

University Honors Program

2018-2019 (Offerings subject to change)

AUTUMN QUARTER

Exploding Binaries: Sex-Gender, Body-Culture, Jessica Elkayam – LPC TTH 2:40-4:10

This course, which focuses on sexual difference in identity construction, will explore the way in which difference is theorized in the West in binary terms before strategically deploying narratives and theories from varying cultural perspectives to transform the landscape. Students will work collectively through intensive discussion of texts and related media to explode binary constructions and investigate the liberatory possibilities that may entail. Students should expect to develop a critical perspective on the meaning of multiculturalism and to conduct research that engages the intersection of multiple vectors of oppression and forces of identity construction.

Human Rights, Identity, Race and Religion, J. Walker – LPC MW 9:40-11:10

In this class we will uncover the structural oppression faced by the African American and Muslim communities, both historically and in the U.S. today, as well as various manners that have been articulated for resisting and combatting such oppression. Students will be asked to confront their own sense of identity and to acknowledge the senses of both privilege and oppression that attach to these identities. Emphasis will be placed upon the notion of intersectionality in relation to such group identifications. Issues of sex, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and class will also be explored with the aim to help foster a sense of awareness in students as to the radical inequalities and injustices and to begin the process of articulating possible manners of overcoming these problems.

American Popular Culture 1890s-1930s, A. McCracken – LPC – MW 11:20-12:50

Beginning in the late 19th century national mass media such as film, radio, records, sheet music, and magazines, as well as consumer leisure activities like vaudeville, circuses, amusement parks, and shopping malls became part of the daily lives of a majority of Americans, uniting them as never before. The class will focus on the way in which popular culture from this era simultaneously reified, exposed, and challenged social inequalities through its representation of a multicultural nation and its reception by audiences of the time.

Multiculturalism Challenge in post-1945 Europe, Julia Woesthoff – LPC TTH 1:00-2:30

This course illuminates the history of multiculturalism in post-World War II Europe from two different angles. We will look at both the historical developments connected to multiculturalism as well as the ways in which scholars have made sense of them. Students will explore such issues as the legacies of fascism and post-war occupation, colonialism and post-colonialism, national identity, citizenship, issues of gender equality and sexuality, and religion.

WINTER QUARTER

Mixed Race Art and Identity, L. Kina – LPC – MW 2:40-4:10

Using the visual arts and cultural studies, this course will critically examine images of miscegenation and mixed race and post-ethnoracial identity constructs. Students will learn about the history and emergence of the multiracial movement and will reflect upon our present moment and the increasingly ethnically ambiguous generation that has been dubbed “Generation Mix.”

WINTER QUARTER (cont.)

Globalization and Immigration, J. Schneider – LPC – MW 1:00-2:30

Globalization and immigration are topics of ongoing public discussion and debate. In this course, students will explore these topics from various points of view, highlighting their interrelatedness. In addition to encountering academic perspectives, students will look at how globalization and immigration connect to everyday life, and especially everyday life in Chicago, a self-proclaimed “global city” and a long-standing “city of immigrants.” Through readings, discussions, writings, and other projects, students will develop a deeper understanding of how globalization and immigration connect to pressing contemporary questions on the nature of equality, rights, citizenship, and multicultural society.

Religion and Politics, S. Hibbard – LPC – TTH 1:00-2:30

This course will look at the interaction of religion and politics in comparative perspective. A central focus of the class is the manner in which multi-ethnic, multi-religious societies have grappled with questions of tolerance and religious diversity over time. Of particular interest is the manner in which religion informs nationalist (or collective) identities, provides a language for political action, and, at times, sanctions discrimination and ill treatment. The first section of the class will look at these issues theoretically, with a primary emphasis upon the connection between religion and nationalism, religion and violence, and the treatment of women and minority populations. The second part of the course will look at a series of case studies from a variety of regions and traditions. These cases are drawn primarily from the Middle East and South Asia, though also include the United States and Bosnia. The last part of the course will focus on religious peacebuilding, and the manner in which religious traditions can (and do) provide a basis for peaceful coexistence. The classes will be organized in a seminar format, which means that preparation and participation are essential.

SPRING QUARTER

Crossing Borders: Identity and the Nation, C. Goffman – LPC TTH 11:20-12:50

This course invites students to consider the concept of “places,” not as static locations, but as dynamic sites of intersections of individuals, groups, and cultures, brought about by events, change, exploration, war, commerce, colonialism, imperialism, and globalization. An important aspect of this discussion will be the concept of “colonization,” political, economic, and cultural. Using fiction, memoirs, and primary documents we will consider how individuals cross literal and figurative “borders” in post-colonial nations (India/Pakistan) and in locales not usually seen as “colonized” (Ottoman Empire, Turkey, and China).