

79-115/U  
9 units

***The Jewish Peoples: A Global History***

Second Session, MTWRF, Online/Remote, 11:00am-12:20pm

A. Beatty

This introductory-level class will survey the long and varied history of the Jewish peoples, from Biblical times, through medieval Europe and the Middle East, to the histories of Jewish people in Eastern Europe, migrations to the New World, the rise of Zionism, the Holocaust, the Israel-Palestine conflict, and the contemporary history of Jewish communities around the world. Across all of these, we will explore topics and themes like religion, collective memory, antisemitism, political violence, genocide, and national identity. Readings will be a combination of secondary academic literature, along with a smaller selection of relevant primary documents. Students will be assessed via a mid-term quiz, a final exam and a participation grade. This class does not require any prior knowledge of Jewish history, and it may satisfy one of the elective requirements for the Religious Studies minor.

79-150/U  
9 units

***Medieval Science, Magic, and Wonders of Nature***

Second Session, MTWRF, Online/Remote, 9:30am-10:50am

A. Garnhart-Bushakra

Why do monsters exist and lurk on the margins of our maps? What do animals symbolize--are they God's creations or merely arrangements of the elements? What is the meaning behind a comet--it is natural, a miracle, or something far more sinister? Contrary to popular belief, people in the Middle Ages asked themselves questions about the world around them and sought definitive answers. This course explores the shifting boundaries between science, magic, and religion as defined by thinkers residing in medieval Europe and the Mediterranean between 900 and 1500 C.E. Their observations--and sometimes, experimentations--laid the foundation for the philosophy of nature, which in turn became science as we know it today. In particular, we will address the medieval universe and its cosmology; the physical world and the supernatural; the rationale behind transmutations in alchemy and shapeshifting; the invisible and sacred forces in the heavens and from planetary bodies; contemporary attitudes towards medicine and the human body; and the cross-cultural exchange of knowledge within Christian, Islamic, and Jewish circles of scholarship. Course assignments will include weekly quizzes, short reading responses, and for a final project, students will research their own medieval artifact(s) that will be showcased as part of the class's digital "cabinet" of collected curiosities and, ultimately, wonder. This course is open to all students, requires no prerequisites, and may be used to fulfill one of the elective requirements for the Religious Studies minor.

79-155/U  
9 units

***Introduction to African American Studies***

Second Session, MTWRF, Online/Remote, 12:30pm-1:50pm

A. Hingorani

This course introduces students to some of the critical themes, concepts, and contemporary issues surrounding Black Americans in the United States with an underlying interdisciplinary framework. The emphasis of investigation in this course will be comparative--this is, historical, sociological, and literary in scope. We'll engage with questions of difference and cultural representation as each relates to the construction and deconstruction of essentialized categories of racial, ethnic, cultural, and national identities. Examining the relationship between historical and contemporary policies and representations of Black Americans will be central in our understanding of their lived experiences during the twenty-first century. Overall, we will gain an understanding of the complexity of the African American identity and socio-cultural issues as they relate to economic and political resources/organizing/activism, and sociological engagement with current and emerging issues of race, nationalism, and power.

79-172/U  
9 units

*Race, Caste, Class, and Difference in the United States and India*  
Second Session, MTWRF, Online/Remote, 3:30pm-4:50pm

A. Hingorani

This course compares the marginalization of Black Americans to the social exclusion of Indian Dalits throughout the duration of the twentieth century. The course explores the parallel experiences of racism and broader discrimination between these groups, centering on how race intersects with caste, capitalism, and class. The course compares the struggles of both Black Americans and low-caste Indians against mass incarceration, police brutality, criminal and racial stereotypes, and their quest for civil rights. It contains multiple transnational elements, exploring the histories of the South Asian diaspora in the United States, comparing their analysis of the racism Black Americans experience, and evaluating how they connect their findings back to the marginalized experiences of low-caste Indians in India. It is an imperative part of this course to look at race and caste globally, in an interdisciplinary manner and engaging with disciplines such as sociology, philosophy, and political science. The course will begin with an overview of the History of Racial Formation and White Supremacy and then shift to the 1890s with the Plessy v. Ferguson court case in 1896 which legalized the existence of a "caste society" through racial segregation. The final weeks of the course will analyze the development of "criminal castes" and mass incarceration in the aftermath of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the contemporary manifestations of racial caste in the United States as well as caste and gender discrimination in India.