

Exploration • Understanding • Pluralism

Spring 2009 Courses

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 racial, ethnic, religious, and other groups. Listed below are a **sampling** of the Spring 2009 courses that address these issues; we hope that you will consider including some of them in your studies. They are grouped under "Gender and Sexuality," "Religion, Race, and Culture," and "Global Perspectives," though naturally many of the courses intersect these groupings. For additional course offerings, please refer to the registrar's website: www.brandeis.edu/registrar/.

Religion, Race and Culture

ANTH 80a Anthropology of Religion

An introduction to the anthropological study of human religious experience, with particular emphasis on religious and ritual practice in comparative perspective. Examines the relationship between religion and society in small-scale, non-Western contexts as well as in complex societies, global cultures, and world historical religions.

Ms. Janson TF 12:10-1:30

HISP 195a Latinos in the United States: Perspectives from History, Literature, and Film

Comparative overview of Latino literature and film in the United States. Particular attention paid to how race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, and concepts of "nation" become intertwined within texts.

Ms. Reyes de Deu TF 3:10-4:30

HIST 171b Latino/a History

History of the different Latino groups in the United States from the nineteenth century when westward expansion incorporated Mexican populations through the twentieth century waves of migration from Latin America. Explores the diversity of Latino experiences including identity, work, community, race, gender, and political activism.

Ms. Arrom MW 2:10-3:30

HSSP 114b Racial/Ethnic and Gender Inequalities in Health and Health Care

An examination of the epidemiological patterns of health status by race/ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status. Addresses current theories and critiques explaining disparities in health status, access, quality, and conceptual models, frameworks, and interventions for eliminating inequalities.

Ms. Nsiah-Jefferson Th 2:10-5:00

NEJS 3a Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

An introduction to the three major religions originating in the Near East: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Areas of focus include historical development, sacred texts, rituals, and interpretive traditions. Ancient, medieval, and modern periods are treated.

Mr. Decter TF 12:10-1:30

NEJS 198a Islam, the Middle East, and the West

Explores the major political, socio-economic, and cultural changes in the Middle East from the rise of Islam to present times with emphasis on Islam's encounter with The West. Focuses on common roots and mutual influences and analysis of (mis)perceptions as historically constructed cultural categories and of their legacy in the modern world.

Mr. Sisman MWTh 10:10-11:00

POL 137b Sacred Violence: An Investigation in History and Theology

Examines the relationship between religion and violence, with special focus on Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Explains how violence relates to religious assumptions not just of "fundamentalists" but believers in general.

Mr. Carroll M 2-5

REL 161a Chinese Religion and Thought: Understanding Confucianism and Daoism

This course aims at widening and deepening students' knowledge of world religions by introducing to them distinctive Chinese religions and schools of thought with emphasis on the two most significant ones, Confucianism and Taoism.

Mr. Feng T 2:10-4:00, Th 2:10-3:00

WMGS 120b Women and Gender in Religion

An analysis of how gender is at the heart of religion and of how women, men, and transgendered persons are transforming religious communities today. The course will include: debates over religious leadership; religious discourse about gendered bodies; sacred texts and religious law; and images of the divine and religious ritual.

Ms. Brooten MW 3:40-5:00

Global Perspectives

AAAS 80a Economy and Society in Africa

Perspectives on the interaction of economic and other variables in African societies. Topics include the ethical and economic bases of distributive justice; models of social theory, efficiency, and equality in law; the role of economic variables in the theory of history; and world systems analysis.

Mr. Nyangoni T 4:40-7:30

ANTH 154b Gender and Development: Perspectives from South Asia

Examines the gendered nature and impact of major development projects in South Asia over the past sixty years, with a focus on India. Topics include the role of states in institutionalizing gender inequalities; women's and men's comparative access to land, jobs and education; steadily falling sex ratios; environmental policies and access to resources; gendering globalization; and efforts to promote social justice.

Ms. Jassal MW 5:10-6:30

COML 146b Classical East Asian Poetics

An introduction to the classical poetic forms of China, Japan, and Korea. Special consideration is paid to issues of canonization, classical theories of literature, and the development of multilingual literary traditions. All readings are in English.

Mr. Fraleigh TF 12:10-1:30

ECON 122b The Economics of the Middle East

Examines the Middle East economies--past experiences, present situation, and future challenges--drawing on theories, policy formulations and empirical studies of economic growth, trade, poverty, income distribution, labor markets, finance and banking, government reforms, globalization, and Arab-Israeli political economy.

Mr. Habibi TTh 5:10-6:30

ENG 127a The Novel in India

Survey of the novel and short story of the Indian subcontinent, their formal experiments in context of nationalism and postcolonial history. Authors may include Tagore, Anand, Manto, Desani, Narayan, Desai, Devi, Rushdie, Roy, Mistry, and Chaudhuri.

Ms. Anjaria TF 1:40-3:00

FA 182a The Art of China

A survey of Chinese art from antiquity to the Ch'ing dynasty.

Ms. Wong TF 10:40-12:00

FREN 165b Francophone Literatures

A survey of the poetry, prose, and drama of Francophone writers of Africa or the Caribbean (in alternating sequence). Topics include Negritude, French and African languages, tradition and change, oral and written literature, Islam, the influence of film, and the role of women Francophone writers.

Ms. Hale TF 12:10-1:30

HISP 164b Studies in Latin American Literature

A comparative and critical study of main trends, ideas, and cultural formations in Latin America. Topics vary year to year and have included fiction and history in Latin American literature, Latin American autobiography, art and revolution in Latin America, and humor in Latin America.

Ms. Perelis MW 2:10-3:30

HIST 176a The Emergence of Modern Japan

A general introduction to Japan's modern transformation from a late feudal society into a powerful nation-state capable of challenging the Western powers. Particular attention is given to feudal legacies, rapid economic growth, nationalism and ultranationalism, the "Pacific War" between Japan and the United States, the meaning of defeat, issues of postwar democracy, and the workings of the postwar political economy.

Mr. James TF 12:10-1:30

MUS 31b Music and Globalization

Examines the forces (social, economic, political, and technological) that bring musical cultures into contact with one another and studies the resulting transformations.

Mr. Marshall TF 12:10-1:30

Gender and Sexuality

AMST 102a Women, the Environment, and Social Justice

Focuses on the profound and unique roles women have played in preserving and enhancing the natural environment and protecting human health. Also further explores the legal, ethical, and social issues embodied in environmental racism and classism.

Ms. Goldin TF 1:40-3:00

AMST 142b Love, Law, and Labor: Asian American Women and Literature

Explores the intersection of ethnicity, race, class, gender, and sexualities in the lives and literatures of diverse Asian American women. Discusses the historical, social, political, and economic forces shaping those lives and how they are reflected in literature.

Ms. Davé TF 1:40-3:00

ANTH 137b Gender and the Sacred in Asia

Ritual, violence, gender, religion, and cultural creativity in Asia, especially East Asia and South Asia. Religious movements, sacrifice and patriliney, and the ritualization of state power through religious imagery and institutions. Roles of religious leaders and spiritual movements in conflict resolution and peacemaking.

Ms. Schattschneider TF 10:40-12:00

ANTH 146b Gender and Islam

Examines the history and diversity of contemporary experiences surrounding gender and Islam in the Muslim world. Probes why Islam is often stereotyped as oppressing women, women's and men's participation in "fundamentalist" movements, the rise of Islamic feminism, Islamic constructions of masculinity, veiling, segregation, female circumcision, gendered forms of agency, and the recent phenomenon of Western women converting to Islam.

Ms. Janson TF 9:10-10:30

NEJS 174b Line of Resistance: Israeli Women Writers on War and Peace

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, peace, the state, politics, and processes of cultural production.

Ms. Szobel MW 3:40-5:00

PSYC 160b Seminar on Sex Differences

Considers research evidence bearing on sex differences in the cognitive domain and in the social domain, evaluating this evidence in light of biological, cultural, and social-cognitive theories as well as methodological issues.

Ms. Wright F 9:10-12:00

SOC 133a Queering Gender, Gendering Bodies

Explores the structure and utility of gender categories and examines the current and future potentials of the social organization of sex. Considers the role of the body and sexuality in the examination of gender.

Ms. Better TF 9:10-10:30

WMGS 140a 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 Islam in relation to lives of women has become increasingly imperative.