Fall 2019 CAST Core Course

CAST 150B — Introduction to Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation

How can music, theater, dance and visual and other arts contribute to community development, coexistence, and nonviolent social change? In the aftermath of violence, how do artists help communities reconcile? Students explore these questions through interviews and case studies.

Fall 2019 CAST Electives

Creative Arts:

FA 4A – Sculpture and Foundation: 3-D Design (Tony Fair, Christopher Frost)
Exploration of three-dimensional aspects of form, space, and composition utilizing a variety of materials and sculptural techniques. Emphasizes students’ inventing of images through the use of modern materials and contemporary ideas about sculpture. [ca]

FA 181A – Housing and Social Justice (a capstone course) (Muna Guvenc)
Employs housing as a lens to interrogate space and society, state and market, power and change, in relation with urban inequality and social justice. [ca, deis-us, dl, ss]

MUS 86A – Improv Collective (Thomas Hall)
Open to all Brandeis students who play an instrument or sing, regardless of skill or experience in improvising, the Improv Collective focuses on both individual creativity and group improvisation. Yields half-course credit.

MUS 87A – Music and Dance from Ghana (Benjamin Paulding)
Students in this course will study and perform a repertory of traditional music and dance of a variety of ethnic traditions from Ghana, West Africa. Yields half-course credit.

THA 138B – Creative Pedagogy (a capstone course) (Jennifer A. Cleary)
Focuses on creativity in pedagogy from a theatrical lens and is meant for anyone who wishes to teach anyone just about anything! This course will focus on the building of community and confidence that takes place within any learning environment that utilizes creative and theatrical arts as a modality. [ca, oc]

THA 144B – Black Theater and Performance: New! (Isaiah Wooden)
Explores aesthetic innovations and transformations in African American theater and performance and examines the crucial role the stage has played in shaping perceptions and understandings of blackness. [ca, deis-us]

Humanities:

AAAS/ENG 80A – Black Looks: The Promise and Perils of Photography (Faith Smith)
Explores photography and Africans, African-Americans and Caribbean people, from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. This course will examine fiction that refers to the photograph; various photographic archives; and theorists on photography and looking. [deis-us, djw, hum, wi]
ENG 52A – Refugee Stories, Refugee Lives (Emilie Diouf)
Examines the functions of storytelling in the refugee crisis. Its main objective is to further students understanding of the political dimensions of storytelling. The course explores how reworking of reality enable people to question State and social structures. [hum, nw]

ENG 58A – Literature and Medicine (David Sherman)
How has literature grappled with illness, healing, and the patient-doctor encounter? How can poetry and storytelling communicate with experience of bodily pain—and how does the body seek to communicate its suffering without language? [dl, hum, wi]

ENG 143A – The History of Mediascapes and Critical Maker Culture (Dorothy Kim)
To decolonize book history and "maker culture," the class examines colonial erasure, colonial knowledge production, race, gender, disability, neurodiversity, sexuality in making an alternative book history that includes khipu, the girdle book, the wampum, pamphlets, zines, and wearable media technology. [deis-us, dl, hum, oc]

ENG 151B – Performance Studies (a capstone course) (Tom King)
Explores paradigms for making performance inside and outside of institutionalized theater spaces, with an emphasis on the performance of everyday life. Students read theories of theater and performance against paradigmatic dramatic texts and documents of social performance. Combining theory with practice, students explore and make site-specific and online performances. Note: In fall 2019, we will focus on performative responses to climate change. [hum]

ENG 161A – Literature and Counterculture (a capstone course) (David Sherman)
Explores alternative, subversive publics created through literature and art. Readings into avant-garde movements and their legacies, with a focus on creative political engagements with public spheres. We'll consider writing, experimental theater, visual art, and musical performance at the cultural edges and outsides. This is creative expression that plays with textual circulation and political subversion.

ENG 167B – Writing the Nation: James Baldwin, Richard Wright, Toni Morrison (Gabrielle Everett)
An in-depth study of three major American authors of the twentieth century. Highlights the contributions of each author to the American literary canon and to its diversity. Explores how these novelists narrate cross-racial, cross-gendered, cross-regional, and cross-cultural contact and conflict in the United States. [deis-us, hum]

ENG 172B – African Literature and Human Rights (Emilie Diouf)
Human rights have been central to thinking about Africa. What do we mean when we speak of human rights? Are we asserting a natural and universal equality among all people, regardless of race, class, gender, or geography? [hum, nw]

HISP 196A – Topics in Latinx Literature and Culture New! (Muria J. Duran)
Topic for fall 2019: Latinx Theatre: Politics, Performance, and Social Change. This course examines Latinx theatre as a creative and political force for social change in the United States from the 1960s to the present. We will examine Latinx theatre’s politics, cultural practices, and artistic expressions. We will read representative works by Latinx playwrights while integrating supplementary texts including performance reviews, critical analyses, and theoretical studies. Plays will be studied using various modes of inquiry including linguistic, performance studies, gender studies, and borderlands theory. [hum, wi]

Social Sciences:

SOC 119A – Deconstructing War, Building Peace (Gordie Fellman)
Ponders the possibility of a major “paradigm shift” under way from adversarialism and war to mutuality and peace. Examines war culture and peace culture and points in between, with emphases on the role of imagination in social change, growing global interdependence, and political, economic, gender, social class, and social psychological aspects of war and peace. [ss]
CAST SPONSORED AND CO-SPONSORED EVENTS – JOIN US!

CAST Welcome Back Reception
Meet the Undergraduate Program Representatives and current CAST Minors:
Tuesday, September 17, 2019
Time: 5:30-7:00 pm
Location: Alumni Lounge in Usdan

Create@Brandeis all-arts welcome party!
Friday, September 13, 2019
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Location: Fellows Garden (rain location: Shapiro Campus Center atrium)

CAST Fall Salon:
Tuesday November 5, 2019
Time: 5:30-7:00 pm
Location: TBA

Sophiline Arts Ensemble performing Phka Sla

Dance in the Aftermath of Mass Violence
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
Time: 2:00 - 4:50 pm
Location: TBA

Members of the Cambodia-based Sophiline Arts Ensemble will present a lecture-demonstration about choreography in post-genocide Cambodia, and the relationship between legacies of violence and contemporary expressive culture.

They'll perform an excerpt from a recent piece developed as an official "reparations" project of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal -- the international court trying Khmer Rouge leaders for crimes against humanity and genocide.
2019 Joseph B. and Toby Gittler Prize: John Paul Lederach
Wednesday, October 30, 2019
Time: 4:30 - 6:00 pm
Location: Rapaporte Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Library
Join the Brandeis community in welcoming the 2019 Joseph B. and Toby Gittler Prize recipient, John Paul Lederach.

Professor Emeritus of International Peacebuilding at the University of Notre Dame, Lederach has worked extensively as a practitioner in conciliation processes. Lederach is widely known for the development of culturally appropriate approaches to conflict transformation and the design and implementation of integrative and strategic approaches to peacebuilding. The Joseph B. and Toby Gittler Prize was created by the late Professor Joseph B. Gittler to recognize outstanding and lasting scholarly contributions to racial, ethnic and/or religious relations.

Performance: “Eddie’s Perejil”
Thursday, November 7, 2019
Time and Location: TBA
Professor Edward Paulino, CUNY/John Jay College, transforms his scholarship on the 1937 massacre of Haitians on the Haitian/Dominican border into a theatrical production exploring borders, race, sovereignty, oral histories, archives and the theater.

Michelle Ortiz

Familias Separadas/Central Americans Held in Detention Centers
Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Time: 2:00 - 4:50 pm
Location: TBA
Visual artist, muralist, community arts educator and immigrant rights activist Michelle Ortiz will introduce her Familias Separadas project -- a series of public art installations in Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, about the impact of family separations.

Open session of Prof. Muna Guvenc’s course Housing and Social Justice:
Professor Gabriel Arboleda, Amherst College, speaking on socially engaged design in Latin America
Wednesday, November 20, 2019
Time: 2:00- 3:20 pm
Location TBA