

Summer 2015

Undergraduate Course Descriptions

Summer Session I: May 26 - July 2

Approaches to Gender and Sexuality Studies – SCA-UA 401.001

Instructor: TBD

Tues, Wed, Thurs 10 AM - 12 PM - 4 points

What are the processes, relations and sensations that constitute the phenomena of gender and sexuality? What aspects of human experience count as gendered or sexual, and how does the answer vary across fields such as psychology, medicine, sociology and religion? Our interdisciplinary approach to gender and sexuality studies will include contemporary as well as historical debates, from slavery and lynching to Abu Ghraib and gay marriage. As we analyze the intersection of gender and sexuality with race, nation and class dynamics, we will uncover the extent to which ideas and imperatives about these phenomena saturate the world around us. (Counts as introductory course for the GSS major or minor; counts as introductory course for the SCA major but NOT the minor; does not count as an elective for any SCA major/minor.)

Topics: Before Ferguson: The History of Police Violence – SCA-UA 280.001

Prof. Lisa Duggan

Tues, Wed, Thurs 2:30 - 4:30 PM - 4 points

This course traces the history and politics of policing in the United States and considers the racial politics, class dimensions, and gender dynamics that have shaped patterns of hiring, management, enforcement and violence. We then consider this context in analyzing recent instances of police violence in US cities, as students create reports for the class on specific instances in their broad historical and political context. (Counts as elective for these SCA majors/minors: AFRI, AMST, GSS, LAT, MET, SCA; counts as Common Elective for all 7 SCA majors.)

New York City in Film – SCA-UA 623.001

Prof. Sukhdev Sandhu

Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:30 - 11:30 AM - 4 points

What are the diverse ways in which New York City has been imagined on the silver screen? How does a cinematic perspective shape our understanding of urban spaces? This course analyzes films that portray New York as a site of local encounter and global exchange in both commercial and documentary films since the 1960s. We will investigate the dramatic mapping and remapping of urban space through works that articulate questions of gentrification, immigrant labor, organized crime, and sexual subcultures. In turn, we will examine how these stories have helped shape and contest the city's image of itself--as a space of struggle, belonging, illegality, emancipation, and transformation. The goal is to see how each particular film captures a distinct moment both in the city's history over the past fifty years as well as in the history of filmmaking. In so doing, we will blend the perspectives of urban studies, ethnic studies, and visual culture, placing films within their aesthetic, political, and historical context. (Counts as elective for these SCA majors/minors: AMST, MET, SCA.)

Summer Session II: July 6 - August 15

Approaches to Metropolitan Studies – SCA-UA 601.001

or SCA-UA 601.060 (pre-college)

Prof. Michael Ralph

Tue, Wed, Thu 10 AM - 12 PM - 4 points

A broad and interdisciplinary introduction to the field of urban studies. Surveying the major approaches deployed to investigate the urban experience in the social space of the modern city. This course explores the historical geography of capitalist urbanization with attention to North American and European cities, to colonial and postcolonial cities, and to the global contexts of urban development. Major topics include urban politics and governance; suburban and regional development; urban social movements; urban planning; the gendering of urban space and racial segregation in urban space. (Counts as introductory course for the MET major or minor; counts as introductory course for the SCA major but NOT the minor; does not count as an elective for any SCA major/minor.)

Urban Cultural Life – SCA-UA 608.001 (4 pts); 608.002 (2 pts); 608.003 (0pts)

or 608.060 (pre-college)

Instructor: James Rodriguez, Jr.

Tue, Thu 3 – 6 PM

(This course requires a 60 dollars activity fee. Students who register for this course as 0 credits must be registered for another summer course and will receive a pass/fail grade)

Few cities enjoy as rich a cultural life as New York City, with its galaxy of neighborhoods, museums, galleries, theatres, concert halls, and alternative spaces. Through walking tours, attendance at cultural events, and visits to local cultural institutions, students explore the definition of urban culture. Sites include the familiar and the unfamiliar, the Village and the outer boroughs. Students examine the attributes that constitute culture and community from an interdisciplinary perspective. Readings and films expand their understanding of these concepts. We will engage with the many themes of urban culture through key and contemporary works in urban studies and through the lens of gentrification as an organizing process of the city and its culture. While meeting with local activists and through written assignments, students will be encouraged to consider how current issues (like the Black Lives Matter movement and climate change) and urban culture can be understood in terms of the gentrification in New York City and beyond. (Counts as elective for these SCA majors/minors: AMST, MET, SCA.)

Topics in Metropolitan Studies: NYC Activism and Radical Art Practice 1960-Present – SCA-UA 680.001

Instructor: Ayasha Guerin

Tue, Wed, Thu 12:30 PM - 2:30PM

This course will consider the relation between social-transformation and artistic creation. Together we will study the Peace, Anti-war, and the Black-Power movements of the late 60s and 70s, Anti-gentrification and urban food justice organizing in New York's Lower East Side during the 90s, as well as 2011's Occupy Wall Street, so as to trace a legacy of creative activism in New York. Alongside movements that have responded to the economic and social crises of the late 20th century, each lesson will consider, too, the works of art to have come out of these efforts. From the stage at Woodstock, to Emory Douglas' photo collages for the Black Panther Party, the performance and direct action of Act Up during the NYC Aids crisis, to Banksy's street art in gentrifying Brooklyn, the visual material in this course, as well as various New York site-visits, will help us to trace a history of radical art practice and to question the social politics of trespassing. (Counts as elective for these SCA majors/minors: AFRI, AMST, GSS, MET, SCA; counts as Common Elective for all 7 SCA majors.)