An informed engagement with the world is an indispensable part of the liberal education that is the goal of the Williams experience. The Global Studies Program enables students to achieve this goal through a cross-disciplinary and comparative curriculum. The program offers multiple tracks, on a region of the world or theme, around which students construct their global studies concentration.

Requirements

To complete the concentration, students must take a section of Global Studies 101; take a comparative course; fulfill the requirements of a track; and complete a senior exercise in the track.

Global Studies 101

All students wishing to pursue the concentration should take a section of Global Studies 101 early in their careers. The topics and regions covered will vary and be selective, but all will be designed to place cultural, political, economic and technological issues in conversation with one another to illustrate the necessity of cross-disciplinary and comparative perspectives. On occasion, students may petition to substitute a course equivalent in scope to Global Studies 101 to meet this requirement.

TRACKS

After taking Global Studies 101, students are asked to select a track that will structure their global studies curriculum. There are two types of track. The first focuses on a particular region of the world or a contact zone where multiple communities encounter one another. The second type is organized thematically and permits students to explore a cultural, political, economic or technological issue globally and comparatively. Each track is administered by faculty teaching in that track in consultation with the advisory committee. At present the program consists of the following tracks:

Area Tracks

- African Studies
- East Asian Studies
- Latin American Studies
- Middle Eastern Studies
- Russian and Eurasian Studies
- South and Southeast Asian Studies

Thematic Tracks

- Borders, Exile and Diaspora Studies
- Economic Development Studies
- Urbanizing World

To fulfill the requirements of a track, students must complete three approved courses from at least two disciplines and address their track in their senior exercise. Faculty in each track may set an additional requirement of a level of language competency for its concentrators. Students may petition to use courses completed on approved study away programs to fulfill elective requirements. Students may not count a course toward more than one requirement in the track.

Senior Exercise

All concentrators must complete a senior exercise. The senior exercise will be a substantial piece of writing (20-25 pages) that draws together concentrators’ disciplinary skills and their expertise in their track. It might be work done in the context of a senior capstone course in a relevant department or in the context of a shared seminar sponsored by the Global Studies program. Concentrators present their final senior exercise in class or in a Global Studies colloquium, or in both.

Concentrators must also take a comparative course—that is, a course that might not cover material directly dealing with the track, but would enrich a student’s engagement through comparative inquiry.
Honors

A candidate for honors in Global Studies must maintain at least a B+ average in the concentration and be admitted to candidacy by the program faculty. An honors candidate must complete their project in a semester (and Winter Study). An honors candidate will prepare a forty-page thesis or its equivalent while enrolled in the senior thesis course, 491 or 492 (and Winter Study). This course will be in addition to the courses required to fulfill the concentration.

A student wishing to become a candidate for honors in Global Studies should secure a faculty sponsor and inform the program chair in writing before spring registration of her/his junior year.

Study Away, Research, and Internships

Although not a requirement, study away, research, and/or relevant internships are an essential component of Global Studies. Where relevant to the curriculum plan of concentrators, the program Chair, in coordination with the Study Away Advisor and the Career Center, will advise students on opportunities in these areas.

FAQ

Students MUST contact department/program BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes, in many cases, though students should be sure to contact the department.

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Course title and description, and complete syllabus, including readings/assignments.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?

No, but students should not expect to get more than 3 study abroad courses counted towards the concentration.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?

No.

Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?

Yes. Typically the Introduction to Global Studies and the senior exercise cannot be fulfilled abroad.

Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)

No.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:

None to date.

Note: as course offerings change every year, students should feel free to check with the Program Chair to see if courses not listed below might count as electives.

AREA TRACKS

African Studies

AFR 200(F, S)Introduction to Africana Studies
  Taught by: Rashida Braggs, VaNatta Ford
  Catalog details

ARTH 259 / AFR 259 / ARAB 259(S)Bilad al-Sudan and Beyond: Arts of the Afro-Islamic World
  Taught by: TBA
  Catalog details

BIOL 134 / ENVI 134(F)The Tropics: Biology and Social Issues
  Taught by: Joan Edwards
  Catalog details

DANC 201 / AFR 201 / MUS 220(S)African Dance and Percussion
  Taught by: Sandra Burton, Tendai Muparutsa
  Catalog details

DANC 202 / AFR 206 / MUS 221(F)African Dance and Percussion
  Taught by: Sandra Burton, Tendai Muparutsa
  Catalog details
ECON 204 / ENVI 234(S) Economics of Developing Countries
Taught by: Michael Samson
Catalog details

MUS 120 / AFR 113 Musics of Africa
Taught by: Corinna Campbell
Catalog details

MUS 222 / AFR 223(F) Politics of Performance/Performing Politics in Contemporary Africa
Taught by: Corinna Campbell
Catalog details

PSCI 243 / AFR 256 Politics of Africa
Taught by: Ngonidzashe Munemo
Catalog details

ARTh 103 / ASST 103(S) Asian Art Survey: From the Land of the Buddha to the World of the Geisha
Taught by: Ju-Yu Scarlett Jang
Catalog details

ARTh 270 / ASST 270 Visual Arts of Japan
Taught by: Ju-Yu Scarlett Jang
Catalog details

ARTh 274 / ARTS 274 / ASST 274(S) Chinese Calligraphy: Theory and Practice
Taught by: Ju-Yu Scarlett Jang
Catalog details

CHIN 223 / ANTH 223 Ethnic Minorities in China: Past and Present
Taught by: Li Yu
Catalog details

COMP 255 / ASST 253 Love and Death in Modern Japanese Literature
Taught by: Christopher Bolton
Catalog details

COMP 264 / ASST 254 The End of the World in Japanese Literature and Visual Culture
Taught by: TBA
Catalog details

HIST 115 / ASST 115(F) The World of the Mongol Empire
Taught by: Anne Reinhardt
Catalog details

HIST 212 / ASST 212 Transforming the "Middle Kingdom": China, 2000 BCE-1600
Taught by: Anne Reinhardt
Catalog details

HIST 213 / ASST 213(S) Modern China, 1600-Present
Taught by: Anne Reinhardt
Catalog details

HIST 217 / ASST 217(F) Early Modern Japan
Taught by: Eiko Maruko Siniawer
Catalog details

HIST 319 / ASST 319 / WGSS 319 Gender and the Family in Chinese History
Taught by: Anne Reinhardt
Catalog details

HIST 321 / ASST 321 History of U.S.-Japan Relations
Taught by: Eiko Maruko Siniawer
Catalog details

East Asian Studies

East Asian Studies
JAPN 276 / COMP 278 Premodern Japanese Literature and Performance
Taught by: TBA
Catalog details

PSCI 247 Political Power in Contemporary China
Taught by: George Crane
Catalog details

PSCI 345 Cosmology and Rulership in Ancient Chinese Political Thought
Taught by: George Crane
Catalog details

PSCI 354 / ASST 245 / HIST 318(F) Nationalism in East Asia
Taught by: George Crane
Catalog details

REL 250 / ASST 250 Scholars, Saints and Immortals: Virtue Ethics in East Asia
Taught by: Jason Josephson Storm
Catalog details

REL 256 / ANTH 256 / ASST 256 / WGSS 256 Buddhism, Sex, & Gender: #MeToo Then and Now
Taught by: Kim Gutschow
Catalog details

THEA 262 / COMP 262 Japanese Theatre and its Contemporary Context
Taught by: TBA
Catalog details

Latin American Studies

AFR 248 / HIST 248 The Caribbean: From Slavery to Independence
Taught by: Shanti Singham
Catalog details

HIST 242(F) Latin America From Conquest to Independence
Taught by: Roger Kittleson
Catalog details

HIST 243 Modern Latin America, 1822 to the Present
Taught by: Roger Kittleson
Catalog details

HIST 346 / AFR 346(S) Modern Brazil
Taught by: Roger Kittleson
Catalog details

HIST 347 Democracy and Dictatorship in Latin America
Taught by: Roger Kittleson
Catalog details

PSCI 266 The United States and Latin America
Taught by: James Mahon
Catalog details

PSCI 349 TISIS Cuba and the United States
Taught by: James Mahon
Catalog details

PSCI 351 / GBST 351 The New Left and Neoliberalism in Latin America
Taught by: James Mahon
Catalog details

PSCI 352 / GBST 352 Politics in Mexico
Taught by: James Mahon
Catalog details

RLSP 203(F) From Modernismo to El Boom de la Novela
Taught by: Gene Bell-Villada
Catalog details

RLSP 205 / COMP 205 The Latin-American Novel in Translation
Taught by: Gene Bell-Villada
Catalog details

RLSP 308(S) The Subject of Empire: Race, Gender and Power in the Colonial Era
Taught by: Jennifer French
Catalog details

Middle Eastern Studies

ANTH 210 / ARAB 210 / GBST 210 / HIST 210 / REL 240 The Challenge of ISIS
Taught by: David Edwards
Catalog details
ARAB 331 / COMP 332 Popular Culture in the Arab World: Youth, Populism, and Politics
Taught by: Amal Eqeiq
Catalog details

ARAB 368 / COMP 368 / WGSS 368 Arab Women Writers: Remapping Urban Narratives
Taught by: Amal Eqeiq
Catalog details

ARTH 220 Sacred Spaces of Islam
Taught by: Holly Edwards
Catalog details

ARTH 278 / ARAB 278 The Golden Road to Samarqand
Taught by: Holly Edwards
Catalog details

HIST 111 / ARAB 111 / LEAD 150 Movers and Shakers in the Middle East
Taught by: Magnus Bernhardsson
Catalog details

HIST 207 / GBST 101 / ARAB 207 / LEAD 207 / JWST 217 / REL 239(F) The Modern Middle East
Taught by: Magnus Bernhardsson
Catalog details

HIST 212 / ASST 212 Transforming the "Middle Kingdom": China, 2000 BCE-1600
Taught by: Anne Reinhardt
Catalog details

HIST 310 / ARAB 310 Iraq and Iran in the Twentieth Century
Taught by: Magnus Bernhardsson
Catalog details

HIST 409 / ARAB 409 / GBST 409(F) Crescent, Cross, and Star: Religion and Politics in the Middle East
Taught by: Magnus Bernhardsson
Catalog details

HIST 480 T / ARAB 480 / GBST 480 / JWST 480 Interpretations of the Israeli Palestinian Conflict
Taught by: Magnus Bernhardsson
Catalog details

PSCI 268 Israeli Politics
Catalog details

Russian and Eurasian Studies

RUSS 203 / COMP 203(F) Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature: Rebels and Rebellion
Taught by: Vladimir Ivantsov
Catalog details

RUSS 204 / COMP 204 Russia's Long Revolution: a Survey of Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century Russian Culture
Taught by: Jason Cieply
Catalog details

RUSS 213 / GBST 213 / WGSS 214 / COMP 257(F) Why do Pussies Riot and What is "Homosexual" Propaganda? Gender and Sexuality in Putin's Russia
Taught by: Julie Cassiday
Catalog details

South and Southeast Asia Studies

ANTH 233 / ASST 233 / REL 253 Spiritual Crossroads: Religious Life in Southeast Asia
Taught by: Peter Just
Catalog details

ANTH 269 T / ASST 269 / REL 269 / STS 269(F, S) Mind'sight: Mindfulness and Medicine
Taught by: Kim Gutschow
Catalog details

ECON 240 T Colonialism and Underdevelopment in South Asia
Taught by: Anand Swamy
Catalog details

HIST 117 / ASST 117 / GBST 117(S) Bombay/Mumbai: Making of a Modern Metropolis
Taught by: Aparna Kapadia
Catalog details
HIST 220 / ASST 222(S) History and Society in India and South Asia: c. 2000 to 1700s CE

Taught by: Aparna Kapadia
Catalog details
HIST 221 / ASST 221 / GBST 221(F) The Making of Modern South Asia: 1750-1950 CE

Taught by: Jessica Chapman
Catalog details
HIST 391 / ASST 391 / GBST 391 When India was the World: Trade, Travel and History in the Indian Ocean

Taught by: Aparna Kapadia
Catalog details
HIST 488 T / REL 388 / ASST 488 / GBST 488 Gandhi: Nationalism, Philosophy, and Legacy

Taught by: Kim Gutschow
Catalog details
REL 246 T / ANTH 246 / ASST 246 / WGSS 246(F, S) India's Identities: Reproducing the Nation, Community and Individual

Taught by: Georges Dreyfus
Catalog details
REL 255 / ANTH 255 / ASST 255 Buddhism: Ideas and Practices

THEMATIC TRACKS

Borders, Exile and Diaspora Studies

COMP 242 / AMST 242 / ENGL 250 Americans Abroad
- Taught by: Soledad Fox
Catalog details
COMP 369 / HIST 306 / ARAB 369 / GBST 369 Indigenous Narratives: From the Fourth World to the Global South
- Taught by: Amal Eqeiq
Catalog details
GERM 316 "Wer ist wir?": Recent Debates over Multiculture in Germany
- Taught by: Helga Druxes
Catalog details
HIST 380 Comparative American Immigration History
- Taught by: Scott Wong
Catalog details
LATS 203 / ARTH 203 / WGSS 203 / AMST 205 Chicana/o Film and Video
- Taught by: C. Ondine Chavoya
Catalog details
LATS 338 / COMP 338 / AMST 339 Latina/o/x Musical Cultures: Sounding Out Gender, Race, and Sexuality
- Taught by: Maria Elena Cepeda
Catalog details
LATS 386 / HIST 386 / WGSS 386 Latinas in the Global Economy: Work, Migration, and Households
- Taught by: Carmen Whalen
Catalog details
LATS 409 / WGSS 409 / AMST 411(F) Transnationalism and Difference: Comparative Perspectives
- Taught by: Maria Elena Cepeda
Catalog details
LATS 471 / HIST 471 Comparative Latina/o Migrations
- Taught by: Carmen Whalen
Catalog details
PSCI 225 / LEAD 225(F) International Security
- Taught by: Galen E Jackson
Catalog details
RLFR 203 / AFR 204 / COMP 282 Introduction to Francophone Literatures
- Taught by: Sophie Saint-Just
Catalog details

Economic Development Studies

ECON 204 / ENVI 234(S) Economics of Developing Countries
- Taught by: Michael Samson
Catalog details
ECON 215 / GBST 315: Globalization
  Taught by: Will Olney
  Catalog details

ECON 219 T: Global Economic History
  Taught by: Steven Nafziger
  Catalog details

ECON 360: Monetary Economics
  Taught by: Kenneth Kuttner
  Catalog details

ECON 362(S): Global Competitive Strategies
  Taught by: Michael Fortunato
  Catalog details

ECON 501(F): Economic Growth and Development
  Taught by: Quamrul Ashraf
  Catalog details

ECON 504(F): Public Economics in Developing Countries
  Taught by: Jon Bakija
  Catalog details

ECON 505(F): Developing Country Macroeconomics I: Theory
  Taught by: Peter Montiel
  Catalog details

ECON 510 / ECON 352(S): Financial Development and Regulation
  Taught by: Gerard Caprio
  Catalog details

ECON 515 / ECON 359(S): Developing Country Macroeconomics II: Institutions and Policy Regimes
  Taught by: Kenneth Kuttner
  Catalog details

ECON 516 / ECON 366: International Trade and Development
  Taught by: Will Olney
  Catalog details

ECON 535 T: International Financial Institutions
  Taught by: Edwin Truman
  Catalog details

ECON 537 T: Developing Money and Capital Markets
  Taught by: Eli Remolona
  Catalog details

POEC 401(F): Contemporary Problems in Political Economy
  Taught by: David Zimmerman
  Catalog details

PSCI 229: Global Political Economy
  Taught by: Darel Paul
  Catalog details

Urbanizing World

ANTH 216 T / GBST 216: Urbanism in the Ancient World
  Taught by: Antonia Foias
  Catalog details

ENVI 101(F): Nature and Society: An Introduction to Environmental Studies
  Taught by: Pia Kohler, Laura Martin, April Merleaux
  Catalog details

LATS 220 / AMST 221 / ENVI 221: Introduction to Urban Studies: Shaping and Living the City
  Taught by: Mérida Rúa
  Catalog details

LATS 312 / AMST 312 / ENVI 313: Chicago
  Taught by: Mérida Rúa
  Catalog details

RLFR 316 / WGSS 315: Paris on Fire: Incendiary Voices from the City of Light (1830-2015)
  Taught by: Brian Martin
  Catalog details

SOC 216: The City
  Taught by: Marketa Rulkova
  Catalog details

SOC 315: Culture, Consumption and Modernity
  Taught by: Olga Shevchenko
  Catalog details
GBST 30 (W) Sr Proj: Global Studies

To be taken by candidates for honors in Global Studies.

Class Format: honors project
Grading: pass/fail only
Distributions: (D2)

Winter 2020
HON Section: 01 TBA James E. Mahon

GBST 31 (W) Senior Thesis: Global Studies

Global Studies senior thesis.

Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only
Distributions: (D2)

Winter 2020
HON Section: 01 TBA James E. Mahon

GBST 99 (W) Indep. Study: Global Studies

Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only
Distributions: (D2)

Winter 2020
IND Section: 01 TBA James E. Mahon

GBST 101 (S) America and the World

Cross-listings: PSCI 120 GBST 101 LEAD 120

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will help students understand the US role in the world. US wealth and military power force its leaders to make choices that no other leaders in the world confront. Students will learn to evaluate the decisions that US leaders have made on a wide range of difficult foreign policy issues, including: rising Chinese power; Russian moves in Ukraine; nuclear proliferation to Iran; terrorist threats; humanitarian disasters in Syria and Libya; and long-term challenges like climate change. We will not only describe American involvement in various international issues but also seek to understand the reasons why the US perhaps should or should not be involved, and we will see why such careful reasoning only sometimes gains traction in actual US foreign policy debates. Finally, we will assess whether US foreign policy decisions are coherent - that is, whether the US can be said to follow a "grand strategy." By the end of the course, students will develop their ability to think about foreign policy issues, improving their ability to participate in public life as engaged citizens.

Class Format: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: short papers, class participation, and final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 30
Enrollment Preferences: first-years and sophomores
Expected Class Size: 30
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 120 (D2) GBST 101 (D2) LEAD 120 (D2)
Attributes: PSCI International Relations Courses
Not offered current academic year

GBST 101  (F)  The Modern Middle East  (DPE)
Cross-listings: HiST 207  ARAB 207  GBST 101  REL 239  LEAD 207  JWST 217
Secondary Cross-listing
This survey course addresses the main economic, religious, political and cultural trends in the modern Middle East. Topics to be covered include the cultural diversity of the Middle East, relations with Great Powers, the impact of imperialism, the challenge of modernity, the creation of nation states and nationalist ideologies, the discovery of oil, radical religious groups, and war and peace. Throughout the course these significant changes will be evaluated in light of their impact on the lives of a variety of individuals in the region and especially how they have grappled differently with increasing Western political and economic domination.
Class Format: lecture
Requirements/Evaluation: participation, two short papers, quizzes, midterm, and final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 40
Enrollment Preferences: History & Arabic majors, and Jewish studies concentrators; completion of course admission survey if overenrolled
Expected Class Size: 30-40
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)  (DPE)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HIST 207 (D2) ARAB 207 (D2) GBST 101 (D2) REL 239 (D2) LEAD 207 (D2) JWST 217 (D2)
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course introduces students to the incredible diversity of the Middle East. It will explore how people of different backgrounds and in different situations have responded in diverse ways to the problems of the day. Students will acquire the critical tools to assess a number of interpretations of the past and how to understand and appreciate the many narratives in the Middle East today that have profound political and cultural implications.
Attributes: GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives  HIST Group E Electives - Middle East  JWST Elective Courses  LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01    TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm    Magnús T. Bernhardsson

GBST 101  (F)  Democracy and the State: A Comparative Study
Cross-listings: GBST 101  PSCI 150
Primary Cross-listing
This introductory course examines major western political theories and ideologies, such as Liberalism and Marxism, and then examines their application in selected regional case studies. The social contract theories of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau form the basis of the course.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: short papers, final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: first year students

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
GBST 101 (D2) PSCI 150 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

GBST 117 (S) Bombay/Mumbai: Making of a Modern Metropolis (WS)

Cross-listings: GBST 117 HIST 117 ASST 117

Secondary Cross-listing
Bombay or Mumbai is India's foremost urban center and is well known today as a truly global city. It is the heart of India's commercial life comparable in vibrancy and multiculturalism with the world's emerging cities like Shanghai, Hong Kong and Sao Paulo. What are the historical elements that contributed to the making of India's most modern and global metropolis? What are the antecedents of the modernity, the vibrant culture, dark underbelly and economic diversity that characterize Bombay today? What does the history of Bombay tell us about modernity in India and the emerging countries of the third world in general? This seminar will help students to answer these questions through historical materials on Bombay as well a wide range of multimedia sources including cinema, photography and literature. With a focus on the 19th and 20th centuries, we will explore themes like the commercial culture of a colonial port city, the modern public sphere, theatre and film, labor migration, public health and prostitution to understand what went into the making of this modern metropolis. The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to a wide range of historical sources and ways of interpreting them. The other objective is facilitating their understanding of the history of modern India through the history of its most important city.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: assessment will be based on class participation and weekly responses to readings, 2-3 short papers, leading to an oral presentation and final paper

Prerequisites: first-year or sophomore standing; juniors or seniors with permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: First-Year Students, and then Sophomores who have not previously taken a 100-level seminar; not open to juniors or seniors

Expected Class Size: 15-19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
GBST 117 (D2) HIST 117 (D2) ASST 117 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Weekly reading response (less than 1000 words), several short papers leading to a final research paper. Peer reviews and instructor feedback of all written work to improve writing skills.

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01 MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Aparna Kapadia

GBST 210 (S) The Challenge of ISIS

Cross-listings: HIST 210 ANTH 210 GBST 210 ARAB 210 REL 240

Secondary Cross-listing
What is ISIS and what does it want? Using historical and anthropological sources and perspectives, the course considers the origins, ideology and organization of the Islamic State. Beginning with an examination of early radical movements, including the Muslim Brotherhood, the Afghan mujahidin and Taliban, and al-Qaeda, the course will go on to investigate how ISIS derives important aspects of its ideology and organization from these earlier movements and how it deviates from them. We will look at unique aspects of the movement, such as its use of social media, its extensive destruction
of ancient historical sites, its staging of spectacles of violence, and its recruitment of Muslims from Europe and North America. We will also examine the ideological constitution of the movement, including its attitude toward and treatment of non-Muslims, its conceptualization of itself as a modern incarnation of the original Islamic caliphate, the ways in which it justifies its use of violence, and its apocalyptic vision of the present-day as End Time. Finally, we will evaluate current responses to ISIS, in the West and among Muslims in the Middle East and elsewhere, in terms of their effectiveness and strategic coherence.

Class Format: lecture
Requirements/Evaluation: blogs (4 main blog posts, responses to at least 3-4 other blogs each week) (30%); analytic paper or class history paper (35%); 2 midterms (35%)
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 40
Expected Class Size: 40
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HIST 210 (D2) ANTH 210 (D2) GBST 210 (D2) ARAB 210 (D2) REL 240 (D2)
Attributes: GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives HIST Group E Electives - Middle East
Not offered current academic year

GBST 211 (S) Transitions to Democracy
Cross-listings: PSCI 213 GBST 211
Primary Cross-listing
Under what circumstances do authoritarian regimes democratize and what is required to sustain the liberalization of the political system? This comparative course looks at a sample of societies characterized by strong ethnic, religious or racial cleavages.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: short papers, final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 213 (D2) GBST 211 (D2)
Not offered current academic year

GBST 212 (F) Foundations of China
Cross-listings: ANTH 212 REL 218 GBST 212 CHIN 214 HIST 214
Secondary Cross-listing
This course examines the foundational period of Chinese civilization, from the earliest evidence of human activity in the geographical region we now call China, through the end of the Han dynasty in the early third-century CE. This is the period that saw the creation and spread of the Chinese script (a writing system that would be the dominant one in East Asia for thousands of years), the teachings of Confucius (whose ideas continue to play a role in the lives of billions of people today), the construction of the Great Wall (which is not, as it turns out, visible from space), and the creation of the imperial bureaucratic system (that was, in essence, the progenitor of the modern bureaucratic state). We will proceed chronologically but focus on a set of thematic topics, including language and writing, religion and philosophy, art and architecture, politics and economics, and science and technology. While this course is entitled "Foundations of China," we will take a critical perspective on narratives, both Chinese and Western, that see Chinese history as an unbroken history of a single "civilization."
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ANTH 212 (D2) REL 218 (D2) GBST 212 (D2) CHIN 214 (D1) HIST 214 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01  MWF 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm  Christopher M. B. Nugent

GBST 213  (F) Why do Pussies Riot and What is "Homosexual" Propaganda? Gender and Sexuality in Putin's Russia  (DPE)

Cross-listings: GBST 213 RUSS 213 WGSS 214 COMP 257

Since Vladimir Putin's rise to power, the media has highlighted events in Russia that at first glance resemble oddly sexualized jokes. At the same time that the Kremlin has reinstated authoritarian policy reminiscent of the Soviet Union, the Western press has chronicled Putin's topless vacations in Siberia, protests by the feminist collectives Pussy Riot and Femen, a 2011 ban on women's lacy underwear, federal legislation from 2013 prohibiting "homosexual" propaganda, and a 2017 court decision that outlawed a meme of Putin as a "gay clown." This course examines the Putin regime's ongoing attempts to police gender expression and private sexual behavior, as well as how Russian citizens' performance of gender and sexuality has changed in the past twenty years. We will consider gender and sexuality as distinctive features of Putinism, which have contributed to a biopolitical turn in official policy and inspired resistance and protest among Russian feminists and queers. All readings will be in English, and all films will have English subtitles.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in class discussions, several response papers, two short papers (3-5 pages each), and a final project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Materials/Lab Fee: books

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 213 (D2) RUSS 213 (D1) WGSS 214 (D2) COMP 257 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course engages in cultural comparison, explores how power and privilege are allocated differently in post-Soviet Russia than in the West, and critically theorizes contemporary Russian culture and discourse.

Attributes: GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

Fall 2019
SEM Section: 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Julie A. Cassiday

GBST 214  (S) Asian-American Identities in Motion  (DPE)
The course aims to explore dance and movement-based performances as mediums through which identities in Asian-American (including South Asian) diasporas are cultivated, expressed, and contested. We will examine theories related to nationalism, post-colonialism and diasporic identity-formation, and learn about the socio-historical contexts in which performances are used to maintain cultural continuity. We will explore how diasporic artists use performances to enforce or resist traditional practices and ideologies. Throughout the course, we will investigate issues of race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, tradition/innovation, agency/resistance, and borrowing/appropriation among other topics. This is primarily a discussion-based seminar course but will also include attendance at live performances in the area, film screenings, and discussion and workshops with guest artists. No previous dance experience required.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation includes reading responses and essays, class participation, and presentations

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
THEA 216 (D1) DANC 216 (D1) GBST 214 (D2) AMST 213 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course introduces students to the history of Asian-Americans through an analysis of performances by diasporic artists. Student will explore how race was central to the formation of the American nation, and how social and legal discriminatory practices against people of color influenced US popular culture. The assigned course material provide examples of how diasporic artists address these differences in power relations, hold systems of inequality accountable, and claim agency.

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Munjulika Tarah

GBST 215 (F) Performance Ethnography (DPE)

Cross-listings: DANC 214 GBST 215 THEA 215 AMST 214 ANTH 215

Secondary Cross-listing

The course aims to explore the theory, practice, and ethics of ethnographic research with a focus on dance, movement, and performance. Traditionally considered to be a method of research in anthropology, ethnography is the descriptive and analytical study of a particular community through fieldwork, where the researcher immerses herself in the culture of the people that she researches. In this course students will be introduced to (i) critical theory that grounds ethnography as a research methodology, (ii) readings in ethnographic studies of dance and performance practices from different parts of the world, and (iii) field research in the local community for their own ethnographic projects. This is primarily a discussion-based seminar course and may include fieldwork, attendance at live performances, film screenings, workshop with guest artists etc. No previous dance or performance experience is assumed or required.

Class Format: community-based fieldwork

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, reading responses, fieldwork and field notes, short papers, and final essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
DANC 214 (D1) GBST 215 (D2) THEA 215 (D1) AMST 214 (D2) ANTH 215 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course focuses on ethnographic research with an emphasis on the ethics of doing ethnography in field sites and making performances based on that research. In fieldwork and performance work, there is a difference in social, cultural, and political
(broadly conceived) power between researcher and interlocutors. In the course, students’ critical analytical skills are developed for them to be self-reflective about these power differentials and to address issues of social inequality.

Fall 2019
SEM Section: 01    W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm    Munjulika Tarah

GBST 216 (S) Urbanism in the Ancient World
Cross-listings: GBST 216 ANTH 216
Secondary Cross-listing
This is a course on cities in the ancient world, which will examine four major ancient urban centers (Nineveh and Nimrud, Iraq; Teotihuacan, Mexico; and Angkor, Cambodia) and end with a sustained, in-depth exploration of urbanism in prehispanic Maya civilization. As more and more people move into cities across the world, human societies are becoming forever transformed. This transformation into an urban globalized world has ancient roots at the beginning of the first civilizations in Euroasia and the Americas. We will delve into the nature of the urban transformation by first exploring sociological and anthropological definitions of urbanism, and recent studies of modern urbanism. We will look at Nineveh, Nimrud, Teotihuacan, and Angkor to consider how ancient urbanism was distinct from modern cities, while at the same time, ancient urbanites had to deal with similar issues as residents of modern cities. We will then examine in more depth the cities of prehispanic Maya civilization, answering such questions as: how different were Maya cities from other premodern ones? Is there one type of Maya city or many? How different was life in Maya cities from life in Maya villages? What were the power structures of Maya cities? How common were immigrants and slaves in these ancient cities?

Class Format: tutorial
Requirements/Evaluation: 5-page papers every other week, oral responses on alternate weeks; tutorial attendance is required
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: sophomores; or majors in Anthropology or Sociology
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
GBST 216 (D2) ANTH 216 (D2)
Attributes: GBST Urbanizing World Electives

GBST 221 (F) The Making of Modern South Asia: 1750-1950 CE
Cross-listings: GBST 221 ASST 221 HIST 221
Secondary Cross-listing
This course focuses on the history of South Asia with the aim of providing an overview of the political and social landscape of the region from the end of the Mughal Empire through British colonial rule and the Partition of India and Pakistan. We will explore a range of themes including the rise of colonialism, nationalism, religion, caste, gender relations, and the emergence of modern social and political institutions on the subcontinent. In addition to reading key texts and historical primary sources on the specific themes, we will also work with a variety of multimedia sources including films, short stories and website content. One objective of this course is to introduce students to the different political and social processes that led to the creation of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh; another is to teach students to think critically about the significance of history and history writing in the making of the subcontinent.

Class Format: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, response papers (2-3 pages), two short essays (4-5 pages), midterm and final exams
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 40
Expected Class Size: 20-25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
GBST 228  (S)  Performance Practices of Global Youth Cultures
Cross-listings:  GBST 228  THEA 228

Secondary Cross-listing
This course investigates how young people engage in a variety of performance practices to define social identities and reflect on critical issues. We begin by examining how scholars and media have defined “youth” by way of questioning assumptions about the inherent universality of this social category. We will then explore how young people have thought about and represented themselves. Taking seriously music, dance, fashion, and ritualized uses of public space (including in the virtual realm), we will explore examples of how youth have used performance practices to engage in political activism, subvert hegemonic norms, reconfigure urban geographies, and engage in critical identity politics. Our inquiry will include attention to how youth practices travel globally and adopt new localized political meanings, as well as the ways in which the subversive potential of performances can be subsumed by the normalizing mandates of global capital. Our work in class will be based upon readings, discussions, and audiovisual materials from various parts of the world. Throughout the semester students will turn an analytical eye towards their own practices and modes of consumption. For final projects students will engage in ethnographic research about specific youth cultures in the region and on the Williams campus.

Class Format: seminar course based on reading and discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: includes class discussions, self-reflexive presentations and papers, journal reflections, one 10-page paper based on original research with in-class presentation
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: seniors and juniors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
GBST 228 (D2) THEA 228 (D1)

Spring 2020
SEM Section: 01  TBA  Shanti Pillai

GBST 230  (F)  Who was Muhammad?
Cross-listings:  REL 230  GBST 230  ARAB 230

Secondary Cross-listing
Considered the Messenger of God, Muhammad is a central character of the Islamic tradition and has been the object of love and devotion for centuries. Recent outbursts sparked by controversial cartoons depicting Muhammad have made clear that he remains a revered and controversial figure even today. This course takes a critical historical perspective to the biographies of Muhammad, the founder of Islam. Rather than focus on the "facts" of his life, we will think about the ways in which historical context, political interests, and shifting conceptions of religion have influenced the way in which Muhammad has been imagined and remembered. We will also consider the ways in which Muslim and non-Muslim biographies of Muhammad are intertwined and interdependent, often developing in tandem with one another. By exploring Muslim and non-Muslim, pre-modern and modern accounts of Muhammad's life, we will think about the many ways in which Muhammad's life has been told and re-told over the centuries. In
this course we will consider some of the following depictions of Muhammad: Muhammad as the object of ritual devotion; Muhammad as statesman and military leader; Muhammad's polygynous marriages and his young wife, Aisha; Muhammad as social reformer and revolutionary. Course readings will include pre-modern biographies (in translation) as well as contemporary Muslim and non-Muslim biographies.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: reading responses, 3 short essays (3-4 pages double-spaced), and final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: none
Enrollment Preferences: Religion majors
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 230 (D2) GBST 230 (D2) ARAB 230 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

GBST 234 (F) What is Islam? (DPE)
Cross-listings: ARAB 234 GBST 234 REL 234 HIST 208

Secondary Cross-listing
This course introduces students to Islam as a varied and contested historical tradition. The course will trace the historical development of Islam, focusing on religious and intellectual thought, political developments, and the practices and lived lives of Muslims. We will begin with situting the rise of Islam within the context of late antiquity, followed by an examination of the life of Muhammad, and the rise of Muslim empires. These developments will form the framework through which we investigate the theological, philosophical, legal, mystical, and literary writings of Muslims from the classical to the early modern periods of Islamic history. The main aim of the course is to develop a framework for understanding the historical developments through which Muslims have constructed ideas about normativity, authority, and orthodoxy in debates around Islam. Sources will include pre-modern historical and religious texts (in translation).

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: reading responses, two essays, final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: Religion majors (or those considering Religion as a major), then Arabic Studies and History majors
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ARAB 234 (D2) GBST 234 (D2) REL 234 (D2) HIST 208 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course looks role of power, in particular imperial and colonial power in the construction of religion. To that end, the course will explore how the rise of Muslim empires shaped the construction of pre-modern Islam and subsequently the role of European colonialism in shaping the emergence of modern Islam. This course will teach students critical tools in postcolonial theory about the relationship between power and the production of knowledge and the agency of the colonized.

Attributes: HIST Group E Electives - Middle East HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

Not offered current academic year

GBST 236 (S) Reading the Qur'an
Cross-listings: ARAB 236 COMP 213 GBST 236 REL 236

Secondary Cross-listing
In the nearly 1500 years of Islamic history, the Qur'an has been a central source of spiritual insight, ethical and legal guidance, sacred stories, and
theological principles. Considered the divine word of God, the Qur'an is central to devotional life. This course will explore the Qur'an as a text that is always in a state of production. We will focus significantly on close readings of the text of the Qur'an, in addition to pre-modern and modern Qur'anic exegesis. The course will begin with a historical account of the revelation and collection of the Qur'an, placing the form and content of the text in the context of 7th century Arab society and the life of the Prophet. We will then study Qur'anic commentaries to discuss how Muslims have drawn theological, legal, philosophical, and mystical meaning from the Qur'an. We will pose some of the following questions: What do the different exegetical methods tell us about the intertextual nature of the Qur'an? How have these shifting notions affected the meaning made from Qur'anic verses and passages? What role do interpretive communities play in determining what the Qur'an says? Lastly, through an exploration of the art of Qur'an recitation, calligraphy, and Qur'an manuscripts, we will explore the ways in which the Qur'an is also an object of devotion in Muslim life.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, weekly reading responses, 3- to 4-page midterm paper, and a final project with a media component and a 4- to 6-page analytical essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Religion and Arabic Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ARAB 236 (D2) COMP 213 (D1) GBST 236 (D2) REL 236 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

GBST 241 (S) History of Sexuality

Cross-listings: GBST 241 REL 241 HIST 292 WGSS 239

Secondary Cross-listing

Is sexuality an immutable aspect of who we are or is it socially constructed? How have people understood sex and sexuality throughout history? Why does religion have any say in the sexual lives of individuals and society? What are sexual transgressions and why are they punished? Is sex a commodity that can be exchanged for money? Is sex political? This course will explore these questions through a historical approach, focusing in particular on the shifting understanding of sex and sexuality across historical time and different geographical regions. In investigating the category of sexuality, this course will push us to consider three key questions: 1) Is sexuality a useful category for historical analysis, 2) how have our assumptions regarding sexuality and sexual ethics taken shape and changed over time and 3) how do social, cultural, political, and economic conditions affect changing meanings of sexuality. Historical studies will be read in conjunction with different theoretical frameworks about sexuality. Reading historical accounts of sexuality alongside theoretical pieces will allow us to consider how historians construct an argument and the influence of theoretical frameworks in shaping scholarship. Some of the theorists we will read in the course include: Michel Foucault, David Halperin, Afsaneh Najmabadi, Valerie Traub, and Carla Freccero.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: reading responses, two essays, and final research paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Religion, History, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 241 (D2) REL 241 (D2) HIST 292 (D2) WGSS 239 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

GBST 244 (S) Mediterranean Journeys (DPE)
Cross-listings: GBST 244  COMP 244

Secondary Cross-listing

Though European border management today seeks to limit and control movement, the Mediterranean region is a historical site of mediation between cultural differences and religious views. This course centers primarily on the works of the so-called "migrant intellectuals and artists" who have emerged from the Mediterranean region to become a significant part of the new voice of Europe. Borrowing from Deleuze and Guattari's definition of "minor literature" as a literature that a "minority constructs within a major language" and in which "language is affected with a high coefficient of deterritorialization," we explore the political, cultural and anthropological effects of such literature in today's European public discourse. Behind the medium of a national language, new cultures and identities are claiming inclusion into the core of the social fabric by speaking out from a marginal position. We read both literary works (Ali Farah, Guene, Lakhous, Scego) and critical theory (Cassano, Chambers, Fanon, Hall, Theo Goldberg); we also analyze films and documentaries (Carpignano, Crialese, Godard).

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly writing assignments, midterm and final exams, final paper, oral presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Comparative Literature majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 244 (D1) COMP 244 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Within the theoretical framework of postcolonial studies, this course examines themes such as: race; Europe and its postcolonial legacy; power imbalances in the current European policies of migration; the urban space of Rome as site of conflictual representations of center/periphery.

Not offered current academic year

GBST 246 (F)  Asian American Performance: Activism and Aesthetics  (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 249  GBST 246  THEA 246

Secondary Cross-listing

This seminar will explore contemporary Asian American plays, stand-up comedy, performance art, and spoken word with an eye to how artists "do" politics through their cultural labor. We will begin with a brief survey of images from popular media to identify legacies of Orientalism. From here we will move towards examining the ways in which Asian American artists from various eras subvert stereotypes and pursue projects of social justice. In watching performances and reading scripts, essays, and interviews, we will attend to narratives, acting methods, theatrical design, spectatorship, and the political economy of cultural production that shapes how Asian American artists make and show work. In addition, we will explore how artists stake political claims in the public sphere through teaching and community organizing.

Class Format: Seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: 2 5-page critical essays, reading responses, class presentations, and active discussion participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores and juniors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 249 (D2) GBST 246 (D2) THEA 246 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Course fosters critical engagement with artistic practices that seek to address the concerns of populations in the US who have historically had unequal access to resources and audiences for representing themselves and their political concerns. Students will ask questions about how Asian American artists address legacies of Orientalism, as well as how they facilitate community engagement and approach
Critics and apologists of Soviet-style socialism alike agree that the Soviet ideology was deeply egalitarian. Putting aside for a moment the very reasonable doubts about how justified this perception actually was, it is still worth asking, how did people who lived in the world in which differences in rank, class, gender or ethnicity were not supposed to matter, make sense of their postsocialist condition, one in which new forms of difference emerged, and old ones assumed greater prominence? And how do these encounters with difference impact current events, such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict or the persistent tensions between East and West Germans? This tutorial will examine new dilemmas through ethnographic studies and documentary films that aim to capture in real time the process of articulating and grappling with newly discovered divides. We will focus especially closely on Russia, but will also read studies on East Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland and Ukraine. This course fulfills the DPE requirement by exploring comparatively the ways in which people in different countries made sense of the social, cultural and political heterogeneity of the postsocialist condition.

Class Format: tutorial
Requirements/Evaluation: 5-page paper every other week, comments on the partner’s paper in alternate weeks
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology, Sociology, and Russian majors
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
RUSS 248 (D1) GBST 247 (D2) SOC 248 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Students will learn to identify and interrogate processes of social differentiation and exclusion as they take place across Russia and Eastern Europe. We will also train ourselves to identify parallels, as well as differences, between responses to the social and economic uncertainty ushered by the fall of socialism, and the discontents triggered by similar conditions closer to home.

Not offered current academic year
GBST 315 (S) Globalization

Cross-listings: ECON 215 GBST 315

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will examine the causes and consequences of globalization. This includes studying topics such as trade, immigration, foreign direct investment, and offshoring. The impact of these forms of globalization on welfare, wages, employment, and inequality will be a focal point. Throughout we will rely on economic principles, models, and empirical tools to explain and examine these contentious issues.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: problem sets, two midterms, and a final paper and presentation

Prerequisites: ECON 110

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ECN 215 (D2) GBST 315 (D2)

Attributes: GBST Economic Development Studies Electives MAST Interdepartmental Electives POEC International Political Economy Courses

Not offered current academic year

GBST 322 (F) Trash

Cross-listings: GBST 322 ANTH 322 ENVI 322

Secondary Cross-listing

What is waste? What is filth? Why do titles or categories of sanitation workers—“garbage man,” for instance—bear such charged social and sometimes moral significance in many societies? In this seminar we will critically examine the production of waste and its role in the production of value, meaning, hierarchy, and the environment. Readings will be of three types. First we will consider theoretical inquiries into the relations between filth and culture. Second, we will examine studies of the political and environmental consequences of systems of waste management historically and in the present, with a focus on South Asia and the United States. Third, we will read ethnographies of sanitation labor and social hierarchy with the same regional focus—work on Dhaka and Delhi, Chicago and New York. There is also a fieldwork component to this class. In groups, students will conduct ethnographic micro-studies of elements of the systems of waste production and management in Berkshire County (e.g., cafeterias, retail outlets, homes, dorms, recycling facilities, sewage treatment plants). Students will post field notes to a class blog, and each group will present its findings in the form of a short film, multimedia presentation, or paper.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: regular posting of critical response papers and an ethnographic final project
**GBST 326 (S) Security in Africa**

**Cross-listings:** GBST 326  PSCI 326  

**Secondary Cross-listing**  

Africa is the world's second largest and second most-populous continent. This course will explore this diverse region through the lens of human security which takes a broader understanding of security challenges and how they affect different individuals. We will begin by placing security challenges in Africa in the context of a colonial legacy and the changing nature of warfare. We will then examine specific security challenges including governance issues, gender relationships, and resource challenges, through the use of case studies. We will conclude by examining responses by the U.S. and UN to perceived security challenges in Africa.

**Class Format:** seminar  

**Requirements/Evaluation:** short blog posts; research paper sections throughout semester; final research paper (15-20 pages); class participation  

**Prerequisites:** PSCI 202 or permission of instructor  

**Enrollment Limit:** 14  

**Enrollment Preferences:** political science majors  

**Expected Class Size:** 14  

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option  

**Distributions:** (D2)  

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**  
GBST 322 (D2) ANTH 322 (D2) ENVI 322 (D2)  

**Attributes:** PSCI International Relations Courses  PSCI Research Courses  

**Spring 2020**  

**SEM Section:** 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm     Phoebe G. Donnelly
ethnographic final project examining "caste" in one's own community.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly postings of 1-page critical response papers and research paper or ethnographic final project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: seniors, juniors, majors in ANSO, AFR, or ASST

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ANTH 341 (D2) AFR 341 (D2) ASST 341 (D2) GBST 341 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

GBST 345 (S) Wonderland(s): Alice in Translation

Cross-listings: COMP 345 ENGL 365 GBST 345

Secondary Cross-listing

"What do you mean by that?" said the Caterpillar, sternly. "Explain yourself!" "I can't explain myself, I'm afraid, Sir," said Alice, "because I'm not myself, you see?"

The confusion around personal identity, which Alice is seen to experience as she makes her way through Wonderland, can be examined productively as an allegory of translation. Beyond the developmental and socio-cultural transitions of a child, what happens to Alice, a seminal text in children's literature, when it travels down the rabbit hole to a new linguistic wonderland? For starters, the seven-year-old girl becomes Marie in Danish, Arihi in Maori, Ai-chan in Japanese, and Paapachchi in Kannada. Then there is the highly idiosyncratic humor, word play, embedded English nursery rhymes, and iconic illustrations by Tenniel. How do they fare in new linguistic, cultural, and even genre contexts? Lewis Carroll told his publisher in 1866: "Friends here seem to think the book is untranslatable." And yet, over 200 translations later, including Kazakh, Shona, Papiamento, Braille, and Emoji, Alice continues to delight children and adults all over the world and to pose myriad challenges as well as opportunities for translators. This course will serve as an introduction to the theory and practice of translation using Carroll's Alice as an anchoring primary text. We will examine key disciplinary issues and concepts, such as equivalence, rewriting, faithfulness, and ethics, and challenge the old canard that translation leads ineluctably, and exclusively, to loss.

Class Format: seminar with some Friday workshops

Requirements/Evaluation: active and substantive class participation; leading discussion; frequent short writing assignments; final project

Prerequisites: students must have at least three years of college-level second-language instruction, or the equivalent (advanced proficiency), or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: COMP majors; language majors; language students

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 345 (D1) ENGL 365 (D1) GBST 345 (D2)

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01 MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am Janneke van de Stadt

GBST 351 (S) The New Left and Neoliberalism in Latin America (DPE)

Cross-listings: GBST 351 PSCI 351
Recent years have seen a resurgence of the political left in Latin America. This course seeks to understand the origins of this new left, the ideas and character of its protagonists, the neoliberal philosophy it opposes, and the arena of democratic politics it inhabits today. We first read polemics from both sides, before stepping back to consider Latin American political economy, including the twentieth-century left, from a more historical and analytical perspective. With this preparation, we then look more closely at major contemporary figures and movements in Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, and other countries. After considering explanations of the rise of the left and assessments of its performance in power, we end our common readings by asking what it might mean today to be on the left in Latin America—or anywhere—both in policy and political terms.

Class Format: lecture/discussion, then seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: three short essays, a 1-page reflection paper, and a 12-page research proposal

Prerequisites: a course on Latin America and a course in Economics or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 351 (D2) PSCI 351 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The New Left in Latin America originated in efforts to remedy inequalities born of the Conquest, uneven capitalist development, and racial prejudice. Its neoliberal foes generally do not doubt the existence of these inequalities, but they question the proposition that the state could adequately address them. This course engages, contextualizes, and deepens the debate.

Attributes: GBST Latin American Studies Electives POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses PSCI Comparative Politics Courses PSCI Research Courses

Not offered current academic year

GBST 352 (F) Politics in Mexico (DPE)

Cross-listings: GBST 352 PSCI 352

Secondary Cross-listing

Geographical fate has decreed that the futures of Mexico and the United States will be tightly bound. Yet Mexico enters this future with a very different past, a distinctive political system, and mixed feelings about the U.S. This course has four parts differing in content and format. The first is historical and mostly lecture. It considers several themes, including the slow emergence of a stable national state and the interplay between politics and economic change. In the second section, we consider politics and cultural policies around Mexican national identity in the twentieth century; rapid urbanization, especially in the valley of Mexico; the impact of migration and the rapid development of the northern border region; and the conflict between an emerging civil society and political corruption. After a brief review of recent elections and other political events, we turn to a seminar-style discussion of student research projects.

Class Format: lecture, discussion, then seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: map quiz, two short papers, and a 12- to 15-page research proposal

Prerequisites: some knowledge of Mexican history

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors and seniors

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 352 (D2) PSCI 352 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: One unit of the course directly engages the tension between diversity and national identity in 20th century Mexico, while another critically analyzes the reception in Mexican national discourse of the experiences of discrimination suffered by migrants in the USA.
GBST 356 (S) The Myth of Venice and its Modern Aftermath

Cross-listings: ENGL 358 GBST 356 COMP 356

Secondary Cross-listing

The Republic of Venice existed for over a millennium, during which time its historical image came to be enmeshed with mythical representations, such as the image of the city rising out of the waters of the lagoon, or the personification of the city itself as a Queen of the Adriatic. This course begins in the year 1797, at the end of the Republic, and the emergence of an extensive body of literature centered on Venice and its mythical facets. Readings will include Romantic views of Venice and the 20th century reshaping of the literary myth surrounding the city. A journey into this fascinating tradition will shed light on how the literary and visual representation of Venice, rather than the focus on a nostalgic evocation of the death of the Republic, became a premise of exploration for literary modernity. Toward the end of the course we will leave the lagoon to explore the postmodern recreations of Venice around the world (from Los Angeles and Las Vegas, to Macao, Yongin, and beyond) Readings will include excerpts from Byron's _Childe Harold's Pilgrimage_, John Ruskin's _Stones of Venice_, as well as full readings of Thomas Mann's _Death in Venice_, Marinetti's Futurist manifestos, Italo Calvino's _Invisible Cities_, and more. We will also examine movies, such as Luchino Visconti's _Senso_ and _Death in Venice_ and Nicholas Roeg's _Don't Look Now_. This course is offered in English; all texts are provided in translation.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: mini-papers, one individual presentation, mini-presentations, midterm, participation, final project

Prerequisites: familiarity with modern aesthetics such as romanticism, modernism and postmodernism is desirable

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Comparative Literature majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: COMP core course

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 358 (D1) GBST 356 (D2) COMP 356 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GBST 358 (S) Religion and Law (DPE)

Cross-listings: GBST 358 REL 358

Secondary Cross-listing

This course explores the concept of "law" through an investigation of the complex relationship between law, ethics, and religion. In doing so, we will look at legal theoretical texts as well as legal anthropological studies to pose critical questions about the nature of law, the functioning logic of law, the relationship between law and lived experience, and the legal construction of categories and facts. In the course, we will consider two intersections of religion and law: the particularities of religious legal traditions and the relationship between religion and secular law. Topics will include the secular legal construction of religion, the relationship between law and ethics, the nature of legal hermeneutics, and the racial, gender, and sexual politics of legal interpretation.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: reading response, two essays, final research paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Religion majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 358 (D2) REL 358 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** Law is seen as both a repressive and liberatory force. In taking a critical approach to the nature of law and legal interpretation, this course prepares students to think about the language of "rule of law," "order," and "justice" as a complex relationship between law and power.

*Not offered current academic year*

**GBST 369  (S)  Indigenous Narratives: From the Fourth World to the Global South**

**Cross-listings:** GBST 369  COMP 369  HIST 306  ARAB 369

**Secondary Cross-listing**

In the late 20th century, world literature has witnessed a "boom" in indigenous literature. Many critics and historians describe this global re-emergence of the subaltern and the indigenous in terms of literary justice fostered by post-colonial studies and the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, by the UN General Assembly on December 18, 1992. In this course, we will investigate this "indigenous boom" by reading novels and short stories from the Americas, the Middle East and North Africa from the 1970s to the present. Through these trans-regional and trans-historical peregrinations, our principal goal will be to examine and compare narratives about conquest, settler colonialism, colonial nationalism, indigeneity, sovereignty, indigenous epistemology and philosophy. At the same time, we will consider the following questions: How did pioneering indigenous women writers, such as the Laguna Pueblo Leslie Marmon Silko in the US and the Mayan playwrights of La Fomma in Chiapas, Mexico lead the feminist front of the indigenous literary renaissance? How did Palestinian folktales, Tashelhiyt Berber tales in Morocco, and Mayan dream narratives in Mexico and Guatemala produce narratives of decolonial history? What does the aesthetics of magical realism in Arabic, Quechua and Spanish, respectively, as evident in the works of the Kurdish writer Salim Barakat (Syria) and the mestizo writer José María Arguedas (Peru) tell us about the intersection of race, ethnicity, and indigenous epistemology? Ultimately, our goal is to trace how these texts contributed to global indigenous literature and the trans-historical and trans-geographical connections between them.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, several short response assignments (2-3 pages each), final performance project, and final paper (5-7 pages)

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** Comparative Literature majors

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:**  (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 369 (D1) COMP 369 (D1) HIST 306 (D2) ARAB 369 (D1)

**Attributes:** GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

*Not offered current academic year*

**GBST 391  (S)  When India was the World: Trade, Travel and History in the Indian Ocean**

**Cross-listings:** GBST 391  ASST 391  HIST 391

**Secondary Cross-listing**

What do Ibrahim Ben Yiju, a Jewish merchant from 11th century Yemen, Ibn Batutah, a Muslim scholar from 15th century Morocco and Captain Kidd, a 17th century English pirate have in common? All three men travelled and lived in the Indian Ocean region! This course explores the history of one of the world's oldest maritime highways that has connected the diverse cultures of Asia, Africa and Europe for millennia, thus making it a vital element in the birth of globalization. Moving away from conventional land-centric histories, we will focus instead on understanding the human past through oceanic interactions. South Asian ports and port cities remained the fulcrum of the Indian Ocean world throughout its history; traders, travellers, nobles, scholars, pilgrims and pirates from all over the world travelled to the Indian coast in search of adventure, spices, knowledge and wealth. Thus we will primarily focus on India's role in the Indian Ocean roughly from the rise of Islam in the seventh century CE through the expansion of various European communities in the region and the subsequent rise of the global economy and colonialism in the nineteenth century. Rather than following a
strict temporal chronology we will concentrate on themes such as travel and adventure; trade and exchange; trust and friendship; religion and society; pilgrimage; piracy; the culture of port cities; and food across time.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: assessment will be based on class participation and weekly responses to readings, 2-3 short papers, an oral presentation and final paper

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 15-20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 391 (D2) ASST 391 (D2) HIST 391 (D2)

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives HIST Group B Electives - Asia HIST Group P Electives - Premodern MAST Interdepartmental Electives

Not offered current academic year

GBST 397 (F) Independent Study: International Studies

Global Studies independent study.

Class Format: independent study

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2019

IND Section: 01 TBA James E. Mahon

GBST 398 (S) Independent Study: International Studies

International Studies independent study.

Class Format: independent study

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2020

IND Section: 01 TBA James E. Mahon

GBST 409 (F) Crescent, Cross, and Star. Religion and Politics in the Middle East

Cross-listings: ARAB 409 HIST 409 GBST 409

Secondary Cross-listing

Is religion the most powerful force in the Middle East? Is religion becoming more prominent in the political sphere and what impact will that have on religious minorities and the status of women in the Middle East? Using a case study and historical approach, this course will consider the development of religiously inspired political ideologies in the Middle East in the 19th and 20th century. We will explore the experience of Iran, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Jordan and evaluate role of religious actors, institutions, and ideologies in constructing national identities, policymaking, state-building, regime change, conflict, and war.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation and a 25-page research paper
Prerequisites: none; preference will be given to History, Jewish Studies and Arabic Studies Majors and to those who have taken History 207

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: History majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ARAB 409 (D2) HIST 409 (D2) GBST 409 (D2)

Attributes: GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives JWST Elective Courses

Fall 2019

SEM Section: 01 M 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm Magnús T. Bernhardsson

GBST 420 (S) Architecture and Sustainability in a Global World

Cross-listings: GBST 420 ARTH 420 ENVI 420 EXPR 420

Secondary Cross-listing

What does it mean to create a sustainable built environment? What do such environments look like? Do they look the same for different people across different times and spaces? This course takes these questions as starting points in exploring the concept of architectural sustainability, defined as "minimizing the negative impact of built form on the surrounding landscape," and how this concept can be interpreted not only from an environmental point of view, but from cultural, political, and social perspectives as well. Over the course of the class, students will explore different conceptualizations of sustainability and how these conceptualizations take form in built environments in response to the cultural identities, political agendas, social norms, gender roles, and religious values circulating in society at any given moment. Students will also travel to South Africa during Spring Break to participate in a township sustainability project. In recognizing the relationship between the way things are constructed (technique of assembly, technology, materials, process) and the deeper meanings behind the structural languages deployed, students will come to understand sustainability as a fundamentally context-specific ideal, and its manifestation within the architectural environment as a mode of producing dialogues about the anticipated futures of both cultural and architectural worlds.

Class Format: seminar; with travel component

Requirements/Evaluation: response papers on class readings (2 pages), leading class discussions, spring break trip to South Africa, and final project/paper (15-20 pages) and presentation

Prerequisites: none, although a course in art/architectural history would be advantageous; registered students will also be required to submit an online application provided by the instructor before enrollment in the course is confirmed

Enrollment Limit: 6

Enrollment Preferences: Art History majors, Environmental Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 6

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Materials/Lab Fee: travel funds will be provided by a Class of 1963 Sustainability development grant

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 420 (D1) ARTH 420 (D1) ENVI 420 (D1) EXPR 420 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GBST 480 (F) Interpretations of the Israeli Palestinian Conflict (DPE)

Cross-listings: GBST 480 ARAB 480 JWST 480 HIST 480

Secondary Cross-listing

This tutorial addresses the powerful, competing, and bitterly contested historical narratives that underpin the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Both Israelis and Palestinians appeal to history to legitimize their territorial claims and to justify contemporary action. Special attention will be paid to the
interpretations of key historical moments, especially the 1948 and 1967 wars, and on the contrasting views of some of the core issues of the conflict (Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, terrorism).

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: 5- to 7-page essays or 2-page critiques due each week and a final report (3-4 pages) at the end of the semester

Prerequisites: none, though some academic experience with Middle East materials is preferred

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: History majors and Arabic Studies majors and Jewish Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 480 (D2) ARAB 480 (D2) JWST 480 (D2) HIST 480 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course challenges students to engage with difference and power in the Israeli Palestinian conflict though the reading of historical works that have different political motivations. Students will develop tools to comprehend the complexities of perspectives in Israel and Palestine. Students will gain a better understanding of nationalism, state power, inequality, victimhood, desperation, corruption, and injustice and gain tools to seek equitable solutions to the conflict in the future.

Attributes: GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives  HIST Group E Electives - Middle East  JWST Core Electives

Not offered current academic year

GBST 488 (S) Gandhi: Nationalism, Philosophy, and Legacy

Cross-listings: GBST 488  HIST 488  REL 388  ASST 488

Secondary Cross-listing

This course studies the work and ideas of M.K. Gandhi (1869-1948, one of the most influential thinkers of the non-western world. Gandhi is well known today for his philosophy of non-violent resistance and its application in India's freedom struggle as well as his influence on the work of leaders like Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela. Hailed as the 'father of the Indian nation', however, Gandhi is not only known for his political ideas but also for his deep engagement with aspect of everyday human behavior and morality: truth, vegetarianism, sex and celibacy, to name just a few of his obsessions which contributed to making his broader philosophy. It is this commitment to a morally pure life that earned him the title of 'Mahatma' or Great Soul in India. The tutorial will focus on three key aspects of Gandhi: his ideas of peaceful protest as means of social and political change, his contemplations on moral philosophy, and on his legacy in modern India and the world. Students will read a combination of Gandhi's own writings as well as journal articles, monographs and films. The course will probe questions such as: What was the nature of Gandhian nationalism? Did it help to integrate the Indian nation? How, if at all, was shaped by Gandhi's engagements with moral philosophy and human behavior? Was Gandhi truly a Great Soul, a saint or a shrewd politician? In what ways is Gandhi received and remembered by the Indian nation today? How does understanding a figure like Gandhi facilitate our understanding of modern nationalism, citizenship and political action?

Class Format: tutorial; students will meet with the instructor each week for one hour sessions in pairs

Requirements/Evaluation: 5 to 7-page essays or 2-page critiques due each week and a final report (3-4 pages) at the end of the semester

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: upper level History majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 488 (D2) HIST 488 (D2) REL 388 (D2) ASST 488 (D2)

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives  HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Not offered current academic year
GBST 491  (F) Senior Honors Project: International Studies

International Studies senior honors project.

Class Format: independent study

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2019
HON Section: 01  TBA  James E. Mahon

GBST 492  (S) Senior Honors Project: International Studies

International Studies senior honors project.

Class Format: independent study

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2020
HON Section: 01  TBA  James E. Mahon