

This list demonstrates the breadth of courses at Columbia University with content that relates to Islam and regions where Islam is significant.

Students in the Masters in Islamic Studies program must complete 36 credit points, including the thesis, to graduate. Of the 36 points, 30 must be at the graduate level. Up to six credits of 3000-level undergraduate courses may count toward an MA degree. Students may, with approval from the Faculty Advisor, take one additional 3000-level course in the History Department. It is also possible to enroll in an independent study with a faculty member's approval. Islamic Studies MA students are required to take Foundation to Islamic Studies and Muslim Societies (GR5000) in Fall 2017.

Islamic Studies MA students should consult the graduate level courses listed below prior to registering for classes. The online Directory of Classes indicates whether permission is needed to register. Instructor permission is usually required when the class size is limited or when the course requires a specialized background or advanced preparation.

The Islamic Studies MA program has mandatory degree requirements that are specified on the program checklist. Degree planning and requirements should be discussed with the MA Advisor at the beginning of every semester, in order to keep track of degree progress.

GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES

MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

FOUNDATION TO ISLAMIC STUDIES AND MUSLIM SOCIETIES

Islamic Culture Studies GR5000

Kathryn Spellman Poots

T 10:10am-12:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 26098

This course provides students with a foundation to the key concepts, theories and debates in the field of Islamic studies. Interdisciplinary in scope, the course will utilize major approaches in the classic areas of history, law and political economy as well as sociology, anthropology, media studies, and colonial and postcolonial studies. We will critically address theoretical questions and debates about culture and civilization, religion, secularization, law and authority, nation-states, globalization, minority rights and technology. While engaging with archetypal themes in Islamic studies, this course will also concentrate on gender and sexuality, cultural production and articulations, transnational movements, and modes of religious association and ritual in everyday life. We will examine the variety of ways that Islamic norms and practices are developed, reinterpreted, embodied and regulated in contemporary Muslim societies as well as among Muslims minorities in western contexts. This seminar is a core course for the MA in Islamic Studies and will be helpful for graduate students studying the Middle East, South Asia and Africa.

ANTHROPOLOGY

POWER AND HEGEMONY

Anthropology GR6023

Partha Chatterjee

M 2:10pm-4:00pm

Points: 3

Call Number: 72826

We will read large sections of Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks* and works of Foucault including *Discipline and Punish*, *The History of Sexuality*, and his lectures on security, governmentality and biopolitics. Alongside, we will read key authors such as Schmitt, Agamben, Laclau and Ranciere as well as some recent applications of Gramsci and Foucault in historical and anthropological analysis in order to shed light on contemporary issues of political power. Prerequisites: the instructor's permission. Enrollment limit is 25.

CENTER FOR COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

BLOOD/LUST: EARLY MOD MEDIT

Comparative Literature and Society GR6454

Patricia E Grieve

W 12:10pm-2:00pm

Points: 3

Call Number: 10014

This course examines, in 16th and 17th century Spain and England (1580-1640), how the two countries staged the conflict between them, and with the Ottoman Empire; that is, how both countries represented national and imperial clashes, and how the concepts of being "Spanish", "English", or "Turk" often played out on the high seas of the Mediterranean with Islam and the Ottoman Empire. We will consider how the Ottoman Empire depicted itself artistically through miniatures and court poetry. The course will include travel and captivity narratives from Spain, England, the Ottoman Empire, and the Barbary States.

SUBJECTIVITY&POWER

Comparative Literature and Society & PSCC GR6350

T 4:10pm-6:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 11648

Contemporary political-philosophical debate revolves around the question of new forms of power, from biopower to governmentality. Many authors involved, from Giorgio Agamben to Nikolas Rose, claim to be developing core ideas put forward by Michel Foucault: mainly, Foucault's insight concerning the inextricable tangle of subjectivity and power relations which, accordingly, dismantles the classical liberal and juridical view of the face-off between "the individual – the state." While they provide original analyses of the functioning of the new forms of power, they nevertheless neglect to delve deeply into the folds of subjectivity.

The course traces a philosophical genealogy of the interrelation between subjectivity, power, and domination in order to shed light on the subjective side of this relation. Readings from Friedrich Nietzsche, Hannah Arendt, Michel Foucault, Primo Levi, Jacques Derrida Judith Butler, will allow us to raise questions that often remain unthought, such as: What is the structure of a subjectivity that easily slides into domination? What desires motivate our attachment to constraining powers, and from where does our anxiety to conform stem? At the same time, drawing on the writings of these authors, we will ask ourselves how to envisage the conditions of possibility for a resistant subject, for an idea of the Self that is capable of creating friction with domination. Far from being a return to the monism of individualism, this Self will turn out to be an “an-archic” subject that blurs the boundaries between ethics and politics.

HISTORY

BORDERLANDS HISTORY COLLOQUIUM

History GR8495

W 10:10am-12:00pm

Manan Ahmed, Karl Jacoby

Points: 4

Call Number: 27401

This course will argue for a broader spatial history of empire by looking at sites such as "frontiers" and "borderlands" in a theoretical and comparative perspective. From the works of nineteenth century historians such as Frederick Jackson Turner to formulations of spatial perspectives by Foucault, Bauchelard and Lefebvre we will look at specific sites from the American West to Northeast India. Our effort will be to situate borderlands and frontiers not at the margins but at the center of the relationship between power and narrative, between empire and colony. Formulations of race, gender, class will be central to our comparative units of historical analysis and allow us to create conversations across area-studies boundaries within the discipline.

MODERN HISTORY OF PALESTINE

History GR8713

Rashid Khalidi

T 2:10pm-4:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 72897

This seminar will examine problems in the historiography of Palestine from the 19th century until the present. The course will focus primarily on how the modern history of Palestine and the Palestinian people have been understood and written. It will also touch on related topics, including great power policies, the history of Zionism and Israel, inter-Arab politics, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Arab-Israeli wars.

HISTORY OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

History GR6998

Rashid Khalidi

Points: 4

Call Number: 92069

GRAD STUD ONLY-INSTR MUST ADD U 2 COURSEWRKS

INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MID EAST CONFLICTS & GLOBL SEC

Regional Institute U6719

Naomi Weinberger

M 2:10pm-4:00pm

Points: 3

Call Number: 75510

This course analyzes the impact of domestic and regional conflicts in the Middle East on global security. Case studies include: Palestine/Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Key concepts include: security sector reform, regime change, conflict management, arms races, nuclear proliferation, counterterrorism and energy security.

SECURITY/INTL POL-PERSIAN GULF

Regional Institute U6660

Lawrence G Potter

Time: W 2:10pm-4:00pm

Points: 3

Call Number: 92195

The course will be divided into two sections. The first will focus on the international dimensions of security, and will situate the Gulf in the Middle East and the world. It will review the consequences of the three major wars fought there over the past three decades before addressing both hard and soft security issues (the latter including climate issues and food security), border disputes, the nuclear issue, and the role both Iran and the U.S. play in the Gulf. Part II will focus on domestic sources of instability, including national identity and the ruling bargain, the rise of the post-rentier state, sectarian conflict, the problem of migrant workers (who currently make up a majority of the population in the GCC states), and the repercussions of the Arab Spring, which has led to an ominous retreat from earlier signs of liberalization.

STATE FORMATION, DEFORMATION & FAILURE

International Affairs U8258 section 001

Lisa Anderson

W 2:10pm-4:00pm

Points: 3

Call Number: 16399

Much is made in the contemporary policy world of the challenges of “failed states” and of what is often called “nation-building.” But what are these things we call states? How are they related to nations, to other states, to “nonstate actors,” to the “state system,” to sovereignty? And what do policy-makers need to know as they contemplate problems posed by both strong and weak states? What we know as states today are relatively modern inventions—conventionally dated to the European Peace of Westphalia in

1648—and there are many other ways human communities have governed themselves, kept the peace, fostered arts and letters and otherwise provided some measure of culture and prosperity. Yet today, states cover the world’s territory—the “international state system” even determines the rules for exploitation of the high seas and outer space—and the state seems everywhere triumphant. Except where it isn’t. Challenged by globalization of trade and information flows, labor mobility, the spread of germs, arms, ideas around the world, the state is also under siege. This course examines the character, origins, dissemination and prospects of this building block of modern international affairs. It draws many of its empirical referents from Europe, the Middle East and Africa, but students are welcome to bring knowledge and inquiry about other parts of the world to the course. This course is designed to provide an informed and reflective context for the kinds of policy dilemmas that professionals in both international security and international development confront daily.

ITALIAN

THE QUR'AN IN EUROPE

Italian GU4022

Pier Mattia Tommasino

TR 10:10am-11:25am

Points: 3

Call Number: 63007

Is the Qur’an translatable? Was the Qur’an translated? Are non Arabic-speaking Muslims allowed to translate the Qur’an? And what about non-Muslims? Did Muslims and non-Muslims collaborate in translating the text of the Qur’an into Latin and European vernaculars? This course focuses on the long history of the diffusion of the Qur’an, the Scripture of the Muslims, and one of the most important texts in the history of humanity. We will focus on reading and translation practices of the Qur’an in Europe and the Mediterranean, from the Middle Ages to the contemporary world. We will explore how European Muslims, such as Iberian moriscos, European Jews, as well as Orthodox, Protestants and Catholics read, copied, collected, translated and printed the Qur’an. We will also explore why the Qur’an was confuted, forbidden, burned and even eaten, drunk and worn along eight centuries of the history of Europe. This long excursus, based on a close reading of the Qur’an and on the discussion of the major themes this close reading proposes, will help us to understand the role of Islam and its revelation in the formation of European societies and cultures.

LAW SCHOOL

LAW OF OCCUPATION

Katherine Franke

Date/Time: TBA

Points: 1

Call Number: TBA

MIDDLE EASTERN, SOUTH ASIAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

19TH CENT INDIAN MUSLIMS

Middle East GU4643

S. Akbar Zaidi

M 10:10am-12:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 22786

This is an advanced undergraduate/graduate history seminar course over thirteen weeks, designed to introduce upper level students to the study of Muslims in colonial India in the nineteenth century. Although dealing with this period, the main focus of this course will be on social, religious and political developments, inspired by, and affecting, India's Muslims in the second half of the century.

AFR: MODERNITY/POST COLONIAL EXP

Middle East GU4144

Kai Kresse

T 4:10pm-6:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 21868

This 4000 level seminar course is organized around weekly readings that represent substantial contributions to the debate about both 'modernity' and 'postcolonial experience' in Africa, from a range of interrelated disciplinary perspectives. In readings and discussions, we will keep the relationship between the two main discursive fields in view, and also (re-)consider the ongoing relevance of colonialism and colonial experiences in relation to them. Conceptual reflections on modernity and postcolonial experience(s) need to be based upon empirical research, and underpinned by regional socio-historical knowledge of the settings and scenarios discussed - there is no 'modernity' per se and no 'postcolonial experience' as such. We will involve comparative, historical and contemporary angles of discussion, and pursue an interest in critical conceptualization in relation to social and political realities in Africa, and with a view to African thinkers.

ARABIC LITERARY HERITAGE

Middle East GU4232

Muhsin al-Musawi

W 4:10pm-6:00pm

Points: 3

Call Number: 22923

Prerequisites: one semester of fourth-year Arabic, or demonstrate equivalent competence. The sessions for this course cover a number of excerpts from texts that are systematically arranged to enable close reading and further discussion and analysis that lead to an active engagement with Arab literary [cultural] tradition. There are samples from pre-Islamic poetry, including that of the Renegades and the Ravens, the Maqamat, al-Jahiz's oeuvre [selections from a number of books and epistles], Abu Hayyan al-Tawhidi's writings, prose by ibn Wahb on use and misuse of language, epistles by prominent epistolographers, Hikayat Abi al-Qasim by al-Azdi, selections from al-Bayhaqi, and the Thousand and One Nights. There are excerpts from the middle and premodern period, along with specific selections of commentaries of pertinence to the rise or

devaluation of genres, modes, and practices. We address cases in which language is the contested space. The theoretical framework takes language as the dynamic force and also the battlefield through our reading of the movement of the word from transparency [where no distance exists between signifiers and signified], representation, and discourse. Every epistemic shift has its ideological base which we need to detect. The underlying premise is that through close reading and discussion we can draw a genealogy of generic growth or decay in terms of historical, geographical, and religio-political dynamics. The class involves reading, discussion, and written assignments in both Arabic and English.

CINEMA & SOC IN ASIA & AFRICA

Comparative Literature: Middle East GU4031 section 001

Hamid Dabashi

MW 10:10am-11:25am

Points: 4

Course Number: 13647

Introduction to Middle Eastern cinema as a unique cultural product in which artistic sensibilities are mobilized to address, and thus reflect, significant aspects of contemporary society, Arab, Israeli, Turkish, and Iranian cinema. Cultural and collective expressions of some enduring concerns in modern Middle Eastern societies. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

STDY GEN/SEXUALITY-ARAB WORLD

Middle East GR8280

Joseph Massad

T 4:10pm-6:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 98697

Prerequisites: the instructor's permission. This course aims to familiarize graduate students with the different methods and approaches that US and European scholars have used to study gender and sexuality in other societies generally, and the way they study them in the context of the Arab World specifically. The course will also explore how Arab scholars have also studied their own societies. We will survey these different approaches, both theoretical and empirical, outlining their methodological difficulties and limitations. Readings will consist of theoretical elaborations of these difficulties and the methodological and empirical critiques that the field itself has generated in order to elaborate how gender and sexuality in the Arab World have been studied, or more accurately, not studied, and how many of these methodological pitfalls can be avoided.

ISLAMIC LAW THROUGH TEXTS

Middle East GR6232

Wael Hallaq

M 4:10pm-6:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 28635

Prerequisites: Proficiency in Arabic required. This graduate seminar is conducted entirely in Arabic sources. We will read various passages from the Qur'an in order to

highlight the Qur'an's moral imperatives about "living in" nature as well as about the generation of wealth and its distribution within the social order. We will then move on to examine the genre of fiqh (substantive law) with regard to the same themes, examining the moral structures of society in terms of the ethic of "spending." Themes such as "making money," building capital, charity, welfare, etc. will be examined in depth as constituting a system of checks-and-balances, through close readings of the concepts of kasb, zakat, sadaqa, waqf, etc.

READINGS IN HEBREW TEXTS I

Middle East GU4501
Naama Harel
TR 10:10am-12:00pm
Points: 4
Call Number: 64568

Prerequisites: (MDES GU4510) and (MDES GU4511) 3RD Year Modern Hebrew or the instructor's permission. This course focuses on central identities shaping Israeli society and is designed to give students extensive experience in reading Hebrew. Through selected readings of contemporary literary works and media texts, students will increase their proficiency in Hebrew and enhance their understanding of Israeli culture and society. All readings, written assignments, and class discussions are in Hebrew. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

READINGS IN PERSIAN TEXTS

Middle East GU4726
Mana Kia
MW 2:10pm-4:00pm
Points: 4
Call Number: 13150

Prerequisites: Must have completed MDES 2702, equivalent two years of Persian or the instructor's permission. This course provides experience reading and analyzing Persian language texts, as well as translating them into English. We will also spend some time learning how to read different kinds of paleography, and about various manuscript and print conventions and practices. Supplementary scholarly readings in English will situate the Persian texts. There will be a translation workshop at the end of the semester with related texts of the students choosing, in preparation for a final translation project. Fall 2017 we will explore historical chronicles (tarikh), and their relationship to other ways of representing the past. May be repeated for credit; content varies. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

REVISITING THE ARCHIVE

MDES GR6041
Gil Hochberg
Thursday 2:10-4:00pm
Points: 4
Call Number: 63449

The word archive comes from the Greek word arkheion, a repository for official documents, and a place where the archons, the rulers, reside. Archives, then, are unequivocally associated with power and authority, at least in their original formation.

But who and what is the archive for? What gets left out of the archive? What is the relationship between the archive and the public? What claims of authority and knowledge (scientific, historical, credible, provable) are made in the name of the archive? In this seminar we will attend to these and several other related questions as we interrogate the notion of the “archive” as a system of documentation, a (often national) official site where “research is conducted,” a depository of affect and sentiments. We will also look at ways in which the archive is appropriated and the “order of things” is challenged. In this respect we will consider both interruptions of dominant archives and the creation of alternative archives. In addition to a theoretical reading list, we will engage with several artistic responses to the question of the archive including, literary texts, films, photography and dance.

SHI'ITES AND SHI'ISM

Middle East GU4760 section 001

Hamid Dabashi

W 12:10pm-2:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 64702

SUBALTERN STUDIES/PROB OF HIST

Middle East GU4057

Sudipta Kaviraj

W 12:10pm-2:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 62658

The aim of this course will be two-fold: first to initiate a detailed study of the school of Indian history called Subaltern Studies which achieved immense attention and popularity starting from the 1980s; secondly, to study, through these writings, the epistemological problems of critical historical and social science scholarship. The discussions will be on two levels – every week there will be a reading from the subaltern studies history, but this would be linked to thinking about some specific theoretical issue, and the historiographic difficulties of investigating the history of social groups and actors who were conventionally kept outside mainstream histories. It will track the intellectual trajectory of subaltern studies intellectual work as it expanded, moving from histories of the peasantry, the working class, tribals, women, lower castes, subordinate nations, to raising larger theoretical and methodological questions about critiques of nationalist history, of European history and social science to the general question of knowledge about the modern world and the languages in which it should be examined. In the last section, we shall discuss if SS contains a promise of similar forms of critical knowledge in other parts of the world, and whether it can be used to examine the conceptual structures of modern social sciences in general.

THEORY AND METHODS II

Middle East GR5001

Sudipta Kaviraj

T 2:10pm-4:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 75323

The main purpose of this course is to acquaint students with different theories and

methodological approaches to reading and interpretation of texts. This course may not be taken as Pass/D/Fail.

MUSIC

MUSIC, MEMORY & CONTEMP MIGRATN
Music GR9432 section 001
Alessandra M Ciucci
R 2:10pm-4:00pm
Points: 3
Call Number: 77201

POLITICAL SCIENCE

ISRAEL 20 YEARS AFTER RABIN
Political Science GU4433
Ehud N Sommer
M 8:10am-10:00am
Points: 4
Call Number: 62038

RELIGION

EXPLORING SHARIA: ISLAMIC LAW
Religion GU4322
Najam Haider
W 4:10pm-6:00pm
Points: 4
Call Number: 07147

The platform of every modern Islamist political party calls for the implementation of the sharia. This term is invariably (and incorrectly) interpreted as an unchanging legal code dating back to 7th century Arabia. In reality, Islamic law is an organic and constantly evolving human project aimed at ascertaining God's will in a given historical and cultural context. This course offers a detailed and nuanced look at the Islamic legal methodology and its evolution over the last 1400 years. The first part of the semester is dedicated to classical Islamic jurisprudence, concentrating on the manner in which jurists used the Qur'an, the Sunna (the model of the Prophet), and rationality to articulate a coherent legal system. The second part of the course focuses on those areas of the law that engender passionate debate and controversy in the contemporary world. Specifically, we examine the discourse surrounding Islamic family (medical ethics, marriage, divorce, women's rights) and criminal (capital punishment, apostasy, suicide/martyrdom) law. The course concludes by discussing the legal implications of Muslims living as minorities in non-Islamic countries and the effects of modernity on the foundations of Islamic jurisprudence.

POLITICAL THEOLOGY
Religion GU4220
Dotan Leshem

M 4:10pm-6:00pm
Points: 4
Call Number: 11349

Prerequisites: Prior coursework in Religion, MESAAS, political theory, or related field is advised. This reading-intensive course will engage the notion of “political theology,” a phrase that emerges within the Western tradition (Varro, Augustine) and has become instrumental in thinking and institutionalizing the distinction between religion and politics over the course of the twentieth century. We will take as our point of departure the key texts that have revived this notion (Schmitt, Kantorowicz), and engage their interpretation of the Bible and of Augustine and medieval followers. We will then examine the role of Spinoza and Moses Mendelsohn, the extension of the notion of religion to “the East” (Said, Grosrichard, Asad), and conclude with some of the current debates over secularization in the colonizing and colonized world. The main part of the course will be dedicated to the question of religion as it informs our thinking of disciplinary divisions. Is religion a sphere than can be isolated? How did it become so? What are the effects of this isolation?

SOCIOLOGY

ISRAELI SOCIETY: SPEC TOPICS
Sociology GR6010
Yinon Cohen
W 4:10pm-6:00pm
Points: 3
Call Number: 19166

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ISLAM: RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND PRACTICE
IE 230
Jerusha Lamprey
Th 9:00am-11:50am
Points: 3

This course introduces Islam by exploring its historical development, central sources and institutions, core theological debates, and ritual practices. The course includes examination of the life and role of Prophet Muhammad; of the Qur'an and aḥādīth (narrations about the Prophet); and of Islamic exegesis, law, and theology. It also introduces some major Islamic theologians, scholars, and jurists. Throughout all, special attention is paid to diversity within the Islamic tradition, the dynamic interplay between religion and context, and the role of interpretation.

Note: Enrollment limited to 25 students.

RELIGIONS IN THE CITY
IE 102

Jerusha Lamptey
W 9:00am-11:50am
Points: 3

This course introduces students to various religious worldviews and communities (this semester, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism) within New York City. It aims to cultivate a general understanding of the core teachings and practices of these communities through textual study, dialogical interactions, site visits, and participation in spiritual practices. It also aims to foster awareness of inter- and intra-religious diversity, of the ways in which the specific context of New York City shapes religious worldviews and practices, and of students' own positions on religious diversity.

Note: Consult M.Div. degree program planner.

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL COURSES

ANTHROPOLOGY

AFRICAN POPULAR CULTURE

Anthropology UN3946 (Barnard)

Brian Larkin

T 10:10am-12:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 02644

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor required. This course examines the political aesthetics of African cultural production and how that production provides sites from which African experiences of colonial and postcolonial life are articulated.

ARABIA IMAGINED

Anthropology UN3933

Brinkley Messick

M 2:10pm-4:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 75423

This course explores Arabia as a global phenomenon. It is organized around primary texts read in English translation. The site of the revelation of the Quran and the location of the sacred precincts of Islam, Arabia is the destination of pilgrimage and the direction of prayer for Muslims worldwide. It also is the locus of cultural expression ranging from the literature of the 1001 Nights to the broadcasts of Al Jazeera. We begin with themes of contemporary youth culture and political movements associated with the Arab Spring. Seminar paper.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Anthropology UN3701

Naor H Ben-Yehoyada

M 10:10am-12:00pm
Points: 4
Call Number: 60896

In its everyday use, the term “trial” denotes a formal examination of evidence by a judicial tribunal in order to determine the guilt or innocence of the persons accused of a certain act. Yet trials can also stage confrontations of much wider breadth and higher stakes. Ruling powers of various shapes and sizes tend to prosecute those people whom they fear because of their identity, class, craft, or convictions. In such cases, what is often “on trial” is not just one (or more) individual persons, but a set of relationship that these ruling powers see as anathema to the social order they seek to establish or maintain, and on which their power depends. Witches, officers of toppled political orders, those accused of conspiracy (rebels, traitors, terrorists, and dissidents), gangsters and mafiosi, or corrupt officers and magnates – all share that role in social dramas that cast them as enemies of The State, The Church, The People, or Humanity. We will examine how such trials give us unique opportunities to examine what conceptions of society, of relationships good and evil, and of justice underlie political orders, how they codify and pursue them, and what historical processes these enactments trigger or shape. After an introductory session, we will dedicate two to three weeks on each of these categories. Our goal will be to develop tools for understanding the relationship between the micro-dynamics of trials and the changes that unfold before these events, through them, and in their aftermath.

NATIONALISM, POPULISM, & DEMOCRACY
ANTH UN2001
Professor Partha Chatterjee
Tuesday/Thursday: 1:10pm-2:25pm

Although the course will offer a historical approach to the question of populism, it will try to address the relation between nationalism, populism and democracy at a more conceptual level, seeking to develop analytical tools for understanding contemporary social and political ideologies and conflicts. The readings consist of a mix of historical and theoretical texts, in addition to a short novel and three films.

ART HISTORY

ENLIGHTENMENT&ARCHAEOLOGY
Art History UN3433
Zainab Bahrani
W 4:10pm-6:00pm
Points: 4
Call Number: 97847

In this seminar, we will study the emergence of the disciplines of Near Eastern and Classical archaeology, antiquarian interests and collecting practices in eighteenth and nineteenth century Europe. This European scientific interest was centered around the ancient past of lands under the Ottoman empire in the Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean. Students will learn about antiquarianism and the development of the scientific discipline of archaeology, how it defined itself and set itself apart from its predecessor, focusing on the earliest collecting and documentation of antiquities, the start of organised excavations, the origins of the modern museum and early

archaeological photography.

ARTS OF ISLAM
Asian Humanities UN2800
Avinoam Shalem
MW 2:40pm-3:55pm
Points: 3
Call Number: 66583

This introductory course attempts to cover the first 300 years, from circa 700-1000 AD, stressing the birth of Islam as the birth of a new aesthetic phenomenon in the Mediterranean Basin, Near East and Central Asia and its appropriations and innovations in creating a novel imperial style, while, at the same time, questioning the modern historiographies and narratives for these masterpieces.

ARCHITECTURE

BUILDING ISLAM
Architecture A6806
Ziad Jamaledine
M 11:00am-1:00pm
Points: 3
Call Number: 81696

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ETHNICITY AND RACE

COLONIZATION/DECOLONIZATION
Ethnicity and Race, Center for Study of UN3928
Natasha J Lightfoot
T 2:10pm-4:00pm
Points: 4
Call Number: 17636

Prerequisites: Open to CSER majors/concentrators only. Others may be allowed to register with the instructor's permission. This course explores the centrality of colonialism in the making of the modern world, emphasizing cross-cultural and social contact, exchange, and relations of power; dynamics of conquest and resistance; and discourses of civilization, empire, freedom, nationalism, and human rights, from 1500 to 2000. Topics include pre-modern empires; European exploration, contact, and conquest in the new world; Atlantic-world slavery and emancipation; and European and Japanese colonialism in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. The course ends with a section on decolonization and post-colonialism in the period after World War II. Intensive reading and discussion of primary documents.

CLASSICS (BARNARD)

ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANC EGYPT & NUBIA
Classical Civilization UN3101

Ellen Morris
MW 1:10pm-2:25pm
Points: 3
Call Number: 06516

Thanks to the pyramids of Giza, the treasure of Tutankhamun, and other remains of royal activity, pharaonic Egypt is justly famous for its monuments and material culture. Equally fascinating, if less well known, however, are the towns, fortresses, cultic centers, domestic spaces, and non-elite cemeteries that have been excavated over the past 200 years or so. The archaeology of Nubia is also little known but fascinating on many levels. This course will focus on what archaeology can reveal about life as it was experienced by individuals of all social classes. Through a combination of broad surveys and case studies of some of Egypt and Nubia's most culturally indicative and intriguing sites, we will explore issues such as the origins of inequality, state formation and its effects, the uneasy mix of state-planned settlements and village life, urbanism, domestic and community worship, gendered spaces, ethnicity and colonialism, religious revolution and evolution, bureaucracy, private enterprise, and the effects of governmental collapse on life and death in ancient Egypt and Nubia.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

ARABIC PRISON WRITING
Comparative Literature: Middle East UN3928
Muhsin al-Musawi
R 2:10pm-4:00pm
Points: 3
Call Number: 22923

This course studies the genealogy of the prison in Arab culture as manifested in memoirs, narratives, and poems. These cut across a vast temporal and spatial swathe, covering selections from the Quran, Sufi narratives from al-Hallaj oeuvre, poetry by prisoners of war: classical, medieval, and modern. It also studies modern narratives by women prisoners and political prisoners, and narratives that engage with these issues. Arabic prison writing is studied against other genealogies of this prism, especially in the West, to map out the birth of prison, its institutionalization, mechanism, and role. All readings for the course are in English translations.

POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION
Comparative Literature UN3395
Aaron Robertson
M 10:10am-12:00pm
Points: 4
Call Number: 86247

Representation embodies the notion that language, in its broadest sense, assists in the construction of meanings in the world and influences the way we look at or interpret this world. As Stuart Hall has shown, the reproduction of reality through language, discourse and images is never simply neutral and transparent but always ideologically informed. In postcolonial studies, for example, representations are always implicated in power inequalities and the subordination of the 'other.' The course develops an analytic

framework for understanding how representation takes place and has evolved over time in different media. We will focus in particular on the analysis of literary texts, films, photography, exhibitions and art but also on popular culture and entertainment in order to understand how cultural logics operate in different contexts. Drawing from literary studies, gender studies, cultural theory, postcolonial studies and media studies, the aim is to develop and practice a new, critical way of looking at contemporary cultural practices. Application instructions: E-mail Aaron Robertson (ar3488@columbia.edu) with the subject heading "Representation seminar." In your message, include your name, school, major, year of study, relevant courses taken, and a brief statement about why you are interested in taking it.

Note: SEE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE FOR APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

STAGING THE EARLY MOD MEDITERR
Comparative Literature and Society UN3454
Patricia E Grieve
M 12:10pm-2:00pm
Points: 3
Call Number: 65016

This course examines, in sixteenth and seventeenth century Spain and England (1580-1640), how the two countries staged the conflict between them, and with the Ottoman Empire; that is, how both countries represent national and imperial clashes, and the concepts of being "Spanish," "English," or "Turk," as well as the dynamic and fluid identities of North Africa, often played out on the high seas of the Mediterranean with Islam and the Ottoman Empire. We will consider how the Ottoman Empire depicted itself artistically through miniatures and court poetry. The course will include travel and captivity narratives from Spain, England, and the Ottoman Empire.

ENGLISH

ESTRANGEMENT/EXILE GLOB NOVELS
English BC3192
Hisham Matar
M 4:10pm-6:00pm
Points: 4
Call Number: 03784

"I would never be part of anything. I would never really belong anywhere, and I knew it, and all my life would be the same, trying to belong, and failing. Always something would go wrong. I am a stranger and I always will be, and after all I didn't really care."-Jean Rhys. This course examines the experiential life of the novelist as both artist and citizen. Through the study of the work of two towering figures in 20th century literature, we will look at the seemingly contradictory condition of the novelist as both outsider and integral to society, as both observer and expresser of time's yearnings and passions. In different ways and with different repercussions, Jean Rhys and Albert Camus were born into realities shaped by colonialism. They lived across borders, identities and allegiances. Rhys was neither black-Caribbean nor white-English. Albert Camus could be said to have been both French and Algerian, both the occupier and the occupied, and, perhaps, neither. We will look at how their work reflects the contradictions into which they were

born. We will trace, through close reading and open discussion, the ways in which their art continues to have lasting power and remain, in light of the complexities of our own time, vivid, true and alive. The objective is to pinpoint connections between novelistic form and historical time. The uniqueness of the texts we will read lies not just in their use of narrative, ideas and myths, but also in their resistance to generalization. We will examine how our novelists' existential position, as both witnesses and participants, creates an opportunity for fiction to reveal more than the author intends and, on the other hand, more than power desires.

HISTORY

E MEDIT IN THE LATE BRONZE AGE

History UN3930

Marc Van de Mieroop

T 4:10pm-6:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 24974

This course presents a comparative study of the histories of Egypt, the Near East, Anatolia and the Aegean world in the period from c. 1500-1100 BC, when several of the states provide a rich set of textual and archaeological data. It will focus on the region as a system with numerous participants whose histories will be studied in an international context. The course is a seminar: students are asked to investigate a topic (e.g., diplomacy, kingship, aspects of the economy, etc.) in several of the states involved and present their research in class and as a paper.

HISTORY OF THE MOD MIDDLE EAST

History UN2719

Rashid Khalidi

TR 8:40am-9:55am

Points: 4

Call Number: 63433

This course will cover the history of the Middle East from the 18th century until the present, examining the region ranging from Morocco to Iran and including the Ottoman Empire. It will focus on transformations in the states of the region, external intervention, and the emergence of modern nation-states, as well as aspects of social, economic, cultural and intellectual history of the region. Field(s): ME

HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA I

History: Middle East UN2810

Manan Ahmed

MW 2:40pm-3:55pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 29344

This survey lecture course will provide students with a broad overview of the history of South Asia as a region - focusing on key political, cultural and social developments over more than two millennia. The readings include both primary sources (in translation) and secondary works. Our key concerns will be the political, cultural and theological

encounters of varied communities, the growth of cities and urban spaces, networks of trade and migrations and the development of both local and cosmopolitan cultures across Southern Asia. The survey will begin with early dynasties of the classical period and then turn to the subsequent formation of various Perso-Turkic polities, including the development and growth of hybrid political cultures such as those of Vijayanagar and the Mughals. The course also touches on Indic spiritual and literary traditions such as Sufi and Bhakti movements. Near the end of our course, we will look forward towards the establishment of European trading companies and accompanying colonial powers.

ISLAM&EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

History UN3061

Adam Kosto

M 2:10pm-4:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 11346

This course explores the encounter between Europe, broadly conceived, and the Islamic world in the period from the seventh to the thirteenth centuries. While the Latin Christian military expeditions that began in the late eleventh century known as the Crusades are part of this story, they are not the focus. The course stresses instead the range of diplomatic, commercial, intellectual, artistic, religious, and military interactions established well before the Crusades across a wide geographical expanse, with focal points in Iberia and Southern Italy. Substantial readings in primary sources in translation are supplemented with recent scholarship. [Students will be assigned on average 150-200 pages of reading per week, depending on the difficulty of the primary sources; we will read primary sources every week.]

MIDDLE EASTERN, SOUTH ASIAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

AFRICA BEFORE COLONIALISM: FROM PREHISTORY TO THE BIRTH OF THE ATLANTIC WORLD

HSME UN 2915

Mamadou Diouf

Tuesday/Thursday: 11:40-12:55pm

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the precolonial history of the African continent. It investigates in-depth the political, social, cultural and economic developments of different Africa communities, covering various regions and periods, from prehistory to the formation of the Indian Ocean and Atlantic worlds. Its focus is the intersection of politics, economics, culture and society. Using world history and Africa's location in the production of history as key analytical frames, it pays special attention to social, political and cultural changes that shaped the various individual and collective experiences of African peoples and states and the historical discourses associated to them.

ARABIC LITERATURE AS WORLD LITERATURE

CLME UN 3221

Sarah bin Tyeer

Wednesday 10:10-12:00pm

Call Number: 21397

The purpose of this seminar is to allow students to consider the place of Arabic literature in the World through exploring the nuances of literary and cultural appropriation of pre-modern Arabic literary texts through its history of translation and transmission in other cultures. The geographical outstretching of the reading list considers how literature shapes perceptions of reality, creates new possibilities, and challenges preconceptions. It aims to show this through the interaction of pre-modern Arabic literary creative output with the World through American, European, Latin American, as well as Middle Eastern literary selections. While the seminar's pre-modern and modern literary requirements expose students to the pleasures and challenges of venturing into the distant and imaginative spaces that have become part of humanity's cultural heritage, it simultaneously introduces students to a set of critical and contemporary questions regarding definitions and current debates regarding 'World Literature', 'translation', 'the Literary Canon', as well as the politics of 'English as a Global Language.'

CINEMA AND SOCIETY IN ASIA AND AFRICA

CLME GU4031

Hamid Dabashi

Monday/Wednesday: 10:10am-11:25am

Points:4

Call Number: 13647

Introduction to Middle Eastern cinema as a unique cultural product in which artistic sensibilities are mobilized to address, and thus reflect, significant aspects of contemporary society, Arab, Israeli, Turkish, and Iranian cinema. Cultural and collective expressions of some enduring concerns in modern Middle Eastern societies. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

CONTEMP CULTURE IN ARAB WORLD

Middle East UN3920

Joseph Massad

W 4:10pm-6:00pm

Points: 3

Call Number: 24506

Prerequisites: the instructor's permission. This seminar, designed for seniors, aims to acquaint students with the notion and theoretical understanding of culture and to introduce them to a critical method by which they can study and appreciate contemporary culture in the Arab World. The seminar will survey examples of written and cinematic culture (fiction and autobiography), as well as music, dance, and literary criticism in the contemporary Arab world. Students will be reading novels, autobiographies and literary criticism, as well as watch films and listen to music as part of the syllabus. All material will be in translation. Films will be subtitled. Songs will be in Arabic.

FROM COLONIAL TO GLOBAL HEALTH

HSME UN 3044

Joelle Abi-Rached

Tuesday 12:10-2:00pm

Points: 3

Call Number: 96747

Two decades or so after decolonization post-World War II, a small but growing group of historians of medicine directed their attention to disease and health care in colonial settings. The undergraduate seminar examines this literature as well as readings from a range of disciplines—history, anthropology, medicine, and public health—to make sense of the ways in which indigenous populations interacted with colonial medical practices and various medical actors (hygienists, military personnel, missionaries, medical doctors, etc.) and how in turn these biocolonial and bioimperial projects were deployed, to what end, and with what consequences. The seminar explores issues related to race, religion, modernity, subjectivity, imperial ambitions, and agency (local and foreign) through the lens of public health policies, epidemics, psychiatry, medical schools, diseases, and hospitals. The seminar finally examines two emerging and intertwined literatures: (i) the colonial genealogy of the “global health” paradigm, and (ii) the post-colonial histories of diseases, health care infrastructures, behaviors, and practices as they now play out in post-colonial settings.

INTRO TO ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

Asian Civilization: Middle East UN2003

Mana Kia

TR 2:40pm-3:55pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 73490

Lecture and recitation. Islamic civilization and its characteristic intellectual, political, social, and cultural traditions up through 1800.

MAJOR TEXTS: MIDDLE EAST/INDIA

Asian Humanities UN3399

Wael Hallaq

T 4:10pm-6:00pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 22856

Readings in translation and discussion of texts of Middle Eastern and Indian origin. Readings may include the Qur'an, Islamic philosophy, Sufi poetry, the Upanishads, Buddhist sutras, the Bhagavad Gita, Indian epics and drama, and Gandhi's Autobiography.

THEORY AND CULTURE

Middle East UN3000

Gil Hochberg

MW 11:40am-12:55pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 25857

Required of all majors. Introduces theories of culture particularly related to the Middle East, South Asia and Africa. Theoretical debates on the nature and function of culture as a symbolic reading of human collectivities. Examines critical cultural studies of the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. Enables students to articulate their emerging

knowledge of Middle East, South Asian, and African cultures in a theoretically informed language.

RELIGION

INTRO TO JUDAISM

Religion UN2306

Beth Berkowitz

MW 10:10am-11:25am

Points: 3

Call Number: 04488

A historical overview of Jewish belief and practice as these have crystallized and changed over the centuries. Special attention to ritual and worship, the forms of religious literature, central concepts, religious leadership and institutions, Israel among the nations.

ISLAM

Religion UN2305

Najam Haider

MW 1:10pm-2:25pm

Points: 4

Call Number: 04539

An introduction to the Islamic religion in its pre-modern and modern manifestations. The first half of the course concentrates on "classical" Islam, beginning with the life of the Prophet, and extending to ritual, jurisprudence, theology, and mysticism. The second half examines how Muslims have articulated Islam in light of colonization and the rise of a secular modernity. The course ends with a discussion of American and European Muslim attempts at carving out distinct spheres of identity in the larger global Muslim community.

SPANISH

THE SPANISH INQUISITION

Spanish UN3368

Seth R Kimmel

MW 10:10am-11:25am

Points: 3

Call Number: 64694

Prerequisites: Knowledge of written and spoken Spanish. Founded to combat Christian heresy in the late fifteenth century but based on previous medieval models, the Spanish Inquisition is notorious as an institution of religious persecution. Converts from Judaism and Islam to Christianity, not to mention a host of other minority Christian communities, often fell under inquisitorial suspicion. The interrogation and censorship tactics employed by inquisitors and their agents to police these communities sometimes but not always entailed violence. Punishments for those convicted of infractions similarly ranged widely, from the notorious auto-de-fé to more minor acts of contrition. In this course, we will

study these inquisitorial procedures and their underlying theological presuppositions. We also will examine how the “Holy Office,” as it the inquisition was likewise known, fit into the broader religious and political cultures of the Iberian world during the sixteenth century. That is, both Catholic and Protestant reformers of the period often emphasized inquisitorial violence in order to smear their adversaries or make Spain seem backward, while some apologists for Spanish empire and orthodoxy insisted upon the noble intentions driving inquisition. These early modern tensions have shaped our late modern understanding of inquisition history. Over the course of the semester we will aim to test these “black” and “white” legends of Spanish inquisitorial and imperial violence not only against a range of primary sources and archival documents from the sixteenth century, but also against our own presuppositions about tolerance and intolerance, religious freedom, and the relationship between religion and secularism in the present. Readings include inquisitorial case archives, polemical and pedagogical works by Nicolas Eimeric, Hernando de Talavera, Tomás de Torquemada, and other early inquisitors and their critics, and articles and book chapters by modern scholars such as Christine Caldwell Ames, Wendy Brown, Michel Foucault, Carlo Ginzburg, Henry Kamen, Doris Moreno, and others.

SOCIOLOGY

ISRAELI SOC & ISR-PLS CONFLICT

Sociology UN3285

Yinon Cohen

MW 2:40pm-3:55pm

Points: 3

Call Number: 19166

The purpose of the course is to acquaint students with Israeli society through the lens of the Israeli- Palestinian conflict. The underlying assumption in this course is that much of the social, economic, political, and cultural processes in contemporary Israel have been shaped by the 100-year Israeli- Arab/Palestinian conflict.

WRITING

LITERARY REPORTER

Writing UN3213

Meehan J Crist

W 4:10pm-6:00pm

Call Number: 24399

Prerequisites: No prerequisites required. Department approval NOT required. The literary reporter is a changeable character. When she's conducting immersion journalism, she lives with her sources, tries to blend with them. Long-form narrative reporting requires her to ask difficult questions, born from exhaustive research and critical observation. The memoirist reports from the prism of her own experience, casting herself as a character, making meaning of interviews through the fault lines of memory. The biographer is a ventriloquist, often embodying the purpose or quest of another person, and pulling voices and stories from hints and scraps. In this seminar, students will explore the various kinds of literary reporting inherent to various nonfiction literary

forms, unearthing the strategies writers can use to elicit powerful interviews, background stories and ultimately, what it means to author another person's "truth," and discuss the delicate terrains of race, gender and political misunderstanding, interrogating our own preconceptions. Readings will include Peter Hessler, Suketu Mehta, Richard Rodriguez, Joan Didion, Janet Malcolm, and Ted Conover, as well as Julia Kristeva and Michel Foucault, and we'll read interviews with authors about their craft, to learn from their direct experience. Students will have the opportunity to do some reporting on their own, and will write two short papers.