Freshman Seminars Spring 2004

Sector I: Society

Culture Clash
Paula Sabloff, Adjunct Associate Professor of Anthropology

This course is designed to introduce students to the connection between anthropology, philosophy, and personal experience. Starting from the anthropological position that many of the social problems of our time are the result of conflict between or within cultures, we will read anthropological accounts—ethnographies—of problems such as globalization, cultural survival, class and ethnic conflict. We will also read the political philosophers from Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Adam Smith to Michel Foucault and Pierre Bourdieu quoted by the anthropologists. In this seminar, students will form their own social theory by integrating the readings with first-hand experience in the West Philadelphia community as they perform community service. In this Academically Based Community Service (ABCS) course, they will turn their personal experience into an anthropolo practicum, seeing social theory and anthropology operating “on the ground.” (Distribution I: Society)

ANTH (025) 115.301 | Tuesday | 1:30 - 4:30

Popular Culture in Africa
Sandra Barnes, Professor of Anthropology

This course concentrates on popular culture in sub-Saharan Africa. It examines the way people reflect on and represent various aspects and issues in their daily lives, in public media, and through a diverse range of performative and creative outlets. It explores the way cultural traditions are created, promulgated and perpetuated. It looks at the way popular culture deals with pleasure and pain; identity, difference and diversity; wealth and power; modernity and history; gender relations; suppression, resistance and violence; and local versus global processes. In short, popular culture will serve as a window through which to observe contemporary life.

(Distribution I: Society)
ANTH (025) 018.401 or AFST (010) 018.401 or AFAM (009) 018.401
Monday | 2:00 - 5:00

Politics & Poetics Of Religious Conversion
Kate Ramsey, Mellon Fellow in Anthropology

This seminar will examine religious transformation as both a personal experience and a socio-historical force. We will consider the ways in which conversion experiences have been narrated by those who experience them, those who incite them (e.g. missionaries), and those who seek to analyze and explain them (e.g. historians and social scientists). We will study the close historical relation between conquest and conversion, while also examining how conversions of the colonized have led to conversions of the colonizers and their cultures as well. Finally, we will examine cases in which conversion might be understood as an act of dissent and consider the liberatory possibilities of such transformations. Throughout the
Architecture Today
Witold Rybczynski, Professor of Urbanism

Why do buildings by different architects look so different? The Getty Museum in Los Angeles, for example, is quite different from the Bilbao Guggenheim; Rem Koolhas’ proposed library in Seattle is worlds apart from Tom Beeby’s Harold T. Washington Library in Chicago. In addition to site, function, and construction, architecture is affected by style, and today there are many different stylistic approaches. Style is neglected in most discussions of architecture yet it is central to the design and appreciation of buildings. The seminar will examine the role that style plays in the work of prominent contemporary architects (e.g., Frank Gehry, Robert Venturi, Robert A.M. Stern, Norman Foster, Jean Nouvel) both in the United States and abroad. Selected readings will form the basis for written assignments that will include two 5-page papers and one 10-page term paper. (Distribution I: Society)
ARCH (029) 102.001 | Monday & Wednesday | 2:00 - 3:30

Society & History
Ewa Morawska, Professor of Sociology

American society has traditionally been very much oriented toward the future. New things and approaches have been assumed to be naturally superior to the old ones and, thus, the past has never attracted much of Americans attention except as just that—the past. And yet the past exerts a profound influence on the present: social institutions, culture, politics, and intergroup and personal relations. Using comparative illustrations from individual biographies and national, religious, racial/ethnic, and urban group experiences, this seminar explores different ways in which the past shapes the present. In particular, we consider the long-and short-term impact on personal and (small and large) group lives of different dimensions of time (duration, sequence, pace and trajectory of events) and space (physical and geopolitical locations, size, boundaries, distance, density).

Course requirements include, besides active participation in class discussions, (1) review of a book (student’s choice) dealing with micro-or macro-level contemporary event/development with historical roots; (2) term-paper based on a mini-study conducted by students on the selected contemporary social problem considered historically (it may be focused on micro-event(s) and involve interviewing of a small sample of informants, or a macro-development and involve additional reading of secondary material); and (3) taking over one class discussion (introduction of the main themes/issues from the readings, management of the discussion; students, choice of date and topic). (Distribution I: Society)
SOCI (589) 041.301 | Thursday | 1:30 - 4:30
Crime & Punishment
Eric Schneider, Adjunct Associate Professor of History

How have definitions of crime and forms of punishment changed over time? What have been the uses and legacy of extra-legal violence? How have the forms of crime and punishment reflected the structure of American Society? Using both historical and contemporary texts, this seminar will explore these and other questions and in the process analyze the development of juvenile justice, the organization of corrections, the application of the death penalty, and the rise of the drug economy. (Distribution II: History and Tradition)
URBS (657) 110.301 | Tuesday & Thursday | 3:00 - 4:30

Sector II: History and Tradition

Classical Architecture
Lothar Haselberger, Professor of History of Art

Comparing and contrasting outstanding examples of Greek and Roman architecture—single buildings as well as larger architectural compositions and city plans—forms the focus of this freshman seminar. Special emphasis will be laid on the guiding principles of these structures and the diverse, or common, Greek and Roman approaches to comparable building tasks (such as temples, theaters, market places, fortifications, city plans). Methodological 'tools' for these analyses will be discussed and a broader historical context developed. Field trips to the Second Bank Building and the Art Museum in Philadelphia. No Prerequisites. (Distribution III: Arts & Letters)
ARTH (033) 100.301 Monday 3:00 - 6:00

Women and Family in the Ancient Near East
Dr. Tonia Sharlach-Nash, Researcher, Babylonian Section, University Museum

History, especially ancient history, is often written as the deeds of kings and elite males. But how did the majority of the population, men and women, live in the ancient Middle East? What were the basic family units and where and how did they live? What were their legal rights and religious beliefs? How did institutions such as temples and palaces impact on their lives, and how much freedom did they have? In this class we will work from ancient texts in translation to follow ancient women and men through the course of their lives, from cradle to grave, and explore their experiences of life at work and at home, love, marriage, and divorce, until death and beyond. (Distribution II: History & Tradition)
AMES (465) 048.401 or WSTD (677) 048.401
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30PM - 3:00PM

Native Peoples And The Environment
Clark Erickson, Associate Professor of Anthropology

The relationship between the activities of native peoples and the environment is a complex and contentious issue. One perspective argues that native peoples had little impact on the environments because of their low population densities, limited technology, and conservation
ethic and worldview. At another extreme, biodiversity, and Nature itself, is considered the product of a long history of human activities. This seminar will examine the Myth of the Ecologically Noble Savage, the Myth of the Pristine Environment, the alliance between native peoples and Green Politics, and the contribution of native peoples to appropriate technology, sustainable development and conservation of biodiversity. (Distribution II: History and Tradition)

ANTH (025) 133.401 or LTAM (383) 133.401 | Tuesday & Thursday | 12:00 - 1:30

**History of American Education**
Anita Gelburd, Assistant to the Deputy Provost and Lecturer in History

A survey of how American educational institutions developed from the Colonial era to the present, in the context of social, cultural and economic trends during the same time period. It offers students a chance to research and report on topics of particular interest to them. This course is affiliated with the Communication within the Curriculum program and will involve two oral presentations. (Distribution II: History and Tradition)

HIST (317) 104.301 | Tuesday & Thursday | 10:30 - 12:00

**Introduction to Philosophy**
Robert Thompson, Lecturer in Philosophy

In this introduction to philosophy, we will explore the philosophical problem of skepticism by considering skepticism about two domains: morality and the external world. We will examine (1) the nature of knowledge (What is knowledge? Under what circumstances can we be said to know something?), (2) the nature of value (morality or goodness) (What things have value and what makes them valuable?), and (3) the nature of the external world (Is there a world that exists apart from how we think about it? Is it like we perceive it to be? How can we be confident that it is as we perceive it to be?). (General Requirement II: History and Tradition)

PHIL (493) 001.301 | Tuesday & Thursday | 3:00 - 4:30

**Introduction to Philosophy**
Morgan Wallhagen, Lecturer in Philosophy

An introduction to such topics as our knowledge of the material world, the relation of mind and body, the existence of God, and the nature of morality. Readings from both historical and contemporary sources. (General Requirement II: History and Tradition)

PHIL (493) 001.302 | Tuesday & Thursday | 10:30 - 12:00

**Introduction to Philosophy**
Lecturer in Philosophy

An introductory survey of some central philosophical issues, including: Is there a God? What is the relationship between the mind and the body? Are free will and determinism incompatible? Are there objective moral standards? Readings will be taken from both contemporary and historical sources. (General Requirement II: History and Tradition)

PHIL (493) 001.303 | Tuesday & Thursday | 10:30 - 12:00
Ex Oriente Lux: Eastern Christian Mystics of the Light
Andreas Andreopoulos, Mellon Fellow in Religious Studies

Eastern mystics did not easily talk or write about their experiences. Nevertheless, a tradition of contemplative prayer that starts in the Egyptian desert in the fourth century and culminates with the flowering of the hesychastic theology in the fourteenth century Byzantium, is characterized by the experience of the Uncreated Light, the same light that was experienced by Peter, John and James during the Transfiguration of Jesus, something that is related to the ascetic ascent of hesychasm. This seminar will discuss these experiences within their historical, cultural, and spiritual background, and will present the thought of significant mystics such as Evagrius of Pontus, Maximus the Confessor, Symeon the New Theologian, Gregory Palamas, Theophanes of Nicea, the Slavic monastics who continued the hesychastic tradition, as well as the hesychastic councils of the fourteenth century.
Belief here will be approached as the agent that awakens the spiritual senses, both in the lives of the saints and mystics whose faith was transformed into experience, in the words of Maximus the Confessor "passing from flesh to spirit," where the physical and the metaphysical meet.
Moreover, the mystical tradition of the light will be approached from a contemporary point of view, discussing the relationship of the contemporary reader with the mystical experience.
(Distribution II: History & Tradition)
RELS (541) 103.301 Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 - 10:30

Indians Overseas: A Global View
Surendra Gambhir, Senior Lecturer

This course is about the history of Indian immigration into different parts of the world. The course will consist of readings, discussions, observations, data collection and analysis. The topics will include cultural preservation and cultural change through generations, especially in North America, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and the African continent. (Distribution II: History and Tradition)
SARS (593) 012.301 | Monday & Wednesday | 3:00 - 4:30

Sector III: Arts and Letters

The Art of Crossing: Americans Mixing it up in the Jazz Age
Lydia Fisher, Lecturer in English

Who says I’m that? Who says I can’t be that? Who says art has to look like that? African-Americans “passing” as white. White Americans looking for themselves in Harlem. Cross-dressing and gender bending. Hybridity. Expatriates finding home abroad. High class meets lowbrow. Popular culture becomes art. The literature, visual art, and music of the early 20th century is full of images and instances of crossing over and trying on difference (a different place, a different self, a different kind of expression), reveling in the mixed-ness of the modern moment in which distinctions and divisions of all sorts were cast into question. In this course we will interrogate American texts of the modern era as productions of their cultural moment, asking: What were the historical conditions that produced this art of crossing? How were writers and other artists “mixing” their own ideas and artistic goals with those of others? And what did
this age of innovation, exploration, integration, and revolution in art accomplish both aesthetically and culturally? This was a period of great transformation and artistic exchange that produced exciting and engaging works for us to experience and talk about together. The course is designed to get students involved in exploring modernity through diverse course materials (poetry, short stories, novels, essays, music, visual art), approaching the intellectual challenges and rewards of literary and cultural study both independently and in collaboration with others. Course requirements will include active participation in class discussions, short response papers, a group researched presentation project, and a final longer paper (6-8 pages). Course texts may include works by Langston Hughes, Anzia Yezierska, Nella Larsen, W.E.B. DuBois, William Faulkner, Jessie Fauset, Willa Cather, Ernest Hemingway and Gertrude Stein. (Distribution III: Arts and Letters)
ENGL (197) 016.301 | Tuesday & Thursday | 10:30 - 12:00

The Body as Politics: Case Studies in the Relationship between the Body, Society, Culture and Art
Marion Kant, Lecturer in English

This seminar will examine historic situations in which the human body has been used to symbolize, literally to embody, political or other forces in a given society. The cases will focus on concepts developed in the 20th century though they will trace their origins from as far away as the ancient world through courtly behavior in the early modern period to the Nazi regime. The examples will focus on the representation of the body in the performing arts and particularly in dance. The movements and dance concepts will be considered part of a social and political framework; they will be understood as attempts to educate and condition people to incorporate desirable or reject undesirable conventions and values. These conventions and values reach back to historical as well as psychological patterns and uncover deep-seated fears, anxieties, hopes and ideals.
The course will examine the way in which utopian theories—from the notion of the natural to that of the artificial—vary from society to society or even at one particular time. It will examine through literary texts, images, paintings and videos how attitudes to the body have emerged, how and why notions of dangerous dancing women coincided with the emergence of health cults and nudism or the notion of the virtual body. The course will develop critical thinking skills in class discussions as well as research assignments and introduce students to academic conventions and scholarly methods of working. (Distribution III: Arts and Letters)
ENGL (197) 016.302 | Wednesday | 2:00 - 5:00

Early Anglo Feminisms
Yaakov Mascetti, Mellon Fellow in English

It is no accident that early modern feminism arose at the same time that empirical science did, and this course will chart their relation. At a time when objectivity was being invented, writers and philosophers became interested in a set of questions about sex and gender very similar to those we ask today. Are men and women fundamentally different? Does each have its own way of knowing? Is female learning possible, and do women need their own centers of learning? While we will read widely in early feminism, we will also read the work of two women closely: Margaret Cavendish and Mary Astell. These two women blazed a trail a 100 years before Mary
Wollstonecraft and 200 before Virginia Woolf; yet you'll find their writing to be as fresh and relevant today as it was then -- perhaps even moreso. We will engage as well with many contemporary philosophers and scientists, focusing on reactions to this early feminist rise in conscience. There will be two papers and some short research assignments. (Distribution III: Arts & Letters)
ENGL (197) 016.303 | Tuesday & Thursday | 3:00 - 4:30

**Feminist Fairy Tales**  
Vicki Mahaffey, Professor of English

In this course, we will address the question of how young American women are acculturated to see some roles as desirable and others as unacceptable. In particular, we will explore the impact of popular culture, especially fairy tales, on the formation of a woman’s self-image. We will examine the value of beauty, kindness, youth, sexuality and wealth from a variety of angles, and we will also assess what fairy tales from different cultures suggest about a woman's optimal size, age, intelligence, and aggressiveness.

We will begin by reading several versions of fairy tales from different time-periods and cultures, and we will contextualize those readings with commentaries that are also written from a range of perspectives: psychoanalytic, feminist, and sociological. Students will be required to see several film versions of the fairy tales we examine, although there will be no formal screenings. Once we have a fuller grasp of the variants of a given tale, it will be easier to appreciate what values are being endorsed by the popular dissemination of one particular version. We will then contrast the most well-known and influential versions of fairy tales with feminist revisions of those tales by Angela Carter, Jeanette Winterson, Tanith Lee, Jane Yolen and others. (Distribution III: Arts and Letters)
ENGL (197) 016.304 | Tuesday & Thursday | 9:00 - 10:30

**Sex, Love and Laughter in French Renaissance Literature**  
Lorraine Sterritt, Dean of Freshmen and Director of Academic Advising, Adjunct Associate Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures

In this course, we will examine the ways in which 16th-century French writers make use of humor, from the sublime to the bawdy, in their treatment of relationships between the sexes and in their social commentaries. Readings will include works by François Rabelais, Louise Labé, and Marguerite de Navarre. As background, we will also read brief selections from classical and Italian authors. The class will be conducted in English, and all the readings will be in English translation. No prior knowledge of Greek, Latin, Italian or French is needed. (Distribution III: Arts and Letters)
FREN (229) 209.301 | Tuesday & Thursday | 4:30 - 6:00

**Italian Postcards**  
Stefano Cracolici, Assistant Professor of Italian

Picture postcards represent an easy and pleasant way to share our views and feelings about a specific place. By going repeatedly back and forth from image to text and from text to image, we let ourselves be mentally invaded by the presence of the place portrayed in the picture, while
feeling both emotionally and intellectually close to the person who wrote and sent us the card. Taking this rather intimate activity as a model for exploring a foreign culture, this course will try to capture some of the most alluring contradictions of the Italian scene: enduring tradition and trendy consumerism, ravishing landscapes and urban sprawl, demonic bureaucracy and unvanquishable human warmth. Written and visual records (including films, paintings, and photographs) from different cultures and different time periods will lead our conversations towards a better understanding of what is arguably one of the most amiable and beloved countries in the world. Among the authors to be covered will be Virgil, Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Montaigne, Goethe, Leopardi, Eliot, Stendhal, Hawthorne, Ruskin, Pasolini and Calvino. Readings and discussions will be conducted in English. (Distribution III: Arts and Letters)
ITAL (349) 288.301 | Monday, Wednesday & Friday | 11:00 - 12:00

Sounding Film
Laura Basini, Lecturer in Music

What roles do sound and music perform in film? How does sound interact with visuals, communicate to a cinema audience, and affect a viewer's response? While sound in film is often assumed to be mere accompaniment to visual events, this course investigates the possibility that it plays a more vital role in shaping our understanding of the story. We shall consider sound when it is used as part of the plot scenario, and when it is unheard by characters in the film; how sound can complicate or contradict visual events and the effect of using particular musical styles and genres; and how sound helps define film genres such as comedy, suspense, propaganda and documentary. Films to be studied include David E. Kelley’s Ally Mcbeal (1990s), Michael Curtiz’s Casablanca (1942), Oliver Stone’s Platoon (1986), Charlie Chaplin’s The Great Dictator (1940), Disney’s Steamboat Willie (1928), Alfred Hitchcock’s Rear Window, Joseph Ruben’s Sleeping With the Enemy (1991), and Gédéon and Jules Naudet’s 9/11 (2001-2). (Distribution III: Arts and Letters)
MUSC (441) 016.001 | Monday, Wednesday & Friday | 1:00 - 2:00

Ways of Making Music
Sidney Boquiren, Mellon Fellow in Music

Students will explore the plurality of ways that composers today and in the previous century have approached the creation of music. Simultaneously, they will familiarize themselves with the diversity of materials and sound available for use at the hands of composers. In the process, students will become acquainted with some of the seminal works of the 20th century as well as more recently composed pieces, examining how composers have dealt with a host of compositional, aesthetic and philosophical concerns. This seminar is not intended just for musicians and music majors. Indeed, “Ways of Making Music” is designed as an introduction to inquiries on the nature of music. We will challenge and examine preconceived notions and understandings of music. We will also locate the music we study within broader contexts by relating the pieces we examine and discuss to other forms of art. Through exploring a gamut of compositional approaches from modern and experimental Western music, students will begin to question, challenge and carefully reconsider their long-held beliefs and unexamined assumptions regarding what music is, expanding their
understanding of what music can be. Students will be required to attend a certain number of performances. They will also be required to comment (aurally or in writing) on each performance. Additionally, students will be guided, as a class or in groups, through the creation of musical works and projects, as well as their performance, thereby affording them a glimpse of the creative and the performative questions and issues that composers and performers often face. (Distribution III: Arts and Letters)

MUSC (441) 016.002 | Monday, Wednesday & Friday | 11:00 - 12:00

Sector IV: Formal Reasoning and Analysis

Freshman Seminars in Math

Freshman seminars in the math department at Penn aim to give the student an early exposure to the creative side of mathematics, with an emphasis on discovery, reasoning, proof and effective communication. 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.

Each seminar meets for one-and-a-half hours per week, and an entire year counts for one course unit. Students may register for one or both semesters. It is recommended that math majors take both semesters.

One or the other of these seminars is required for the math major, but both are open to all students interested in mathematics. The best time to take these seminars is in the freshman or sophomore year. This course does not satisfy the General Requirement; however, virtually all students who take it will also take calculus; which does satisfy the Formal Reasoning and Analysis Requirement.

Introduction to Mathematical Analysis
Dimitri Gioev, Lecturer in Mathematics
(This course has a more calculus flavor.)
MATH (409) 201.301 | Tuesday | 1:30 - 3:00
MATH (409) 201.302 | Thursday | 1:30 - 3:00

Introduction to Modern Algebra
Peter Freyd, Professor of Mathematics
(This course has a more algebraic flavor.)
MATH (409) 205.301 | Tuesday | 12:00 - 1:30
MATH (409) 205.302 | Thursday | 12:00 - 1:30

Sector V: Living World

Conservation Biology
Robin Sherwood, Lecturer in Biology

There is little doubt that humans have a significant impact on all aspects of the environment. It is equally evident that we must make important choices, both locally and globally, to manage and minimize these environmental impacts. What resources do you use to inform your decisions? Are
you more likely to listen to the Sierra Club or the Earth Liberation Front? Your parents might have looked to Rachael Carson, Jacques Cousteau or even Al Gore for information. Do any of these people still have influence? We will explore how people think about conservation issues by looking at the writings of past and current naturalists and conservation biologists. (General Requirement V: Living World)

BIOL (053) 010.301 Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 - 12:00

**Sector VI: Living World**

**The Big Bang and Beyond**
Vijay Balasubramanian, Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy

An introductory course for freshmen who do not intend to major in a physical science or engineering, covering theories of the Universe ranging from the ancient perspective to the contemporary hot big bang model, including some notions of Einstein’s special and general theories of relativity. Topics will include the solar system, stars, black holes, galaxies, and the structure, origin and future of the Universe itself. Elementary algebra is used. (General Requirement VI: Physical World and satisfies the Quantitative Data Analysis Requirement)

ASTR (037) 007.301 Tuesday & Thursday | 9:00 - 10:30

**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 structures and 3-dimensional structures of cellular components. It is a direct outgrowth of the intellectual and technical revolutions that occurred during the last decade. It has become a most powerful 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 chemical properties of proteins and nucleic acids. Changes in biological function, such as those that accompany 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 apparent consequence. This selectivity and tolerance provides opportunities for the biotechnology industry to alter biological functions in ways thought to guarantee profits. A portion of the spring semester will address current fads/fashions in molecular research. We will also examine how research results in structural biology are presented in various audiences. The broad range of medical, social, and political problems associated with the advances will be considered. (General Requirement VI: Physical World)

CHEM (081) 022.301 | Tuesday & Thursday | 8:00 - 9:00

**Freshman Recitation**

**Oceanography**
Andrea Grottoli, Assistant Professor of Earth and Environmental Science
A study of the two-thirds of the Earth covered by water. Composition, structure, motions, and effects of ocean water. The ocean bottom, including seafloor spreading and continental drift. Marine biology and geology. Ocean resources. Web-based recitations use real-time data to solve contemporary quantitative problems. Students must register for both the lecture and a recitation. The recitation listed below is restricted to freshmen and is led by Professor Grottoli. (General Requirement VI: The Physical World)
GEOL (289) 130.001 (lec) Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 - 12:00
GEOL (289) 130.201 (lab) Tuesday 3:00 - 4:00

Honors Physics II: Electromagnetism and Radiation
Paul Heiney, Professor of Physics and Astronomy

This course parallels and extends the content of Physics 151 at a somewhat higher mathematical level. It is the second semester of a small-section two-semester sequence for well-prepared students in engineering and the physical sciences, and particularly for those planning to major in physics. Topics will include electric and magnetic fields; Coulomb’s, Ampere’s and Faraday’s laws; Maxwell’s equation; emission, propagation and absorption of electromagnetic radiation; and geometrical and physical optics. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Physics 170 or permission of the instructor. Students must register for the lecture and the lab. This is a Benjamin Franklin honors seminar. (General Requirement VI: Physical World)
PHYS (497) 171.301 (lec) | Monday, Wednesday & Friday | 10:00 - 11:00
Monday | 2:00-3:00 and Thursday | 5:00 - 6:00
PHYS (497) 071.302 (lab) | Wednesday | 1:00 - 3:00

Sector VII: Science Studies

Knowledge and Social Structure
Henrika Kuklick, Professor of History and Sociology of Science

How does knowledge gain cultural authority? This course is designed to consider that question, with special attention to the status of scientific knowledge and the role of scientists in modern Western society. We will approach the issues raised in the course by reading materials drawn from a broad range of sources, from the science studies literature to the popular press. (General Requirement VII: Science Studies)
HSSC (321) 270.301 | Tuesday & Thursday | 12:00 - 1:30