

Exploration • Understanding • Pluralism

Fall 2010 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 Fall 2010 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

AAAS 79B Afro-American Literature of the Twentieth Century

An introduction to the essential themes, aesthetic concerns, and textual strategies that characterize Afro-American writing of this century. Examines those influences that have shaped the poetry, fiction, and prose nonfiction of representative writers.

Ms. Smith MW 2:10–3:30

AAAS 114B Race, Ethnicity, and Electoral Politics in the United States

Explores the role that racial and ethnic politics play in American political campaigns and elections.

Mr. Mapps TF 9:10-10:30

ANTH 118B Cultures of the Middle East

Examines the peoples and societies of the Middle East from an anthropological perspective. Explores problems of cross-cultural examination, the notion of the Middle East as an area of study, and the role of anthropology in the formation of the idea of the "Middle East."

Mr. Rossoukh TF 3:10–4:30

CHIN 135A Ming Dynasty Literary Culture

Introduces a cross-section of the literature of the late Ming dynasty in English translation, supplemented by critical appraisals by both contemporary literati and modern theorists.

Mr. Akin MW 5:10–6:30

FA 153A Israeli Art and Visual Culture: Forging Identities between East and West

An examination of the visual arts created in Israel since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Ms. Ankori MWTh 11:10 –12:00

HIST 115A History of Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations

Explores and understands the origin and nature of racial and ethnic differences in the United States, South Africa, and Brazil. Explores how theoreticians explain and account for differences, and how race and ethnicity relate to economic class and social institutions.

Mr. Sundiata TF 12:10–1:30

NEJS 103A The Early History of God

A study of the development of the conceptions about deity in the Levant before the appearance of ancient Israel and the development of these conceptions in Israelite/biblical religion, including the origins of monotheism.

Mr. Wright MWTh 10:10–11:00

NEJS 134B Secularisms: Yiddish Culture in the Modern World

An examination of the rise of modern Yiddish secular culture in Eastern Europe and North America with a particular focus on the literature it produced. Music, criticism, journalism, drama, film, and painting are also studied.

Ms. Kellman MWTh 11:10–12:00

NEJS 182A Jewish Life in Film and Fiction

Film and fiction are windows through which we can view transformations in American Jewish life. This course concentrates on cinematic and literary depictions of religious, socioeconomic, and cultural change over the past half-century.

Ms. Fishman M 6:40–9:30, T 4:40–7:30

NEJS 194B Sufi Teachings

An examination of the teaching and practices of the Sufi tradition. Explores the foundations of Sufism, its relation to other aspects of Islam and the development of Sufi teachings in both poetry and prose.

Mr. Nair MW 2:10 –3:30

POL 124A The Politics of the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S.

Focuses on the political causes and consequences of the American Civil Rights Movement.

Mr. Kryder W 2:10-5:00

POL 145B The Islamic Challenge: Politics and Religion in the West

Few issues have caused more public furor than the accommodation of Islam in Europe and the United States. It is often overlooked that Muslims are developing the institutions of their faith in societies that offer everyone the freedom of choice and expression. This seminar 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.

Ms. Klausen T 1:40-4:30

SOC 121A Ethnic Relations in Comparative Perspectives

Relations between ethnic, national and racial groups worldwide. Perspectives on ethnicity and nationalism, modes of conflict-management, ways democracies handle ethnic conflicts, assimilation, multiculturalism, transnationalism, Diaspora communities, national identities, ethnic autonomy, and internal security and minorities.

Mr. Smooha T 9:10–12:00

Global Perspectives

AAAS 122A Politics of Southern Africa

The political economy of South Africa in regional context and its effect on the politics of its neighbors, particularly Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe.

Mr. Nyangoni TF 12:10–1:30

HIST 71B Latin American History, 1870 to the Present

Modern Latin America, with stress on the interactions of economics, politics, and external dependency in the region.

Ms. Weld TF 3:10-4:30

HIST 184A Silk, Silver, and Slaves: China and the Industrial Revolution

Examines why industrial capitalism, which underpins the current world order, first developed in Western Europe rather than China. Comparative treatment of commercialization, material culture, cities, political economies, and contingencies on both ends of Eurasia in the 17th and 18th centuries

Mr. Hang MW 2:10–3:30

MUS 39A Global Pop Music

Examines various genres of popular music in non-American societies, providing students with a broad introduction to global popular music and the various issues present in each of the genres. Previous knowledge of music is not required for this class.

Ms. Wissner TF 9:10–10:30

POL 142A U.S.-Israeli Relations: Interests, Values, Lobbies, and the "Special Relationship"

This course subjects the U.S.-Israeli relationship to theoretically-informed, and historically-grounded critical evaluation. It examines strategic interests, cultural factors, and the activities of domestic and foreign lobbies.

Ms. Ben-Josef Hirsch Th 2:10-5:00

POL 164A Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East

Evolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the efforts to resolve it. Focuses on key documents and developments with particular emphasis on the Palestinian-Israeli dimension, and the different narratives adopted by the parties on the conflict.

Mr. Feldman F 9:10–12:00

POL 167A United States and China in World Politics

Issues in U.S.-China relations, including Taiwan and Tibet, the formation of a Greater China, military security and use of nuclear weapons, human rights, Chinese and American versions of nationalism and internationalism, and others.

Mr. Thaxton T 1:40–4:30

RECS 150A Russian and Soviet Cinema

Will examine the Russian/Soviet cinematic tradition from the silent era to today, with special attention to cultural context and visual elements. Film masterpieces directed by Bauer, Eisenstein, Vertov, Parajanov, Tarkovsky, Mikhailov, and others.

Mr. Powelstock TF 12:10–1:30
W 7:10–9:00

SAS 100A Introduction to South Asia

An exploration of the history, societies, cultures, religions, and literature of South Asia—India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Uses perspectives from history, anthropology, literature, an film to examine past and contemporary life in South Asia.

Ms. Singh MW 2:10-3:30

SAS 170B South Asia in the Colonial Archive

Looks at colonial constructions of gender and race through a historical and literary investigation of British colonialism in South Asia. Examines intersections and constructions of gender, race, class, and sexuality within the parameters of British colonialism.

Ms. Singh MW 5:10–6:30

Gender and Sexuality

AMST 144B Signs of Imagination: Gender and Race in Mass Media

Examines how men and women are represented and represent themselves in American popular culture. Discusses the cultural contexts of the terms "femininity" and "masculinity" and various examples of the visibility and marketability of these terms today.

Ms. Davé TF 10:40–12:00

ENG 87B Queer Readings: Beyond Stonewall

How have LGBTQ writers explored the consolidation, diaspora, and contestation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer personhoods since the 1960s? Texts include fiction, poetry, drama, memoirs, and film.

Mr. King TF 12:10–1:30

ENG 107A Women Writing Desire: Caribbean Fiction and Film

About eight novels of the last two decades (by Cliff, Cruz, Danticat, Garcia, Kempadoo, Kincaid, Mittoo, Nunez, Pineau, Powell, or Rosario), drawn from across the region, and read in dialogue with popular culture, theory, and earlier generations of male and female writers of the region.

Ms. Smith MW 5:10–6:30

NEJS 29A Feminist Sexual Ethics in Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Analyzes a variety of feminist critiques of religious texts and traditions and proposed innovations in theology and religious law. Examines biblical, rabbinic, and Qur'anic texts. Explores relation to U.S. law and to the social, natural, and medical sciences.

Ms. Brooten MWTh 1:10–2:00

POL 125A Women in American Politics

Addresses three major dimensions of women's political participation: social reform and women-identified issues; women's organizations and institutions; and women politicians, electoral politics, and party identification.

Ms. Greenlee W 2:10–5:00

SOC 131B Women's Biography and Society

Through the biographies and autobiographies of women intellectuals, political leaders, artists, and "ordinary" women, this seminar investigates the relationship between women's everyday lives, history, and the sex/gender system.

Ms. Hansen F 9:10–12:00

