

University Honors Program

2019-2020 (Offerings subject to change)

AUTUMN QUARTER

American Pluralism and the War on Terrorism, D. Kamin – LPC TTH 11:20-12:50

This course will examine how the War on Terrorism that has been waging since September 2001, has affected our multicultural society. We will explore the circumstances that led us into this war, the policies of our government, and the reaction of the American people overall, as well as the reaction of distinct ethnic, racial, and religious communities in the U.S. We will follow these reactions as they have continued to develop over the past 18 years, especially as America's War on Terror has taken on new enemies and objectives worldwide. We will consider the diverse perspectives of various communities within America's pluralistic culture on the rationale for--and conduct of--the War on Terror in order to better understand and appreciate similarities and differences between distinct sub-groups in American society.

American Popular Culture 1890s-1930s, A. McCracken – LPC – MW 1:00-2:30

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.

WINTER QUARTER

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.

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."

Crossing Borders: Identity and the Nation, C. Goffman – LPC TTH 2:40-4:10

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).

SPRING QUARTER

Ethics of Globalization and Development, M. Edwards – LPC MW 11:20-12:50

This course will focus on the ethical issues generated by the political and economic relations that exist among the countries of the developed world and the developing world, examining such topics as value systems in conflict; human rights and social justice; economics of globalization; environmental change and population growth; and peace and security.

Multiculturalism Challenge in post-1945 Europe, J. 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.

Language and Identity in the US, L. Torres – LPC MW 2:40-4:10

In this course, we will consider the relationship between language and social identity, and explore how we use language to construct “self” and “other.” The course introduces students to the concepts, theories, and methods used to analyze language and its role in the definition and construction of individual and group identity. We will look specifically at how social and individual factors may influence linguistic structure and vice-versa. The course will explore the interaction between language and speakers’ membership in various groups and linguistic variation across groups.

Identity, Race and Gender, M. Larrabee – LPC MW 9:40-11:10

Students will explore the issues of identity, including the impact of gender, race and ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexuality, and the cultural politics that influence all of these. The course will move from a strong experiential focus to a study of the theories concerning identities and racialized groups, addressing the ways in which we all live as implicit theorists within our cultures.