

Spring 2006 Classes

Freshman Colloquia

“Justice and Equality”
525:100:01 Index # 68715 TTh2

Dr. John J. Gunkel
(Honors College)

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 an 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.

“Federalism and the Evolution of Public Security”
525:100:02 Index # 68716 M5W4

Dr. Michael Maxfield
(School of Criminal Justice)

The US constitution describes a federalist form of government -- authority is shared by state and national governments. No policy area illustrates the principle of federalism more than the issue of public safety. The national government bears primary responsibility for protecting the public through national defense. State, and through them local, governments protect the public against crime. This all worked fairly well until terrorism blurred the distinction between threats to individual and national security. Now state, local, and national governments have stakes and share jurisdiction over potential attacks on public facilities and groups of people. New agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security were created at the national level in part to coordinate prevention and other activities among local governments and other national agencies. What has resulted so far is a confusing mess.

This course combines a consideration of basic principles of American government with an examination of how this historical vision of shared power complicates the task of public security. As a seminar, the course involves a high degree of student participation. As an investigation of a new public policy problem the course also involves a considerable degree of collaborative learning.

Michael Maxfield is a professor in the School of Criminal Justice. Trained as a political scientist, he has published research in a variety of criminal justice policy areas. Before coming to Rutgers in 1997, Professor Maxfield was on the faculty of Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

History and Literature Linked Courses

Topics in American Immigration

“American Immigration”
512:330:01 Index # 74106 TTh

Dr. Amy Portwood
(History)

TBA.

“Contemporary Ethnic Poetry”
352:369:02 Index # 74178 MW2

Dr. Barry Seiler
(English)

TBA.

Topics in Colonialism, Decolonization and Immigration

“Colonialism and Decolonization”
510:379:01 Index # 74099 TTh5

Dr. Jon Cowans
(History)

TBA.

“Immigration in Literature and Film”
350:337:03 Index # 71889 WF3

Dr. Belinda Edmondson
(English)

TBA.

Topics in Law and Women in Literature

“Topics in Legal History - Law and Literature”
512:452:01 Index # 72007 MW2

Dr. Jon Lurie
(History)

TBA.

“Women in Literature”
350:362:01 Index # 66356 TTh2

Dr. Nancy Gerber
(English)

TBA.

Topic Seminars - Sciences

“Biological and Sociological Investigations of Race”
62:525:250:50 Index # 74491 Th 6:00pm - 9:00pm

John Yarotsky
(Biology)

Objective: To give students a scientific understanding of the concept of race as it is applied to Homo sapiens sapiens, and an understanding of the sociological ramifications and implications of the scientific evidence.

Synopsis: This course is designed to give you a biological understanding of the concept of race, and particularly the relevance of its application to humans. Through lectures, multimedia presentations, hands-on activities, and laboratory investigations you will gain an understanding of genetics, adaptation, and evolution that will allow you to consider race in a scientific context. With this background, we will then explore the compelling mitochondrial DNA and Y chromosome evidence for human origins and migration. We will also consider sociological issues concerning race including: intelligence, athletics, health, and eugenics.

Topic Seminars - Social Sciences

“Contemporary Immigration”
525:254:02 Index # 74149 M5W4

Dr. Sherri-Ann Butterfield
(Sociology and Anthropology)

TBA.

“Politics of International Terrorism”
62:525:254:40 Index # 74637 T 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Ambassador Azmat Hassan, Ret.

Investigates the use of terrorism for political purposes. Areas covered include the debate about who/what constitutes a terrorist movement or organization; the financing of terrorism; exploitation of/by the media; connections between fundamentalism, religion and terrorism; and the abilities of security services and intelligence organizations to effectively monitor and combat terrorism.

Capstone Course

“Transitional Justice”
62:525:498:40 Index # 74489 TTh5

Dr. Alex Hinton
(Sociology and Anthropology)

In this course, we will examine how the international community has attempted to contribute to sustainable peace in various locales (Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone, East Timor, South Africa, Guatemala, and Cambodia) through transitional justice efforts, ranging from truth and reconciliation commissions to tribunals. While considering a variety of cases and issues, much of the course will focus or touch upon Cambodia, where a trial of former Khmer Rouge leaders is scheduled to begin in 2006. In particular, we will look at how a remarkable Cambodian non-governmental organization, the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam), is attempting to make the upcoming hybrid tribunal of former Khmer Rouge leaders more effective and local.

We are fortunate that DC-Cam has just opened its first overseas office at Rutgers - Newark, which also has become the host of an archive of primary documentation, photos, films, magazines, and books related to the Khmer Rouge period. The DC-Cam office at Newark will both provide information to UN personnel, lawyers, journalists, and others interested in the upcoming tribunal and network and conduct oral histories with Cambodian-Americans. The existence of this office on campus affords students taking this course with a unique opportunity to combine traditional coursework with hands-on learning experience. Accordingly, besides reading material on transitional justice, genocide, Cambodian history and culture, and the politics of memory, each student will have the opportunity to work on a photo exhibit, conduct oral histories, do archival research, work with DC-Cam staff, and participate in a colloquium series specifically linked to the course themes. The course will conclude with student presentations and a compendium of your oral history interviews with Cambodian-Americans. For more information on the DC-Cam office and archives please click [HERE](#).