

# Summer 2016

## Undergraduate Course Descriptions

### **Summer Session I: May 23 - July 3**

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

**Instructor: Emmaia Gelman**

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

Examines the relationship between the cultural and political spheres with a focus on the representation of race, sex, and gender within mass-mediated controversies and scandals. Interdisciplinary in nature, it considers a wide range of topics including reproduction, the law, sports, the presidency, the trial, pornography, secrecy, music, opinion journalism, hate speech, and the news.

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 police forces' hiring, ideas about public order, and tactics. 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, SCA.)

#### **Approaches to Gender and Sexuality Studies – SCA-UA 401.001**

**Instructor: Brian Ray**

**Tues, Wed, Thurs, 12:00 - 2:00 PM - 4 points**

Designed to interest and challenge both the student new to the study of gender and sexuality and the student who has taken departmental courses focusing on women, gender, and/or sexuality. Through a focus on particular issues and topics, explores the construction of sex, gender, and sexuality; gender asymmetry in society; sexual normativity and violations of norms; and the interactions of sex, gender, sexuality, race, class, and nation. This interdisciplinary course engages materials and methodologies from a range of media and disciplines, such as literature, the visual arts, history, sociology, psychology, and anthropology. Examines both feminist and nonfeminist arguments from a variety of critical perspectives (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)

#### **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 5 - August 14

### **Hip Hop and Politics – SCA-UA 157.001 or 157.060 (pre-college)**

**Prof. Michael Ralph**

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

In places ranging from the political theory of Adolph Reed to the comedy of Bill Cosby we find a critique of the "hip hop generation" so dismissive it might be a useful point of departure for further historical and theoretical inquiry. Besides realizing the worst fears of a previous generation who placed its hopes in the aspirations of 60s-era social movements, this new generation's fashion sensibilities, technological savvy, and strategies for commodifying blackness suggest a demographic now more concerned with the economics of globalization than the political economy of race. This course mixes a diverse set of readings with music and film to interrogate the specific generational tensions that structure popular and intellectual discourses concerning the "hip-hop generation" and the perceived demise of contemporary black politics. (Counts as elective for these SCA majors/minors: AFRI, AMST, MET, SCA; counts as Common Elective for all 7 SCA majors.)

### **Cultures & Economies: Informal Economies: Drugs and Sex Work – SCA-UA 234.001**

**Prof. Lisa Duggan**

#### **Tues, Wed, Thurs, 12:00 – 2:00 PM - 4 points**

This seminar focuses on the relationship between 'the economy' and 'culture' in the contemporary United States. "The economy" is often imagined to be a clear cut set of material and monetary exchanges, quantified via Gross National Product, employment and profit rates, credit and debit sheets. But many exchanges involving money take place outside the official economy, and are not included in the published statistics. In fact, "the economy" can be seen as a culturally and historically shaped set of relationships, embedded in social relations in complex ways. In this course, we will examine the notion of an "underground economy" and focus on two major sites of unofficial and often illegal exchange: the drug economy, and the economy of sex work. We will ask a range of questions including: Why are these activities illegal and/or stigmatized? What is the role of drugs and sex in the overall political economy? (Counts as elective for these majors/minors: AMST, GSS, SCA; counts as Common Elect for all 7 SCA majors.)

### **Urban Cultural Life – SCA-UA 608.001 or 608.060 (pre-college)**

**Instructor: A.J. Bauer**

#### **Tue, Thu 3:00 – 6:00 PM – 4 points**

***(This course requires a 60 dollars activity fee.)***

Few cities enjoy as rich a cultural life as New York City, with its plethora 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. (Counts as elective for these SCA majors/minors: AMST, MET, SCA)