

Fall 2004 Class Offerings

Freshman Colloquia

"Justice and Equality"
525:100:02 Index # 09827

Dr. John J. Gunkel (Philosophy)

This course is designed to sharpen critical and analytical abilities through an interdisciplinary investigation of issues and theories of justice and equality. Since the dawn of Classical thought, justice has been almost universally recognized as the hallmark of a "good" society, but few thinkers have been able to agree on the proper answer to the question, "What is justice?" Many have believed that a just society is, at the very least, one that is fundamentally characterized by a equal distribution of goods, but even this is controversial, and, furthermore, there is considerable disagreement regarding what sorts of goods need to be distributed equally among the members of a society and also regarding what would even count as an equal distribution. Readings will address divergent conceptions of justice and equality and will be drawn from current sources in sociology, economics, philosophy, and law, as well as contemporary fiction.

The course roughly will be divided into thirds. The first part of the course will be primarily sociological in nature and will examine existing inequalities in the United States and selected other countries. The second part of the course will focus upon the philosophical dimensions of the topic and specifically focusing upon current theories about what justice is and about what kinds of equality, if any, should be seen as important. The third and final part of the course will look at political, legal, and administrative treatments of these issues as they arise in particular contexts. Special topics that will be considered in this connection include affirmative action admissions policies, access to scarce medical technologies, and government tolerance of or encouragement of the religious, linguistic, and other practices of minority groups.

"Science and Religion"
525:100:01 Index #09072

Dr. Doug Morrison (Biology)

Honors College freshmen in "Science and Religion" focus on three areas of science in which recent advances have strained relations between science and religion: evolution, astronomy/cosmology, and neurobiology. Although the creation-evolution controversy is used as the initial springboard for discussion, the course quickly moves on to a thoughtful, in-depth consideration of scientific and religious views of the world, including their goals, methods, and assumptions. Also included are 1-2 day overviews of the history and beliefs of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and the folk religions of China.

Students are challenged to develop their own, more mature belief system/world-view based on a broader and deeper understanding of modern science and the world's major religions. Objectives include (1) fostering religious tolerance, (2) expanding one's appreciation of the beauty of our universe, and (3) moving toward an understanding of our (human's) place in the grand scheme of things.

History and Literature Linked Courses

History and Literature of American Military and Law

"American Military in American History"
512:364:01 Index #14329

Dr. Jon Lurie (History)

Examination of a series of episodes and stories drawn from American History that will help illustrate the way in which the military has affected, or been affected by, American Society.

"The Military in American Literature"
352:368:02 Index #10774

Dr. Heywood Ehrlich (English)

American writers focus on the military both in descriptions of actual warfare and in metaphors of war in religious and economic contexts. We find in American literature the accounts of actual warfare in Colonial conflicts with the British and the Indians; the question of the civil rights of sailors explored by Melville; the conflicts of abolitionism and the Civil War raised by Thoreau, Whitman, and Stephen Crane; the experiences of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe as recounted by Hemingway, Dos Passos, and Cummings in World War I; and the delayed view of World War II, filtered by the postmodern view of wars in Korea and Viet Nam, in the work of Kurt Vonnegut, Joseph Heller, and Thomas Pynchon.

In addition, the conflict between concrete military regulations and the abstract idea of fairness is a constant theme for both drama and satire in American film and television, some well-known examples being "The Caine Mutiny," "Mash," and "Dr. Strangelove." Military metaphors abound in religious sermons, in economic journalism, and in other American popular culture and advertising.

We will read six or seven clusters fiction or poetry consisting of works such as Melville; *Billy Budd*, *The Roof Top*; Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*; Whitman, *The Wound Dresser*; Stephen Crane; *The Red Badge of Courage*; Hemingway, *In Our Time*; Dos Passos, *Three Soldiers*; Cummings, *The Enormous Room*; Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five*; Joseph Heller, *Catch 22*; Thomas Pynchon, *V*; and other more recent works.

History and Literature of Democracy

"History of Democracy"
510:302:10 Index #14075

Dr. Jon Cowans (History)

This course will cover the History of Democracy from Ancient Greece and Rome to its revival in early modern Europe and America and its development in the 20th century. Topics include the origins, theory, and practice of democracy; the nature of the public sphere and citizen participation.

"Survey of English Literature"
Staff (English)
350:221:02 Index #14293

An examination of major British prose and poetry from "Beowulf" to Milton's "Paradise Lost."

History and Literature of Race and Ethnicity

"History of Race and Ethnicity"
512:309:01 Index #09109

Dr. Jan Lewis (History)

An introduction to the history of race and ethnicity in the United States. The first semester covers the period to c. 1865. Topics will include European-Indian relations, the origins of slavery and racism, the crusade against slavery, sex across the color line, and race relations in both the North and South. Topics in the second semester will include the abolition of slavery; segregation and the response to it; and race and ethnic relations in the twentieth century. Both semesters will explore the construction of race and ethnicity

"Topics in American Literature"
352:368:03 Index #14336

Dr. Frank Casale (English)

This course examines the complex literary relationship between race and literary expression in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Analysis will focus on intertextual connections that reveal the history of cultural attitudes and assumptions about race and ethnicity. The class will use America's division of race into black and white as the basis for a sustained broader, cross-cultural, multiethnic study.

History and Literature of the Modern Middle East

"The Modern Middle East"
510:361:01 Index #13989

Dr. Peter Golden (History)

This course will serve as an introduction to the modern Near and Middle East. Review of the formation of classical Islamic civilization in the region. Political, economic, social, and ethnic problems resulting from Western influences and the dismemberment of the Ottoman empire. Modern Iranian development and the creation of Israel.

"Arabic Literature in English Translation"
074:311:02 Index #14604

Prof. Kennedy-Day (Classical and Mod. Languages)

The themes of this course will be Alienation and Self-regard. Alienation in the Middle East and North Africa is caused by various factors: the aftereffects of colonialism, repressive governments, unemployment and generally poor economic conditions, poor educational opportunities, emigration, and civil war to name a few.

Tentative Reading list

- Women of Sand and Myrrh by Hanan al-Shaykh.
- My Name is Red by Orhan Pamuk.
- Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi.
- Season of Migration to the North by Tayyeb Saleh.
- Cities of Salt by A.R. Munif.
- Men in the Sun by Ghassan Kanafani.
- Wolf Dreams by Yasmina Khadra, transl. by Linda Black.

Topic Seminars - Humanities

"Introduction to Film Genre"
525:252:01 Index #10718

Dr. Gabe Miller (English)

This course will investigate the question of film genre, one of the great contributions of the studio system to American film culture. We will look at "genre" on three levels: those characteristics shared by all genre films, those characteristics shared by all films within any individual genre, and those characteristics that set one genre film off from all other genre films.

We will study three genres in particular: the western, the gangster film, and the hard boiled detective film. We will study examples of each genre from their evolution in the 1930s until the present and examine how these films represent changing social and political issues in America.

Films will include: Shane, My Darling Clementine, Red River, Unforgiven, Scarface, High Sierra, The Godfather, The Maltese Falcon, Murder My Sweet, and Chinatown.

Topic Seminars - Social Sciences

"Oral History"
525:254:01 Index #09828

Dr. Rob Snyder (Journalism)

In this course, students uncover buried treasures--people's memories of the past that come to life in oral history interviews. Over a semester we'll explore the craft of interviewing; the uses of oral history interviews in research, documentaries and public programs; and how these interviews raise new questions about the past and the present. Students will interview people from the communities around them and Rutgers-Newark.

In our readings and interviews, we will compare and contrast the experience of the sixties generation and the Vietnam War with the experiences of this generation and its war on terrorism.

Special Topics

"Ethnic Diversity and Public Policy"
525:401:02 Index #14193

Provost Steven Diner (History)

From its inception, the United States has been made up of people of diverse national, racial and religious origins. This diversity has raised a profound question for American national identity. If the American people cannot be defined through common ancestry, then what does it mean to be an American? The first session of this course will examine the longstanding debate about the nature of American nationality.

Ethnic, racial and religious diversity poses issues of public policy that have divided Americans in the past and continue to evoke emotional debates today. The remainder of the course will examine some of these current issues, including affirmative action, racial classification, and several others. Class sessions will be devoted to discussion of assigned readings.

Capstone Course

"Reinventing Downtown"
525:497:02 Index #09073

Dr. Elizabeth Strom (Political Science)

Across America, central cities are showing new signs of life. Whereas once "downtowns" were primarily sites of production, however, today's city centers are being revitalized with projects aimed at consumers. Most important among them are cultural facilities, convention centers and professional sports venues.

This course will examine the changing fortunes of downtown. During the Fall semester we will look at the factors shaping urban centers over the past century. In the Spring semester, we will explore current trends in downtown development, with particular focus on the development of cultural projects, sports venues, and other efforts to encourage people to consider downtowns as "places to play." In addition to completing assigned readings, students will each become experts in an urban downtown of their choosing. Each student will write two papers on their chosen city: the Fall semester paper will examine that city's historical development, and the Spring semester paper will focus on the city's current efforts to redevelop its central area. The course will also feature visits from downtown redevelopment practitioners, and visits to downtown centers in and near Newark.

Woven throughout the class will be an on-going discussion of how one does research. We will learn how a researcher defines a question, generates a hypothesis, locates and gathers data (information), and uses the data to address his or her hypothesis. The two research papers will offer opportunities to carry out these research strategies.
