

# Exploration • Understanding • Pluralism Spring 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 Spring 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/](http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/).

## Religion, Race and Culture

### AMST 50B Religion in American Life

Considers the historical influence of religious belief on various aspects of American political, cultural, legal, and economic life. Topics include the use and effectiveness of religious language in political rhetoric, from the American Revolution to the War in Iraq; 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. Farrelly T, F 11:00AM – 12:20PM

### AMST 122B From Psalms to Hip Hop: Music in American Culture

Focuses on the connection between music and the forging of shifting definitions of American identities. In this course, music serves as a lens to examine diverse aspects of 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. (ca, ss)  
Ms. Kaskowitz T,Th 2:00PM – 3:20PM

### ANTH 80A Anthropology of Religion

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. (nw, ss)  
Mr. Golomski T, F 11:00 AM–12:20 PM

### FA 42B 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 churches of medieval France. (ca)  
Mr. McClendon M,W 3:30PM – 4:50PM

### HISP 165B The Storyteller: Short Fiction in Latin America

We will reflect on more culturally specific topics such as the conflictive filiations of the short story (pre-Columbian, European, etc), the tension between literacy and oral traditions, peripheral modernities, and the formation of the public and citizenship. Students are encouraged to write their own fiction applying what they learn in class and will have the opportunity to organize a story-telling event working with Waltham's Spanish-speaking community. (fl, hum)  
Mr. Rosenberg M,W 2:00PM - 3:20PM

### HISP 194B Borderland Literature 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)  
Mr. Arellano T,Th 3:30PM - 4:50PM

### HIST 171B Latinos in the U.S.

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. (ss)  
Ms. Arrom M,W 2:00PM – 3:20PM

### MUS 27B Music and Ecstasy

Explores the relationship between music and altered states of consciousness in various cultures around the world in the context of religious, medical and recreational activities. Music's role in mysticism, trance and spirit possession will be discussed. (ca)  
Ms. Lucas T, F 11:00AM – 12:20PM

### NEJS 186A Introduction to the Qur'an

Traces 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 Islamic movements. (hum, nw)  
Mr. Lombard M,W,Th 11:00AM – 11:50AM

### POL 145B The Islamic Challenge: Politics and Religion in Western 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. 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 2:00PM – 4:50PM

### REL/SAS 152A Introduction to Hinduism

Explores broadly the variety of forms, practices, and philosophies that have been developing from the time of the Vedas (ca. 1500 BCE) up to present day popular Hinduism practiced in both urban and rural India. Examines the relations between Hindu religion and its wider cultural, social, and political contexts, relations between the Hindu majority of India and minority traditions, and questions of Hindu identity both in India and abroad. (hum)  
Mr. Nair M,W 5:00PM – 6:20PM

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

Explores the history, development and voice of African-American theater. This course will examine commercial controversial and crucial work in the canon of African-American theater. (ca)  
Ms. Williams Th 2:00PM – 4:50PM

## Global Perspectives

### AAAS 135 B Global Hip-Hop

Explores hip-hop's international reach and social significance; specifically, how the genre resonates as a quintessentially American and African-American form in local contexts around the world. Through various case studies, the course examines how hip-hop animates local cultural politics in an age of globalized media, migration, and transnationalism. (ca, wi)  
Mr. Marshall W 6:30PM – 9:20PM

### AAAS 157B Neglected Diasporas

Expands the Atlantic Diaspora model by using Braudel's "multiple spatial frontiers and layered temporalities" to explore the experiences, identities and domains of knowledge and power among the descendants of Africans in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and Central American global African Diaspora. (nw, ss)  
Mr. Obeng M 2:00PM – 4:50 PM

### AAAS 175A Comparative Politics of North Africa

Explores the formation and development of political cleavages and cleavage systems, and of mass-based political groups, analyzing the expansion of mass political participation, elections, the impact of the military on political groups, and international factors. (nw, ss)  
Mr. Nyangoni T 6:30PM – 9:20PM

### ENG 128B Postcolonial Epidemics

Examines how biological catastrophe is imagined in postcolonial fiction, combining horror with social critique. How have epidemics such as yellow fever, influenza, malaria, and AIDS helped communities better understand themselves? Authors include Wideman, Isegawa, Kincaid, Ghosh, Ishiguro, and Max Brooks. (hum, nw)  
Mr. Babcock T, F 12:30PM – 1:50PM

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

Investigates the role of ethics and aesthetics in European climate change discourses from its beginnings in European Romanticism through a look at global connections to contemporary science fiction and computer games. (hum)  
Ms. von Mering T, Th 2:00PM – 3:20PM

### HISP 192B Latin American Global Film

Considering film production and circulation, the class focuses on how images travel, how local stories and images are projected globally, and how Latin America and its "local" cultures are processed outside of their borders. Close analysis of visual representation complemented by a historically and culturally informed background. (fl, hum)  
Mr. Rosenberg M,W 5:00PM – 6:20PM

### HIST 182B Modern China

Surveys Chinese history from the Ming to Mao, with an emphasis on political, social, cultural, and literary trends; and attention toward ethnic minorities and overseas communities and diaspora. (ss)  
Mr. Hang M,W, Th 10:00AM – 10:50AM

### LGLS 127B International Economic Law

Studies the transnational legal institution and practices that constitute the global economic networks of the 21st century. Surveys the fields of corporate regulation, including business practices and human rights, and legal regimes supporting trade and finance. Practice in arbitrating investment disputes between states and corporations. (ss)  
Mr. Mirfendereski T,Th 5:00PM – 6:20PM

### NEJS 177A The Holocaust in Israeli and Jewish Literature

A broad survey of Holocaust writings in Modern Jewish literature. Examines the psychological, social, moral, and aesthetic challenges involved in representing the Holocaust in Israeli, American, and European context through literary texts, theoretical research, works of art, and film. (hum)  
Ms. Szobel M,W 3:30PM – 4:50PM

### 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 national identity. (ss)  
Mr. Rosenberger M,W,Th 10:00AM – 10:50AM

## 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 how sexuality intersects with other cultural forms, 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 3:30PM – 4:50PM

### ENG 120A The Orlando Project

Explores the uses of pastoral in queer literary history and for a queered understanding of selfhood. Virginia Woolf's novel Orlando: A Biography guides a survey of English pastoral, queer and postcolonial literary criticism, and feminist and queer ecocriticism. (fl, hum)  
Mr. King T, F 12:30PM – 1:50PM

### 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 *The Second Sex*. Works studied will include essays, plays and novels. (hum)  
Ms. Gasquet T, F 11:00AM – 12:20PM

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

Introduces the world of feminist playwrights. This course will engage the texts through common themes addressed in many feminist plays: motherhood (and daughterhood), reproduction, sexuality, abuse, family relationships, etc. (ca)  
Ms. Hyland M 2:00PM – 4:50PM

### 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, peace, the state, politics, and processes of cultural production. (hum)  
Ms. Szobel M,W 2:00PM – 3:20PM

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

Focuses on the ways in which the family, the workplace and state intersect in answering questions about how, when and where care should be provided. Includes major theoretical and empirical works on the study of care. (ss)  
Ms. Hammonds M,W 8:30AM – 9:50AM

### 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. (ss)  
Ms. Shavarini M,W, Th 11:00AM–11:50AM

