cult phenomena, critical acknowledgement and analysis was slow to develop. Still, few genres reflect the sensibility of their age so transparently—if often unconsciously—or provide so many opportunities for filmmakers to simultaneously address social issues and expand the lexicon with new technologies. Given budgetary considerations and the appetite for franchises, science fiction auteurs face a difficult negotiation between artistic expression and lowest common denominator imperatives, the controversy over Terry Gilliam's *Brazil* (1985) being perhaps the most infamous example. Nevertheless, many notable filmmakers have done their most perceptive and influential work in the scifi realm, including Gilliam, Ridley Scott, David Cronenberg, Paul Verhoeven, James Cameron and Alfonso Cuarón. This course will survey the scope of contemporary science fiction cinema, after looking first at seminal works like *Metropolis* (1927) and *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968) that continue to cast their shadow over the genre. We will then devote considerable time to a pair of more modern films, Scott's *Alien* (1979) and *Blade Runner* (1982), which drew from earlier movements (German expressionism, noir), influenced new ones (cyberpunk) and inspired a rare wave of academic discourse. Over the course of the term we will sample smaller, more independent-minded projects, such as Michel Gondry's *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (2004) and Spike Jonze's *Her* (2013) as well as higher profile but much more risky epics from filmmakers such as Steven Spielberg and Christopher Nolan.

CIMS 016 301

Monday and Wednesday | 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Inescapable Classics

Ralph Rosen, Professor of Classical Studies

The legacy of Greco-Roman traditions in Western culture is everywhere apparent. Whether in the realm of political or legal systems, philosophical and scientific discourse, mythological dreamscapes, psychology, literary genre or aesthetic theory, the contribution of Greek and Roman culture is routinely invoked sometimes to admire, other times to lament. It forms a highly complex narrative of reception and influence, shaped by historical contingencies, individual talents and temperaments, and continually shifting conceptions of what these contributions actually were. This seminar will trace the evolution of the Classical tradition, in all its varied and inconsistent manifestations, primarily through the visual arts. It will be a museum-based course, organized around four important Philadelphia museums or collections: (1) The Penn Museum (for ancient artifacts), (2) Penn's manuscript collection within Van Pelt Special Collections (where we will examine original manuscripts of the Medieval and Renaissance periods that transmit Classical culture), (3) The Philadelphia Museum of Art, and (4) The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, both of which house many examples of painting and sculpture deeply informed by the Classical tradition.

Offered in conjunction with Penn's **Arts and Culture Initiative**.

CLST 006 301

Tuesday | 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

From Anime to Zen: Japanese Performance Aesthetics in Philadelphia

Ayako Kano, Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Japan has one of the richest and most varied theatrical traditions in the world, and is a veritable museum of classical and contemporary performance practices. This seminar introduces Freshmen to major aesthetic principles that are embodied in different genres. Students will be taken deep into several important texts of the performance tradition, as well as to various places on Penn campus and in Philadelphia in order to experience these aesthetics:

1. The "zen" aesthetic of the medieval noh theater characterized by minimalism and Buddhist contemplation.
2. The "queer" aesthetic of the early modern kabuki theater involving gender impersonation and exaggeration.
3. The "grotesque" aesthetic of modern butoh performance filled with distorted physicality and apocalyptic scenarios.
4. The "anime" aesthetic of the all-female Takarazuka Revue and of postmodern theater exhibiting parody and fan-generated culture.

Offered in conjunction with Penn's **Arts and Culture Initiative** and will include field-trips to the Morris Arboretum, Japanese House and Gardens, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, as well as hands-on workshops on Japanese dance, music, and food.

EALC 050 301

Friday | 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Feith Family Seminar: Writing Philadelphia

Elayna A. Browne, *Lecturer, Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing*

This first-year seminar will be devoted to exploring the diverse literary histories of Philadelphia, from its vibrant poetry and spoken-word scene to its many celebrated and award-winning practitioners of creative and journalistic prose. Students will engage with the many different literatures of the city as readers, but also, and more importantly, as writers crafting their own original creative works in ways that engage their own experience of the city: its landscape, architecture, cultural history, arts, and even food. We will immerse ourselves in the literary textures of Philadelphia by attending live literary events across town and at Penn's own Kelly Writers House; visiting literary hot spots devoted to book, zine and comic culture; meeting visiting writers and artists; and creating and workshopping our own writing of the city. Our class will culminate in individual creative portfolios; we will also design and plan a collaborative final project, which could include a podcast series, public event at the Writers house, or online literary archive of Philadelphia.

Offered in conjunction with Penn's **Arts and Culture Initiative**.

ENGL 016 301

Tuesday | 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In Praise of the Small

Liliane Weissberg, *Professor of German and Comparative Literature*

We can memorize aphorisms and jokes, carry miniature portraits with us, and feel playful in handling small objects. This seminar will ask us to pay attention to smaller texts, art works, and objects that may easily be overlooked. In addition to reading brief texts and looking at images and objects, we will also read texts on the history and theory of short genres and the small.

GRMN 023 401 COML 023 401

Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

From Paper to Screen: Cinematic Adaptations

Alessandra Mirra, *Visiting Lecturer in Italian Studies*

How many of your favorite films are actually literary adaptations? Literature and Film are two different worlds, with their own language and very specific features. These two worlds, though, often intertwine, and numerous films are inspired by literary works or popular narrative fiction – films that do not simply adapt the text to the visual medium, but give birth to a different work of art. What happens in this passage from the text to the screen? What gets lost, what is added, and how are things translated between two very different art forms? What are the theoretical implications of such a “translation”?

The course will explore cinematic adaptations of famous literary works made by renowned Italian filmmakers. Case studies include, but are not limited to, Mann's *Death in Venice* (Visconti 1971); Boccaccio's *Decameron* (in both its cinematic adaptations, Pasolini 1971 and Taviani 2015); Tomasi de Lampedusa's *The Leopard* (Visconti 1963); Collodi's *Pinocchio* (Benigni 2002); Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* (Taviani 2012).

The course will provide students with the necessary critical tools to analyze both verbal and visual texts within the historical and cultural context of their production, as well as an overview of theoretical approaches in adaptation studies.

ITAL 100 401 CIMS 014 401 COML 107 401

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday | 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Music in Philadelphia

Glenda Goodman, *Assistant Professor of Music*

Philadelphia has always been a noisy, musical place. This seminar welcomes freshmen to the University of Pennsylvania, and to Philadelphia, by taking students on a journey through the city's musical past. From music of Native Americans to the Philadelphia Orchestra to Philadelphia's hip hop scene, we will learn about how the city has grown and changed over the centuries. Regular field trips bring students into direct contact with Philadelphia's vibrant and historical music scenes, where we will learn how to describe and understand what we hear, while also experiencing the thrill of uncovering hidden gems of the musical past.

MUSC 016 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

Lawrence Bernstein, *Professor of Music*

This seminar will be devoted to Beethoven's last symphony, a work that brought about seminal changes in the nature of the symphony and, indeed, in the language, form, and character of Western music. The work will be studied from the perspectives of its musical form, its relationship to extra-musical content, its reception, and its innovation.

MUSC 016 302

Monday and Wednesday | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Saints and Devils in Russian Literature and Tradition

Julia Verkholtantsev, *Associate Professor of Slavic Languages & Literatures*

This course is about Russian literary imagination, which is populated with saints and devils, believers and religious rebels, holy men and sinners. In Russia, where people's frame of mind had been formed by a mix of Eastern Orthodox Christianity and earlier pagan beliefs, the quest for faith, spirituality, and the meaning of life has invariably been connected with religious matters. How can one find the right path in life? Is humility the way to salvation? Should one live for God or for the people? Does God even exist? In "Saints and Devils" we read works of great masters of Russian literature and learn about the historic trends that have filled Russia's national character with religious and mystical spirit.

Cross-Cultural Analysis

RUSS 213 401 COML 213 401 RELS 218 401

Tuesday and Thursday | 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Theatre In Philadelphia

James Schlatter, *Senior Lecturer in Theatre Arts*

Over the course of the last several decades the city of Philadelphia has grown to be one of the most exciting, diverse, and adventurous theatre cultures in the country. Theatres around the city stage a great range of productions, from

classical plays, to Shakespeare, to modern American and European drama, to contemporary works from around the world. Productions range from the traditional to the boldly experimental. This course is designed to give incoming students the opportunity to experience Philadelphia theatre first-hand, by attending performances at a number of local theatres; by meeting and talking with dedicated professionals—actors, directors, designers, playwrights, producers who make the theatre we will see; and by discussing together in class our experience of each performance. Some focus will be given to the recent history of Philadelphia's professional, non-profit theatre, and to the larger history of regional theatre around the country. Students will write short response essays to some of the performances that we attend, and also give group presentations on theatre companies we will not be able to visit in the semester. **NO EXPERIENCE IN THEATRE IS REQUIRED TO TAKE THIS COURSE**, just an openness to exploring great theatre and the great city of Philadelphia, which is its home. All theatre tickets and any necessary transportation costs are funded through the generosity of Penn's Arts and Culture Initiative. Please contact the instructor Dr. James F. Schlatter at jschlatt@english.upenn.edu, if you have any questions.

Offered in conjunction with Penn's **Arts and Culture Initiative**.

THAR 076 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Introduction to Acting

Marcia Ferguson, *Senior Lecturer in Theatre Arts*

Rooted in the system devised by Konstantin Stanislavsky, this course takes students step by step through the practical work an actor must do to live and behave truthfully on-stage. Beginning with relaxation and physical exercises, interactive games, and ensemble building, students then learn and put into practice basic actor techniques, including sensory work, the principles of action, objectives, given circumstances, etc. The semester culminates in the performance of a scene or scenes most often from a modern American play. This course strongly stresses the responsibility of the actor to the work and especially to one's fellow actors. Practical work is supplemented by readings from Stanislavsky and a variety of other acting theorists, that may include Uta Hagen, Robert Cohen, Stella Adler, among others. Students are required to submit short essays over the course of the semester in response to the readings and in preparation for their final scene project.

THAR 120 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Sector IV - Humanities & Social Sciences

Cultural Heritage, Politics and War in the Middle East

Salam Al Kuntar, *Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology*

Political upheaval in the Middle East has brought cultural heritage studies to the forefront. From playing a role in the making of national identity and economy of Middle Eastern countries to falling prey to armed conflicts, cultural heritage remains an important element of the political and social scene. This seminar will examine the relatedness of cultural heritage to questions of identity and politics in the Middle East, and the impact of recent wars on such heritage.

The seminar will start by outlining the ancient and modern history of the Middle East, and reviewing the production of cultural heritage and its contemporary management in several Middle Eastern countries. It will then proceed to discuss the following major topics:

- 1) Cultural diversity of modern Middle Eastern societies, the perception of cultural heritage in these societies, and the

survival of long-living historical places, old traditions, and material culture of all kinds.

2) The influence of ancient cultures on common fixation and beliefs of modern identity in Middle Eastern societies (e.g., particular ethnic and religious group see themselves as direct descendents of one or a number of ancient groups such as Phoenicians, Israelites, Assyrians).

3) The use of archeological and historical data to create narratives of the past that promote specific political ideologies in the modern Middle East and, in some cases, fabricate novel cultural and political realities.

4) The damage done to Cultural Heritage by recent wars in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, and (i) how these wars are/were the makers of a new time that disrupted the living past through the destruction of cultural landscapes; and (ii) the involvement of cultural heritage institutions and archaeologists in rescuing cultural heritage in the event of war.

Cross-Cultural Analysis

ANTH 055 401 NELC 033 401

Tuesday and Thursday | 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Architecture in the Anthropocene

Daniel Barber, Assistant Professor of Architecture

This course will use architecture and the built environment as a lens to investigate the emerging field of the environmental humanities. Our goal will be to analyze and understand these new intellectual frameworks in order to consider the relationship between global environmental challenges and the process of constructing the built environment. As such, we will oscillate between social and political theory, environmental history, and architectural history and theory. Issues of importance will include: theories of risk, the role of nature in political conflicts; images, design and environmental communication; and the relationship between speculative design and other narratives of the future. These conceptual frameworks will be read alongside examples of related creative projects in art, literature, and architecture, and will be amplified through presentations and discussions with studio faculty and other visitors to the course.

ARCH 111 301

Monday and Wednesday | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Hipster Philosophy from Marx to Zizek

Ian Fleishman, Assistant Professor of German

From Wes Anderson to Williamsburg, hipster culture is everywhere. And yet the very notion of the hipster remains notoriously difficult to define—whether we perceive this cultural phenomenon as the waste product of the postmodern, as a new form of consumerism, as a peculiar attitude toward irony and authenticity, as scenester posturing or as just plain cool. This course addresses such tensions through an examination of the intellectual history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Each week pairs philosophical and theoretical readings with an artifact of hipster culture: reading Instagram beside Walter Benjamin, ironic facial hair with Friedrich Nietzsche, Facebook through the lens of Georg Lukács and indie music alongside Theodor Adorno. No previous knowledge or skinny jeans required.

GRMN 031 401 COML 032 401

Tuesday | 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Human Nature and History

Michael Zuckerman, Emeritus Professor of History

In this seminar, we will take up the topic of human nature as a gambit for establishing common ground and stimulating a deeper intellectual community among incoming University Scholars. Or perhaps we will work the other

way round. Perhaps we will draw upon that deeper community as a way of enriching our conversation as we take up the perennially challenging topic of human nature. Either way, we will engage in a wide-ranging reconnaissance of major theories on the topic. We will examine conceptions of humankind drawn from such disciplines as economics, psychology, religion, literature, linguistics, anthropology, and philosophy. Lurking behind all of our endeavor will be questions of time and place, questions, if you will, of history; is human nature best understood as constant or contingent, stable or changeful with time and circumstance? We should have a lot of fun. (Open only to first year students in the University Scholars Program.)

HIST 104 301

Wednesday | 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Language: East meets West

Alison Biggs, *Senior Lecturer in Linguistics*

Knowledge of language is an extraordinarily complex object of study. What is the relationship between language and mind? Is language a social or individual phenomenon? Is linguistic structure shaped by nature or by convention? Are there limits to linguistic variation? This course explores how eastern and western traditions have approached these questions. Topics include the influence of different writing systems on grammatical traditions; linguistic diversity and language change in China and Europe, and the role of socio-historical context in its characterization; the development of linguistics as a science; the social role of language; language as a political tool, and its sensitivity to the political landscape; treatment of linguistic disorders; and the relationship between language and mind.

LING 056 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Music in Urban Places

Molly McGlone, *Assistant Dean for Advising*

Music in Urban Spaces explores the ways in which individuals use music in their everyday lives and how music is used to construct larger social and economic networks that we call culture. We will read musicologists, cultural theorists, urban geographers, sociologists and educators who work to define urban space and the role of music and sound in urban environments, including through music education. While the readings make up our study of the sociology of urban space and the way we use music in everyday life to inform our conversations and the questions we ask, it is within the context of our personal experiences working with music programs at West Philadelphia High School or Henry C Lea Elementary, both inner city neighborhood schools serving economically disadvantaged students, that we will begin to formulate our theories of the contested musical micro-cultures of West Philadelphia. This course is over two-semester where students register for .5cus each term (for a total of 1cu over the entire academic year) and is tied to the Music and Social Change Residential Program in Fisher Hassenfeld (<http://fh.house.upenn.edu/musicandsocialchange>) where most class participants live together. All participants volunteer in music classrooms for 3 hours per week, are expected to go to at least two concerts in the community during the year, attend the seminar weekly and complete all assignments.

Cultural Diversity in the U.S.

MUSC 018 401 URBS 018 402

Friday | 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mideast Thru Many Lenses

Heather Sharkey, *Associate Professor of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations*

This freshman seminar introduces the contemporary Middle East by drawing upon cutting-edge studies written from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. These include history, political science, and anthropology, as well as studies of

mass media, sexuality, religion, urban life, and the environment. We will spend the first few weeks of the semester surveying major trends in modern Middle Eastern history. We will spend subsequent weeks intensively discussing assigned readings along with documentary films that we will watch in class. The semester will leave students with both a foundation in Middle Eastern studies and a sense of current directions in the field.

Cross-Cultural Analysis

NELC 036 401 CIMS 401

Tuesday | 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Beyond Biology--Enhancing the Human Mind through Technology

Gary Purpura, *Assistant Dean for Academic Advising*

Transhumanists seek to extend the capacities of the human mind beyond the bounds of the human brain and body through technology. Indeed, for them, such an extension of human thinking and feeling represents the next big step in human cognitive evolution. In this course, we will examine the philosophical conception of a mind that underpins this movement to extend the human mind beyond human biology. Through an examination of the hypothesis that there can be non-biological thinking and feeling, we consider whether technologies that enable or enhance human mental faculties might one day completely supplant the biological machinery of the human body. We will also consider the moral issues surrounding the creation of transhumans. The questions that we consider in this course will get to the heart of what it means to possess a human mind and indeed to be a human being.

PHIL 032 301

Monday and Wednesday | 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Globalization

Edward Mansfield, *Professor of Political Science*

This course addresses the political economy of globalization. We will discuss what the term globalization means and why many observers argue that the current era is marked by globalization. We will also examine the factors that have contributed to the emergence of globalization. We will consider its political and economic implications, both the benefits of globalization and the challenges that it poses for contemporary society. Finally, we will analyze the sources of resistance to globalization and the extent to which it can be reformed.

PSCI 010 301

Tuesday | 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sector V - Living World

Neurobiology of Brain Disorders**Marc Dichter**, *Professor of Neurology*

The human brain is clearly the most complicated and magical organ in the body. We don't completely understand how it works, but we do know, unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, the human brain is prone to failure, either by acute injury, chronic degeneration, genetic flaws in its composition, or unknown disturbances in its behavior. Diseases of the brain can take many forms but are all uniformly devastating for individuals, families, and our society, and are also very costly. This course will explore the ways in which various brain disorders (both neurological and psychiatric) manifest themselves and discuss their underlying neurobiological mechanisms. In addition, the social and economic impact of these diseases on society will be considered, as well as some well publicized political issues surrounding many of these brain disorders.

BIBB 030 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This Is Your Genome! - Fascinating Experiments in Heredity**Greg Guild**, *Professor of Biology*

Your genome represents the complete set of genetic instructions that guides your development from a single cell into a living, thinking, and reproducing organism. This course will examine the ideas that led to our current understanding of genomes with particular emphasis on the molecular biology that revolutionized our concepts of gene and genome structure and function. We will fast-forward through the heredity/chromosome/DNA/gene-structure era and spend some time in the genome-sequencing era of the late 1990s and early 2000s. We will then consider how genome science is revolutionizing our understanding of gene variation, human disease, population biology and evolution. The course will include field trips to the Penn genomic core facilities.

BIOL 021 301

Monday and Wednesday | 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sector VI - Physical World**Honors Physics I: Mechanics and Wave Motion****Alan Johnson**, *Professor of Physics and Astronomy*

This course parallels and extends the content of PHYS 150, at a significantly higher mathematical level. Recommended for well-prepared students in engineering and the physical sciences, and particularly for those planning to major in physics. Classical laws of motion: interaction between particles; conservation laws and symmetry principles; rigid body motion; noninertial reference frames; oscillations.

Students must enroll in both the seminar (PHYS 170.301, shown below) and one of the labs (PHYS 170.302 or PHYS 170.303, below). The seminar meets for a fourth hour on Mondays from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

302 NG 15 T 0300PM-0500PM STAFF 15 OPEN LAB

303 NG 15 R 0100PM-0300PM STAFF 15 OPEN LAB

PHYS 170 301

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday | 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Sector VII - Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Structural Biology and Genomics

Ponzy Lu, *Professor of Chemistry*

Structural biology is the scientific method of describing, predicting and changing the properties of living organisms, including humans, based on "complete" genome chemical structures (sequence) and 3-dimensional structures of cellular components. The intellectual and technical revolutions that occurred during the 20th century made this possible. It is today's approach to understanding biology and solving problems in medicine. We will discuss how macroscopic biological properties, such as reproduction, locomotion and viral infection, are determined by the physics and chemistry of proteins and nucleic acids. Changes in biological function, in hereditary diseases like cystic fibrosis or sickle cell anemia, result from minute changes in individual proteins. Much larger changes in genome and protein structure are often tolerated without consequence. Understanding and exploiting these phenomena at the molecular level is the basis of new technology in the agricultural, energy and drug industries. The broad range of medical, social and political problems associated with the advances will be considered. We will attempt to distinguish real progress from fads and fashion. In addition to several books, there is a weekly reading assignment from Science, Nature and the Tuesday New York Times. This is a two-semester seminar with 0.5 credit unit each semester of the academic year.

CHEM 022 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Seminars in Mathematics

Proving Things: Analysis

Henry Towsner, *Assistant Professor of Mathematics*

This course focuses on the creative side of mathematics, with an emphasis on discovery, reasoning, proofs and effective communication, while at the same time studying real and complex numbers, sequences, series, continuity, differentiability and integrability. Small class sizes permit an informal, discussion-type atmosphere, and often the entire class works together on a given problem. Homework is intended to be thought-provoking, rather than skill-sharpening.

MATH 202 301

Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Other seminars open to freshmen (no sector)

Vagelos Integrated Program in Energy Research (VIPER) Seminar, Part II

Andrew Rappe / John Vohs, *Professor of Chemistry/Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering*

This is the second part of the two-semester seminar designed to introduce students to the VIPER program and help them prepare for energy-related research. In this semester, we will continue to discuss research articles on various energy-related topics, best practices for library research, presentation of data, basic research methods, research ethics, data analysis, and funding options. A large focus of the course will also be on presenting (in both written and oral form) the work from the students' summer research internships.

VIPR 121 301

Tuesday | 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.