First-Year Seminars, Spring 2022

First-year seminars are small classes – limited to 19 students – that fulfill general education (distribution) requirements. Many of the seminars involve activities in New York City. Seminars are an excellent way to connect with peers and faculty in a relaxed and friendly setting. Seminar course descriptions begin on page 2 of this document.

**Note: As long as you started taking classes at Hofstra in the fall 2021 or Spring 2022 semesters, you are eligible to register for a spring 2022 first-year seminar, even if you will reach sophomore class standing (30 or more credits) upon completion of the fall 2021 semester.**

To prepare for spring 2022 registration, you must complete the Blackboard tutorial “Pathway to PRIDE Fall 2021” and attend a group advising session to receive an alternate PIN. Check your Hofstra email for more information.

**First-year students with an alternate PIN may register for a spring 2022 first-year seminar or any other course on or after Sunday, October 24, 2021, at 10 p.m.**

If you have questions about this process, please contact your advising dean. You can find your advising dean’s name on the Hofstra portal in several locations:

- Log in to my.hofstra.edu.
- Go to Menu, click on Student Services, then click on Your Success Team.
- Select the Student Success Navigate icon on the homepage to view Your Success Team on the bottom right of the home screen.
- Click on the Degree Works icon to view your degree audit. Your advising dean’s name will appear at the top of the audit.

You can also contact the Center for University Advising (CUA) and ask, “Who is my advising dean?” Please email or call the CUA office for any assistance you may need. The CUA Office is located in:

**Center for University Advising**
Room 101 Memorial Hall, South Campus.
516-463-6770
mailto:advising@hofstra.edu
AFRICANA STUDIES

1. AFST 14S, sec. 1: From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter: Activism, Protests and Social Change (HP), 3 s.h. CRN 23254
   M/W, 2:40 p.m.-4:05 p.m., Jonathan Lightfoot

This course will explore the critical connection between social protest movements and social change from post-World War II to now. Through various readings, films and Socratic debate and dialogue, students will establish a historical context and gain a contemporary appreciation for the pedagogy of the oppressed. An introduction to praxis methodology, which seeks to connect theory with practice in ways that uses self-reflection to empower individuals to make greater contributions to the larger group struggle for change. The strategic approaches and lessons learned from the modern American Civil Rights Movement under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has influenced a number of other domestic and international civil and human rights movements. The struggle for women’s rights, the disabled, LGBTQ, climate change, and the fight to end colonialism, imperial power and South African Apartheid have all benefited from observing activism in the United States over the last 75 years. The course favors a constructivist design to help cultivate intellectual curiosity, develop critical thinking skills, and build meaningful collaborations through written, oral and artistic communication and expression. 

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Social Sciences category.

2. AFST 14S, sec. 2: Listening to the Souls of Black Folk: W.E.B. Du Bois and the project of Cultural Education (HP), 3 s.h. CRN 23255
   T/R, 2:40 p.m.-4:05 p.m., Eduardo Duarte

This seminar begins with and is rooted in Du Bois’ Souls and the thesis that in order to engage the problem of race in America we must resolve what Du Bois describes as the neglect toward and misunderstanding of most original American music. That is to say, we must resolve to recognize our American cultural inheritance by studying the spirituals and their legacy in the blues and jazz. This class will foster cultural education, engaging students in hearing the souls of black folk and thereby listening to the spirit of America.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Social Sciences category.

ANTHROPOLOGY

3. ANTH 14S, sec. 1: Bones, Bodies, and Burials (BH), 3 s.h. CRN 23264
   T/R, 9:40 a.m.-11:05 a.m., Kristen Hartnett-McCann

This course evaluates popular depictions of forensic science and forensic anthropology and explores the diverse roles of a forensic anthropologist in a modern, medicolegal setting. Students participate in hands-on skeletal analyses, case studies, and mock crime scene investigations. Topics such as human rights, serial killers, mass fatalities, and ethics of human subject research are investigated through readings and discussions.
Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in either the Social Sciences or Cross-Cultural category.

4. ANTH 14S, sec. A: Myths in Cross-Cultural Perspective (BH, CC), 3 s.h. CRN 23262
   M/W, 4:20 p.m.-5:45 p.m., Anne Buddenhagen

All over the world, humans have told stories in attempts to explain perplexing elements of their existence – mountains that unexpectedly spewed lava, rains that didn’t stop and flooded the landscape, relatives who betrayed them, and strange behaviors of their spouses. These stories, filled with horror, humor, and (sometimes) wisdom, were told around nighttime fires as part education and part entertainment. This course examines Viking stories of long, strange journeys; Navajo stories of monsters; and Maya stories of how to win wars.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in either the Social Sciences or Cross-Cultural category.

ART HISTORY

5. AH 14S, sec. 1: NYC Art & Architecture: From Colonial to Contemporary (AA), 3 s.h.
   CRN 22374
   M/W, 11:20 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Susan Schafer

This course provides a window onto New York City as built by its architects and depicted by its artists. Our journey will take us from Dutch and English colonial beginnings, to the American Revolution, to forming the metropolis in the 19th century, through the Gilded Age and 20th century urban realism, and finally, to early 21st century architecture developments and artistic representations of the city. We will study well-known monuments along with lesser-known but important works, and consider the political, cultural and economic factors that fueled the development of New York’s built environment. We will also look closely at the culture of the city through the lens of a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, and photography. By stressing the importance of analyzing artistic movements alongside the built environment, this course encourages students to develop critical and visual analysis of the built environment and the visual art movements of New York City -- “the greatest city of the world.”

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Humanities category.

ASTRONOMY

6. ASTR 14S, sec. 1L and QR1: Getting to Know Our Solar System: From the Ancient Greeks to Interstellar Life (NS, QR), 3 s.h. CRNs 21071 & 21072
   Lecture, T, 2:40 p.m.-4:35 p.m.; Lab, R, 2:40 p.m.-4:35 p.m., Stephen Lawrence

In this survey of our solar system, we discuss the evolution of ideas about the nature of our world, and the structure of our cosmos – from visions of an Earth-centered universe, to the modern view of Earth as a small, blue dot in the vast Milky Way galaxy. This seminar covers the
sun, the planets, and their moons, plus the small, wandering asteroids and “plutoids” orbiting in the empty places of the solar system – all of which formed very simply from a wispy cloud of dust and gas brought together by gravity. We also learn about planets orbiting other stars in other solar systems, and consider the possibility of extraterrestrial life in all of these places, far beyond the boundaries of our home on Earth. Students are required to attend several evening telescope observing sessions during the semester at the Hofstra Observatory.

Please note: This course satisfies University graduation requirements in both the Natural Sciences and Quantitative Reasoning categories.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

7. CLL 14S, sec. 1: Demons, Devils, Self-Destruction (LT), 3 s.h. CRN 23448
   T/R, 1:00 p.m.-2:25 p.m., John Krapp

Human beings are complicated. Capable of profound kindness, compassion, and generosity, humans cooperate to transform the environment in ways that make their lives easier, more satisfying, and fulfilling, both personally and collectively. They also consistently do stunning harm to themselves, to others, and to the world around them. Why? Is there something wrong with us? Is this the natural condition of who we are as human beings? For as long as there has been literature, literature has endeavored to understand and to explain these contradictory impulses in us. In this course, we read a variety of literary texts that look at our most inexplicable behavior and account for it as the result of the work of evil spirits, of the failure of moral and academic education, and of who we are as human beings. As we discuss the implications of all of these possibilities, we look particularly at the risks and rewards of religious faith in explaining, and overcoming, the harm that humans bring to the world.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Humanities category.

DRAMA

8. DRAM 14S, sec. 1: Improv for Everyone (AA, CPT), 3 s.h. CRN 21014
   T/R, 1:00 p.m.-2:25 p.m., Christopher Dippel

Trust, teamwork, honesty, communication, risk: These are the foundations of improvisation, and these are useful in every career. This course employs theater games and performance exercises to help students learn to think on their feet, work collaboratively, communicate effectively, and trust their own creativity and ideas. Students attend performances of various types of improvisation.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Humanities category.

FINE ARTS
This experimental painting course combines aspects of painting and sculpture to produce hybrid artworks that are mounted on the wall. Cave paintings, among the earliest surviving works of art, incorporated the natural irregularities of the walls with two-dimensional images. Throughout art history, painting has extended into the third dimension in a great variety of applications, including the traditions of mosaic and the modern invention of collage. Students learn formal aspects of painting such as color, shape, and composition, while being encouraged to experiment with new materials, paints, and adhesives. Prior experience with painting and sculpture is not expected.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Humanities category.

HISTORY

10. HIST 14S, sec. 1: The 60's (HP), 3 s.h. CRN 21206
M/W, 9:40 a.m.-11:05 a.m., Carolyn Eisenberg

Was this a special time? And if so, why? When commentators talk about the 1960s, some think of it as an exciting, idealistic period in which young people successfully challenged the existing culture, sexual norms, race relations, foreign policy, and political structures. Others describe it as a shattering time, in which violence, political disorder, drugs and immorality overtook American society. In this seminar, we will explore these different conceptions of the 1960s - using important secondary works, autobiography, music, and film to better understand the decade.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Social Sciences category.

11. HIST 14S, sec. 2: "It was all a Dream": The Realities and Illusions of Freedom in the United States, 1640-2020 (HP), 4 s.h. CRN 23499
T/R, 2:40 p.m.-4:35 p.m., Katrina Sims

The Notorious B.I.G. declared “it was all a dream…” in his 1994 hit Juicy as he reflected on the desire for economic ascension and personal autonomy as a youth in New York City. For many, however, the American Dream was a sliding scale of marginally increased access and seemingly insurmountable restrictions. In this seminar, students will reexamine watershed moments in the history of the United States to locate, identify, and recontextualize the experience of various minority groups as ideas about race, gender, and economic status informed developing notions about citizenship and culture.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Social Sciences category. This course is cross-listed with Women’s Studies.

PHILOSOPHY
For us to have a chance of finding the meaning of life, human life must have meaning, or at least the lives of individual human beings must have meaning. But perhaps these claims aren’t true, or don’t even make sense. Further, if claims about life having meaning aren’t true, or don’t even make sense, would that horrify or at least disappoint you? If so, does that reaction itself show that life has some kind of meaning after all? We pursue these questions through class discussions and readings.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Social Sciences category.

This course explores atheism, the view that God does not exist. We will examine the history of atheism from the ancient period to the present; the reasons and arguments in support of atheism; and the atheist responses to such questions as: Can an atheist lead a meaningful life? Can atheism provide for an objective basis for morality? And why and how does the universe exist? We will consider the writings of various atheists including: Lucretius, Hume, D’Holbach, Darwin, Marx, Freud, Nietzsche, Russell, Dawkins, Harris, Hitchens, Dennett, and Onfray. As an introductory class, no prior knowledge of philosophy is necessary. The course is open to believers and non-believers, alike.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Social Sciences category.

In this course we will return to Avatar: The Last Airbender, a show that many students will be familiar with from their childhood. In watching episodes together in class, we will actively identify and chart the concepts borrowed from indigenous and East and South Asian religious traditions. This will inevitably include a study of animism, interdependence, reincarnation and the intersection of religion and martial arts.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in either the Cross-Cultural or Social Sciences category.