



FALL 2017 COURSES IN SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

Department	Instructor	Course Type	Course #	Time and Day	Semester
Sociology	Brian Morton Philip V Ammirato Sonia Pereira	Undergraduate Seminar	BC3333	T 2:10-4PM	Fall 2017
Center for Ethnicity and Race	Catherine Fennell	Undergraduate Seminar	UN3445	F 2:10-4PM	Fall 2017
Philosophy	Christopher Peacocke	Undergraduate lecture	UN3252	MW 4:10-5:25	Fall 2017
Philosophy	David Albert	Undergraduate lecture	UN3551	TTh 10:10-11:25	Fall 2017
Religion	David Kittay	Graduate Seminar	RELIW4616	Th 4:10-6PM	Fall 2017
Sociomedical Sciences	David Rosner	Graduate Seminar	P8773	T 8:30-11:20	Fall 2017
History	David Rothman	Undergraduate Seminar	UN3911	M 4:10-6PM	Fall 2017
Earth and Environmental Sciences	John C Mutter, Ruth Defries	Undergraduate lecture	UN2330	MW 2:40-3:55	Fall 2017
Anthropology	Karen Seeley	Undergraduate Seminar	UN3966	T 10:10-12PM	Fall 2017
Anthropology	Lesley Sharp	Undergraduate Seminar	UN3879	M 12:10-2PM	Fall 2017
History	Marwa Elshakry and Kavita Sivaramakrishnan	Graduate Seminar	HISTUN 3911	M 2:10 - 4PM	Fall 2017
Anthropology	Marya Pollack and Prof. Robert Pollack	Graduate seminar	GU4321	W 2:10-4pm	Fall 2017, Spring 2018
English	Michael Golston	Graduate lecture	GU4635	MW 6:10-7:25	Fall 2017
Biology and Columbia College	Pamela Smith	Graduate seminar	GR8906	M 10:10am to 2pm with required lab times through the semester	Fall 2017, Spring 2018
American Studies	Robert Pollack and colleagues	Undergraduate seminar	UN3930	Th 4:10 - 6 pm	Fall 2017
EEEB	Sara Tjossem	Graduate seminar	INAFU6236_001_2016_3	T 9:00-10:50AM	Fall 2017
Computer Science	Steven Bellovin, Jason Healey, Matthew Waxman	Undergraduate Seminar	COMS 6998-9	T 4:10-6PM	Fall 2017
Philosophy	Svetlana Komissarouk	Graduate Seminar	GU4645	W 2:10-4:00	Fall 2017
Science and Public Policy	Timothy J Halpin- Healy	Graduate Seminar	BC3334	Tu 4:10-6PM	Fall 2017
Psychology	Valerie J Purdie- Vaughns	Graduate Seminar	GU4615	T 2:10-4:00	Fall 2017

Course Descriptions for Fall 2017

Genetics, Biodiversity & Society

Sociology
Brian Morton
Graduate Seminar
SCPPBC3333
T 2:10-4PM

Module I: Development and Valuation of Plant Genetic Resources. Science and consequences of plant breeding, biotechnology, and genetic engineering; costs and benefits of maintaining biodiversity; public policy issues and options. Module II: Genetic Technology and Society. Human genome project, scientific basis and interpretation of genetic screening; individual choice, social implications, and ethical issues.

City, Environment and Vulnerability

Center for Ethnicity and Race
Catherine Fennell
Undergraduate Seminar
UN3445
F 2:10-4PM

How are urbanites situated in place? What can that particular situation tell us about how urbanites will live, thrive, and waste in those places? How do social divides, like race and class, render the situations of some more or less vulnerable to environmental harm or the physical constraints of place? This seminar takes up those questions through the lens of the urban built environment and the relations it establishes between urbanites, the things of their city, and their material dimensions. We start with readings that challenge us to conceptualize the urban environment as an assemblage of bodies and things that impinge upon each other in consequential ways. We then move to several historical and ethnographic cases that foreground the stakes of these impingements in cities. Cases examined include urban waste systems, disasters, noise hazards, and mobility constraints. Throughout, our readings, conversations and excursions will consider what attention to the urban built environment can bring to studies of social inequality and urban social movements.

Philosophy of Language and Mind

SIPA
Christopher Peacocke
Undergraduate lecture
UN3252
MW 4:10-5:25

This course will survey the most fundamental issues about the nature of language and the nature of the human mind. readings will consist of selections from Descartes, Locke, Frege, Wittgenstein, Chomsky, Quine, Davidson, Kripke, McDowell, Burge and some more recent writings.

Philosophy of Science

SIPA

David Albert

Undergraduate lecture

PHILV3551

TTH 10:10-11:25AM

Prerequisites: one philosophy course or the instructor's permission. Philosophical problems within science and about the nature of scientific knowledge in the 17th-20th centuries. Sample problems: causation and scientific explanation; induction and real kinds; verification and falsification; models, analogies and simulations; the historical origins of the modern sciences; scientific revolutions; reductionism and supervenience; differences between physics, biology and the social sciences; the nature of life; cultural evolution; human nature; philosophical issues in cosmology.

Technology, religion, and future

Religion

David Kittay

Graduate Seminar

RELIW4616

TH 4:10-6PM

This seminar will examine the history of the impact of technology and media on religion and vice versa before bringing into focus the main event: religion today and in the future. We'll read the classics as well as review current writing, video and other media, bringing thinkers such as Eliade, McLuhan, Mumford and Weber into dialogue with the current writing of Kurzweil, Lanier and Taylor, and look at, among other things: ethics in a Virtual World; the relationship between Burning Man, a potential new religion, and technology; the relevance of God and The Rapture in Kurzweil's Singularity; and what will become of karma when carbon-based persons merge with silicon-based entities and other advanced technologies.

The Social History of American Public Health

Sociomedical Sciences

David Rosner

Graduate Seminar

P8773

T 8:30-11:20AM

The role public health practice has played in American history during the 19th and 20th centuries. The social/biological environment and the creation of conditions for 19th-century epidemics of cholera, typhoid, yellow fever and other epidemic diseases. The changing urban and industrial infrastructure and their relationship to late 19th- and 20th-century concerns about tuberculosis, industrial illness and infection. Public health practice and campaigns. Social attitudes towards the industrial worker, the immigrant, and the urban environment. Boundaries between public health and medical practice and their shifting definitions. Changes in urban living and culture through the transformation of the industrial work place.

Medicine and Western Civilization

History

David Rothman

Undergraduate Seminar

UN3911

M 4:10-6PM

This seminar seeks to analyze the ways by which medicine and culture combine to shape our values and traditions. To this end, it will examine notable literary, medical, and social texts from classical antiquity to the present.

Social History of American Public Health

Anthropology

James Colgrove

Undergraduate lecture

HSPBUN2950

TTH 8:40-9:55AM

This course introduces students to the historical development of public health in the United States. The course traces the evolution of public health—as both a conceptual framework and a set of institutions and practices—from its beginnings in the sanitary reform movement of the nineteenth century to its status as a broad and expansive field at the end of the twentieth century.

Science for Sustainability

History

John C Mutter, Ruth Defries

Undergraduate seminar

EESC UN2330

MW 2:40-3:55PM

Provides an introduction to natural science approaches essential to understanding central issues of sustainable development. Topics may include: climate, ecology/agriculture/biodiversity, energy, natural disasters, population dynamics, public health

and water resources. Treatment includes background, methods and applications from selected settings throughout the world. Taught by specialists in a number of fields.

Culture and Mental Health

History

Karen Seely

Undergraduate Seminar

ANTH UN3966x

T 10:10-12PM

This course considers mental disturbance and its relief by examining historical, anthropological, psychoanalytic and psychiatric notions of self, suffering, and cure. After exploring the ways in which conceptions of mental suffering and abnormality are produced, we look at specific kinds of psychic disturbances and at various methods for their alleviation. Prerequisites: the instructor's permission. Limited to juniors & seniors.

The Medical Imaginary

History

Lesley Sharp

Undergraduate Seminar

ANTH UN3879x

M 12:10-2PM

How might we speak of an imaginary within biomedicine? This course interrogates the ideological underpinnings of technocratic medicine in contexts that extend from the art of surgery to patient participation in experimental drug trials. Issues of scale will prove especially important in our efforts to track the medical imaginary from the whole, fleshy body to the molecular level. Key themes include everyday ethics; ways of seeing and knowing; suffering and hope; and subjectivity in a range of medical and sociomedical contexts. Open to anthropology majors; non-majors require instructor's permission.

Human Nature: DNA, Race & Identity

Anthropology

Marya Pollack and Prof. Robert Pollack

Graduate seminar

GU4321

W 2:10-4PM

The course focuses on human identity, beginning with the individual and progressing to communal and global viewpoints using a framework of perspectives from biology, genetics, medicine, psychiatry, religion and the law.

Science fiction poetics

English

Michael Golston
Graduate lecture
GU4635
MW 6:10-7:25PM

Craft and Science in the Early Modern World

Biology and Columbia College

Pamela Smith
Graduate seminar
GR8906

M 10:10am to 2pm with required lab times through the semester

This course studies the materials, techniques, settings, and meanings of skilled craft and artistic practices in the early modern period (1350-1750), in order to reflect upon a series of issues, including craft knowledge and artisanal epistemology; the intersections between craft and science; and questions of historical methodology and evidence in the reconstruction of historical experience. The course will be run as a "Laboratory Seminar," with discussions of primary and secondary materials, as well as text-based research and hands-on work in a laboratory. This course is one component of the Making and Knowing Project of the Center for Science and Society. This course contributes to the collective production of a transcription, English translation, and critical edition of a late sixteenth-century manuscript in French, Ms. Fr. 640. In 2014-15, the course concentrated on mold-making and metalworking. In 2015-16, it focused on color-making, including pigments, varnishes, cold enamels, dyes, imitation gems, and other color processes, and in 2016-17 on vernacular natural history and practical optics. Students are encouraged to take this course for both semesters (or more), but will receive full credit only once. Different laboratory work and readings will be carried out each semester. This course will also be open to a small number of select undergraduates, with instructor's permission and an add/drop form.

Life at the end of life: Palliative medicine and service

American Studies
Robert Pollack and colleagues
Undergraduate seminar
UN3930
TH 4:10-6 pm

This Seminar is designed to provide opportunities for readings and reflections on the experience of volunteer service work. At least one prior semester of volunteer work in a clinical setting relevant to the syllabus is recommended. The fieldwork component of the course is met by the student's continued direct service work in that context, during the course itself

Culture, Motivation and Prosocial Behavior

Philosophy

Svetlana Komissarouk
Graduate Seminar
GU4645
W 2:10-4:00PM

Prerequisites: Some knowledge of Research Methods, Statistics, and Social Psychology, plus Instructor's Permission. Reviews and integrates current research on three important topics of social psychology: culture, motivation, and prosocial behavior. Discussions and readings will cover theoretical principles, methodological approaches, and the intersection of these three topics. Students will write a personal research proposal based on the theories presented during the seminar.

Science, State Power & Ethics

Science and Public Policy
Timothy J Halpin-Healy
Graduate Seminar
SCPPBC3334
Tu 4:10-6PM

A comparative study of science in the service of the State in the U.S., the former Soviet Union, Fascist Italy, and Nazi Germany during pivotal periods through the first half of the 20th century. Topics to be covered include the political and moral consequences of policies based upon advances in the natural sciences making possible the development of TNT, nerve gas, uranium fission and hydrogen fusion atomic bombs. Considers the tensions involved in balancing scientific imperatives, patriotic commitment to the nation-state, and universal moral principles and tensions faced by Robert Oppenheimer, Andrei Sakharov, Neils Bohr and Werner Heisenberg. Selected readings include: Michael Frayn's play Copenhagen, Hitler's Uranium Club by Jeremy Bernstein, Brecht's Galileo, John McPhee's The Curve of Binding Energy, Richard Rhodes' The Making of the Atomic Bomb.

The Psychology of Culture and Diversity

History
Valerie J Purdie-Vaughns
Graduate Seminar
GU4615
W 2:10-4pm

Prerequisites: the instructor's permission; some basic knowledge of social psychology is desirable.

A comprehensive examination of how culture and diversity shape psychological processes. The class will explore psychological and political underpinnings of culture and diversity, emphasizing social psychological approaches. Topics include culture and self, culture and social cognition, group and identity formation, science of diversity, stereotyping, prejudice, and gender. Applications to real-world phenomena discussed.

