GSFS Courses – Spring 2010

Gateway Courses
GSFS courses designated as “gateway” are also “electives.”

• **CAST 100 - Introduction to Comparative American Studies**
  The course will introduce students to the complexity of American social and cultural formations, with particular emphases on sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and gender, and to various methodologies of comparative analysis. Instructor: Staff

• **SOCI 107 - Introduction to Sociology: Social Thought and Theory**
  This course introduces concepts necessary for students who choose to major in sociology or gender, sexuality and feminist studies (GSFS), but is not limited to the dominant theories in these fields. Course takes an “intersectional” approach in which gender, race-ethnicity, sexuality, socio-economic class, etc., are understood as co-constituted rather than existing separately. Readings include the original work of authors from different social thought traditions. Course is reading and writing-intensive, and students are required to contribute to class discussion. Instructor: F. Hasso

Capstone Courses
GSFS courses designated as “capstone” are also “electives.”

• **CAST 400 - Research Seminar: Expanding the Archive**
  How do American Studies scholars use archives? Is this changing in the 21st century? Do new archives like the Internet require different methodological approaches? This seminar explores the distinctiveness of interdisciplinary research in Comparative American Studies as well as the range of traditional and contemporary sources of evidence available to scholars. In this class, student will work through the various steps of evidence gathering, analysis, and writing a research paper. Instructor: W. Kozol

• **HIST 331 - Race and Sexuality in United States History**
  In 1933, James Weldon Johnson argued that the ‘sex problem’ was deeply rooted in the ‘heart of the race problem.’ This upper-level seminar explores the many different ways in which race and sexuality have interacted with each other throughout American history. Topics include how racism is expressed and maintained through sexual discourses and practices, the relationship between sexuality and race in the construction of identity, and the historical and contemporary legacies of sexual racism today. Instructor: R. Romano

Elective Courses

• **CAST/HIST 243 - Race, Gender, and American Social Movements**
  We consider theories of social movements and take a comparative approach to the study of the black freedom struggle, the Asian American movement, and Latina/o movement, among others. We also discuss struggles that cross (and complicate) ethnic and racial identity such as feminism, gay rights and third world liberation. Instructor: S. Lee

• **ENGL/SOCI 362 - Partition, War, Dislocation: Mid-Twentieth-Century South Asia and Historic Palestine**
  This team-taught course focuses on the cultural, social, historical, and political dimensions and consequences of the partitions, wars, and dislocations that occurred with the withdrawal of the British Empire from historic Palestine and India and the establishment of Pakistan and Israel in 1947 and 1948. The course is reading and writing intensive, includes a film component, and requires significant student engagement. A final paper requires analysis of “primary” source material. Diversity, Post-1900. Instructor: F. Hasso, A. Needham
• **ENGL 394 - Selected Authors: Jane Austen**
In this course we will read Jane Austen’s works with a view to understanding how they operate formally, exploring, for example, the ways in which Austen revolutionized the novel. We will also engage with her novels thematically, considering her treatment of the individual, class, courtship, domesticity, money, manners, friendship, morality, gossip. Using secondary materials we will place Austen’s work in the historical context of the late eighteenth century and the Regency period. Finally, through film adaptations and reception history we will explore Austen as a cultural phenomenon, a figure able to span the academic and popular imagination. British, Diversity, 1700-1900 Instructor: L. Baudot

• **FYSP 117 - Nature and the Environment in East Asian Culture**
This course focuses on concepts of nature, and the interaction of society and the environment in Japan, China, and Korea. How are East Asian concepts of nature influenced by Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, and traditional aesthetics? Are these notions relevant to society’s relation to nature in the modern, industrialized nation state, and to environmentalism and sustainability? We will work with film, literature, architecture, and the visual arts to explore these issues. Instructor: A. Sherif

• **GERM 350 - Feminist Perspectives on German Cinema**
This course examines the gender politics of German cinema from the early days of silent film to the present. Focusing on a variety of theoretical issues raised by pioneering and current works on feminist theory and psychoanalytical film criticism, we will explore the cultural and ideological dimensions involved in the production and reception of films by, for, and about women. Topics include the representation of women, cinematic desire, scopophilic identification, voyeurism, subjectivity, autobiography, and the imaginary. Instructor: S. Boos

• **HISP 349 - Latin American Icons: Che, Evita, Frida, Pancho Villa**
What can a face mean? When and how does an image have a life of its own, beyond the person it belonged to? We will study the lives and afterlives of four celebrated and controversial Latin American icons, Pancho Villa, Eva Perón, Frida Kahlo, and Che Guevara. Topics will include: the overlap of Catholic and revolutionary ways of thinking; art, propaganda, and popular culture; feminist and anti-feminist language; and the international circulation of national icons. Taught in Spanish. Instructor: P. O’Connor

• **HIST 217 - Women and Gender in Islamic Law and Arab Legal Codes**
This course studies how classical Islamic law and modern Arab legal codes deal with issues of women and gender. It looks at women and family in the Qur’an and Hadith. It then moves to the development of Islamic law and its rules on the subject. Finally, it follows the impact of the formation of modern codes in the Middle East with the rise of nation-states on women’s rights and position in contemporary Arab societies. Instructor: Z. Abul-Magd

• **HIST/JWST 234 - Good and Evil: Ethics and Decision Making in the Holocaust**
This course focuses on the decision making of five groups: German civilians, Jews, allies, churches, rescuers, and bystanders during the Nazi era; on the often unconscious value judgments that we bring to the study of this subject; and the basis for expectation that individuals, groups, or governments behave ethically in extreme situations. Aside from readings, some films and possible lectures by outside specialists will be required. Previous historical study of the Holocaust strongly recommended. Instructor: S. Magnus

• **HIST/JWST 236 - Defining Jewishness: Drawing Boundaries, Constructing Identity**
Explores ways that boundary lines constructing Jewishness were drawn from late antiquity to modernity, and shifting definitions of Jewishness in different times and places. Examines group and individual cases and the interaction between self-identification and boundary drawing by others about Jews. Cases include: early Jesus-followers; crypto- and normative Jews and Inquisitorial persecution in medieval and early modern Europe; assimilating modern Jews; secular, ethnic, and nationalist Jewishness; converts, conversion, and Jews off the usual Jewish map: Africa, South America, Asia. Instructor: S. Magnus
• **HIST 301 - The Politics of Gender in Medieval and Early Modern Europe**
  This seminar examines European women’s history from the twelfth century to the French Revolution. By situating their lives within evolving social, economic, political and religious structures, we consider how women have acted individually and collectively, as agents of change and defenders of tradition, and how changing notions of gender have shaped communities, individuals and institutions. Topics include mysticism and sainthood, family and marriage, household production, witchcraft and scientific enquiry. Instructor: E. Wurtzel

• **HIST 327 – Borderlands**
  The American Southwest, roughly the United States-Mexico border area from Texas to California, is a political, economic, and cultural crossroads. We will investigate interactions between Native Americans and Spanish colonists beginning in the 16th century, emerging United States economic and political control during the 19th century, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, land dispossession, the Mexican Revolution, immigration, civil rights, and 20th century demography. We also discuss borderlands as a literary and symbolic concept. Instructor: P. Mitchell

• **POLT 202 - American Constitutional Law**
  The case method is used to analyze the principles of the American Constitution and Supreme Court decision-making. Topics include: presidential, congressional, and Supreme Court power; state versus national control of social policy and commerce; equal protection of the law and race, gender, sexual orientation; implied fundamental rights to abortion choice, education, and sexual intimacy; First Amendment rights of free speech and religion, and modern constitutional theories. Instructor: R. Kahn

• **RELG 108 - Introduction to Religion: Women and the Western Traditions**
  An introduction to Judaism, Christianity and Islam that focuses on women’s experiences and gender roles. This course will examine representations of women in sacred texts; primary sources by and about women from various historical periods, and contemporary feminist voices within each religious tradition. Topics to be investigated include: rabbinic teachings on biblical women, the role of women in early Christian heretical movements, discourses of the veil in Islam. Instructor: M. Kamitsuka

• **SOCI 215 - Contemporary Asian American Experience**
  How do race and culture define who belongs to the nation? For instance, how can ethnic minorities at times be ‘out-whiting whites’ but still be denied full citizenship? We answer these questions by examining Asian Americans’ efforts for belonging and social justice. Topics include generational change, the ‘war on terror’, media, trans-nationalism, multi-racials, pan-ethnicity, identity, and much more, and will be addressed from an intersectional approach. Readings come from many disciplines, with stress on sociology. Instructor: Staff

• **SOCI 264 - American Families: Comfort, Conflict, and Criticism**
  This course focuses on the diversity of families in the United States and incorporates an intersectional framework for understanding class, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality within the context of family. The work family nexus is investigated in order to understand how these institutions are reciprocally related. The conflict that surrounds many family forms is examined through public policy debates as well as ethnographic accounts of families and experiences. Instructor: D. John

• **SOCI 338 - Prostitution and Social Control: Governing Loose Women**
  Prostitution is a site of easy truths and inevitable conflict because of cultural ambiguities about sexuality, gender, ethnicity and citizenship. We probe these intersecting meanings by reviewing the wide range of empirical meanings attributed to prostitution and the ways modern forces have transformed them, especially the state. Taking cues from Michel Foucault, we analyze why recent legal solutions cannot fulfill expectations and discuss how the social control of prostitution might actually cause it. Restrictions: Closed to first year students Instructor: G. Mattson