Summer 2018

Undergraduate Course Descriptions

Summer Session I: May 21 - July 1

Hip Hop and Politics – SCA-UA 157.001 or 157.060 (pre-college)
Prof. Michael Ralph
Tues, Wed, Thurs, 6:00 - 8:00 PM - 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 faculty elective for these SCA majors/minors: AFRI, AMST, MET, SCA.)

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 faculty elective for these SCA majors/minors: AMST, MET, SCA)

Cultures & Economies: #Metoo? Histories of Sexual Assault & Harassment – SCA-UA 234.001
Prof. Lisa Duggan
Tues, Wed, Thurs, 12:30 – 2:30 PM – 4 points
In this course, we will place the current #MeToo and #Time'sUp phenomena in context, by examining the history of rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment. We'll consider sexual violence, social movements, media and law as they are embedded within structures of racial, class and gender inequality. In addition to considering the pervasiveness of violence against women and analyzing social responses to it, we'll also examine social and moral panics based on false allegations of rape and abuse-- from early 20th century lynching, to the Satanistic child abuse panic that swept US day care centers in the 1980s. (Counts as faculty elective for these SCA major/minors: AMST, GSS, and SOCA).
Summer Session II: July 2 - August 12

Approaches to Gender and Sexuality Studies – SCA-UA 401.001
Instructor: TBD
Tues, Wed, Thurs, 10:00 – 12:00 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)

Urban Cultural Life – SCA-UA 608.001 or 608.060 (pre-college)
Instructor: TBD
Tue, Thu 3:00 – 6:00 PM – 4 points
(This course requires a 60-dollar 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)

Topics in Met Studies: Memory and the City – SCA-UA 680.001
Prof. Autumn Barrett
Tues, Wed, Thurs, 12:00 – 2:00 PM - 4 points
This course offers an introduction to social memory, critically examining multiple modes of remembrance. How are landscapes of memory created and how does memory influence our imagined futures and present actions? Including, but also going beyond institutions of memory, such as museums, can we think of our life experiences and the ways we came to be in this place and space as archives of memory and particular types of histories? Do we embody memory as history? If so, how? How are such repositories of memory expressed through performance and modes of memory called “art”? How are multiple landscapes of memory made simultaneously meaningful here in New York City, where deep colonial and postcolonial histories intersect with dynamic histories of global immigrations, heritages, and experiences? This course will integrate readings, site visits and guest performance to understand connections made between space, place, meanings, movement, and memory. (Counts as elective for these SCA majors/minors: AFRI, AMST, APA, GSS, LAT, MET, SCA.)