

Fall 2022 Graduate Courses

[Core Courses]

WST 601 - Feminist Theories

Ritch Calvin

Tuesdays: 1:15 - 4:05pm

This course examines concepts and conversations that have played a key role in constituting the field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies and queer, feminist, and trans scholarship more broadly. Far from promising a definitive or comprehensive overview of "feminist theory," each iteration of this course focuses on particular topics, themes, and/or theoretical frameworks. As such, instructors model for students how to build reading lists that track conceptual debates within the field or trace the contestations and contradictions of particular feminist genealogies. Together, instructors and students situate these concepts and conversations within broader historical, geopolitical, and intellectual contexts in order to question the purpose of specific theories at the moment of their emergence and to evaluate their current usefulness for developing transnational and intersectional understandings of gender and sexuality. At its core, this course attends to the ways in which the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and cisheteronormativity have conditioned western feminist thought and seeks to support students in developing theoretical tools for practicing distinctly anti-racist and decolonial women's, gender, and sexuality studies.

WST 680 - Interdisciplinary Research Design

Liz Montegary

Wednesdays: 4:00 - 6:50pm

This interdisciplinary seminar guides students engaged in feminist, liberatory, and social justice oriented projects through the process of research design. We will explore interdisciplinary ideas and debates voiced by scholars and activists about the relationship between theory and research practice, and the conduct of research and research outcomes. Students will be introduced to an array of research methods available across the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences, think critically about their use, and gain some hands-on experience with methods. The seminar is designed as a workshop to apply knowledge of methods and methodologies to students' own research, and over the semester, students will develop either a research proposal for funding agencies and/or their dissertation proposal (prospectus). Course topics will include formulating and refining research questions; developing appropriate theoretical frameworks; articulating scholarly value; and thinking critically about the methods used in feminist interdisciplinary research. Students are expected to work collaboratively, presenting their individual works-in-progress to the class for constructive critique.

[WGSS-Related Electives] - (courses still being added)

ARH 554 - Topics in Visual Culture - "What is Photomedia?"

Brook Belisle

Thursdays 1:15-4:05pm

This class examines issues in the interdisciplinary field of visual culture. Visual culture studies look at the dynamic state of visual media in contemporary life and their historical origins, seeking to relate art and film to the mass media and digital culture.

EGL 587 - Topics in Race, Ethnic Studies - "Queer Ecologies: Race, Gender, Sexuality and the Environment in Literature and Culture"

Jeff Santa Ana

Thursdays: 5:45 - 8:35pm

This course can satisfy the Literature of People of Color or the Non-Western Literature content area requirements for SBU teacher education students. (only one, not both) This graduate seminar uses ecocriticism and queer theory as its critical lens to explore the concept of queer ecologies in relation to race, gender, sexuality, and the environment in recent literature and culture. As understood and defined in ecocriticism and the environmental humanities, the term queer ecology refers to interdisciplinary scholarly practices that reimagine nature, biology, and sexuality in light of queer theory. As Catriona Sandilands explains, "queer ecology currently highlights the complexity of contemporary biopolitics [as conceptualized by Michel Foucault], draws important connections between the material and cultural dimensions of environmental issues, and insists on an articulatory practice in which sex and nature are understood in light of multiple trajectories of power and matter" ("Queer Ecology" in *Keywords for Environmental Studies*). Queer ecology upends and resists heterosexist concepts of nature and the natural, drawing from a diverse array of disciplines, including the natural and biological sciences, environmental justice, ecofeminism, and queer studies. At its heart, queer ecology deconstructs various hierarchical binaries and dichotomies that exist particularly within Western human notions of nature and culture. This seminar examines literature and prose (fiction and nonfiction) and films that feature a variety of modern and contemporary representations of human and nonhuman or more-than-human relations in the context of race, gender, sexuality, and the environment. We will examine and explore cultural works (our course's textual and visual materials) through a queer ecologies critical lens to reimagine nature, biology, and sexuality in light of queer theory. Our goal will be to produce new critical understandings through the lenses of ecocriticism and queer theory as we read and discuss the cultural works for our class.

EGL 608 - Relations of Literature and Other Disciplines - "Food, Literature, and the Origins of Cultural Studies"

Tim August

Thursdays: 1:15-4:05pm

This course will familiarize students with the origins and central concerns of the discipline of Cultural Studies. Taking food, cooking, and eating as our object we will consider how notions of ethnicity, gender, the environment, the body, and the global are crafted through culinary documents. This includes a close examination of the role that literature plays in representing intimate practices like eating, and a consideration of the productive tensions that exist between Cultural Studies and fields that revolve around aesthetic judgment. Spanning the high and low, the popular and the political, as well as the personal and the social, we will develop methodologies and practices to read across various media forms and genres, like films, memoirs, television, poetry, cookbooks, restaurant reviews, and academic theory. Specifically, we will engage the writing and/or creative work produced by Arjun Appadurai, Roland Barthes, Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, Rey Chow, Luce Giard, Stuart Hall, Ben Highmore, Juzo Itami, Henri Lefebvre, Anita Mannur, Francis Mulhern, Georg Simmel, Monique Truong, Fred Wah, Raymond Williams, Jihyun Yun, Michelle Zauner, and more.

HIS 521 - US History to 1877

Jennifer Anderson

Wednesdays 6:00-8:50pm

In this graduate seminar, students will develop a strong foundation in American history, within the larger context of the Atlantic world, from the pre-colonial period to the U.S. Civil War. The purpose of this course is to introduce major themes, interpretations, and methods of inquiry that have characterized this field of study. We will cover a wide range of subjects including Native American relations; cross-cultural encounters; labor (free and enslaved); imperialism; settlercolonialism; religion; wars and revolutions; changing social relations; political ideologies and movements; and historical constructions of race, ethnicity, class, and gender. Readings will include a selection of both classic works and new scholarship. Required: attendance, active participating in class discussion, oral presentations, much reading, short writing assignments and papers.

HIS 532 - Theme Seminar - "Uprisings, Riots, Rebellions, State, Racial, Populist and Political Violence in Global History"

Robert Chase

Wednesdays 2:40-5:30pm

In the aftermath of global responses to George Floyd's murder and the insurrection at the Washington, D.C. Capitol, this course asks our students to historicize and rethink histories of violence through the lens of new histories and approaches to writing state atrocity, urban uprisings, and populist street violence and vigilantism. As such, this theme course explores new and exciting work that reconsiders state, racial, and street violence as a matter of political uprisings and state reprisal. Through a critical historical lens, we will reconsider the meanings and differences between what historians and political pundits might name as riots, senseless violence, insurrections, uprisings, revolutions, terror, and liberation. The course will rethink sites of violence through a global and transnational lens and one that spans three centuries (18th, 19th, and 20th centuries). Course topics will include slave revolts; "race riots" and historical memory; and urban uprisings as an expression of political discontent and resistance to global systems of white supremacy, colonialism, and capitalism. We will also take up new work on populist violence and vigilantism through new work on lynching's and public memory; extremist street violence; the history of gun violence as racial and political violence; genocides and "race wars;" and, domestic terrorism and political violence (from Nazi Germany to the Oklahoma City bombing). We will also read new work on state violence as political reprisal, racial repression, and as part of a global campaign of anti-insurgent thought and practice during the Cold War era. Topics of state violence will include global and domestic systems of policing and incarceration; border control, immigration detention and deportation; political violence in totalitarian regimes; and state campaigns against guerilla insurgencies during the Cold War. Despite popular narratives that argue that we have entered a new millennium as a less violent age (particularly the claims of Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker about the decline of violence), the persistence and even the intensification of modern-day violence requires that we think historically about this phenomenon to better disentangle the many meanings of violence as social, cultural, political, and racial expression. Pre-requisite: Enrollment in a History MA or PhD Program or permission of the instructor with enrollment under the HIS course number.

MUS 536 - Emcee Ethnographies - "Ethnography Methodology and the Study of Hip Hop"

Kevin Holt

Thursdays 2:45 - 3:45pm

Hip-hop has become an increasingly popular subject of academic discourse, serving as a frame through which members of several disciplinary communities engage issues of music, race, aesthetics, gender, identity, representation, and performance, to list some of the most frequently evoked topics. From roughly the mid-1990s onward, a generation of hip-hop scholars has risen to points of prominence in their respective fields, developing a canon of interdisciplinary work aimed at addressing the bumpy terrain encompassed by hip-hop and the communities that breathe meaning into it.

Despite the strong connotations of activism and advocacy in hip-hop scholarship, relatively few book-length works centralize ethnography as a primary methodological approach for the analysis of hip-hop and its communities. This seminar offers an exploration of works within the area of hip-hop studies that centralize qualitative and/or quantitative ethnographic (or other interview-based) methodologies. In doing so, this course invites critical interrogations of the ways in which hip-hop and hip-hoppers are uniquely elucidated when studied ethnographically and, in turn, the ways in which hip-hop, both as a subject of study and as a theoretical framing device, has catalyzed shifts in ethnographic methodology.

MUS 541 - Topics in the Cross-Cultural Study of Music - "Sound and Sonic Media in Asia"

Benjamin Tausig

Thursdays 1:15 - 4:05pm

This course explores recent literature in sound studies of Asia (broadly and generously conceived), with a particular focus on sonic media. A recent efflorescence of scholarship on sound in Asia and its diasporas has yielded, to name only a brief few gems: studies of popular music in Asia's cold wars; ethnography of the Iranian pop music scene in Southern California; deep archival dives into the late-19th century Siamese recording industry; rich, long-term ethnography of the soundscapes of Uyghur Islam; and a history of political radio in Vietnam. The field of sound studies was notoriously negligent of Asia-focused topics in its earliest decades. The field now finds itself reckoning with the possibility of Asian and Asian diasporic sound studies as an intellectual space that offers theories and practices quite different (and drawing upon distinct lineages) from North American centers. In this course, we will consider both the work and its emergent scholarly context(s). What is sound studies in the Sri Lankan academy? In the Vietnamese post-war diaspora? In Japanese bureaucratic discourse? The bulk of the class will involve reading recent monographs, and we will often have the chance to speak to authors or key participants involved in the research. Students will produce a 20-30 page seminar paper at the end of the course, and will be responsible for weekly responses, in-class, participation, and other brief, creative assignments.

POL 562 - Passionate Politics: Mobilization, Interest Groups, and Social Movements

Leonie Huddy

Mondays 2:40-5:45pm

This course discusses political mobilization: the factors that motivate political involvement and the consequences that high levels of public engagement have on elections and the development of public policy. The course begins with several high profile examples of citizen engagement that have had noticeable impact on American politics. This first section also includes a discussion of the various ways in which Americans can be mobilized from involvement in election campaigns to the distribution of political information via social networks. The course then shifts focus to cover the psychology of political mobilization in detail, including the importance of group memberships and

identities, emotions, and values. An entire unit of the course is devoted to psychology of group membership in which the mobilizing power of identities and the role of politically motivating emotions are discussed at length. Finally the last section of the course is devoted to specific examples of political mobilization in the U.S. including the environment/green movement, issue groups such as the right-to-life movement, racial politics, and highly polarized partisan politics. Overall, the course is designed to illuminate the psychology of political mobilization and apply these principles to contemporary American politics.

SPN 510 - The Cuban Revolution and Its Discontents: Film, Music, Literature

Lena Burgos LaFuente

Wednesday 6:05 - 9:00pm

As Jennifer Lambe and Michael Bustamante have stated, "the field of Cuban revolutionary history is at once saturated and, paradoxically, "underdeveloped." In this course we will study the cultural production generated during the Cuban Revolution from the years immediately preceding its triumph, roughly from the assault at the Cuartel Moncada in 1953, through present-day political and artistic manifestations. We will study the 1960s and the 1970s most intensively, as the signal years of revolutionary aesthetics and counter-aesthetics, with some attention to the 1990s Special Period in Times of Peace and recent resistance movements in the 21st-century, such as the Movimiento San Isidro of 2021. Through film, visual culture, music, and literature, we will pay special attention to gender politics, racial politics and gay/queer sexual politics, critiquing the established political discourse (which we will study in speeches by Fidel Castro and other items of official policy) and tracing a current of oppositional discourses and also mixed discourses that struggle with the desire for inclusion in revolutionary goals, on the one hand, and the absence of civil society, on the other. Specific issues studied include the situation of Woman in the Revolution as "a Revolution within the Revolution," in Fidel Castro's 1966 phrase; the rich visual culture of the Revolution, with the 1959 establishment of the Instituto Cubano de las Artes e Industrias Cinematográficas (the venerable ICAIC) and a blossoming of comic books and animation; the development of revolutionary music and the privileging of the trova over other Cuban sounds; and the relationship to international liberationist movements, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. Authors, filmmakers and musicians studied include Dulce María Loynaz, Virgilio Piñera, Julio García Espinosa, Lydia Cabrera, Wifredo Lam, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Sara Gómez, Juan Padrón, Néstor Almendros, Lourdes Casal, Reinaldo Arenas, Jesús Díaz, Reina María Rodríguez, Nancy Morejón, Heberto Padilla, Silvio Rodríguez, Celeste Mendoza and Los Aldeanos.

SOC 514 - Adv. Topics in Global Sociology - "Global Political Economy & Institutions"

Kristen Shorette

Thursdays 4:45-7:25pm

This course will focus on the historical development of macro-structural change. We'll examine foundational work & contemporary applications from political economic and institutional perspectives as well as work that integrates the two. The major substantive areas – broadly conceived – will include economic inequality, the natural environment, human health and wellbeing, and human rights.