

Rabinowitz Honors College Seminars

Fall 2025

HUHC 20A H1 THE UNIVERSE: 12 CLAIMS WITH WHICH EVERYONE WOULD AGREE

Professor: Amy Karofsky, Philosophy

MW 11:20AM - 12:45PM

CRN: 92926

BRESL 0202

There isn't much about which everyone can agree. We all have different tastes, opinions, and beliefs about pretty much everything. But what if we could find a few—or maybe even a dozen—claims about the universe that pretty much everyone would accept? I say “pretty much” everyone because there are no claims about which every single person will agree. Some will disagree just to disagree. But perhaps we could find claims that even naysayers will find it difficult—maybe even *impossible*—to prove false.

In this course, we will examine the universe, as a whole, and examine whether there are any claims with which everyone would agree. We will read various accounts of the universe from ancient to contemporary philosophers, including Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes, Leibniz, Spinoza, and David Lewis.

You will be encouraged to think—*really think*—on your own about these questions and what you take to be the most compelling responses to them. We will then all work together to examine the various student responses. You do need not to have a background in philosophy for this course, but you will need a thinking cap!

The chair of the Philosophy department has agreed to allow this course to count as a departmental elective toward the Philosophy major and minor.

HUHC 20B H1 SURVEY OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

Professor: David Green, Political Science

TR 4:20PM - 5:45PM

CRN: 91823

BARND 0201

Not so long ago, public intellectuals were predicting the ‘end of ideology’. Today, ideologies seem more relevant than ever, and ideological polarization is on the rise in country after country, including the United States. With that development in mind, a course surveying the landscape of these clashing ideas and belief systems seems especially appropriate. Our primary purpose this semester will be to secure a solid grasp of the core tenets of about a dozen or so major political ideologies, along with their respective back-stories and historical contexts. As time permits, we'll examine a number of case studies throughout the semester as well, detailing relevant real-world events, people, organizations and systems, and we'll read articles

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from current media about contemporary ideological debates and developments. This is a course about ideas, and students who find such material invigorating should be highly stimulated by these investigations.

The chair of the Political Science department has agreed to allow this course to count as a departmental elective toward the Political Science major and minor.

HUHC 20C H1 INEQUITIES K-12

Professor: Tara-Marie Desruisseaux, Teaching, Learning and Technology

MW 2:40PM - 4:05PM

CRN: 92450

RSVLT 0212

In this seminar, we will critically examine how K-12 schools both reflect and perpetuate social inequities—and how they can also be leveraged as tools for justice. Through engaging discussions, case studies, and policy analyses, we will explore issues such as school funding disparities, teacher diversity, the impact of standardized testing, and the role of race, class, and language in shaping educational opportunities.

The chair of the Teaching, Learning and Technology department has agreed to allow this course to count as a departmental elective toward the Teaching, Learning and Technology major and minor.

HUHC 20D H1 DON QUIXOTE

Professor: Alvaro Enrigue, Romance Languages and Literatures

TR 2:40PM - 4:05PM

CRN: 92927

BRESL 0012

Don Quijote is the first and ultimate modern novel. It's hilarious and philosophical, melancholic and delirious, grotesque but full of moral content. Miguel de Cervantes' present to the world was the invention of a new form of freedom. Freedom to imagine, to be critical, to be whoever one wants to be. In this class we will read *Don Quijote* in full length and get to understand Cervantes' context and reasons to invent that symbolic content machine that the modern novel is.

The chair of the Romance Languages and Literatures department has agreed to allow this course to count as a departmental elective toward the third category in the Spanish major.

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HUHC 20E H1 CROSS-SENSORY ART: EXPLORING TOUCH, SMELL, SOUND, AND TASTE IN ARTISTIC PRODUCTION

Professor: Anna Novakov, Fine Arts, Design, Art History

MW 11:20AM - 12:45PM

CRN: 92928

CALK 0208

This hybrid studio art and art history course invites students to explore the dynamic intersection of sensory experiences in contemporary artistic practice. By engaging with touch, smell, sound, and taste, students will investigate how artists across cultures and time periods have integrated multi-sensory elements into their work. Through a combination of hands-on studio projects and historical analysis, we will examine the theory and practice of cross-sensory art, delving into topics such as synesthesia, phenomenology, and the role of the senses in shaping perception and meaning.

Students will be challenged to create their own multi-sensory artworks, pushing the boundaries of traditional visual art forms. Readings, discussions, and critiques will be supplemented by practical experimentation with materials and media that engage non-visual senses. The course will culminate in an exhibition of student projects, offering an immersive experience for both creators and viewers. This course is ideal for students interested in expanding their artistic practice beyond the visual and engaging with art in an interdisciplinary, experimental context.

The chair of the Fine Arts department has agreed to allow this course to count as a departmental elective toward the Fine Arts or Art History majors and minors.

HUHC 20F H1 WHITE SUPREMACIST IDEAS IN AMERICAN POLITICS AND CULTURE

Professor: Katrina Sims, History

MW 2:40PM - 4:05PM

CRN: 92929

BROWR 0102

Public disruption, discourteous rhetoric, and episodic violence have become distinctive features of American life in the 21st century. While many reject the current atmosphere with claims that previous interactions were more conciliatory, some scholars link current tensions with recurring illusions of American democracy that ignore the centering of whiteness in American society while simultaneously marginalizing minority groups, including Indigenous Peoples, Black, and Latino communities. Leilani McKinzie-Lavayen, an English Major and Honors College student, will serve as peer teacher for the course. She will offer a thoughtful and engaging perspective

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during her "professor for the day" lecture. Students of all levels of awareness and understanding are invited to enter this timely discussion.

The chair of the History department has agreed to allow this course to count as a departmental elective toward the History major and minor.

HUHC 20G H1 HOT TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Professor: Jase Bernhardt, Geology, Environment, and Sustainability

MW 2:40PM - 4:05PM

CRN: 92930

HAGDN 0007

In the present state of deeply polarized politics, environmental issues such as climate change and sustainability resonate strongly with some individuals but are met with skepticism by others. As a result, it can be hard to know which sources to trust, whether it be traditional mainstream media voices or social media influencers. This seminar will provide students with the basic scientific background knowledge to better understand the true role that humans play in changing the environment, along with the merits and drawbacks of potential solutions. These goals will be accomplished through a range of activities including the reading of scientific journal articles, small group presentations, and case studies of important historical events.

The chair of the Geology and Sustainability department has agreed to allow this course to count as a departmental elective toward the Geology and Sustainability major and minor.

*** HUHC 21A H1 PERSPECTIVES ON HEALTHCARE: SCIENCE SOCIETY & SELF**

Professor: Robert Gluck, Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies

MW 4:20PM - 5:45PM

CRN: 93723

SIC 0310

When people think of healthcare, more often than not they picture doctors, nurses, hospitals, and insurance. But healthcare is far more expansive. It shapes public policy, influences economies, intersects with ethics, and thrives in the space of technological innovation. And that's just for starters. Whether as an academic subject or a lived experience, healthcare is an inescapable, and significant, part of daily life.

This course is a tour de force of healthcare, defined in its broadest scope. It takes a multidisciplinary approach to exploring the healthcare landscape, combining interactive lectures, case studies, and discussions with a broad array of experts from Hofstra's diverse

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community. Students will engage with topics ranging from the history of medicine to the business of healthcare, from health disparities to the future of artificial intelligence in medicine.

Course Highlights

- **Guest Speakers:** Experts in clinical care, policy, law, ethics, technology, and more
- **Case Studies:** Real-world scenarios exploring healthcare decisions and dilemmas
- **Interdisciplinary Perspectives:** Insights from engineering, basic science, public health, philosophy, and more
- **Interactive Learning:** Simulations, discussions, debates, and collaborative problem-solving

This course is designed for students from all disciplines—no prior experience in healthcare is required. By the end of the semester, students will develop a broader understanding of what healthcare encompasses, how it operates, how it affects their lives and the lives of those around them, and how they can navigate and influence the system in their future careers.

The director of the Health Sciences program has agreed to allow this course to count as a departmental elective toward the Health Sciences major and minor.

** Courses marked with an asterisk are non-liberal arts courses.*