500 Level Courses

ART 515 /HUM 515 /LAS 515
Decolonizing Art History
Professor(s): Beatrice E. Kitzinger, Irene V. Small
Art history's disciplinary origins are inextricable from European colonialism and imperialism, and often work to uphold racialized concepts of development, civilization, style. The contemporary practice of art history demands that we acknowledge these origins while imagining a decolonized art history for the present. Drawing from decolonial paradigms, recent scholarship, and foundational texts of critical race studies, we work to analyze and actively reconfigure conventions of field formation, research, and format. In keeping with the political imperative of praxis, students workshop research topics and problems individually and collectively.
Schedule: S01 1:30 pm-4:20 T

SPA 562 /LAS 542 /HUM 562
The Cinema of Cruelty
Professor(s): Javier E. Guerrero
Drawing on Antonin Artaud's ideas around theatre of cruelty and André Bazin's notions of auteur film and its subversive capacity, this course looks at a group of Latin American and Spanish films and directors to explore how cruelty has become a recognizable aesthetic, one with strategic relevance for Hispanic film. This seminar will understand film as a text in which cruelty functions as a cinematic trope, and will also reflect on spectatorship, film's ability to inflict pain and, even more, the possibility that film constitutes a modern spectacle of cruelty.
Schedule: S01 1:30 pm-4:20 Th

ENG 574 /ENV 574 /LAS 574
Literature and Society: Global Perspectives on Environmental Justice through Literature & Film
Professor(s): Robert Nixon
This interdisciplinary seminar in the environmental humanities explores imaginative and political responses to unequal access to resources and unequal exposure to risk during a time of widening economic disparity. To engage these concerns, we venture to India, Japan, the Caribbean, South Africa, Kenya, the U.S., India, Cambodia, and Bolivia. Issues we address include: the interface between climate justice and social justice; water security, deforestation, the commons, Indigenous movements, the environmentalism of the poor, the gendered and racial dimensions of environmental justice and more-than-human environmental justice. Prerequisites and Restrictions: Students pursuing a LAS certificate will be required to submit their final written course work on a Latin American topic.
Schedule: S01 1:30 pm-4:20 F
SOC 581 /LAS 518
Urban Sociology: Changing Cities in the Global Age (Half-Term)
Professor(s): Patricia Fernández-Kelly
For the first time in history, more than half of the world's population lives in cities. By 2030 that figure may rise to 60 percent. Such telluric transformations are taking place amidst (1) global economic integration; (2) rapid climatic and environmental change; and (3) rising levels of migration both internal and across international borders. The course provides a sketch of urban evolution prior to the onset of modernity. It then examines urbanization in the United States and selected locations in Latin America, Europe, and Asia with special attention to spatial reconfigurations, population shifts, and challenges faced by urban dwellers. Other Information: This class meets from 2/5/21 - 3/12/21.
Schedule: S01 1:30 pm-4:30 F

HUM 597 /ARC 597 /LAS 597 /SPA 557 /MOD 597
Humanistic Perspectives on History and Society: Tropical Modern: Cuba, Architecture, Revolution
Professor(s): Beatriz Colomina, Rubén Gallo
In the years immediately before and after the 1959 Revolution, Havana was one of the great laboratories for experiments with modern architecture in a tropical and political climate. This seminar will expand the understanding of modern architecture and urbanism in Cuba to include the full kaleidoscope of historical, political and cultural effects of the revolution. Through a series of case studies, we will explore the spatial dimensions of a wide range of issues: climate, utopia, cold war, prefabrication, tropical modernism, ruins, preservation, disease, sexuality, violence and resistance-using multiple theoretical frames.
Schedule: S01 1:30 pm-4:20 Th

400 Level Courses

PRIMARY LAS COURSES
LAS 412 /ENV 414 /ANT 329
Amazonia, The Last Frontier: History, Culture, and Power
Professor(s): Miqueias H. Mugge, Carlos Fausto
This course focuses on the Brazilian Amazon, the world's largest tropical forest and the ancestral home of over one million Indigenous peoples, now threatened by deforestation and fires. Further degradation will have disastrous consequences for its peoples, biodiversity, rainfall and agriculture, and global climate change. Combining perspectives from the social sciences and the humanities, we will critically examine projects to colonize, develop, and conserve the Amazon over time and reflect on the cultural wisdoms of its guardians. Students will work together to develop alternative visions to safeguard the forest for Brazil and the planet.
Schedule: S01 1:30 pm-4:20 T

LAS 416 /HUM 416 /ART 416
Reading the Landscapes of Colonial Latin America
Professor(s): Noa E. Corcoran-Tadd
The three centuries of Spanish and Portuguese colonialism in the Americas saw some of the most dramatic transformations in global history, from massive population collapse to the first global commodity chains. This course explores the relationships between abstractions like 'colonialism' and 'capitalism' and the concrete places that shaped and were shaped by Indigenous rebels, colonial administrators, missionaries, and enslaved laborers. Bringing together insights from history, archaeology, and historical ecology, we will explore these landscapes through a rich combination of archival maps, satellite imagery, and archaeological datasets.
Schedule: S01 1:30 pm-4:20 W
FRE 403 /LAS 423
Topics in Francophone Literature, Culture, and History: Francophone Caribbean Literature
Professor(s): F. Nick Nesbitt
An examination of the literature of the francophone Caribbean from the Haitian Revolution to the present. The course focuses on how literary creation, history and theoretical reflection united in this unique and compelling culture. Caribbean literature in French is the symbolic, imaginative expression of the peoples of the French-speaking regions of the Caribbean, including Haiti, Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guyana, and their dependencies.
Schedule: L01 11:00 am-12:20 M

POR 415 /LAS 425
The Canon Re-signified
Professor(s): Pedro Meira Monteiro, Lilia K. Moritz Schwarcz
This course will focus on Brazilian literature through the close reading of different genres, from fiction to poetry and essays. Each class will concentrate on a single text, with a close look at the way it was crafted and a discussion of the author’s biography and historical moment. Through the study of 19th-century to contemporary authors, we will discuss how a canon can be re-signified when it takes in women, Black and Indigenous writers.
Schedule: C01 1:30 pm-4:20 W

POL 430 /LAS 433
Seminar in Comparative Politics: Political Institutions and Governance in the Developing World
Professor(s): Leonard Wantchekon
This course covers major recent developments in political economy of development with special focus on political institutions and governance. The course will be structured in three parts. The first part will cover broad macro political economy issues (e.g. institutions and institutional change). The second part will focus on micro issues (e.g. property rights, clientelism, state capture and decentralization). The final part will draw mostly from the experimental literature and discuss institutional reforms that aim at improving democratic governance.
Schedule: S01 1:30 pm-2:50 MW

COM 449 /SPA 449 /LAS 449
Violence, Migration, and Literature in the Americas
Professor(s): Susana Draper
This course studies literature dealing with contemporary regimes of violence and forced migration in the Americas. Focusing on the passage from the Cold War to the War on Drugs, it analyzes the history of the current "migration crisis" in relation to structural adjustments, regimes of accumulation, border patrolling, and immigrant incarceration. Working with poetry, narrative, essays, and film, it explores the ways in which artistic interventions and cultural imagination have become crucial spaces for creating systems of legibility and resistance that reflect on the migrant experience and the historicity of multiple injustices.
Schedule: L01 1:30 pm-4:20 W