Religion, Race and Culture

AMST 508 Religion in American Life

Examines the historical influence of religious belief on various aspects of American political, cultural, and legal, and economic life. Topics include the use and effectiveness of religious language in political rhetoric, from the American Revolution to the Iraq war; the role that religious belief has played in galvanizing and frustrating various reform movements, and the debate over the proper role of religion in the public square. (ss)

Ms. Kowitowski
T, F 1:10 AM - 12:20 PM

AMST 1228 From Psalms to Hip Hop: Music in American Culture

Focuses on the connection between music and the forging of differentiating American identities. In this course, music serves as a lens to examine diverse aspects of the American culture and history. In addition, music will be examined in relation to how it has been shaped by its particular historical, geographical, and cultural contexts. (ss)

Ms. Kowitowski
T, H 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM

ANTH 80A Anthropology of Religion

Examines the relationship between religion and social, political, and cultural life in Western societies as well as in complex societies, global cultures, and world historical religions. (nw, ss)

Mr. Golomski
T 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM

FA 42 B The Age of Cathedrals

Architecture, sculpture, and painting (including stained glass) in Western Europe from the twelfth to the fifteenth century, with particular attention to the great cathedrals of medieval France. (ca)

Mr. McClenon
M, W, Th 3:30 PM - 4:50 PM

HISP 165B The Storyteller: Short Fiction in Latin America

We will select on more culturally specific topics such as the conflictive filiations of the short story (pre-Columbian, European, etc), the tension between literary and oral traditions, and the formation of the public and citizenship. Students are encouraged to write their own fiction applying these multicultural methods, and will have the opportunity to organize a story-telling event working with Walhain's Spanish-speaking community. (fh, hum)

Mr. Rosenberg
M, W 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM

HISP 194B Borderland Literatures and Visual Culture in Latin America and the United States

Examines literature, visual art, and cinema produced at the intersection between North and South America, focusing on the U.S.- Mexico border, the Southern United States, and immigrant Latino communities. (hum)

Ms. Palladino
T 3:30 PM - 4:50 PM

HIST 171B Latinos in the U.S.

The history of the different Latino groups in the United States from the nineteenth century when widespread expansion incorporated Mexican populations through the twentieth century, the largest migration from Latin America. Explores the diversity of Latino experiences including identity, work, community, race, gender, and political activism. (ss)

Ms. Arrom
M, W 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM

MUS 278 Music and Esoterics

Studies the relationship between music and shared experiences of consciousness in various cultures around the world including psychometrics, music and recreational activities. Music’s role in mysticism, trance and spirit possession will be discussed. (ca)

Ms. Lucas
T, F 1:10 AM - 12:20 PM

NEJS 164 A Introduction to the Qur’an

Trace the history of the Qur’an as text, its exegesis, and its role in inter-religious polemics, law, theology, and politics. Examines the role of the Qur’an in modern movements, (ss)

Mr. Lombard
M, W, T 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

PDL 145B The Islamic Challenge: Politics and Religion in Western Europe and the United States

It is often overlooked that Muslims are developing the institutions and understanding of their faith in societies that offer everyone the freedom of choice and expression. Looks at religious discrimination as a barrier to the civic and political inclusion of Muslim immigrants, the responses of governments, courts, and the general public, and what we know about the balance among “fundamentalist,” “moderate,” and “progressive” Muslim viewpoints. (ss)

Ms. Klausen
T 2:00 PM - 4:50 PM

RELSAS 152A Introduction to Hinduism

Explores the variety of forms, practices, and philosophies that have been developing over the time of the Vedas (ca. 1500 BCE) up to the present day popular Hinduism practiced in both urban and rural India. Examines the relationship between Hindu religion and its wider cultural, social, and political contexts, relations between the Hindu majority of India and minority religions, and questions of Hindu identity both in India and abroad. (hum)

Mr. Nair
M, W 5:00 PM - 6:20 PM

THA 144B African American Theatre: From Emancipation Through the Obama Administration

Explores history, development, and cultural American-theater. This course will examine commercial, political, and crucial work in the canon of American-American. (ss)

Ms. Williams
Th 2:00 PM - 4:50 PM

Global Perspectives

AAS 135B Global Hip-Hop

Examines the global reach and social significance of hip-hop, focusing on its connections to globalization, media, and transnationalism. (ss)

Mr. Marshall
W 6:30 PM - 9:20 PM

AAS 157B Neglected Diasporas

Explores the pan-African Diaspora model by using Brandeis's "multiple spatial frontiers and political temporalities" to explore the experiences, identities and domains of knowledge and power among the descendants of African in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and Central African Diaspora. (nw, ss)

Mr. Obeng
M 2:00 PM - 4:50 PM

AAS 175A Comparative Politics of North Africa

Explores formal politics, the politics of regional cleavages and cleavage systems, and of mass-based political groups, analyzing the expansion of mass political participation, factions, the impact on political groups, and international factors. (nw, ss)

Mr. Nyangoni
T 3:30 PM - 9:20 PM

ENG 128B Postcolonial Epileptics

Examines the study of postcolonial literature as a discipline. It investigates the role of literary and historical methodologies and the impact of cultural and political factors. (hum)

Mr. Babcock
Th 12:30 PM - 1:50 PM

GECS 188B Human/Nature: European Perspectives on Climate Change

Investigates the role of climate change discourses in European culture through a look at global connections to contemporary science fiction and computer games. (hum)

Ms. von Mering
Th 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM

HISP 192B Latin American Global Film

“Considering film politics, media, and circulation, the class focuses on how images travel, how local stories and images are projected globally, and how Latin American “locality” in the West is perceived and processed outside of their borders. Close analysis of visual representation complemented by a historically and culturally informed background. (hum)

Mr. Rosenberg
M, W 3:00 PM - 6:20 PM

HIST 182B Modern China

Examines Chinese history from the Ming to Mao, with an emphasis on political, social, cultural, and literary trends and transformations in minorities and overseas communities and diaspora. (ss)

Mr. Hang
M, W, Th 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

LGLS 127B International Economic Law

Studies the transnational legal institution and practices that regulate international economic networks of the 21st century. Surveys the effects of corporate regulation, including business practices and human rights, and legal regimes supporting trade and financial practice in arbitrating investment disputes between states and corporations. (ss)

Mr. Mriffendeski
T, F 9:00 AM - 10:50 AM

NEJS 177A The Holocaust in Israeli and Jewish Literature

A bi-national survey of Holocaust writings in Modern Jewish literature. Examines the psychological, social, moral, and aesthetic challenges involved in retelling Holocaust, Holocaust literature, Holocaust, and European context through literary texts, theoretical research, works of art, and film. (hum)

Ms. Szobel
M, W 3:30 PM - 4:50 PM

SOC 162A Intellectuals and Revolutionary Politics

Examines the role of intellectuals in modern politics, especially their relationship to nationalism and revolutionary movements. In reading across a range of political revolutions (e.g., in Central Europe, Colonial Africa and Iran), students will have the chance to compare the relative significance of appeals to solidarity based on class, religion, ethnicity, and nationality. (ss)

Mr. Rosenberg
M, W, Th 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Gender and Sexuality

ANTH 166B Queer Anthropology: Sexualities and Genders in a Cross-Cultural Perspective

Explores ethnographic approaches to the study of sexuality and gender in diverse cultural contexts, such as the US, Brazil, India, Indonesia and Mexico. Examines the experience of African, Middle and Eastern European, and Latin American sexualities and identities, including gender, race, ethnicity, labor, religion, colonialism and globalization. Explores also how the discipline of anthropology has been shaped by engagements with questions of sexuality and the field of queer studies. (ss)

Mr. Tamarkin
T, Th 3:00 PM - 4:50 PM

ENG 120A The Orlando Project

Explores the uses of pastoral in queer literary history and for a queer understanding of heteronormativity. Woolf's novel Orlando: A Biography guides a survey of English pastoral, queer and postcolonial literary criticism, and feminism and queer ecocriticism. (fl, hum)

Mr. King
T, F 12:30 PM - 1:50 PM

FREN 163B After Beauvoir: Gender, Culture and Politics in Postcolonial France

Analyzes gender and feminism in contemporary French society. This course will use literature, sociology, and history to explore changes since Beauvoir's Second Sex. Works studied will include essays, plays and novels. (hum)

Ms. Guertler
F, T 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM

THA 142B Feminist Playwrights: Writing the Stage by and about Women

Introduces the works of feminist playwrights. This course will engage the texts through common themes addressed in many feminist plays: motherhood (and daughterhood), rape, violence, sexuality, abuse, family relationships, etc. (ca)

Ms. Hyland
M 2:00 PM - 4:50 PM

NEJS 174B Israeli Women Writers on War and Peace

Course is taught in Hebrew. An exploration of nationalism and gender in modern Hebrew literature. By discussing various Hebrew texts and Israeli works of art and film, this course explores women's relationship to Zionism, war, the state, the politics, and processes of cultural production. (hum)

Ms. Szobel
M, W 3:00 PM - 4:20 PM

SOC 133A A Labor of Love? Gender and Care Work in the Contemporary U.S.

Focuses on gender, race and class, the workplace and state interest in answering questions about how, when and where care should be provided. Includes both empirical and ethical work on the study of care. (ss)

Ms. Hammonds
M, W 8:30 AM - 9:50 AM

WNGS 144A Diversity of Muslim Women’s Experience

A broad introduction to the multidimensional nature of women's experiences in the Muslim world. As both a cultural and religious element in this vast region, understanding how the experience of women has become increasingly imperitive. (ss)

Ms. Shiravani
M, W, Th 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

At Brandeis, you are encouraged to learn about a wide variety of human societies, cultures, and countries and about causes and consequences of differences among ethnic, racial, religious, and other groups. Listed below are a few highlights of the Spring 2012 courses that address these issues; we hope that you will consider including some of them in your study plan. We suggest that you explore "Religion, Race and Culture", "Global Perspectives", "Gender and Sexuality", and "Global Perspectives" though naturally many of the courses intersect these groupings. For additional course offerings, please refer to the registrar's website.