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 Spring 2019 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 Spring 2019 is open for graduate and undergraduate students daily in Sage between Wednesday, December 5, 2018 and Monday, January 7, 2019 from noon to 11:59 p.m. EDT. The general registration period begins Tuesday, January 8, 2019 and ends Tuesday, January 29, 2019.

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 Spring 2019:

Courses Taught in English
CLAS 144B 1: Archaeological Ethics, Law and Cultural Heritage
CLAS 160A 1: Race and Ethnicity in the Ancient World
COML/RECS 136A 1: All in the Family: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy and the English Novel
COML 150B 1: Critique of Erotic Reason
ECS 100B 1: European Cultural Studies Proseminar: Making of European Modernity
ENG 72A 1: The Caribbean’s Asias: Asian Migration & Heritage in the Caribbean
ENG 84A 1: Nostalgia, Clutter, and Decay: Marking Time in the Enlightenment
ENG 125A 1: Romanticism I: Blake, Wordsworth, and Coleridge
ENG 180A 1: The Modern American Short Story
ENG 129A 1: Creative Nonfiction Workshop
ENG 139A 1: Publishing Workshop: Literary Editing and Publishing
JAPN 140A 1: The World of Early Modern Japanese Literature
NEJS 133A 1: Art, Artifacts, and History: The Material Culture of Modern Jews
NEJS 141A 1: Russian Jews in the Twentieth Century
NEJS 187B 1: The Book and Writing in the Islamic World
PHIL 132A 1: Infinity
PHIL 145B 1: Topics in the Philosophy of Language: Reference and Meaning
PHIL 162B 1: Aristotle

Courses Taught in a Language Other than English
CHIN 126A 1: Advanced Conversational Chinese
FREN 129A 1: La Révolution tranquille?: Québec’s Culture Wars on Stage and Screen
FREN 141B 1: Introduction to French Cinema: un certain regard
GER 103A 1: German Culture Through Film
GER 110A 1: Goethe und seine Zeit
HISP 105A 2: Spanish Conversation and Grammar
HISP 170A 1: Topics in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Spanish Literature: Clarín’s La Regenta as a Sociocultural Map of Nineteenth-Century Spain
ITAL 105A 1: Italian Conversation and Composition
JAPN 120B 1: Readings in Modern Japanese Literature
NEJS 178A 1: Love, Sex, and Power in Israeli Culture
RUS 153A 1: Advanced Russian Language through 19th Century Literature
The past is up for grabs as contenders of collectors, museums, countries, native cultures, religious groups all take aim at ownership. This course explores archaeological ethics, law, and cultural heritage through a range of case studies, some famous like the contested Elgin Marbles and other ripped from the headlines, such as sale of black-market antiquities and the devastation of cultural heritage by ISIS. These topics and others will examine complex ways in which the past informs and affects the present.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

This course has a strong social justice component that may appeal to a broad spectrum of students beyond fulfilling a humanities requirement.
This course provides an introduction to ancient attitudes towards race and ethnicity. Students will consider how categories of race and ethnicity are presented in the literature and artistic works of Greece and Rome, and how ancient thinking remains current and influential today. We will study epic, history, medical texts, ethnographies, dramas, and novels, as well as material evidence. By the end of the course, students will have a richer understanding of the intellectual and cultural histories of the ancient world.

University requirements course fulfills: hum
Dostoevsky and Tolstoy were avid readers of the English Novel, and, by the third quarter of the nineteenth century English writers were eagerly discovering “the Russians.” This course will offer close readings of selected works of Jane Austen, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Leo Tolstoy, and Virginia Woolf, as well as relevant non-fiction and critical writings both about the novel and the family by each of these writers. Although this is not a survey course, students will gain a sense of the evolution of the novel throughout the long nineteenth century as well as evolving attitudes toward manners, courtship, marriage, adultery, the moral education of children, and, above all, the family. Ultimately the family novel encompasses large questions about how we regard the pain of others, how we define community, how we live and how we die.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in International and Global Studies (IGS); European Cultural Studies (ECS); History of Ideas; and English
COML 150B 1
Critique of Erotic Reason

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

Explores transformations in erotic sensibilities in the novel from the early nineteenth century to the present. Works by Goethe, Austen, Kierkegaard, Tolstoy, Schopenhauer, Bronte, Chekhov, Garcia-Marquez, Kundera, and Cormac McCarthy.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in European Cultural Studies (ECS); Sexuality and Queer Studies (SQS); German Studies
ECS 100B 1
European Cultural Studies Proseminar: Making of European Modernity

Michael Randall (randall@brandeis.edu)
M, W 3:30 PM–4:50 PM (Block L)

Investigates how the paradigm of what we know as modernity came into being. We will look at the works of writers and philosophers such as Descartes, Aquinas, Dante, Ockham, Petrarch, Ficino, Rabelais, and Montaigne. Artwork from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance will be used to understand better what “the modern” means.

University requirements course fulfills: hum, wi

Cross-listed in Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Comparative Literature (COML), French and Francophone Studies, German Language and Literature, Music/Cultural Studies Track, Music/History Track
ENG 72A 1
The Caribbean’s Asias: Asian Migration & Heritage in the Caribbean

Faith Smith (fsmith@brandeis.edu)
T, F 9:30 AM–10:50 AM (Block G)

Studies fiction and theory by and about Caribbean people of South Asian origin, and Caribbean people of Chinese origin from the late nineteenth century to the present. Examines how they have been implicated in discussions of nationalism, hybridity, diaspora, and neoliberalism.

University requirements course fulfills: hum, nw

Cross-listed in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST); International Global Studies (IGS); South Asian Studies (SAS)
ENG 84A 1
Nostalgia, Clutter, and Decay: Marking Time in the Enlightenment

Sarabeth Grant (sbgrant@brandeis.edu)
T, Th 2:00 PM–3:20 PM (Block N)

Offers undergraduates the opportunity to consider the many ways of knowing time as presented in various eighteenth-century English texts. We will consider multiple literary forms—poetry, novel, the familiar letter, philosophical essay—for their ability to provide compelling examinations into how historical and literary subjects mark time, and how that epistemology connects to issues of historiography and nationalism.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in European Cultural Studies (ECS)
ENG 125A 1  
Romanticism I: Blake, Wordsworth, and Coleridge

William Flesch (flesch@brandeis.edu)  
M, W 2:00 PM–3:20 PM (Block K)

Examines the major poetry and some prose by the first generation of English Romantic poets who may be said to have defined Romanticism and set the tone for the last two centuries of English literature.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in European Cultural Studies (ECS)
ENG 180A 1
The Modern American Short Story

Caren Irr (irr@brandeis.edu)
T, F 11:00 AM–12:20 PM (Block H)

Close study of American short-fiction masterworks. Students read as writers write, discussing solutions to narrative obstacles, examining the consequences of alternate points of view. Studies words and syntax to understand and articulate how technical decisions have moral and emotional weight.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in American Studies (AMST)
ENG 129 A 1  
Creative Nonfiction Workshop

Chen Chen (chenchen@brandeis.edu)  
M 2:00 PM–4:50 PM (Block S1)

Offered exclusively on a credit/no credit basis. Students will be selected after the submission of a sample of writing of no more than five pages. Please refer to the Schedule of Classes for submission formats and deadlines within registration periods. May be repeated for credit.

Students will learn how to use a wide range of literary techniques to produce factual narratives drawn from their own perspectives and lives. Creative assignments and discussions will include the personal essay, the memoir essay and literary journalism.

University requirements course fulfills: hum, wi
ENG 139A 1
Publishing Workshop: Literary Editing and Publishing

Elizabeth Bradfield (ebrad@brandeis.edu)
W 2:00 PM–4:50 PM (Block S3)

Editing and publishing a literary journal -- either digital, print, or in more experimental forms -- can be an important component of a writer's creative life and sense of literary citizenship. This experiential learning course will engage students with theoretical and historical reading as well as provide practical hands-on tools for literary publishing. Broadsided Press (www.broadsidedpress.org) will be used as a case study. A group publishing project will be part of the coursework, and this can be tied into journals already being published on campus. By the end of the semester, students will have a fuller sense of the work, mindset, difficulties, strategies, and values of a literary publisher.

Offered exclusively on a credit/no credit basis. Students will be selected after the submission of an introductory letter including student’s major, writing/editing experience, why publishing is of interest to them, any experimental literary publications/performances they’ve experienced. Please refer to the Schedule of Classes for submission formats and deadlines within the Registration periods. This course fulfills a workshop requirement for the Creative Writing major and minor.

University requirements course fulfills: hum, wi

Cross-listed in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST)
JAPN 140A 1
The World of Early Modern Japanese Literature

Matthew Fraleigh (fraleigh@brandeis.edu)
M, W 2:00 PM–3:20 PM (Block K)

A survey of the most celebrated works of literature from Japan’s early modern period (1600-1868). Explores a wide range of genres, including fiction, travelogues, memoirs, dramatic forms such as the puppet theater and kabuki, as well as poetry in Japanese and Chinese. All readings are available in English translation; Japanese knowledge is not required.

University requirements course fulfills: hum, nw

Cross-listed in East Asian Studies (EAS)
NEJS 133A 1
Art, Artifacts, and History: The Material Culture of Modern Jews

Ellen Smith (esmith2@brandeis.edu)
M, W 5:00PM–6:20PM
(Block M)

An interpretive, bibliographic, and hands-on study of the material (nontextual) culture of American and European Jews since 1600 taught in a comparative cultural context. Analyzes how objects, architecture, visual images, bodies, museums, and memorials can help us understand and interpret social, cultural, and religious history.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in European Cultural Studies (ECS)
COURSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

NEJS 141A 1
Russian Jews in the Twentieth Century

ChaeRan Freeze (cfreeze@brandeis.edu)
T, F 11:00AM–12:20PM (Block H)

Examines Russian Jewish history from 1917 to the present. Focuses on the tsarist legacy, Russian Revolution, the creation of a new socialist society, development of Yiddish culture, the “Great Turn” under Stalin, Holocaust, post war Judaism, anti-Semitism, emigration, and current events.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in Russian Studies; Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGS); European Cultural Studies (ECS)
NEJS 187B 1
The Book and Writing in the Islamic World

Suleyman Dost (dost@brandeis.edu)
M, W 3:30 PM–4:50 PM (Block L)

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 Islamic and Middle Wastern Studies (IMES); Medieval & Renaissance Studies

Brand New Course—offered for the first time in Spring 2019!
PHIL 132A 1
Infinity

Palle Yourgrau (yourgrau@brandeis.edu)
M, W 2:00 PM–3:20 PM (Block K)

One course in Logic is recommended.

Is infinity real? Exactly how big is it? these questions have puzzled thinkers from Zeno (with his famous paradoxes), to Aristotle, Galileo, Cantor, and Wittgenstein. Students will examine the mystery of infinity from all sides, philosophical, mathematically, psychological, and theological.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Meets Upper level Metaphysics and Epistemology requirement
PHIL 145B 1
Topics in the Philosophy of Language: Reference and Meaning

Eli Hirsch (hirsch@brandeis.edu)
T, Th 3:30 PM–4:50 PM (Block P)

One course in Logic is recommended.

Students will critically read and engage with philosophical texts related to the nature of language, will learn to identify and evaluate philosophical arguments in those texts, and will write papers that carefully develop and defend philosophical claims about language.

Meets the Upper level Metaphysics and Epistemology requirement. Because we carry on a sustained conversation from one class to another, you should not miss any class unless you have an emergency.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

European Cultural Studies (ECS) Related Elective; Elective Course in Language and Linguistics
PHIL 162B 1
Aristotle

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

An introduction to Aristotle’s philosophy through an intensive reading of selected texts.

University requirements course fulfills: hum

Cross-listed in European Cultural Studies (ECS); Classical Studies (CLAS)
CHIN 126A 1
Advanced Conversational Chinese

Jian Wei (jianwei@brandeis.edu)
T, Th 3:30 PM–4:50 PM (Block P)

Taught in Chinese. Prerequisite: CHIN 105b or equivalent.

For advanced students of Chinese, this course further develops their Chinese speaking proficiency in both information and formal styles. The course is conducted entirely in Chinese and is designed for students who want to improve their communicative ability in Chinese. Focuses on significant expansion of vocabularies, grammars, and genuine expressions used by Chinese in their daily life, as well as enhancing students’ understanding of Chinese society and culture.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum

Cross-listed in East Asian Studies (EAS)
COURSES TAUGHT IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

FREN 129A 1
La Révolution tranquille?: Québec’s Culture Wars on Stage and Screen

Catherine Theobald (ctheobal@brandeis.edu)
M, W, Th 1:00 PM–1:50 PM (Block F)

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

Considers plays and films from the last sixty years that have probed the tensions at the heart of Québécois culture to provide a violent counterpart to the sexual, political, and generational “Révolution tranquille” of the 1960s and 1970s.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum
FREN 141B 1
Introduction to French Cinema: un certain regard

Martine Voiret (voiret@brandeis.edu)
M, W 2:00–3:20 (Block K)

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

Introduces students to the major trends in French cinema since the forties (New Wave, “cinema du Look,” feminist cinema, cartoons, “comédie à la française,” beur cinema, etc.) Students will learn the critical vocabulary necessary to describe the formal aspects of film and to analyze films from a variety of theoretical approaches. Films will also be viewed as cultural products influenced by their social, political contexts and their modes of production and diffusion (“l’exception française.”)

Cross-listed in Film, TV, and Interactive Media (FTIM)

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum
GER 103A 1
German Culture Through Film

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

Taught in German. Prerequisite: GER 30a.

Germany’s film production from the early 1920s to the present offers a unique lens to study culture, zeitgeist, and political movements through this most fascinating, innovative and turbulent of national cinemas. We will discuss landmark films from the past hundred years, which provide in combination with pertinent articles and scholarly texts a historical perspective on decisive social and cultural phenomena. Major themes include German expressionist film, the roaring twenties, Nazi Germany, Vergangenheitsbewältigung, multi-ethnic societies, terrorism, life in the GDR, migrant and refugee experiences and cultural trends at the beginning of the 21st century.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum, oc

Cross-listed in European Cultural Studies (ECS); Film, Television, and Interactive Media (FTIM)
GER 110A 1
Goethe und seine Zeit

Sabine von Mering (vonmerin@brandeis.edu)
T, Th 2:00 PM–3:20 PM (Block N)

Taught in German. Prerequisite: GER 30a.

This upper-language course uses Goethe’s dramatic, lyric, and prose works to introduce students to the literary periods of the enlightenment, Sturm-und-Drang, German Classicism, and Romanticism. We will read Iphigenie, Werther, Faust I, and a selection of Goethe’s famous poetry.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum

Cross-listed in European Cultural Studies (ECS)
HISP 105A 2
Spanish Conversation and Grammar

Andrew Sewick (asewick@brandeis.edu)
M, W, Th 1:00 PM–1:50 PM (Block F)

Taught in Spanish. Prerequisite: HISP 104b or the equivalent. Consent code required (please email roms@brandeis.edu).

Students learn to communicate effectively in Spanish through class discussions, oral and written exercises, presentations, literary and cultural readings, film, and explorations of the mass media. Emphasis on improvement of oral and written fluency, and the continued acquisition of vocabulary and grammar structures.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum
HISP 170A 1
Topics in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Spanish Literature: Clarín’s La Regenta as a Sociocultural Map of Nineteenth-Century Spain

James Mandrell (mandrell@brandeis.edu)
T, Th 5:00 PM–6:20 PM (Block V)

Taught in Spanish. Prerequisite: HISP 109b or HISP 111b, or permission of the instructor.

Leopoldo Alas’s La Regenta is considered to be the most important nineteenth-century Spanish novel and, after Cervantes’ Don Quijote, the second-best Spanish novel ever. It has everything: love, sex, adultery, gun fights, sin, organized religion and religious politics, commerce and conversion, a plethora of detail that portrays the sociocultural and intellectual landscape of late nineteenth-century Spain. Our reading will take into account the story that Alas tells and the way that he tells it as well as the ways that the novel allows us to engage with different theories of literature and culture. In addition, we’ll discuss Fernando Méndez-Leite’s televisual version of La Regenta as it adapts and departs from the written text.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum

Cross-Listed in European Cultural Studies (ECS)
ITAL 105A 1
Italian Conversation and Composition

Silvia Monteleone (spmw@brandeis.edu)
M, W, Th 1:00 PM–1:50 PM (Block F)

Taught in Italian. Prerequisite: ITAL 30a or the equivalent. Consent code required (please email roms@brandeis.edu).

Bring your Italian to the next level! Learn how to express yourself more clearly and completely in Italian. Students will use films and TV movies, music and contemporary art to explore contemporary Italian culture and society. Siete pronti per questa nuova avventura?

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum, oc
JAPN 120B 1
Readings in Modern Japanese Literature

Matthew Fraleigh (fraleigh@brandeis.edu)
M, W 3:30 PM–4:50 PM (Block L)

Taught in Japanese. Prerequisite: JAPN 120A or the equivalent.

Students read, analyze, discuss, and write about Japanese short fiction by a wide range of modern and contemporary authors. Screening of film adaptations and television programs complement class discussion, which is conducted in Japanese.

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

Cross-Listed in Comparative Literature (COML); East Asian Studies (EAS)
NEJS 178A 1
Love, Sex, and Power in Israeli Culture

Ilana Szobel (szobel@brandeis.edu)
T, Th 3:30 PM–4:50 PM (Block P)

Taught in Hebrew.

Explores questions of romance, gender, marriage, and jealousy in the Israeli context by offering a feminist and psychoanalytic reading of Hebrew texts, works of art, and film.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum

Fulfills Text-Intensive Requirement of NEJS major, Judaic Studies Track

Cross-Listed in Islamic and Medieval Studies (IMES); Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGS); and Hebrew
RUS 153A 1
Advanced Russian Language through 19th-Century Literature

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

Taught in Russian. Prerequisite: RUS 29b, RUS 40b or RUS 50b with a grade of C- or higher, or the equivalent as determined by placement examination.

An undergraduate seminar for heritage and advanced students of Russian. Focus on the study of 19th-century Russian literature in the original and development of Russian oral and written skills needed for the close reading and discussion of literature.

University requirements course fulfills: fl, hum

Cross-listed in Comparative Literature (COML); European Cultural Studies (ECS)