

## First-Year Seminars, Spring 2024

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 2023 or Spring 2024 semesters, you are eligible to register for a spring 2024 first-year seminar, even if you will reach sophomore class standing (30 or more credits) upon completion of the fall 2023 semester.**

You can prepare for Spring 2024 registration by signing up for a group advising session in October. ***First-year students will be sent information about signing up for a Fall group advising session via Pathway to Pride, now located in Canvas.*** Check your Hofstra email for more information about this process. Attendees will receive the alternate PIN for Spring registration.

**First-year students with an alternate PIN may register for a Spring 2024 first-year seminar or any other course on or after Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 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>

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## AFRICANA STUDIES

1. AFST 14S, sec. 1: From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter: Activism, Protests and Social Change (IS), 3 s.h.  
M/W, 2:40 p.m.-4:05 p.m., Jonathan Lightfoot  
CRN 22031

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.*

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## ART HISTORY

2. 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  
CRN 21772

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.*

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## COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

3. CLL 14S, sec. 1: Demons, Devils, Self-Destruction (LT), 3 s.h.  
T/R, 1:00 p.m.-2:25 p.m., John Krapp  
CRN 22114

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.*

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## FINE ARTS

4. FA 14S, sec. 1: Off the Wall Painting (CP), 3 s.h.  
M/W, 9:40 a.m.-11:05 a.m., James Lee  
CRN 21773

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.*

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## GEOGRAPHY

5. GEOG 14S, sec. 1: Child Labor in the World Today (BH, CC), 3 s.h.  
M/W, 9:40 a.m.-11:05 a.m., Kari Jensen  
CRN 22565

This course will present facts and discourses about child labor in the world today, focusing on the Global South (Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean). After an overview of different discourses on child labor, child work, and childhood, we will take a country-by-country approach where the students will participate in the decision about which countries in the Global South to focus on. We will study the country-specific historical, societal, economic, and cultural contexts of child labor issues, coupled with an analysis of governmental policies and intergovernmental as well as non-governmental organizations' strategies to help alleviate problems related to child labor, such as poverty and a low degree of access to education. The literature required for this course gives a voice to those who themselves have experience with child labor in the Global South. The course will be based on readings, writing, lectures, documentary films, class discussions, student presentations, tests, and group-work.

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

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## **GLOBAL STUDIES**

6. GS 14S, sec. A: Globalization, Deglobalization, and Your Future (BH), 3 s.h.  
M/W, 4:20 p.m.-5:45 p.m., Massoud Fazeli  
CRN 22568

This seminar looks at the main forces that have shaped globalization and considers if we have entered a period of deglobalization. We look at how this will likely affect jobs and shape your future career choices. Topics include the growing opposition to Globalization, challenges posed by the rise of China and authoritarian governments, immigration and migration, trade restrictions, rising inequality, and how the adoption of new technology such as robotics and artificial intelligence will alter the nature of work.

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

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## **HISTORY**

7. HIST 14S, sec. 1: Black Italy: Race, Culture, and Colonialism in Two Worlds (HP), 3 s.h.  
M/W, 2:40 p.m.-4:05 p.m., Stanislao Pugliese  
CRN 22596

This course will examine the long history of cross-cultural interaction between the Italian peninsula, the Mediterranean basin, and Africa. Topics to include ancient Rome and the Punic

Wars, Southern Italy as the first “globalized” culture, the religious tradition of “the Black Madonna,” the racialization of Southern Italy as “Africa” and migration to the Americas, the “conquests” of Libya (1911) and Ethiopia (1935-36), the political ramifications of contemporary migration to Italy, the history and intersection of Italian Americans and Black Americans, and the debate over Italian Americans and “whiteness.”

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

8. HIST 14S, sec. 2: The Tragedy of 9/11 and its Aftermath (HP), 3 s.h.  
T/TH, 2:40 p.m.-4:05 p.m., Carolyn Eisenberg  
CRN 23471

The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center was a shocking event, which nurtured the belief that “the world will never be the same.” Even now it’s difficult to adequately assess the significant changes that resulted since that attack. In this class, we will examine the impact of 9/11 on the United States, focusing on Long Island. We also examine the international ramifications, notably the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the use of Guantanamo as a prison for accused “terrorists.” We will be reading first-hand accounts, historical documents, and important secondary works, as well as viewing significant films from the period.

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

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## **LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES**

9. LACS 14S, sec. 1: Afro-Cuban Roots of American Music (CC, IS), 3 s.h.  
T/TH, 1:00 p.m.-2:25 p.m., Alfonso Garcia-Osuna  
CRN 23577

This course is geared towards students with little or no formal training in music (skilled musicians are welcome). Because of the important African presence in Cuba, Cuban music evolved markedly away from the traditional European model towards improvisational African traditions. Since the early 1800's these innovative Afro-Cuban musical paradigms have been penetrating the U.S. in significant ways. The course will explore its direction and evolution, starting in Africa, evolving in Cuba, and entering the United States through cultural conveyor belts such as the Havana-New Orleans commercial shipping lane. It will describe the impact of Afro Cuban music on American culture as well as on the mainstream currents of music in the United States. It will also identify the social processes and historical contexts that made this influence possible. We will survey various genres and assess the contributions of those individuals whose talent, efforts and foresight allowed this considerable transculturation to take place, all the while listening to and analyzing their musical productions. Taught by Latin Jazz big band leader and Hofstra professor Dr. Alfonso García-Osuna.

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

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## LITERATURE

10. LIT 14S, sec. 1: Russia: War and Civilization (LT), 3 s.h.

M/W, 11:20 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Igor Pustovoi

CRN 23369

*Students do not need to have any knowledge or exposure of the Russian language or culture to register for this course.* This course is an introduction to Russian and Post-Soviet studies, exploring Russian language and literature, history, religion, ideology, art and music, theatre and film, as well as some aspects of daily life on post-Soviet space. All this becomes especially relevant in these difficult times, as we all try to comprehend how a country that once defeated fascism managed to nurture its own “ruscism” and is currently conducting rocket attacks on Ukraine, including Kiev, “the mother of all Russian cities”. Russian culture represents a collective effort of more than a hundred nationalities comprising the empire, which resulted in a culture that is both familiar and alien to Western observers. Through the discussion and textual analysis students will explore the general relationship between literature, art, culture, and society.

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

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## PHILOSOPHY

11. PHIL 14S, sec. 1: The Meaning of Life (HP), 4 s.h.

T/TH, 2:40 p.m.-4:35 p.m., Mark McEvoy

CRN 21012

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.*

12. PHIL 14S, sec. 2: Law, Politics, & Society (HP), 4 s.h.

**AVAILABLE ONLY TO STUDENTS REGISTERED IN THE LEAP program**

M/W, 2:40 p.m.-4:35 p.m., Amy Baehr

CRN 23563

Every year, tens of thousands of young people enter law school and begin the study of legal rules. Most do so because they see the legal profession as a noble calling, and they enter it with a desire to promote justice. In their three years of full-time study of the law, however, these future lawyers spend little time thinking critically about legal rules and about the place of the

lawyer in a just society. In this course we explore how our legal rules and constitutional norms have developed; how the American legal system interacts with the rest of our political institutions; how the American legal system reflects the cultural norms, class distinctions, and idiosyncrasies of our society; and how legal rules and the role of the lawyer relate to larger ideals of a just society.

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

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## **POLITICAL SCIENCE**

13. PSC 14F, sec. 01: Winning the White House in 2024 (BH), 3 s.h.  
T/TH, 1:00 p.m.-2:25 p.m., Meenekshi Bose  
CRN 23409

This seminar will examine the 2024 race for the presidency in the context of continuing intense partisanship and polarization in American politics. The tumultuous 2020 race had many anomalies from previous presidential election years, including limited campaigning due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the incumbent president's refusal to accept election results; and the shocking January 6, 2021 assault on the Capitol that attempted to block certification of electoral college votes. The 2024 race potentially may have a rematch between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, this time with President Biden as incumbent and former President Trump as challenger. Seminar topics will include potential changes in nominating contest schedules, candidates' leadership abilities, primary debates, and previews of the major-party presidential nominating conventions as well as general-election campaigning, debates, and voting. The seminar also will consider how the 2024 election outcome will influence politics and governance.

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

14. PSC 14F, sec. 02: Machine Politics and Predatory Government (BH), 3 s.h.  
T/TH, 2:40 p.m.-4:05 p.m., Craig Burnett  
CRN 23410

Through predatory government policies, political machines successfully — and legally — capture massive amounts of resources to ensure the political machine's survival — until the political pie can expand no more. This course examines both historical and contemporary political machines in the United States and abroad. Some key questions under consideration will be: What are the causes and consequences of political machine formation? How do political machines ensure their survival? What causes political machines to break down? The course will also include at least one trip to New York City to examine how political machines help shape a political landscape.

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

## PSYCHOLOGY

15. 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  
CRN 22501

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.*