

Exploration • Understanding • Pluralism

Fall 2019 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 2019 courses that address these issues; we hope that you will consider including some of them in your studies. They are grouped under “Religion, Race, and Culture,” “Global Perspectives,” and “Gender and Sexuality” 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/ENG 80A: Black Looks: The Promise and Perils of Photography

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. (hum, deis-us, djw, wi)

F. Smith T, F 12:30-1:50 PM

AAAS 154B: Race, Science and Society

Traces scientific concepts of race from the 18th century to today, interrogating their uses and transformations over time. It explores how science has defined race, how people have challenged such conceptions, and alternate ways for understanding human difference. (ss)

W. Muigai T, Th 5:00-6:20 PM

AAPI 141A: Pacific Islander Studies: Cultures and Representations of Oceania

Offers an introduction to the field of Pacific Islander Studies and Oceania with an emphasis on literary and cultural production to reckon with settler colonialism, sovereignty movements, climate change, militarism and nuclearism, Indigenous feminisms, and popular culture.

L. Day T, Th 2:00-3:20 PM

AAPI/HIST 163A: Asian American History

Explores the history of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States with a focus on their lived experiences and contributions to U.S. society. Course culminates in a final AAPI digital oral history project. (dl, ss)

Y. Doolan T, F 9:30 AM-10:50 AM

AMST 46B: American Biography

Focuses on biography as a method of historical inquiry and literary expression. Whose lives get memorialized and why? What can one life say about the period in which it was lived? How much attention should biographers pay to the private lives versus public accomplishments of their subjects? (ss)

E. McNamara T, F 12:30-1:50 PM

AMST/MUS 38A: American Music: From Psalms to Hip Hop

Explores the many varieties of folk, popular, and art music in American culture. Serves as a lens to examine diverse aspects of American culture and history with an emphasis on America’s shifting definition of identity. No musical background is required. (ca, oc, ss)

P. Musegades T, F 9:30-10:50 AM

AMST/ANT 117A: Decolonization: A Native

American Studies Approach

Examines "What is decolonization?" through the lens of Native American Studies. We will discuss issues ranging from settler colonialism, stereotypes, social movements, identity, cultural revitalization, landscape, and interventions into natural and social sciences. (oc, ss)

L. Bloch T, F 12:30-1:50 PM

ENG 138A: Race, Religion, and Twentieth-Century South

Twentieth century fiction of the American South. Racial conflict, regional identity, religion, and modernization in fiction from both sides of the racial divide and from both sides of the gender line. (deis-us, hum, wi)

J. Burt M, W, Th 10:00-10:50 AM

HISP 196A: Topics in Latinx Literature and Culture

Examines Latinx theatre’s politics, cultural practices, and artistic expressions as a creative and political force for social change in the US from the 1960s to the present. Utilizes various modes of inquiry including linguistic, performance studies, gender studies, and borderlands theory. (hum, wi)

M. Durán T, Th 2:00 PM–3:20 PM

HIST 157B: The Secret Lives of the Enslaved:

Marginalized Voices and the Writing of History

Seeks to understand not only the system but the inner lives and cultures of slaves within that system. This course is a reading-intensive seminar examining both primary and secondary sources on American slaves. Focuses on the American South but includes sources on the larger African diaspora. (deis-us, ss, dl, wi)

A. Cooper M, W 3:30-4:50 PM

HIST 165A: Starting From Food: New Perspectives on the Middle East and Islam

Studying food - consumption, production, distribution, regulation, representation - illuminates every aspect of human history. This course explores texts, images, objects, local supermarkets and your experience to consider questions of power, identity, faith, taste, and more in Middle Eastern and Islamic history. (ss)

A. Singer T, F 11:00 AM-12:20 PM

JAPN 150A: Greed and Morality in Edo Period Novels

Examines the diverse short fiction of Ihara Saikaku, a seventeenth-century merchant writer from Osaka. Saikaku’s novels and short stories insightfully and vividly explore such themes as homosexuality, vengeance, filial piety, jurisprudence, and the nouveau riche. All readings in English. (hum, nw)

M. Katsumata T, Th 2:00 PM-3:20 PM

JAPN 165A: The Tale of Genji

Often called "the world's first novel," The Tale of Genji has captivated readers with its narrative of love, rivalry, friendship, and loss for centuries. This class explores what has given the text its prominent place in Japanese and world literature. (hum, nw, oc)

M. Fraleigh M, W 3:30-4:50 PM

MUS 52B: Russian Music and Russian Power from Glinka to Stalin

Surveys the long and strong relationship between music and state power in Russia, beginning in the tsarist period and continuing through the present day. Considers operas and symphonies, popular songs and state anthems, aiming to understand how political factors (including censorship and propaganda) have influenced the composition and reception of music in Russia. (ca)

E. Frey T, Th 2:00-3:20 PM

NEJS 3A: Religions of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

An introduction to the three major religions originating in the Near East: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Areas of focus include historical development, sacred texts, rituals, and interpretive traditions. (hum)

J. Decter T, F 9:30-10:50 AM

NEJS 176B: Jewish Graphic Novels

Explores Jewish artists' use of graphic narratives to grapple with issues of acculturation, trauma, and identity. Special focus on the reconfiguration of Jewish gender identities. (hum)

E. Kellman M, W 2:00-3:20 PM

NEJS 193A: Pirates, Mystics and Scholars: Travel Literature from the Islamic World

Studies medieval and early modern travelogues from the Islamic world in English translation. Provides a candid view of the Muslim Mediterranean including urban topography, social life, orthodox and subversive religious practices, status of minorities, and conditions and limits of hospitality. (hum)

S. Dost M, W 3:30-4:50 PM

PHIL 128B: Philosophy of Race and Gender

Explores the nature of racism and gender oppression, as well as various remedies to them, including reparations, affirmative action, and policies of group representation at the state level. (hum)

M. Smiley T, Th 2:00-3:20 PM

SAS 100A: India and Pakistan: Understanding South Asia

Explores the history, societies, cultures, religions and literature of South Asia--India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Uses history, anthropology, literature, and film perspectives to examine past and contemporary life in South Asia. (nw, ss, djw)

A. Singh T, Th 5:00-6:20 PM

Global Perspectives

AAPI/HIS 163A: Asian American History

Explores the history of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States with a focus on their lived experiences and contributions to U.S. society. Course culminates in a final AAPI digital oral history project. (dl, ss)

Y. Doolan T, F 9:30-10:50 AM

ENG 172B: African Literature and Human Rights

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)

E. Diouf M, W, Th 12:00-12:50 PM

FREN 161A: The Enigma of Being Oneself: From Du Bellay to Laferrière

Explores the relationship of identity formation and modern individualism in texts by writers working in France, Francophone Africa and Canada. Authors range from canonical and early-modern to the contemporary. (fl, hum, wi)

M. Randall T, Th 3:30-4:50 PM

HIST 52B: Europe in the Modern World

Explores European history from the Enlightenment to the present emphasizing how developments in Europe have shaped and been shaped by broader global contexts.

Topics include: revolution, industrialization, political and social reforms, nationalism, imperialism, legacies of global wars, totalitarianism, and decolonization. (ss, oc)

H. Muller M, W 2:00-3:20 PM

HIST 134B: The Ottoman Empire from Principality to Republic by way of Empire

The Ottomans in history: how did a tiny principality grow from 1300 to be a global empire by 1550 and become a modern nation state by 1923? Who were the Ottomans? What are their legacies in today's world? (ss)

A. Singer T, Th 2:00-3:20 PM

HIST 146A: An International History of Japan

Japan from prehistory to today, focusing on the archipelago's relationship to its Asian neighbors and the wider world. Topics include early Chinese influence, the introduction of Buddhism from Korea, the samurai, Westernization and the rise and fall of imperial Japan. (ss)

R. Glasnovich T, F 12:30 PM–1:50 PM

IGS 136B: Contemporary Chinese Society and Culture

Introduces students to contemporary Chinese society, with a focus on the rapid transformations that have taken place during the post-Mao era with a focus on family, gender, sexuality, migration, ethnicity, and family planning. (nw, ss)

E. Uretsky T, Th 2:00-3:20 PM

IGS 142B: Global Pandemics: History, Society, and Policy

Takes a biosocial approach to pandemics like HIV/AIDS, SARS, and Ebola as shaped not simply by biology, but also by culture, economics, politics, and history. Discussion focuses on how gender, sexuality, religion, and folk practices shape pandemic situations. (nw, ss)

E. Uretsky T, Th 3:30-4:50 PM

IGS 165A: Revolution, Religion, and Terror: Postcolonial Histories

Examines religious conflict, revolutionary violence, and civil war in modern South Asia. It looks at Jihad, Maoist militancy, rising fundamentalism, and the recent refugee crisis. (djw, nw, ss)

A. Singh T, Th 2:00-3:20 PM

LALS 170A: Sports, Games, and Politics in Latin America and the Caribbean

Sports are one of Latin America's biggest exports and imports. This course, engaging with cultural studies theory and interdisciplinary readings, examines the politics and social forces behind sports such as soccer, cricket, baseball, wrestling, and bullfighting. (ss, wi)

L. Brown M, W, Th 1:00-1:50 PM

Gender and Sexuality

AAAS/ WGS 125A: Intellectual History of Black Women

Explores major themes and events in U.S. history from the perspectives of black women (e.g., forced black migration to the Western world, transatlantic slavery, black emancipation from slavery, Jim Crow, the great migration(s), the civil rights era, and the “post” civil rights era, etc.). (ss)

S. Roach T, F 9:30-10:50 AM

ANTH 166B: Queer Anthropology: Sexualities and Genders in 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. (ss)

Staff M, W 3:30-4:50 PM

NEJS 160A: Jewish Feminisms

Explores classic feminist critiques and transformations of traditional Judaism and examines issues such as equality under Jewish ritual and family law, sex segregation in public life, inclusion of Jewish People of Color and of LGBTQ Jews and antisemitism in the women's movement. (deis-us, hum)

L. Fishbayn-Joffe T, Th 2:00-3:20 PM

POL 125A: Seminar: 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. (deis-us, ss)

J. Greenlee T, F 12:30-1:50 PM

SAS 150B: Love, Sex & Country: Films from India

A study of Hindi films made in India since 1947 with a few notable exceptions from regional film, as well as some recent films made in English. Students will read Hindi films as texts/narratives of the nation to probe the occurrence of cultural, religious, historical, political, and social themes. (djw, hum, nw)

H. Singh M, W 3:30-4:50 PM

WMGS 89A: When Violence Hits Home: Internship in Domestic Violence

Combines fieldwork in domestic and sexual violence prevention programs with a fortnightly seminar exploring cultural and interpersonal facets of violence from a feminist perspective.

D. Hunter Th 3:00-5:50 PM

WMGS 171A: Transgender Studies

This course introduces students to key terms and debate in the field of transgender studies, while critically interrogating how ideologies of race, class, gender, and sexuality have informed the category's rapid institutionalization. (ss)

V. Chaudhry T, F 12:30-1:50 PM

WMGS 182B: Feminist Bioethics

Examines emergence of feminist bioethics, current issues of ethical debate related to human health, and historical context of the field. Real-world applications of feminist ethical analysis are explored through problem-based learning, discussion, reading, research, and written, oral, and visual communication. (ss)

B. Clark T, Th 2:00-3:20 PM

