

Exploration • Understanding • Pluralism

Fall 2012 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 2012 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 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 TTh 2:00-3:20

ANTH130B Visuality and Culture
Explores the nature of the visual image in sociocultural theory and in ethnographic representation. Topics include the history of ethnographic film, development of indigenous arts, visuality in popular culture and mass consumption, and film in postcolonial representation.
Ms. Schattschneider W 9:00-11:50

ANTH168A The Maya: Past, Present and Future
Explores the culture of the Maya in Mexico and Central America through nearly 3000 years of history. Using archaeology, ethnohistory, and ethnography, studies their ancient past and their modern lives.
Mr. Golden TF 11:00–12:20

CHIN100A Introduction to Chinese Literature: Poetry, Romance, and Fiction
Introduces Chinese literature, focusing primarily on Chinese "classical" literary traditions and their metamorphosis in modern times.
Mr. Wang MW 5:00–6:20

FA76A Palestinian and Israeli Art, Film and Visual Culture: Intersecting Visions
Israelis and Palestinians have been creating vibrant and bold works of art that both reflect and transcend the region's conflict-ridden history. This course offers a critical comparative study of Israeli and Palestinian art, exploring contentious expressions of pain and trauma as well as shared visions of hope and peace.
Ms. Ankori TTh 2:00–3:20

HISP160A Culture and Social Change in Latin America
Examines the relationship between art (including literature, film, and fine arts) and society in Latin America during the twentieth century. The course uses significant examples drawn from three major socio-historical eras: the political and artistic vanguards of the 1920s (with particular attention to the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath); the 1960s and the cultural significance of the Cuban Revolution; and the 1990s period of transition to democracy and emergence of identity and minority-based social movements, with a renewed significance of artistic and literary languages.
Mr. Rosenberg MW 3:30–4:50

IGS120A A Democratic Babel? Language Issues in Contemporary Europe
Examines the linguistic diversity and commitment to multilingualism of the European Union. This course uses language to look into issues of Europeanization, nationalism, regionalism, immigration and minority rights, as well as resistance to perceived U.S. linguistic imperialism.
Ms. De Gasquet MWTh 1:00–1:50

NEJS127B The Jewish Liturgy
A study of the literature, theology, and history of the daily and Sabbath liturgy. Emphasis will be placed on the interplay between literary structure and ideational content, along with discussion of the philosophical issues involved in prayer.
Mr. Kimelman TF 11:00–12:20

NEJS134B 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 1:00 –1:50

NEJS153A Hasidism as a Religious and Social Movement
The rise of East European Hasidism in the eighteenth century and its success. Key teachings, motifs, and religious ideals of the movement and its leadership. Changes as Hasidism struggled with modernity and destruction in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
Mr. Mirsky MW 3:30–4:50

NEJS155A Maimonides: A Jewish Thinker in the Islamic World
A study of the life, world, and thought of Moses Maimonides, the most significant Jewish intellectual of the Islamic world. This course traces his intellectual output in philosophy and Judaism. Half of the course is dedicated to studying his Guide of the Perplexed, a Judeo-Arabic work that engages the demands of revealed religion and philosophical rationalism.
Mr. Decter TTh 2:00–3:20

NEJS194B 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. Lombard MW 2:00–3:20

PHIL146A Idea of God
Engages in a philosophical investigation, not of religion as an institution but of the very idea of God. Studies the distinction between human being and divine being and addresses the issue of the relation of God's essence to his existence.
Mr. Yourgrau TTh 3:30–4:50

Global Perspectives
AAAS 115A Introduction to African History
Explores the history of African societies from their earliest beginnings to the present era. Topics include African participation in antiquity as well as early Christianity and preindustrial political, economic, and cultural developments.
Mr. Sundiata TTh 3:30–4:50

ANTH121A Crossing Cultural Boundaries
An examination of situations where individuals, either actually or imaginatively, willingly or unwillingly, cross over the boundaries separating their own culture and other cultural traditions. Potentials for reflexive self-understanding and meaningful dialogue are sought in fictional and nonfictional representations of boundary crossings.
Mr. Parmentier TTh 5:00–6:20

HIST56B World History to 1960
An introductory survey of world history, from the dawn of "civilization" to c.1960. Topics include the establishment and rivalry of political communities, the development of material life, and the historical formation of cultural identities.
Mr. Sreenivasan MWTh 10:00–10:50

HIST111A History of the Modern Middle East
An examination of the history of the Middle East from the nineteenth century to contemporary times. Focuses on political events and intellectual trends, such as imperialism, modernity, nationalism, and revolution, that have shaped the region in the modern era.
Ms. Sohrabi TTh 3:30–4:50

HIST150A Great Fatherland War
Examines the Soviet role in defeating Nazism in World War II, but the main focus is on the war's impact on domestic politics, society, economy, culture, and national identity.
Mr. Freeze TF11:00–12:20

HIST176B Japan and Korea in Modern World History
Investigates the long and problematic history of interactions and exchanges between Japan and Korea from early times to the present.

Topics include language, migration, art, architecture, material culture, popular culture, propaganda, and warfare.
Mr. James TTh 3:30–4:50

IGS130A Global Migration
Investigates the social, cultural, religious, political, and economic forces that shape global migration. More than 200 million people now live outside their countries of birth. Case studies include Europe, the U.S. and Mexico, Brazil, Australia, Africa, and China's internal migration.
Ms. Lucken MWTh 10:00–10:50

SAS140A We Who Are at Home Everywhere: Narratives from the South Asian Diaspora
Looks at narratives from various locations of the South Asian Diaspora, while paying close attention to the emergence of an immigrant South Asian public culture. Examines novels, poetry, short stories, film, and music in order to further an understanding of South Asian immigrant culture.
Ms. Singh TTh 3:30–4:50

Gender and Sexuality
AAAS 125B Caribbean Women and Globalization: Sexuality, Citizenship, Work
Utilizing perspectives from sociology, anthropology, fiction, and music to examine the relationship between women's sexuality and conceptions of labor, citizenship, and sovereignty. The course considers these alongside conceptions of masculinity, contending feminisms, and the global perspective.
Ms. Smith MW 5:00–6:20

CLAS140A Women, Gender, and Sexuality in Greek and Roman Art and Text
An exploration of women, gender, and sexuality in ancient Greece and Rome as the ideological bases of Western attitudes toward sex and gender. Includes, in some fashion, Greek and Roman myth, literature, art, architecture, and archaeological artifacts.
Ms. Koloski-Ostrow TTh 5:00–6:20

ENG87B 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 TTh 2:00–3:20

NEJS148B Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Jews and Christians: Sources and Interpretations
Introduction to the classical Jewish and Christian sources on same-sex love and on gender ambiguity and to a variety of current interpretations of them, to the evidence for same-sex love and gender fluidity among Jews and Christians through the centuries, and to current religious and public policy debates about same-sex love and gender identity and expression.
Ms. Brooten TTh 5:00–6:20

POL125A 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. Covers historical context and contemporary developments in women's political activity.
Ms. Greenlee M 2:00–4:50

