

First-Year Seminars, Spring 2023

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 2022 or Spring 2023 semesters, you are eligible to register for a spring 2023 first-year seminar, even if you will reach sophomore class standing (30 or more credits) upon completion of the fall 2022 semester.

To prepare for spring 2023 registration, you must complete the Blackboard tutorial “Pathway to PRIDE Fall 2022” 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 2023 first-year seminar or any other course on or after Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 1:30 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 (CC), 3 s.h.
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. These connections beyond the United States will be highlighted in the course. 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 Cross-Cultural category.*

ANTHROPOLOGY

2. ANTH 14S, sec. 1: Bones, Bodies, and Burials (BH), 3 s.h.
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 the Social Sciences category.*

3. ANTH 14S, sec. A: Myths in Cross-Cultural Perspective (BH, CC), 3 s.h.
M/W, 8:00 a.m.-9:25 a.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

4. AH 14S, sec. 1: NYC Art & Architecture: From Colonial to Contemporary (AA), 3 s.h.
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

5. ASTR 14S, sec. 1L and QR1: Getting to Know Our Solar System: From the Ancient Greeks to Interstellar Life (NS, QR), 3 s.h.
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

6. CLL 14S, sec. 1: Demons, Devils, Self-Destruction (LT), 3 s.h.
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

7. DRAM 14S, sec. 1: Improv for Everyone (AA, CP), 3 s.h.
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

8. FA 14S, sec. 1: Off the Wall Painting (CP), 3 s.h.
M/W, 9:40 a.m.-11:05 a.m., James Lee

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.

GEOGRAPHY

9. GEOG 14S, sec. 1: Child Labor in the World Today (BH, CC), 3 s.h.
M/W, 2:40 p.m.-4:05 p.m., Kari Jensen

After a general overview of child labor in the world today, we begin a country-by-country approach to this complex issue. (The students participate in the decision about which countries to study in more detail.) We then focus on the country-specific historical and societal context of child labor issues, coupled with a study of governmental policies and nongovernmental organizations' strategies to help alleviate the problems related to child labor, such as poverty and inadequate access to education. The course is based on lectures, documentary films and discussions.

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

GLOBAL STUDIES

10. GS 14S, sec. 1: Is Globalization Over? (BH), 3 s.h.
M/W, 9:40 a.m.-11:05 a.m., Massoud Fazeli

In this seminar we will critically explore the rise of free market globalization from an historical perspective, examining its advocates, promises, challenges, and contradictions. Some of the questions considered include: the populist backlash against free market globalization, whether the global 1 percent has rigged the game for its benefits, the challenges posed by immigration, the rise of China and the authoritarian model and is there a future for global economic and cultural integration or have we entered a period of deglobalization?

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

HISTORY

11. HIST 14S, sec. 1: Stories from the Street: An Introduction to Public-Facing History (HP), 4 s.h.
M/W, 2:40 p.m.-4:35 p.m., Sally Charnow

What is **Public-Facing History**? In this course we will explore those practices and activities that put the methods, theory and content of history to use in public settings. Topics include the treatment and curating of memory, history, and the collective past in museums and exhibitions; digital and new media including websites, podcasts, and film; the use and interpretation of material cultural and artifacts; and the presentation of history in historic sites. Students will get hands-on experience in many of these activities and produce final projects based on their field

work. **Public-Facing History** is an exciting and emerging professional field that includes jobs in museums, archives, and libraries, memory research work for families, businesses and other institutions, and many other areas of pursuit.

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

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

12. LACS 14S, sec. 1: Flipping Bats: Latin American Popular Culture (CC, IS), 3 s.h.
M/W, 11:20 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Brenda Elsey

This course introduces students to the history of Latin America and the diaspora through popular cultural practices including sports, food, and dance. We will study major political events, such as European colonization, slavery, and the Cuban Revolution through the lens of popular culture. The course texts will focus on such topics as the history of samba and carnival in Brazil, baseball in the Caribbean, and Mexican women's art. The impact of migrations, including the African Diaspora, Asians to the Caribbean, and Latinx to the United States will be central to our case studies. In addition, we will explore the ways in which Latin American creators and producers have influenced the global marketplace of cultural commodities.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Cross-Cultural or Interdisciplinary Studies category.

PHILOSOPHY

13. PHIL 14S, sec. 1: Skepticism and Knowledge (HP), 4 s.h.
M/W, 2:40 p.m.-4:35 p.m., Terry Godlove

Philosophers often call into question assumptions that we take for granted in everyday life or in the course of normal scientific inquiry. Some of these assumptions concern the limits and possibility of knowledge. Can we know whether there is an external reality independent of our minds? Do we have solid grounds to believe in the laws of nature formulated according to our best scientific methods? Do logic and mathematics constitute knowledge? Is there any knowledge that can be grounded independently of our experience? Skepticism about knowledge is the philosophical point of view that argues for negative answers to such questions. In this course, we will examine different forms of skepticism in the history of philosophy from Plato and Augustine through Descartes and Hume down to the present. We will look at a range of forces in contemporary life—for example, propaganda, social media, and prejudices of various sorts—that tend to undermine our ability to form objective judgments about the world around us.

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

PSYCHOLOGY

14. PSY 14F, sec. 01: CSI: Psychology (or, What Psychologists Could Teach Lawyers) (BH), 3 s.h.

M/W, 9:40-11:05 a.m., Robin Flaton

In several recent high-profile cases, jury decisions have left people stunned and angry. What were those jurors thinking? How could a reasonable person have come to that decision? In this course we seek to make sense of these issues. Our focus is not on what jurors might be thinking, but on how jurors might be thinking — about the evidence they are presented, about the witnesses, the accused, the lawyers involved, and about each other. Can psychological research increase the likelihood of a “just” outcome in the courtroom? To answer this question, we examine several areas, including the validity of eyewitness identifications; the effect of institutional racism within the criminal justice system; the efficacy of psychological jury selection; and some cognitive and social dynamics of juror deliberation.

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

RELIGION

15. RELI 14S, sec. 1: Avatar: Last Airbender (CC, HP), 4 s.h.
T/TH, 6:00 p.m.-7:55 p.m., Sophie Hawkins

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.