Fall 2021 Graduate Courses

[Core Courses]

WST 601 - Feminist Theories

Cristina Khan

Tuesdays 1:15 - 4:05 p.m.

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to a wide range of readings in feminist theories and the impact of gender and sexuality studies criticism on literary studies and feminist narratology. Taking an intersectional approach to argue that multiple modalities—gender, race, ethnicity, class, nationality, ability, geographical location—create social positions and representations structured by inequalities, we will examine and critique a variety of literary/critical texts that anticipate, intervene in, and embody feminist and queer representations in narrative. Loosely organized around feminist chronologies, we will examine early feminisms alongside second-wave and sexuality studies; we then examine critical race studies and black feminisms, and shift to queer of color and transnational feminisms. Readings range from Mary Wollstonecraft and Julia C. Collins to Gloria Anzaldúa, Hortense Spillers, and Maggie Nelson. French feminists, Wittig, Kristeva, Cixous, and Irigaray are read in conjunction with earlier works by Simone de Beauvoir and Virginia Woolf ( *A Room of One’s Own* , e.g.) and alongside Spivak, Butler, Fuss, and Ahmed. Longer works include Morrison’s  *Beloved* , Rankin’s  *Citizen*  and Cisneros’s  *Woman Hollering Creek.* Collaborative praxis is expected in this class as such work comprises education as a “practice of freedom,” as bell hooks has written.

WST 680 - Interdisciplinary Research Design

Liz Montegary

Wednesdays  2:40 - 5:30 p.m.

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]

ARH 550 -  Inquiries into Art Criticism and Theory - " Transnational Histories, Methods, & Exhibitions"

Katy Siegel

Mondays 1:00 - 3:50 p.m. (in-person and online synchronous)

This class approaches the global postwar through the lens of the transnational. Recent scholarship on the global and also the regional has emphasized mobility, chosen and pressured, and multiple identities and contexts as artists move across the uneven ground of the postwar world. We will read monographic artist case studies, propositions for ways to rethink previous histories (of "American" art, of cosmopolitan/colonial Paris), newer South-South narratives, and also exhibitions. Guest speakers and curators will discuss their research, and we will also look at artists whose work emphasizes transnational experience. I f you are interested in registering or have any questions please contact Katy Siegel at katy.siegel@stonybrook.edu or Gabriella Shypula at gabriella.shypula@stonybrook.edu

ARH 554 - Topics in Visual Culture - "Comparative Media"

Brooke Belisle

Thursdays 1:15 - 4:05 p.m.

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.

AFS 533 - Race, Gender, and Globalization

Georges Fouron

Mondays 2:40 - 3:50 p.m.

This seminar explores current issues and debates relating to the racialized and gendered effects of globalization. Topics include an overview of the sociology of globalization and theories of globalism/the global system, transnational classes and a transnational state, global culture and ideology, transnational migrations and the new global labor market, globalization and race/ethnicity, women and globalization, local-global linkages, and resistance to globalization.

EGL 585 - Topics in Cultural Studies: "Documentary: Film and Society"

Iza Kalinowska-Blackwood

Wednesdays  6:05 - 8:55 p.m.

The last two decades have witnessed an unprecedented development of nonfiction filmmaking.
Documentary films have become a major platform for personal expression as well as for social and political advocacy, often combining these two planes. More generally, documentary cinema has become an invaluable barometer of political tensions, concerns over social inequalities and issues related to climate change, among others. This seminar will engage its participants in the study of the history and theory of documentary cinema in order to help us develop an understanding of the whole range of narrative strategies and practices that documentarians have developed since the making of the early ‘actualities’ through the emergence of digital filmmaking. In a parallel line of investigation, we will examine the potential uses of documentary cinema in classroom instruction.

HIS 516 - Theme Seminars on Empire, Modernity, and Globalization -

"Doing Transnational History in a Global Age"

Young-Sun Hong

Thursdays 4:45 - 7:35 p.m.

The recent “transnational turn” has given rise to a search for a satisfying way to uncover, conceptualize, and narrate that which was excluded or obscured by state-centered historical approach to the modern world. Not surprisingly, however, the idea of transnationalism has raised as many problems as it has solved. The obscure relationship between states and transnational social spaces is direly in need of further illumination, as is the relation between transnational, global, and international history. In addition to these questions, this seminar will e xamine what a transnational perspective enables us to see or how its ostensible insights can be
translated into a concrete historical research project. Lastly, in the seminar we will all learn that globality is both the precondition and the subject of transnational history and that transnational and global perspective affects the making of alternative possibilities.

HIS 517 - Theme Seminars on Empire, Modernity, and Globalization   -

"Comparative Slavery"

Jennifer Anderson

Wednesdays  6:05 - 9:00 p.m.

From Barbadian sugar plantations to Northern cities, enslaved Africans figured prominently in
the history of the early Atlantic world. In myriad ways, they contributed to the economic, social,
and cultural formation of European colonies and later of independent nations. In the process,
they developed new survival strategies, social relations, and cultural identities amidst the ravages
of the slave trade, exploitative systems of coerced labor, and the inherent violence that
characterized slave societies. In this class, we will take a comparative approach to consider how
slavery—both as an institution and as a lived experience—differed across regions and periods
from the Caribbean to New England. We will explore a wide range of relevant topics, including
changing labor systems, transatlantic and internal slave trades, plantation and non-plantation
economies, early capitalism, cultural continuities and creolization, religion and spiritual beliefs,
resistance and revolution, free black communities, anti-slavery activism and abolition. In
addition, we will consider how various scholars have interpreted the influence of slavery on
intersectional constructions of race, gender, and class. HIS MA and PhD students register for HIS
517; MAT Social Studies students require permission of Instructor and register for CEG 566.

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

Leonie Huddy

Mondays 2:45 - 5:35 p.m.

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.

SOC 514  -  Advanced Topics in Global Sociology - "Global Health"

Rebekah Burroway

Tuesdays  5:45 - 8:35 p.m.

This course provides an advanced treatment of major topics and debates in the increasingly globalized social sciences. The course is based on research activities of the faculty and students. Topics may include global inequality; globalization and gender; sociology of human rights; war and revolution; transnational social movements; comparative political economy; globalization and immigration; globalization and work; issues in global culture.

SPN 641  -  19th-Century Iberian Cultures - "Race, Gender, and Penal Colonies in the Philippines"

Aurélie Vialette

Wednesdays  2:40 - 5:30 p.m.

This course delves into the racial, ethical, political, and social issues involved in the Spanish penal colonization process in the Philippines in the nineteenth century. We will see that incarceration, in this context, became a method to dispossess indigenous and Muslim people of their land in the Philippines, and to cleanse the Spanish peninsula of those considered a threat to industrial society —criminals, the poor, prostitutes, and vagrants. To that end, labor and procreation were crucial and instrumentalized in the use of prisoners, both male and female, to build the colonial structure.

Our discussions will center on Islands studies, Iberian studies, Atlantic studies, Critical Race theory and Gender studies. Readings will include: Archival documents from the Ministerio de Ultramar, Giorgio Agamben, Concepción Arenal, Juan Luis Bachero Bachero, Jeremy Bentham, John Blanco, Robert Chase, Adela Cortina, Angela Davis, Gilles Deleuze, Robert Esposito, Michel Foucault, Josep Fradera, Teresa Fuentes Peris, Antonio Gramsci, Franz Kafka, Samuel Llano, Cesare Lombroso, Achille MBembe, Mary Louise Pratt, Isabel Ramoz Vázquez, Christopher Schmidt-Nowara, John Schumacher, Nancy Shoemaker, Rita Segato, Joseph Slaughter, Ann Stoler, Anibal Quijano, among others.

This course will help understand the centrality of a transnational and transhistorical approach to understanding the contemporary treatment of prisoners. We will specifically look at the Spanish debates on penal colonies in the Philippines to address still-unresolved questions of prison labor, race politics through imprisonment, and the importance of heteropatriarchy, linked to gender violence, in the prison system.