INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (No Div)

This program is designed to facilitate and promote innovations in curricular offerings in relation both to interdisciplinary conceptual focus and experimental pedagogical form. It provides support for faculty efforts to develop a curriculum that creatively responds to intellectual needs and modes of teaching/learning that currently fall outside the conventional pattern. Faculty members interested in offering courses that fall outside the aegis of departmental or existing interdisciplinary programs submit such courses directly to the Committee on Educational Affairs by the Registrar's deadline for course submission in early spring. Courses that fit within the curricula of departments and interdisciplinary programs, even if interdisciplinary or experimental in nature, are found listed within those departments and programs.

INTR 219  (F)  Women and Girls in (Inter)National Politics  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  INTR 219  PSCI 219  AFR 217  WGSS 219  LEAD 219

Primary Cross-listing

This tutorial focuses on the writings and autobiographies of women who have shaped national politics through social justice movements in the 20th-21st centuries. Women and girls studied include: Fannie Lou Hamer, Shirley Chisholm, Safiya Bukhari, Erica Garner, Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai, Marielle Franco, Winnie Mandela.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Weekly 5-page primary analytical papers and 2-page response papers.

Prerequisites:  none

Enrollment Limit:  10

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:

INTR 219 (D2)  PSCI 219 (D2)  AFR 217 (D2)  WGSS 219 (D2)  LEAD 219 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:  This tutorial examines how girls and women confront capitalism, imperialism, climate devastation, patriarchy and poverty. The national and international movements that they participated in or led were based on shifting the balance of powers towards the impoverished, colonized, and imprisoned.

Fall 2020

TUT Section: RT1  TBA  Joy A. James

INTR 220  (S)  Cold War Intellectuals: Civil Rights, Writers and the CIA  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  AFR 224  PSCI 221  AMST 201  LEAD 220  INTR 220

Primary Cross-listing

This tutorial focuses on US-based views of the Cold War. It examines how intelligence agencies and intellectuals, as well as government officials, viewed civil rights, human rights, and US hegemony. Readings include: Williams J. Maxwell (F. B. Eyes: How J. Edgar Hoover's Ghostreaders Framed African American Literature); James Baldwin (The Fire Next Time); Ralph Ellison (The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison); Report to the President by the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States (1975, VP Nelson Rockefeller, chair); Hugh Wilford (The Mighty Wurlitzer: How the CIA Played America); Hannah Arendt (The Origins of Totalitarianism; On Violence; "Reflections on Little Rock"); Frances Stonor Saunders (Who Paid the Piper? The CIA and the Cultural Cold War). Students alternate weekly between 5-page primary and 2-page secondary papers on assigned readings.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Attend all classes; submit completed papers 24hours before seminar meets.

Prerequisites:  none

Enrollment Limit:  10
Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and Seniors.

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:
AFR 224 (D2) PSCI 221 (D2) AMST 201 (D2) LEAD 220 (D2) INTR 220 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This tutorial examines the Cold War between the US and the USSR and attempts to use intellectuals to shape and promote the objectives of powerful state entities. The power struggle between the two "superpowers" impacted cultural production and authors. Some of those authors influenced or enlisted into the Cold War sought equity and equality for their communities and eventually fought against the very political powers that employed them.

Spring 2021
TUT Section: RT1 TBA Joy A. James

INTR 240 (F) Philosophy of Education

Cross-listings: PHIL 240 INTR 240

Secondary Cross-listing

Why are you here? What do you expect to learn? How do you expect to learn? The College Mission Statement says that "Williams seeks to provide the finest possible liberal arts education by nurturing in students the academic and civic virtues, and their related traits of character." How have you already been taught the academic and civic virtues? Where have you been taught them? In school? On the sports field? At home? How did you develop your character? This first-year seminar will examine the philosophy of education through educational autobiographies: works that tell the story of a moral and intellectual education. Each book was chosen by and will be introduced by a professor from a different department, and then Professor of Philosophy Steve Gerrard will continue the discussion.

Requirements/Evaluation: several short papers

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: only first-year students

Expected Class Size: 12

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

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PHIL 240 (D2) INTR 240 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

INTR 320 (F) Angela Davis: Political Theory, Activism, and Alliances (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: LEAD 319 PSCI 376 INTR 320

Primary Cross-listing

This seminar examines the political thought, activism, and iconography of abolitionist Angela Davis. The seminar involves a critical engagement with the philosopher, former political prisoner, and their relationship with other theorists, authors and activists. Readings include: Angela Davis: An Autobiography; Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson; The Morning Breaks: The Trial of Angela Davis; Women, Race, and Class; If They Come in the Morning.

Requirements/Evaluation: Requirements: students attend each seminar class and come prepared to discuss the readings. Papers are due by email 24 hours before the seminar begins.

Prerequisites: Preferences: Juniors and Seniors who have taken courses in Africana Studies, American Studies, Political Science, Philosophy.

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and Seniors with previous courses taken in Africana Studies, American Studies, Political Science, Philosophy.
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
LEAD 319 (D2) PSCI 376 (D2) INTR 320 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Three thesis papers at five pages each will receive critical feedback from the professor; one of the three papers will be revised with critical feedback from professor and peers, accompanied by a one-page statement explaining student's revisions; one keyword glossary where students define their key terms used in the paper; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines political activism in the 1960s-1970s during the Cold War in which the civil rights, black power and student anti-war movements challenged traditional US domestic and foreign policies. Examining the differential powers of university Regents, governors, presidents, and police forces and prison administrations in relation to social justice movements led by people under the age of thirty, we examine the structures of institutional power and the agency of cadre theorists.

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives PHIL Contemporary Value Theory Courses PSCI Political Theory Courses

Fall 2020
SEM Section: R1 TBA Joy A. James

INTR 322 (S) Race, Culture, Incarceration
Cross-listings: AMST 322 INTR 322 AFR 322 PSCI 313

Primary Cross-listing
This course explores racially-fashioned policing and incarceration from the Reconstruction era convict prison lease system to contemporary mass incarceration and "stop and frisk" policies of urban areas in the United States. Also explored will be political imprisonment in the United States.

Requirements/Evaluation: brief analytical papers and group presentations.
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 322 (D2) INTR 322 (D2) AFR 322 (D2) PSCI 313 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives AMST Space and Place Electives JLST Interdepartmental Electives
Not offered current academic year

INTR 330 (S) Femininity, Captivity, and Cultural Politics
This tutorial examines female, pro-feminist leadership for human rights that shapes cultural norms and perceptions of social justice. The tutorial will examine contributions to: activism, literature, art, film, music, theory focused on advocacy democracy.

Requirements/Evaluation: students write primary papers and review papers each week
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Expected Class Size: 4
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Not offered current academic year
INTR 334  (S)  Radical Theories of Political Struggle: Anti-Black Racism and the Obama Administration

Cross-listings:  PSCI 346  AFR 334  INTR 334

Primary Cross-listing
This seminar reviews contemporary theories of "anti-black racism"; their articulation or assimilation within current political movements and mobilizations; and the influence and impact such theories-expressed in and/or as activism-on social justice and civil rights. Critical race theory, Afro-pessimism, feminist/queer theory and the works of the incarcerated are studied. Theorists studied include: Frank Wilderson; Angela Davis; Derrick Bell; Cheryl Harris. Students write weekly mini-reflection papers on assigned readings and collectively make analytical presentations.

Requirements/Evaluation:  1 research paper (50%); 2 presentations with summaries (40%); active engagement in class discussions (10%); weekly student presentations consist of 15 minutes of analysis with written summaries and Q/A; 1st quarter of semester: thesis and outline; 2nd and 3rd quarters: 2-page summaries integrating assigned texts into research analysis; 4th quarter: edit final paper

Prerequisites:  familiarity with one of the following: critical race theory; Africana/Black studies; feminist anti-racist political movements

Enrollment Limit:  15

Enrollment Preferences:  students will be asked to submit a paragraph on their research interest relevant to the seminar

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 346 (D2) AFR 334 (D2) INTR 334 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

INTR 341  (S)  Black Marxism: Political Theory and Anti-Colonialism  (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings:  AFR 340  INTR 341  PSCI 373  PHIL 341

Primary Cross-listing
The seminar involves a critical engagement with key Africana political leaders, theorists and liberationists. We will examine the Pan-African writings of: Cedric Robinson (Black Marxism); Walter Rodney (How Capitalism Underdeveloped Africa), Eric Williams (Capitalism and Slavery, From Columbus to Castro); Frantz Fanon (The Wretched of the Earth); Malcolm X (Malcolm X Speaks); Amilcar Cabral (Resistance and Decolonization, Unity and Struggle); C. L. R. James (The Black Jacobins).

Requirements/Evaluation:  Attend all classes. Papers are due 24 hours before the start of class. Participate in class discussions.

Prerequisites:  None

Enrollment Limit:  19

Enrollment Preferences:  Juniors and Seniors.

Expected Class Size:  19

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

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE) (WS)

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

AFR 340 (D2) INTR 341 (D2) PSCI 373 (D2) PHIL 341 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Three thesis papers at five pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor); one thesis paper revision with critical feedback from professor and peers, including one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process; one keyword glossary where students develop rigorous definitions of course key terms; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course focuses on anti-colonial struggles against European powers. Research will include the concept of "internal colonies" in the US.

Spring 2021
SEM Section: R1  W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm  Joy A. James

INTR 343  (S)  Representations of Racial-Sexual Violence from Enslavement to Emancipation
Cross-listings: INTR 343  AFR 343  AMST 343  WGSS 343

Primary Cross-listing

This tutorial examines representations of and resistance to racial-sexual violence in American society, from colonial America to contemporary US culture. Interdisciplinary texts cover history, politics, literature, film, feminist studies, American studies, LGBTQ and ethnic/black studies. Books include Southern Horrors; Intimate Matters; Scenes of Subjection; Trauma and Recovery; The Delectable Negro; At the Dark End of the Street; films include Birth of a Nation; Bush Mama; To Kill a Mockingbird. The primary focus is on racial and sexual vulnerability to violence and mobilization for freedom from the 18th-21st centuries.

Class Format: students provide primary and response papers and discuss their analyses and theories of social and interpersonal violence

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly primary and response papers

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: preference given to juniors and seniors

Expected Class Size: 8

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

INTR 343 (D2) AFR 343 (D2) AMST 343 (D2) WGSS 343 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  JLST Interdepartmental Electives  WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Winter Study: Winter Study

INTR 99 (W) Indep Study: Interdisciplinary

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

Not offered current academic year

Not offered current academic year