

FTOC Honors Friday seminars

Books on Books/Films on Films - ENG 1001H

INTC

Prof Geyh

F 10:00-12:30

What do literature and film tell us about themselves and each other? What are the elemental forms and structures of literary and filmic narrative? What approaches might one use for the analysis of literature and film? How is reading a novel or short story different from “reading” a film? By addressing these questions, this course will help students to develop a deeper understanding of how narrative literature and film work and how they’re related (or aren’t).

The course will begin by considering the relationship between truth and fiction, and some ideas about what “art” is and does. We’ll examine the roles of readers, film viewers, authors, directors, and critics. We’ll explore the forms and structures of literary and cinematic storytelling, and how these elements come together to produce meaning. Finally, we’ll briefly survey various approaches used by scholars and critics to analyze literature and film.

Course texts will include Zusak’s *The Book Thief* and Calvino’s *If on a Winter’s Night a Traveler*. Films will include *The Wizard of Oz*, *Sherlock Jr.*, *Stranger than Fiction*, *Singin’ in the Rain*, and *Cinema Paradiso*. Critical texts will include Plato, Books VII and X of *The Republic*; Wilde, “The Decay of Lying”; Wellek & Warren, “The Nature and Modes of Narrative Fiction”; Lynn, *Texts and Contexts*; Rushdie, *The Wizard of Oz*; and Spadoni, *A Pocket Guide to Analyzing Film*.

The Late Style MUS 4930H

INTC

Prof Beliaevsky

Also for music majors/minors.

F 10:00-12:30

As listeners and readers, we yearn to understand the works of art that help define our worldview. We pose and explore the fundamental questions: do great artists develop linearly, evolving continuously from earliest works through a middle period and ultimately to a late period? Or, does the creative impulse operate multi-dimensionally, searching for outlets in nuanced ways where artistic temperaments intersect with the cultural milieu?

Starting with the final study of the great polymath critic, Edward Said, this course will examine the late musical works of Bach, Beethoven, and Stravinsky and others. The overarching concern is to determine if there is a definable unity in these ultimate works

or if these late styles constitute fragmented elements. As Edward Said wrote in support of a Late Style, it is a moment when artists, who are fully in command of their medium, nevertheless abandon communication with the established social order of which they are a part and achieve a contradictory, alienated relationship with it. The late works, accordingly, are a form of exile from their milieu.

Topics: Ancient Mesopotamian Religion - NES 4930H

HBSI

Prof Holtz

F 9:30-12

Some of the oldest attempts to articulate the relationship between humans and the divine come from the lands between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Texts going back as far as the third millennium BCE, or almost to writing's very beginnings, encompass, in one way or another, the realm we moderns consider "religious." The remains of architecture and visual art complement what the texts tell us through words. For first year students, the goal of this seminar is to enter the modern academic discourse on these ancient texts and artifacts. To that end, we will study primary sources (texts will be read in translation) together with representative published interpretations of these sources by contemporary authors. We will also take up the broader theoretical questions inherent in bridging the gaps between us and the ancient materials: can we get these materials to "talk religion," should we, and, if so, how?

Authorship: Plato to Artificial Intelligence - ENG 1023H

CUOT

Prof Fitzgerald

F 10-12:30

This course explores a topic that you might be surprised to learn will come up frequently in your work as a college student, representations of *authorship* over the last ~2500 years. From a historical perspective, and because depictions of this process have changed significantly over the centuries, we'll consider how famous authors have described where ideas for writing come from: Is it divine inspiration? The world around them? Imitation of previous authors? Hard work and craftsmanship? An expression of who we are? Collaborations with others? We'll also address more recent perspectives on who gets to be called an author: For instance, why is there a debate about whether Shakespeare authored his works? Are women writers part of the authorial tradition? What about Artificial Intelligence? Most important, we'll look at why this topic matters to you, right now. Ever wonder why, as a student, you must produce original writing, usually on your own, when the writing that people do on the job and/or the internet can be anonymous, collaborative, imitative, and even, strictly speaking, plagiarized? We'll tackle this question too and raise many others about the far-reaching topic of authorship.

NAWO (Natural World)

Principles of Biology BIO 1011R

Prof Maitra

M/W 4:45-6

General Chemistry 1 CHE 1045R

Prof Jiang

M/W 3-4:15 and M 5:50-6:40

Intro Physics PHY 1031R

Prof Krueger

M/W 3-4:15

General Physics 1 PHY 1051R

Prof Zypman

M/W 3-4:15 and M 5:50-6:40

Psychobiology PSY 3804

Prof Schechter

M 6:45-9:15

This course will introduce and explore core concepts related to psychobiology, namely the biological basis of mental states and behavior. Topics will include nerve cells and impulses, synaptic transmission, hormone/endocrine signaling, neuroanatomy, sensation and perception, regulation of sleep and wake states, physiologic homeostasis, emotion, learning/memory, neurocognition, and psychological disorders. Grades will consist of quizzes administered throughout the semester, written assignments, and participation in journal clubs.

Scientific Literacy SCI 1012

Prof Camara

T/R 3-4:15

Science is the principle means by which we come to understand our environment, the planet and the universe. Science also has the ability not only to affect our day-to-day lives, but also to shape our future as individuals and as societies. The responsible citizen must be able to educate himself/herself about scientific matters that have the potential to impact civilization. This course aims to (1) expose you to current issues in modern science that have potential to impact daily life and (2) to give you the skills necessary to educate yourself and engage in discourse about scientific developments in the modern age. We

will explore a variety of scientific topics through various modern media including primary scientific literature, popular science columns, documentary films, podcasts, blogs and social media. We will learn how to critically analyze information in each of these media and how to analyze issues related to the application of scientific breakthroughs to our daily life. Finally, we learn about the government agencies that adjudicate and regulate how science interacts with society in our daily lives.

INTC Interpreting the Creative

Architecture of the Synagogue - ART 1650H

Honors

Prof Glassman

W 6:45-9:15

We shall examine the forms, materials, and structures of synagogues, the centers of Jewish communal life and worship, from their beginnings in the ancient world to the twentieth century. Using the comparative method, we shall explore regional influences in addition to links between liturgy and architectural form. To understand how the choices made in the construction of synagogues reveal the realities and aspirations of Jewish communities at different times and in different places, we shall discuss when and why structural and stylistic forms were adopted, why certain innovations were introduced, and why certain symbolic elements were expressed. Whenever possible, we shall compare synagogues in appropriate respects to buildings of other faiths as well as to secular buildings. Site visits to synagogues in New York will allow us to examine materials and forms first-hand.

Fiction & Artistic Imagination - -ENG 1007

STAFF

M/W 1:30-2:45

Fiction & Artistic Imagination -ENG 1007

STAFF

M/W 3:00-4:15

Writing/Reading Poetry - ENG 1800

Prerequisite: FYWR 1020/H

Prof Trimboli

M/W 3:00-4:15

This course will examine the contemporary landscape of poetry, and assess on a global scale some of the different voices that have contributed over the last hundred years. While going through the textbook, *The Vintage Book of Contemporary World Poetry* by J.D. McClatchy, students will be exposed on a country by country basis to a spectrum of writers from the previous century while concurrently writing their own poetry. We will examine the role of influence in our work, and have class discussions to workshop our creative writing in audience-based ways. This course will prioritize your voice and subjective understanding of poetry, but also expect you to grow and learn more objective skills regarding revision and critical reading.

Topics: Shakesphere & Bible ENG 4930H

Honors; Straus

Prof Trapedo

T/R 6:45-8

HBSI Human and Behavioral Sciences

Principles of Economics - ECO 1010

STAFF

M/W 3:00-4:15

Introduction to the principles of micro- and macroeconomics: supply and demand, the behavior of firms and consumers; theory of comparative advantage; how markets work; market failures; policy issues such as taxation regulation, and redistribution of income, general equilibrium, business cycles, inflation, unemployment; national income accounting; monetary and fiscal policy; public debt and social insurance international trade and exchange rates; long-term growth.

Principles of Economics ECO 1010

Prof Shao

T/R 1:30-2:45

Introduction to the principles of micro- and macroeconomics: supply and demand, the behavior of firms and consumers; theory of comparative advantage; how markets work; market failures; policy issues such as taxation regulation, and redistribution of income, general equilibrium, business cycles, inflation, unemployment; national income accounting; monetary and fiscal policy; public debt and social insurance international trade and exchange rates; long-term growth.

Principles of Economics ECO 1010

Prof Shao

T/R 3:00-4:15

Introduction to the principles of micro- and macroeconomics: supply and demand, the behavior of firms and consumers; theory of comparative advantage; how markets work; market failures; policy issues such as taxation regulation, and redistribution of income, general equilibrium, business cycles, inflation, unemployment; national income accounting; monetary and fiscal policy; public debt and social insurance international trade and exchange rates; long-term growth.

Intro to American Politics POL 1101

Freshman, Sophomores, and Lower Juniors ONLY

STAFF

M/W 3:00-4:15

Overview of the formal institutions and functions of the national government (Congress, presidency, courts); their interactions with state and local governments, and with

informal institutions of political power (political parties, interest groups, social movements, public opinion, media).

Introduction to International Relations POL 1301

Freshman, Sophomores, and Lower Juniors ONLY

Prof Zaitseva

T/R 3:00-4:15

This course introduces the systematic study and analysis of international politics. It exposes students to major theoretical approaches in the study of international affairs and applies these approaches to the analysis of historical and contemporary political issues. The course has three main objectives: 1) to enable students to distinguish between different explanations of world events; 2) to teach students to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of varying explanations; and 3) to teach students to think critically about international politics and to develop their own analytical stance.

Constitutional Law POL 2145

Prof Kaminetzky

M 6:45-9:15

Students will gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the Supreme Court's role in creating, defining, interpreting, expanding and limiting civil rights in the United States by reading and analyzing Court decisions and the U.S. Constitution. Through an analysis of majority opinions, concurrences and dissents, we will identify, explore and discuss the various methods of constitutional interpretation -- such as Textualism, Original Meaning, Judicial Precedent, Pragmatism, Moral Reasoning, among others -- and question the utility, fairness, limitations and risks of each approach. Topics will include right to privacy, free speech, racial and gender discrimination, freedom of religion, right to bear arms, freedom of the press and rights of the criminally accused.

Topics: US Healthcare Policy - POL 2190H

Honors, Straus

Prof Troy

W 6:45-9:15

Terrorism - POL 2330

Prof Zaitseva

T/R 1:30-2:45

Health and Social Policy - SOC 2405

Prof Abbasi

M/W 6:45-8:00

EXQM Experimental and Quantitative Methods

Intro to Computer Science - COM 1300

Prof Wymore
M/W 4:30-6:30

Intro to Computer Science - COM 1300

Prof Diament
T/R 4:30-6:30

Econometrics - ECO 1421

Prof Wdowiak
M/W 3:00-4:15

Logic - PHI 1100

Prof Johnson
M/W 4:30-5:45

Statistics for Psychology - PSY 1021

Prof Malka
M/W 3-4:15

Experimental Psychology - PSY 2100C

Prerequisites: PSY 1010/H and 1021
Prof Cohen
M/W 4:30-5:45; M 6-7:45

Training in the problems, methods, and evaluation of experimental research in psychology. Students perform individual experiments, prepare reports of results, and are introduced to the literature of experimental psychology.

Epidemiology - SOC 2407

Prof Desai
T/R 6:45-8:00

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health and disease in human populations. In recent years, the epidemiological approach has been used to address a wide range of problems, including infectious diseases, genetic risk, environmental threats, social stratification patterns, substance use, violence prevention, and even the spread of knowledge and innovation through social networks. Epidemiology has proven increasingly relevant to clinical medicine, public policy, social

science, law, and other fields; as epidemiology becomes more widely applied, it is more important than ever for researchers and professionals in a variety of fields to become familiar with its basic principles.

This course introduces the basic principles of epidemiologic study design, analysis, and interpretation

Intro to Statistics - STA 1021

Prof Grivoyannis

T/R 3:00-4:15

Sources and types of quantitative data; descriptive statistics: graphic displays and frequency distributions, measures of central tendency and variation; samples and populations; shapes of distributions (bimodal, skewness, kurtosis); probability and statistical decision making; sampling distributions (binomial, F, normal, Students, T, U, chi-square); inferential statistics: approximating percentages, estimating procedures, testing hypotheses for differences or relationships (including regression and trend analyses); tests to check model assumptions; correlation versus causation; lying with statistics.

CUOT Cultures Over Time

Presence of the Past ENG 1035

Prof Lavinsky

T/R 1:30-2:45

In this interdisciplinary core class we will explore a wide range of material that locates and authorizes itself in relation to a past both real and imagined. Our primary questions will be interpretive but also methodological in the sense that they will prompt us to examine the assumptions we bring to our own textual and historical practices: What are the uses of “antiquity”? How do texts and their readers negotiate the imperatives of remembrance and reinvention? Can tradition be assimilated to the present in meaningful ways, and which modes of reading and interpretation emerge within the scope of this process? Drawn from disparate contexts and genres, the readings in this class will appeal to a broad audience. We will consider the status of “historical” fiction, the “discovery” of ancient religious writings, the survival of Greek and Roman mythology into later periods, the vogue among some early English writers for invented genealogies, and the various controversies at the moment surrounding US Civil War monuments. If time permits, we may extend our analyses of these texts and topics to include the founding documents of Yeshiva University itself. Requirements: Informed discussion and participation, short writing assignments and critical essays, collaborative presentations.

History of Modern Russia - HIS 2154

Prof Zimmerman

T/R 3:00-4:15

This course examines the history of modern Russia from Peter the Great to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Topics include Peter the Great’s Westernization policies (1703-1725), territorial expansion under Catherine the Great (1764-1796), Alexander II’s Great Reforms (1860s-1870s), the period of reaction and revolution in late Czarist Russia, the nationalities, and the collapse of the Russian Empire in 1917. The second part of the course covers the history of Soviet Russia, between the 1917 revolution and the Soviet Union’s collapse in 1992. Grading: midterm, final and one research paper

International Crimes - HIS 2607H

HONORS

Prof Burgess

T/R 4:30-5:45

This seminar explores the emergence and incidence of genocide and other crimes against humanity in the 20th century. First, we will examine the history of modern international atrocity, including the mass killings of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire, atrocities

of colonization, the Holocaust, and more recent examples in Cambodia, Rwanda and Darfur. Then we will consider how the international community has responded, and the emergence of international law after the Second World War. Discussion will include the following issues: What does "genocide" mean, and why is it a modern phenomenon? What are its root causes? What distinguishes it from ethnic cleansing and other crimes against humanity? Is this distinction a viable one? Can genocide be prosecuted, or prevented?

Media Revolutions: From Scroll to Screen - HIS 2909

Prof Freedman

M/W 6:45-8

This course will survey the history of media from the ancient world to the present. Taking "media" in the broadest sense to encompass the full range of communications technologies, we will begin with the papyri scrolls of ancient Greece and move from there through the manuscript codex of the Middle Ages, the printed book of the age of Gutenberg, newspapers in the 18th and 19th centuries, radio and film in the 20th century, and the internet and social media of our own digital age. Several recurrent questions will frame our survey of media landscapes: How, to what ends, and in what institutional settings are particular media used? How do they affect modes of thinking? And what are the relations of different media to the various historical forms of religious, political, and economic power?

Requirements will include a midterm, final, and a paper of 4-6 pages.

Intro to Philosophy I - PHI 1011

Prof Johnson

M/W 6:45-8

People study philosophy because they want to know the answers to certain important questions such as those mentioned below. Philosophy usually fails in its attempts to answer them, but people keep returning to it because there is no other path to wisdom about such matters. (There is something to be said for knowing what doesn't work; and the study of philosophy greatly enhances the critical powers of the mind.) We will be concerned with such questions as the following: (i) Does God exist?, (ii) Is there such a thing as human free will, and, if so, what is its nature?, (iii) Is human free will compatible with perfect Divine foreknowledge?, (iv) Is human free will compatible with determinism?, (v) Are there moral truths, and, if so, how do we know what they are?, (vi) What is the nature of truth?, (vii) What is the nature of infinity?, (viii) What is the nature of probability?, (ix) What is the nature of knowledge?, (x) What is the case for, and against, skepticism?, (xi) Do the things around you exist? (Answer: No.), (xii) Are we physical objects?

Ancient & Medieval Philosophy - PHI 2170

Prof Johnson

M/W 3-4:15

COWC Contemporary World Cultures

Diaspora Literature - ENG 1002

Prof Stewart

M/W 4:30-5:45

This course explores literature about diaspora: “diaspora” as the abandonment of home, whether voluntary or enforced, and a search for a new home, new opportunities, and new beginnings, even as the home of the past lingers in the imagination, in memory, and in desire. The twenty-first century has been marked by massive and often chaotic displacements of peoples seeking refuge from violence, famine, and persecution in their homelands or opportunities for economic survival in an increasingly globalized and politically turbulent world. The twentieth century, the century of totalitarianism and genocide, had already seen seismic shifts in populations fleeing ethnic cleansing, political persecution, and specific events such as WWI and WWII, the Holocaust, African decolonization, the Indian partition, various regime changes, and nation-building. Literature and film in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries have recorded the histories and fictionalizations of such diasporic experiences. The two oldest and far-reaching global diasporas have been the Jewish and the African diasporas. Both were painful, both produced flowering cultural expression, and both continue to develop, centuries later, to this day.

Face-Face: Complex Modern Identities in Contemporary Film - ENG 1026

Prof Stewart

M/W 6:45-8:00

The basis of identity is to a large extent visual, and images are the bricks and mortar of what we eventually come to think of as cultural identity. As Aristotle claimed, we learn to become ourselves by imitating what we see (on the stage) in front of us—for us, the film screen—and we become ourselves by imitating our cultural ideals. This course explores the role cinematic images play in creating narratives about a multiplicity of cultural identities. Aristotle also insisted that it is the “ideal” character created on the stage who will aid in creating “ideal” citizens. In other words, Aristotle knew that the visual/verbal arts—in his case, theater, in our case film—have not only a representative function, but an ideological one as well. But cinematic images, like images in the other arts, have also held the function of “naturalizing” certain structures of oppression and domination as well as challenging them. This course will explore how American and foreign film represents various racial, class, gender, ethnic, and national identities, and how they reproduce and challenge those representations at the same time. While the course pays attention to both cognition and affect in our reception of film, it will emphasize the study of affect in cinematic identification, projection, and enjoyment.

FILMS: *Zelig*, *Birth of a Nation*, *Moonlight*, *Fight Club*, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *Rear Window*, *Caché*, *Force Majeure*, *Beasts of No Nation*

Requirements: class participation, short responses, 2 critical essays.

History of Palestine, 1917-1948 - HIS 2303

Prof Kosak

T/R 4:30-5:45

The course will examine the history of modern Jewish settlement in Palestine under the Ottoman rule and the British Mandate, up to the establishment of the state in 1948. We will begin with a discussion of Zionism, its rise in the second half of the 19th century, in an era of secular nationalist movements, and an era marked by imperialism, colonialism, and the attendant theories of race. The growing popularity of Zionism resulted in the Jewish settlement (Yishuv) in Palestine, where it encountered Palestinian Arabs and the British authorities. The material covered will reflect the history of British colonial politics, the social, economic, and ideological factors that shaped the emergence of the institutions of the Yishuv and of the Palestinians, and the political and national aspirations of the two communities.

Grading: midterm; final; participation in class discussions; and one research paper due at the end of the semester.

American Musical Cultures - 30327 - MUS 1014 - 231

Prof Schapiro

M/W 3:00-4:15

Is there an America? Can this question be answered, or can we at least find clues, by learning about and understanding its music? American Musical Cultures will examine the relationship between a culture, or in many cases a subculture, and its music. What makes something American? What makes music American? Does understanding the music of a society provide insights into its culture? Through readings, video, assigned listening, and class discussion, we will explore American diversity. We will find that music demonstrates both inclusion and individuality, stressing teamwork, but never at the expense of self-identity. The "American diversity" we will explore covers ethnicity and religion. But American diversity is also regional, generational, and inevitably viewed in values and modes of thought and behavior. Similarly, the word culture can be used to explain the attitudes and activities of people not only belonging to specific regions and ethnicities, but to eras. Such a breakdown is discernible where a community produces a plurality of musical approaches. The course will enable students: to understand the diverse nature of American culture(s); to analyze the meaning and components of culture; to create and defend arguments synthesizing elements across cultural groups.

Democracy and Development - POL 2260H

HONORS

Prof Venturelli

M/W 6:45-8:00

The relation between democracy and development is perhaps one of the most important topics in the field of comparative politics. In this class we will explore, from a historical perspective, the most important theories regarding the relation between D & D. The first half of the semester, we will navigate this important topic through the theories of Acemoglu and Robinson, Huntington, and Przeworski. The second part of the seminar will consist in the analysis of contemporary cases that contrast the theories outlined in the first part of the class.

Topics in Comparative Politics: Israeli Law - POL 2290

Prof Pablo Lerner

T/R 4:30-5:45