Dear Students,

Are you tired of getting lost in the crowd?

Small seminars in the humanities provide opportunities to:

• engage in deep, interactive inquiry through focused discussion;
• explore other cultures and others’ lives;
• get to know faculty members on an individual level;
• meet students from a wide range of backgrounds.

The purpose of this guide is to draw your attention to Fall 2018 courses in the small seminar format, courses you might not hear about otherwise. Most of the courses listed here are conducted entirely in English, although the second section includes courses taught in several other languages.

Course registration for Fall 2018 is open for graduate and undergraduate students daily in Sage between Wednesday, July 18, 2018 and Monday, August 20, 2018 from noon to 11:59 p.m. EDT. The general registration period begins August 21, 2018 and ends September 14, 2018.

If you have questions about a course, please contact either the instructor or the department offering it. We hope you find something that excites you.

Please share this booklet with friends!

Warm wishes for a brand new school year,

The Brandeis Humanities Faculty
Small humanities seminars offered in Fall 2018:

**Courses Taught in English**

CLAS 100A 1: Survey of Greek History: Bronze Age to 323 BCE
CLAS 145B 1: Topics in Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology: Greece, Egypt, and the Levant in the Bronze Age
COML 120A 1: Disordered Loves and Howling Passion: European Romanticism
ECS 100A 1: European Cultural Studies Proseminar: Modernism
ENG 1A 1: Introduction to Literary Studies: Modern Literature and the Problem of Evil
ENG 43B 1: Medieval Play: Drama, LARP, and Video Games
ENG 62B 1: Contemporary African Literature, Global Perspectives
ENG 148A 1: Inventing Farewell: A Practicum on Elegy
HISP 198A 1: Experiential Research Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies
NEJS 110B 1: Readings in the Hebrew Bible
NEJS 140B 1: Early Modern Jewish History
NEJS 158B 1: Yiddish Literature and the Modern Jewish Revolution
NEJS 187B 1: The Book and Writing in the Islamic World
PHIL 145B 1: Topics in the Philosophy of Language: Fiction
RECS 130A 1: The Great Russian Novel

**Courses Taught in a Language Other than English**

CHIN 105A 2: Advanced Conversation and Composition I
FREN 106B 1: The Art of Composition
FREN 142B 1: City and the Book
FREN 149B 1: Le Livre Illustré: Word and Image in Francophone Texts from Bestiaries to Bandes Dessinées
GER 106B 1: Migration, Kultur, Synergie
HISP 105A 3: Special Topic: Spanish for Medical Professions
JAPN 120A 1: Topics in Contemporary Japanese Culture and Society
NEJS 173A 1: Trauma and Violence in Israeli Literature and Film RUS
150B 1: Advanced Russian Language through 20th-Century Literature (Heritage Speakers)
RUS 150B 2: Advanced Russian Language through 20th-Century Literature (Non-Heritage Speakers)
CLAS 100A 1
Survey of Greek History: Bronze Age to 323 BCE

Cheryl L. Walker (cwalker@brandeis.edu)
M, W 2:00 PM–3:20 PM (Block K)

This course surveys the political and social development of the ancient Greek city-states from Bronze Age origins to the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE. The course is taught in English and all readings are in English, including primary source materials of ancient Greek historians. Classes are discussion-based, fast-paced, and engaging.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-Listed in History and Near Eastern and Judaic Studies (NEJS)
CLAS 145B 1
Topics in Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology: Greece, Egypt, and the Levant in the Bronze Age

Alexandra Ratzlaff (ratzlaff@brandeis.edu)
M, W 5:00 PM–6:20 PM (Block M)

The course explores the development of and interactions between the Mediterranean’s major powers of Greece, Egypt, and the Near East during the second millennium BCE, the Bronze Age. We utilize archaeology and art history, primary sources from classical studies and ancient history, and anthropology to examine how these ancient civilizations rose to great heights and ultimately came to a crushing collapse at the end of the period. The course is taught in English and all readings are in English.

University requirements course fulfills: ca, hum

Cross-Listed in Fine Arts and NEJS
COML 120A 1
Disordered Loves and Howling Passion: European Romanticism

Stephen Dowden (dowden@brandeis.edu)
M, W 3:30 PM–4:50 PM (Block L)

In this course, you can learn about European Romanticism from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective, integrating literature, painting, music, and philosophy. The course includes works by Beethoven, Hölderlin, Schubert, Delacroix, Wordsworth, Mary Shelly, Verdi, Schlegel, Kant, Claude David and others.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-Listed in European Cultural Studies, German Studies, and German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literature (GRALL)
ECS 100A 1
European Cultural Studies Proseminar: Modernism

Stephen Dowden (dowden@brandeis.edu)
M, W 2:00 PM–3:20 PM (Block K)


University requirements course fulfills: hum, wi

Cross-listed in German Studies, Russian Studies, GRALL, Comparative Literature, English, French, and Music/Cultural Studies
ENG 1A 1
Introduction to Literary Studies: Modern Literature and the Problem of Evil

Jerome Tharaud (jtharaud@brandeis.edu)
M, W, Th 10:00 AM–10:50 AM (Block C)

This course takes a fresh look at the study of Anglophone literature by exploring how a variety of authors and genres confront the problem of evil in the modern world, from Elizabethan drama to graphic novels and film. We’ll practice using several influential literary theories to make sense of what we read and see. Texts include the Book of Job, King Lear, Paradise Lost, Robinson Crusoe, Art Spiegelman’s Maus, and Arundhati Roy’s The God of Small Things.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in European Cultural Studies and History of Ideas
ENG 43B 1
Medieval Play: Drama, LARP, and Video Games

Dorothy Kim (dorothykim@brandeis.edu)
T, Th 3:30 PM–4:50 PM (Block P)

Works with a selection of medieval mystery plays, medieval-themed video games and participatory live-action role play to explore: play structures and design; alternative-world creation by way of immersion; the significance of gender, race, disability, and sexuality in performance.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in Theater Arts
ENG 62B 1
Contemporary African Literature, Global Perspectives

Emilie Diouf (diouf@brandeis.edu)
T, Th 3:30 PM–4:50 PM (Block P)

What is “African” in African literature when the majority of writers are somehow removed from the African societies they portray? How do expatriate writers represent African subjectivities and cultures at the intersection of Diaspora and globalization? Who reads the works produced by these writers?

University requirements course fulfills: hum, nw

Cross-listed in International and Global Studies (IGS) and African and Afro-American Studies (AAAS)
ENG 148 A 1
Inventing Farewell: A Practicum on Elegy

David Sherman (dsherman@brandeis.edu)
T, Th 2:00 PM–3:20 PM (Block N)

This course explores recent experiments in poetic elegy that construct the presence of the dead and work through loss. We’ll approach this writing in close conversation with other sorts of innovations in mourning and memorial work, including emerging commemorative rituals, mortuary practices, funerary architecture, historical monuments, and cemetery design. In the experiential, creative component of this course, students will research local memorial acts and commemorative spaces in order to design their own.

University requirements course fulfills: hum
HISP 198A 1
Experiential Research Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies

Jerónimo Arellano (jarellan@brandeis.edu)
M 2:00 PM–4:50 PM (Block S1)

Prerequisite: HISP 109B, HISP 111B, or permission of the instructor.

Topic for Fall 2018: Essay/Film:
In the Fall 2018, this seminar will focus on the relationship between essay writing and non-fiction filmmaking, paying particular attention to creative non-fiction and essay films. Individual research and writing projects (on topics selected by each student, based on her/his personal interests) will be workshopped in this context. The course will be taught in English; students will have the choice of writing their papers in Spanish or English.

University requirements course fulfills: hum, wi

Cross-listed in Comparative Literature & Culture and Latin American and Latino Studies
NEJS 110B 1
Readings in the Hebrew Bible

Anthony I Lipscomb (zalipsco@brandeis.edu)
T, Th 5:00 PM–6:20 PM (Block V)

Prerequisites: NEJS 10a or 40-level HBRW course or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit.

A close reading of selected biblical texts. Topics may vary from year to year. Recent topics have included readings in the prophets. Usually offered every third year

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in European Cultural Studies
NEJS 140B 1
Early Modern Jewish History

ChaeRan Yoo Freeze (cfreeze@brandeis.edu)
T, Th 2:00PM - 3:20PM (Block N)

Examines Jewish history and culture in early modern Europe: mass conversions on the Iberian peninsula, migrations, reconversions back to Judaism, the printing revolution, the Reformation and Counter Reformation, ghettos, gender, family, everyday life, material culture, communal structure, rabbinical culture, mysticism, magic, science, messianic movements, Hasidism, mercantilism, and early modern challenges to Judaism.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in Comparative Literature, European Cultural Studies, History, and Medieval & Renaissance Studies
This course introduces students to Yiddish fiction, drama and poetry within their cultural context. The seventy-year period (1870-1940) represented in the literary works included in the course coincided with great social, economic, religious and cultural upheavals in the world of Eastern European Jews, in many cases transforming their lives and belief systems. In addition to evaluating the works on the basis of their literary merits, we will examine the ways in which they both reflected and helped shape this transformative period. Readings are in English translation.

University requirements course fulfills: hum, wi
The rise of Islam and its expansion as a political entity coincided with the widespread use of paper as a cheap writing material and the rise of an urban scholarly elite. Therefore, in the “Golden Age” of Islamic civilization, thousands and thousands of manuscripts, beautifully illuminated books, ornate copies of the Qur’an and exquisite inscriptions in mosaics and stone were produced. In this course we will study the history of Islamic civilization through one of its greatest achievements: the art and the craft of writing and books.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in Medieval & Renaissance Studies
PHIL 145B 1
Topics in the Philosophy of Language: Fiction

Palle Yourgrau (yourgrau@brandeis.edu)
M, W 3:30 PM–4:50 PM (Block L)

Sherlock Holmes was a great detective. True, except there was no such detective, so who is this a truth about? Does reality include, besides real detectives, also fictional ones? If not, to what does the name “Sherlock Holmes” refer? Do we need a special theory of meaning just for fiction? The more you think about it, the more enigmatic fiction becomes. In this course, we will grapple with the enigma of fiction and its relationship to reality.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in European Cultural Studies and Language and Linguistics
RECS 130A 1
The Great Russian Novel

Robin Feuer Miller (rfmiller@brandeis.edu)
M, W 2:00 PM–3:20 PM (Block K)

A comprehensive survey of the major writers and themes of the nineteenth century including Gogol, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, and others.

Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.

University requirements course fulfills: hum, wi

Cross-listed in European Cultural Studies, History of Ideas, and Russian Studies
CHIN 105A 2
Advanced Conversation and Composition I

Yu Feng (yfeng@brandeis.edu)
M, W, Th 1:00 PM–1:50 PM (Block F)

Taught in Mandarin. Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in CHIN 40b or the equivalent

Designed for advanced students who wish to enhance and improve their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through listening and reading authentic or slightly modified materials, discussing and writing on various topics of Chinese society and culture.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum, wi

Cross-listed in East Asian Studies
FREN 106B 1
The Art of Composition

Martine Voiret (voiret@brandeis.edu)
M, W, Th 1:00 PM–1:50 PM (Block F)

Taught in French. Prerequisite: FREN 105a, or the equivalent. Consent code required.

Study of French composition through analysis of passages from novels, poems, short stories and newspaper articles. Emphasis will be placed on techniques of writing in French, such as dissertation and explication de texte.

Experiential learning course.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum, wi
FREN 142B 1  
City and the Book

Michael Randall (randall@brandeis.edu)  
M, W 2:00–3:20 (Block K)

Taught in French. Prerequisite: FREN 106B, the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

Analyzes the symbolic appearance of the city in French literature and film from the Middle Ages to the present day. The representation of the city in literature and film is contextualized in theoretical writings of urbanists and philosophers. Literary texts include medieval fabliaux, Pantagruel (Rabelais) and Nana (Zola) as well as theoretical texts by Descartes, Ledoux, Le Corbusier, Salvador Dalí, and Paul Virilio.

COML Lit Course in a Language Other than English; Elective Course in Medieval & Renaissance Studies; ECS Courses in European Literature

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum, wi
FREN 149B 1
Le Livre Illustré: Word and Image in Francophone Texts from Bestiaries to Bandes Dessinées

Catherine Theobald (ctheobal@brandeis.edu)
M, W, Th 11:00 AM–11:50 AM (Block D)

Taught in French. Prerequisite: FREN 106b or equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

This course will explore the theories and practices of text-image interactions in illustrated francophone books of the past and present by addressing themes such as learning, travel, sentimentality, pornography, politics, and humour. It will include archival work in the Brandeis library.

New course for Fall 2018.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum, wi
GER 106B 1
Migration, Kultur, Synergie

Kathrin Seidl (kseidlgo@brandeis.edu)
M, W, Th 12:00 PM–12:50 PM (Block E)

Taught in German. Prerequisite: GER 30a.

Investigates the experience of refugees and immigrants in present-day Germany and discusses processes of social transformation. Through fictional and non-fictional texts and film, we gain an understanding of their cultural, economic, political and artistic contributions and of cross-cultural collaborations.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum

New course for Fall 2018
HISP 105A 3
Spanish Conversation and Grammar
Special Topic: Spanish for Medical Professions

Lucía Reyes de Deu (lreyes@brandeis.edu)
M, W 3:30 PM–4:50 PM (Block L)

Taught in Spanish. HISP 104b or the equivalent. Consent code required.

This course is designed to provide students with practice in spoken Spanish using meaningful and applicable medical terminology. Special attention will be given to relevant cultural differences, and the class will discuss how cultural notions may influence Spanish-speaking patients’ healthcare behaviors and doctor/patient communication. The course will supply a review of simple and complex grammatical structures upon which students can build throughout their professional careers. Students will be exposed to intense conversational practice and use Spanish in a variety of interactive class activities such as interviews, dialogues, debates, discussions, and presentations.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum, nw, wi

Experiential Learning Course
JAPN 120A 1
Topics in Contemporary Japanese Culture and Society

Hisae Fujiwara (hfujiwar@brandeis.edu)
M, W 2:00 PM–3:20 PM (Block K)

Conducted in Japanese. Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in JAPN 105b or the equivalent.

Provides advanced students of Japanese an opportunity to develop reading and writing skills through class discussion, presentation, group work and writing in different genres as a preparation for further advanced studies in Japanese. Familiarizes students with different facets of contemporary Japanese culture and society. Readings are supplemented by films and related visual materials.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum, nw, wi

Cross-Listed in East Asian Studies
NEJS 173A 1
Trauma and Violence in Israeli Literature and Film

Ilana Szobel (szobel@brandeis.edu)
Th 2:00 PM–4:50 PM (Block S4)

Taught in Hebrew.

Explores trauma and violence in Israeli Literature, film, and art. Focuses in man-made disasters, war and terrorism, sexual and family violence, and murder and suicide, and examines their relation to nationalism, Zionism, gender, and sexual identity.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum

Cross-Listed in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST) and Hebrew
RUS 150B 1
Advanced Russian Language through 20th-Century Literature

Irina Dubinina (idubinin@brandeis.edu)
M, W 5:00 PM –6:20 PM(Block M)

Taught in Russian. For Heritage Speakers.
Prerequisite: RUS 29b, or RUS 50b with a grade of C- or higher, or
the equivalent as determined by placement examination.

A seminar for continuing students of Russian who wish to enhance their proficiency and accuracy in speaking, reading and writing.
Focusing on the close study of Russian literature in the original Russian and the development of Russian oral and written language skills needed for the close reading and discussion of literature.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum, oc
RUS 150B 2
Advanced Russian Language through 20th-Century Literature

Irina Dubinina (idubinin@brandeis.edu)
M, W 3:30 PM–4:50 PM(Block L)

Taught in Russian. Intended for Non-Heritage Speakers. Prerequisite: RUS 40b or the equivalent. Taught in Russian. Course may be repeated for credit with instructor’s permission.

A seminar for continuing students of Russian who wish to enhance their proficiency and accuracy in speaking, reading and writing. Focusing on the close study of Russian literature in the original Russian and the development of Russian oral and written language skills needed for the close reading and discussion of literature.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum, oc