

WINTER QUARTER 2018 UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

available from <http://www.shc.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/courses.html>

The following is a list of courses that may be counted toward the SHC adjunct major or minor. You may also petition the SHC Director to count a course not listed here.

Courses notated with a red asterisk (*) are open to SHC students during pre-registration

FEATURED COURSES BY SHC AFFILIATED FACULTY:

* [HISTORY 300-0 - New Lectures in History](#) (23141) "[Technology and Society](#)" - [Diana Kurkovsky West](#) - MoWe 2:00PM - 3:20PM | University Hall 122

How do new technologies emerge? Does society create technology, or does technology create a new society? What can history of technology tell us about some of the more important issues of our time? This course will trace the history of technology through some of the key social issues around innovation and the emergence of new technological forms. In exploring this dynamic, we will investigate a wide array of questions on the interaction between technology, society, politics, and economics, emphasizing the themes of innovation and maturation, systems and regulation, risk and failure, and ethics and expertise. Among the specific topics to be explored are computers and digital technologies, energy infrastructure and politics, bioengineering, medical mistakes, toxic waste, global distribution of risk, gender and advocacy, and other pressing issues at the nexus of social and technological. Students will become familiar with key debates around technology, will learn to situate these debates in historical perspective, will master techniques for analyzing the pros and cons of technological advancements, will learn how to collect, compile and analyze bibliographic sources, and will hone their analytical skills in considering the interplay between innovation and social change.

* [SOCIOL 376-0 - Topics in Sociological Analysis](#) 21 (24732) "[Wars on Science: AIDS, Autism and other Controversies](#)" - [Onur Ozgode](#) - MoWe 2:00PM - 3:20PM | Locy Hall 111

Does truth still matter? Why did we lose faith in the ability of experts to resolve scientific controversies ranging from AIDS, ebola and autism epidemics to climate change? How can experts regain their authority? This course will examine how truth became a key aspect of politics in our society and why this made experts vulnerable to attacks. Bridging sociology of science and knowledge with the interdisciplinary approach of Science and Technology Studies (STS), we will study how experts produce knowledge, shape our identities, and wield power. Students will develop the skills necessary for critically analyzing the social and political strategies experts use for establishing their authority over truth, as well as the weaknesses these strategies pose for the rule of the expert.

* [HISTORY 300-0 - New Lectures in History](#) 38 (23139) "[Science and Religion](#)" - [Daniel A Stolz](#) - MoWe 2:00PM - 3:20PM | Harris Hall L06

Few ways of thinking about the modern world are as firmly entrenched as the notion of a conflict between science and religion. According to a 2015 survey by the Pew Research Center, 59% of Americans believe that science and religion are "often in conflict." As many as 30% of Americans believe that science often contradicts their own religious beliefs. And how people think about the relationship between science and religion correlates strongly with their positions on a range of policy issues, from the teaching of evolution in public school to the ethics of genetic modification. As timeless as it may seem, however, the notion of a science-religion conflict is relatively young. This course will explore its origins, evolution, and ramifications over the last century and a half, devoting special attention to global contexts from which the "conflict thesis" emerged in the late nineteenth century, including debates over Darwinism, historical criticism of the Bible, colonialism, Christian missionizing, and a boom in popular science writing.

[HISTORY 392-0 - Topics In History 22 \(23006\) "Environment and Energy in the Middle East" - Daniel A Stolz - TuTh 3:30PM - 4:50PM](#) | Kresge Centennial Hall 2-343

"Oil states." The desert. The Nile. When we think of the Middle East, we think of specific environments, and even of specific social and political arrangements built around those environments. But those environments and arrangements have a history, which this course will explore in depth. We will focus on how Middle East environments have become enmeshed in global interactions over the last two hundred years. Not only the rise of oil, but industrialization, colonial and postcolonial policies of "development" and aid, and new technologies of water management and disease prevention, have all reshaped - and been shaped by - the environments of the Middle East. The course aims to understand the rise of oil, and its consequences for Middle East societies, as part of this longer history in which Middle Eastern environments have become sites of global intervention and management.

COURSES COUNTING TOWARD THE CORE REQUIREMENT FOR THE MAJOR:

[SOCIOLOG 376-0 - Topics in Sociological Analysis 21 \(24732\) "Wars on Science: AIDS, Autism and other Controversies" - Onur Ozgode - MoWe 2:00PM - 3:20PM](#) | Locy Hall 111

Does truth still matter? Why did we lose faith in the ability of experts to resolve scientific controversies ranging from AIDS, ebola and autism epidemics to climate change? How can experts regain their authority? This course will examine how truth became a key aspect of politics in our society and why this made experts vulnerable to attacks. Bridging sociology of science and knowledge with the interdisciplinary approach of Science and Technology Studies (STS), we will study how experts produce knowledge, shape our identities, and wield power. Students will develop the skills necessary for critically analyzing the social and political strategies experts use for establishing their authority over truth, as well as the weaknesses these strategies pose for the rule of the expert.

FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS:

[ANTHRO 101-6 - First-Year Seminar \(21099\) "Modern Plagues" - Adia Benton - MoWe 12:30PM - 1:50PM](#) | Harris Hall L05

At the height of the 2013-2016 West African Ebola epidemic, it was often said that the fears of the disease globalized more quickly than the disease itself. These kinds of statements - and the proliferation of official efforts to control Ebola outbreak in West Africa and elsewhere - show the significance of cultural, social, political and economic dimensions of epidemics. This first-year seminar privileges a critical medical anthropology perspective on the dynamics of epidemics: from disease transmission to prevention and control. Together, we will investigate how complex interactions among social, cultural, political, economic, and environmental factors influence the natural history of infectious disease and public health efforts to understand and address them. The seminar focuses on contemporary problems and issues with the explicit purpose of addressing questions of equity and justice.

[EARTH 102-6 - First-Year Seminar \(22357\) "Global Warming; Scientific Evidence" - Patricia A Beddows - TuTh 11:00AM - 12:20PM | Technological Institute F391](#)

Global warming represents a massive global experiment with unknown consequences. In this course we will discuss the scientific evidence for modern-day global warming including melting ice sheets, long-term temperature records from ice cores and extreme weather events such as hurricanes. Current trends and the role of human activities will be examined in the context of the geologic record of natural climate variability and the feedbacks inherent in the climate system. Anticipated future impacts include droughts, floods, spread of infectious diseases, drinking water shortages, habitat loss and extinctions. Given these forecasts, strategies for managing the effects of global warming will be assessed. This writing seminar specifically aims to develop effective scientific writing and visual communication for the natural and physical sciences.

[PHYSICS 110-6 - First-Year Seminar \(20512\) "Physics and Big Questions" - Gerald Gabrielse - MoWe 12:30PM - 1:50PM | Technological Institute L168](#)

Three types of big questions will be considered. The first are the big questions about the limits and domain of physics. To start, what are the limits and domain of applicability of the classical physics studies studied in high school? How do these relate to special relativity, quantum mechanics and quantum field theory? Next, what are some of the big questions that physics seeks to answer. For example, what is the "standard model" of particle physics and how is it tested? Other important big questions relate to how physics informs some major challenges to our society. For example, what does physics say about the options for powering our homes and cars given limited petroleum reserves and the need to reduce carbon dioxide production. The final set of big questions are about the compatibility or incompatibility of physics and religious faith. Here we will consider very divergent answers in a climate of respect for what will be big differences in opinion.

AMERICAN STUDIES:

[AMER_ST 310-0 - Studies in American Culture \(26494\)"US Health:Illness & Inequality" - Shana B Bernstein - TuTh 3:30PM - 4:50PM | University Hall 218](#)

Course Description TBA

ANTHROPOLOGY:

* [ANTHRO 332-0 - The Anthropology of Reproduction](#) (21116) [Caroline H Bledsoe](#) - Mo 6:00PM - 8:50PM | Anthropology Seminar Room 104 – 1810 Hinman

The goal of sociocultural anthropology, the largest subfield of anthropology and the core of the discipline, is to understand the dynamics of human variation in social action and cultural thought. A key question is how these variations are produced and reproduced, whether we speak of society (subsistence, ideas) or individuals (biology, psychology, social identity). Conversely, what happens when reproduction fails to occur, or does so under undesirable conditions? Because reproduction is so strongly associated with biology in our society, viewing it through a cultural lens poses significant challenges to some of our most basic tenets. Tensions arise in questions of agency vs. control, nature vs. culture, identity construction, authenticity, technology, surveillance, and power. Needless to say, the study of reproduction offers a window into the heart of anthropology itself. The course seeks (1) to expose students to just a few of the many sociocultural approaches to reproduction by ranging broadly across topics, time, and place; and (2) to identify and evaluate concepts and theories embedded in writings on the dynamics of reproduction. While the concept of "reproduction" can refer to societal reproduction, emphasis will be on the reproduction of children. To this end, possible topics may include fostering/adoption, AIDS orphans, fatherhood, technologies of fertility control, assisted reproduction, obstetrics, gender imbalances in Asia, debates over abortion, etc.

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

* [ASIAN_AM 360-0 - Studies in Race, Gender, and Sexuality](#) (21089) "[Med Tourism & Transn'l Sex'lty](#)" - [Jillana B Enteen](#) - MoWe 9:30AM - 10:50AM | Parkes Hall 215

This course is situated at the intersection of theoretical, cultural, medical, and commercial online discourses concerning the burgeoning GCS-related surgeries (Gender Confirmation Surgery) presented online and conducted in Bangkok, Thailand. Using "Trans" theories: transgender, transnational, translation, spatio/temporal, this class discusses the intersections, dialogues, refusals, and adaptations when thinking about medical travel to Thailand. We will examine Thai cultural/historical conceptions of sex and gender, debates concerning bodies and diagnoses, and changes in presentations of sex/gender related surgeries offered online. Comparative cultural studies, medical discourses, and an archive of web images offering SRS surgeries to Thailand produced by Thais for western clientele will serve as axes for investigating this topic.

CHICAGO FIELD STUDIES:

[CFS 392-0 - Field Studies in Health](#) (21221) [Lauren Slubowski Keenan-Devlin](#) - Th 6:00PM - 8:50PM | Location TBA

Course Description TBA

COMMUNICATION STUDIES:

[COMM_ST 394-0 - Communication Studies Research Seminar](#) (21634) "[Eco-Media: Celebrities](#)" - [James J Schwach](#) - Tu 3:00PM - 5:50PM | Technological Institute LG68

This course explores various trajectories and developments in the general area of media, communication and the environment, with a particular focus on climate change and celebrities. Various celebrities, spokespeople, entertainers, and other public individuals are increasingly crafting their public images around environmental and climate change issues, and we will examine various instances and cases of this. Students will complete a research project equivalent to a 20-page written paper, as is consistent with the CS 394 requirement. The seminar will focus on celebrities and their support of, or opposition to, various climate change and environmental issues, both past and present. This includes looking at various media campaigns, advertising strategies, and similar issues. Students also have the option, if they prefer, for writing on media-communication-environment topics other than celebrities. The instructor will work with each student to develop a research topic. The class will also provide an introduction and overview to ways in which environmental and climate change concepts can be approached and understood from the perspectives of media and communication studies.

[COMM_ST 394-0 - Communication Studies Research Seminar \(21635\)](#)
["Human/Algorithm Interaction" - Michael Anthony Devito - TuTh 3:30PM - 4:50PM](#)
 Kresge Centennial Hall 3-410

Algorithms, or, more broadly, systems driven by computational actors, are everywhere, and right now we're all trying to figure out just how much influence they do (and should) have over our lives. It seems like a new question, but it can also be seen as an extension of a debate that's been raging about computers specifically since the 1950s and technology in general since a very dangerous external memory technology known as "writing" debuted. The latest iteration of this debate involves all computerized decision making and content recommendation systems, from Facebook's News Feed to search engine results that determine what is or is not "true" for a large portion of the world. We're in a synthesis with these computational actors, for better or worse, and understanding them is a huge step towards understanding the modern world on a deeper level. This course is a tour through the three-way interplay between algorithmically-driven systems, individual human experience and values, and large-scale social structures. We will start broad and philosophical, then take a deep dive to highlight direct impacts on daily life and dispel some of the key myths that surround these technological interlocutors. Along the way, in keeping with the mission of the junior writing seminar, we will deconstruct key articles the literature to identify what makes "good academic writing." This will culminate in your own 20-page research proposal. We will take the explicit position that there is, in fact, no such thing as "good writing" - only low-fidelity drafting, an openness to feedback, and a passion for editing. As such, our focus will be on getting ideas on paper, and then helping each other iterate and turn these ideas into a solid written foundation for scientific inquiry through workshoping and in-depth feedback. For more information, a preliminary syllabus is available at <http://bit.ly/2x8jcjW>

ECONOMICS:

[ECON 307-0 - Economics of Medical Care \(22453\)](#) [Matthew J Notowidigdo - MoWeFr 2:00PM - 3:20PM](#) | Harris Hall L07

This course applies theoretical and empirical tools of microeconomics to the study of health insurance and the health care sector. We will consider topics such as the design and financing of health insurance, the design and interpretation of clinical trials, the behavior of non-profit and for-profit hospitals, the role of competition in the health care market, the determinants of health care spending and the sources of technological change in the health care sector, and the effects of government regulations. We will also study the role of adverse selection and moral hazard in health care markets, both theoretically and empirically.

[ECON 323-1 - Economic History of the United States Before 1865 \(22477\)](#) Benjamin Remy Chabot - MoWe 6:30PM - 7:50PM | Location TBA

The course examines the economic growth and development of the United States from colonial times to the Civil War. It focuses on both long-term economic trends (such as the development of financial markets and the movement of labor and capital from the old world to the new) and particular events (such as financial crises).

[ECON 372-0 - Environmental Economics \(22515\)](#) Mark P Witte - TuTh 12:30PM - 1:50PM | Technological Institute Lecture Room 4

The environment and our natural resources are scarce yet their values are quite hard to determine. Furthermore, there are a variety of problems with the incentives to use them well. Using the tools of microeconomic analysis and some econometrics, this course will define and examine "environmental problems" in terms of economic efficiency. We will also discuss the methods (and shortcomings of these methods) used by economists and policymakers to place dollar values on environmental amenities (since such valuations will determine what policy options are deemed "efficient"), such as benefit-cost analysis. Then we will apply these tools to look at a particular set of environmental problems caused by negative externalities transmitted through naturally occurring amenities, and the effects of the policies we construct in response to these problems.

NOTE: This class is not open to students who have taken Economics 370: Environmental & Natural Resource Economics.

ENGLISH:

[ENGLISH 385-0 - Topics in Combined Studies \(22798\)](#) "Natural Languages & Green Worlds" - Tristram Nash Wolff - TuTh 11:00AM - 12:20PM | Parkes Hall 215

Utopia, anarchy, pastoral idyll: how have myths of a "green world" spurred us to think that language can sometimes be natural? or that it can be precisely what separates us from "Nature"? How do our ideas about language impose distinct worlds, with distinct rules, on humans, animals, and the worlds around them? Learning about theories of culture and language alongside literary forms from the pastoral of Shakespearean comedy to Romantic and recent poetry, from ethnographic fieldwork and nature writing to the outlandish imaginary of science fiction, students in this course unearth the unexamined grounds of "green" thought as it appears in literary environments (and as it finds other forms in film, mass media, and the popular imagination). The course will give students a critical introduction to new ideas in what is now being called the "environmental

humanities," while offering a broad background on classic literary themes of wilderness, innocence, knowledge, and freedom.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND CULTURE:

[ENVR_POL 211-0 - Food & Society: An Introduction](#) (22842) [Susan L Thistle](#) - TuTh 11:00AM - 12:20PM | Fisk Hall 217

This course provides an introduction to thinking about food from a sociological perspective. We will gain an initial understanding of how different social forces have shaped and continue to shape the way we grow, distribute and consume food, both in the United States and elsewhere around the world. We will look at the role played by culture and politics, as well as economics, in shaping our past and present food system. At the same time, we will gain an initial understanding of concepts central to sociology, such as the social construction of seemingly natural choices involving the food we eat, or how social inequality affects such choices. Through looking at the issue of food, we will also become acquainted with different areas in sociology such as the sociology of health and medicine, and development and globalization.

[ENVR_POL 309-0 - American Environmental History](#) (22844) [Keith Mako Woodhouse](#) - TuTh 9:30AM - 10:50AM | Location TBA

This course will survey American history from the Colonial Era to the present with two premises in mind: that the natural world is not simply a passive background to human history but rather an active participant in historical change, and that human attitudes toward nature are both shaped by and in turn shape social, political, and economic behavior. The course will cover formal schools of thought about the natural world?from Transcendentalism to the conservation and environmental movements?but also discuss the many informal intersections of human activity and natural systems, from European colonialism to property regimes, migration and transportation, industry, consumer practices, war, technological innovation, political ideology, and food production

[ENVR_POL 336-0 - Climate Change, Policy, and Society](#) (22843) [Susan L Thistle](#) - TuTh 3:30PM - 4:50PM | University Hall 121

Climate change is the worst environmental problem facing the earth. Sea levels will rise, glaciers are vanishing, horrific storms will hit everywhere. After looking briefly at the impacts of climate change on natural and social environments both in the present and near future, we then consider how to best reduce climate change and how to adapt to its impacts. Issues of climate justice, divides between the global North and South, social movements, steps taken in different countries and internationally, and the role of market and regulations are addressed. Climate change is a disaster, the worst environmental problem facing the earth: sea levels will rise, glaciers are vanishing, horrific storms will hit everywhere. What can be done to reduce climate change and to adapt to its impacts? Climate justice, divides between the global North and South, social movements, climate deniers, and the role of the market and regulations are addressed.

GLOBAL HEALTH:

[GBL_HLTH 301-0 - Introduction to International Public Health \(22955\) Peter Andrew Locke - TuTh 11:00AM - 12:20PM | University Hall 122](#)

This course introduces students to pressing disease and health care problems worldwide and examines efforts currently underway to address them. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the course identifies the main actors, institutions, practices and forms of knowledge production characteristic of what we call "global health" today, and explores the environmental, social, political and economic factors that shape patterns and experiences of illness and healthcare across societies. We will scrutinize the value systems that underpin specific paradigms in the policy and science of global health and place present-day developments in historical perspective. Key topics will include: policies and approaches to global health governance and interventions, global economies and their impacts on public health, medical humanitarianism, global mental health, maternal and child health, pandemics (HIV/AIDS, Ebola, H1N1, Swine Flu), malaria, food insecurity, health and human rights, and global health ethics.

[GBL_HLTH 302-0 - Global Bioethics \(22960\) Sarah B Rodriguez - MoWe 2:00PM - 3:20PM | Parkes Hall 215](#)

Global health is a popular field of work and study for Americans, with an increasing number of medical trainees and practitioners, as well as people without medical training, going abroad to volunteer in areas where there are few health care practitioners. In addition, college undergraduates, as well as medical trainees and practitioners, are going abroad in increasing numbers to conduct research in areas with few health care resources. But all of these endeavors, though entered into with the best of intentions, are beset with ethical questions, concerns, and dilemmas. In this course, students will assess these ethical challenges, and be provided with some tools in order to ethically analyze global health practices. In so doing, students will examine core ethical codes, guidelines, and principals - such as solidarity and social justice - so they will be able to ethically assess global health practices in a way that places an emphasis on the core goal of global health: reducing health inequity.

[GBL_HLTH 306-0 - Biomedicine and Culture \(22966\) Noelle Sullivan - Mo 9:30AM - 12:20PM | Parkes Hall 222](#)

Biomedicine (aka "Western" or allopathic medicine) is often represented as neutral and 'scientific', the opposite of culture. In contrast, this course begins with the premise that biomedicine is produced through social processes, and therefore has its own inherent culture(s). The aim of this course is to expose students to the social and cultural aspects of biomedicine within a variety of contexts and countries throughout the world. Focusing on the interrelations between technology, medicine, science, politics, power and place, topics covered will include: colonialism and biomedicine, learning biomedical cultures at medical school, technology and identity, biomedicine's tourisms (medical tourism, reproductive tourism, clinical tourism), organs trafficking and the commodification of the body, and others.

[GBL_HLTH 390-0 - Special Topics in Global Health \(22961\) "Gbl H from Policy to Practice" - Noelle Sullivan - Tu 12:30PM - 3:20PM | Parkes Hall 215](#)

This seminar explores global health and development policy ethnographically, from the politics of policy-making to the impacts of policy on global health practice, and on local realities. Going beyond the intentions underlying policy, this course highlights the histories and material, political, and social realities of policy and its application. Drawing on case studies of policy makers, government officials, health care workers, and aid recipients, the course asks: how do politics inform which issues become prioritized or codified in global health and development policy, and which do not? How do policies impact global health governance, and to what effect? In what ways are policies adapted, adopted, innovatively engaged, or outright rejected by various global health actors, and what does this mean for the challenges that such policies aim to address? Ultimately, what is the relationship between global health policies and global health disparities?

[GBL_HLTH 390-0 - Special Topics in Global Health \(22963\) "History of Global Health" - Sarah B Rodriguez - MoWe 12:30PM - 1:50PM | Locy Hall 214](#)

The history of global health is a large subject, and in this course we will touch on many, but by no means all, of what can be considered as part of this history. In addition to covering an overview of the history of global health with the goal of helping students' place current global health actions and concerns within a historical frame, this course will hopefully instill a sense of skepticism with regard to the progress of biomedicine and global health. It will also hopefully raise students' awareness of history as a research discipline that can (and should) enrich their understanding of global health today. By the end of this course, students should be knowledgeable: of the historical evolution and development of health interventions, in particular where and why they were developed; of the practice of biomedicine and global health interventions in relation to ideas about race, sex, sexuality, gender, class, and location; and of the foundations of global health institutions and governance. Though there will be lectures, this course is primarily run as a seminar.

[GBL_HLTH 390-0 - Special Topics in Global Health \(27709\) "Managing Global Health Challenges" - Michael W Diamond - Mo 6:00PM - 8:50PM | Location TBA](#)

Disease knows no borders. Both pathogens and lifestyles move around the world and the people of every country share the risks. The responsibility for ensuring the public health rests with governments at local, national and international levels. Public health interventions require cooperation and partnerships at each level and with civil society organizations, corporations, businesses and individuals. Advances in technology can significantly reduce the burden of disease and improve the quality of health and life. To effectively address global health challenges, technology must be integrated into health systems in ways that are both appropriate and sustainable. These interventions are affected by public policies, availability of resources and theories of public health and disease. Existing health organizations are increasingly challenged by the scope and magnitude of the current and future threats to public health such as the AIDS pandemic; the emergence of new and more virulent infectious diseases; the threats of bio-terrorism; growing resistance to antibiotics; lack of basic infrastructure of water, sanitation and inadequate access to drugs in developing countries; and overabundance of foods and complications from affluence, leading to health problems such as diabetes in higher income countries.

This course will examine the global epidemiology of these diseases and threats to the populations of the world, and the current technological and organizational strategies that have been established to respond. A series of diseases and geographical regions will be analyzed to consider how the international community uses technology and organizes its response to current problems in global public health. Special attention will be given to examples of effective technologies and intervention strategies.

GENDER STUDIES:

[GNDR_ST 332-0 - Gender, Sexuality, and Health \(22928\) "Anthropology of Reproduction"](#) - Caroline H Bledsoe - Mo 6:00PM - 8:50PM | Anthropology Seminar Room – 1810 Hinman

The goal of sociocultural anthropology, the largest subfield of anthropology and the core of the discipline, is to understand the dynamics of human variation in social action and cultural thought. A key question is how these variations are produced and reproduced, whether we speak of society (subsistence, ideas) or individuals (biology, psychology, social identity). Conversely, what happens when reproduction fails to occur, or does so under undesirable conditions? Because reproduction is so strongly associated with biology in our society, viewing it through a cultural lens poses significant challenges to some of our most basic tenets. Tensions arise in questions of agency vs. control, nature vs. culture, identity construction, authenticity, technology, surveillance, and power. Needless to say, the study of reproduction offers a window into the heart of anthropology itself. The course seeks (1) to expose students to just a few of the many sociocultural approaches to reproduction by ranging broadly across topics, time, and place; and (2) to identify and evaluate concepts and theories embedded in writings on the dynamics of reproduction. While the concept of "reproduction" can refer to societal reproduction, emphasis will be on the reproduction of children. To this end, possible topics may include fostering/adoption, AIDS orphans, fatherhood, technologies of fertility control, assisted reproduction, obstetrics, gender imbalances in Asia, debates over abortion, etc.

* [GNDR_ST 250-0 - Gender Issues in Science and Health \(22913\) "Public Health & Its Discontents"](#) - Amy Ruth Partridge - MoWe 11:00AM - 12:20PM | Frances Searle Building 1421

Course Description TBA

* [GNDR_ST 341-0 - Transnational Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality \(22929\) "Thai Medical Tourism & Sex"](#) - Jillana B Enteen - MoWe 9:30AM - 10:50AM | Parkes Hall 215 (*this course can be taken as GSS 350*)

This course is situated at the intersection of theoretical, cultural, and medical, and commercial online discourses concerning the burgeoning Sexual Reassignment Surgery (SRS) medical surgeries presented on the world wide web and practiced in Thailand. Using "Trans" theories: transgender, transnational, translation, spatio/temporal, we will discuss the intersections, dialogues, refusals and adoptions when thinking about medical

tourism to Thailand. We will examine Thai cultural/historical conceptions of sex and genders, debates concerning bodies and diagnosis that took place during the drafting of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V), International SRS Standards of Care (drafted in BKK during the WPATH meeting in February 2014), and changes in presentations of sex/gender related surgeries offered online. Comparative cultural studies, medical discourses, and an archive of web images offering SRS surgeries to Thailand produced by Thais for west

HISTORY:

[HISTORY 300-0 - New Lectures in History \(23135\) "Monsters and the Occult" - David Shyovitz - MoWe 11:00AM - 12:20PM | University Hall 102](#)

In twenty-first century culture, monsters, magic, and the occult tend to be confined to movie theaters, video games, and children's books. But esoteric knowledge and otherworldly creatures have a rich and complex history, one which intersected with and shaped some of the key developments and turning points in European culture. In this course, we will use the unusual vantage point of monstrosity, the occult, and other apparently "superstitious" phenomena as a means of highlighting some oft-overlooked, or even suppressed, dimensions of European history. Specific topics include: classical and medieval discussions of the "monstrous races"; the interplay between magic and science in early modern culture; the so-called "disenchantment of the world" in modernity; and the ways in which thinkers in various historical contexts have differentiated humans from non-humans, and nature from the supernatural. While the geographic focus of the course will be Europe, we will remain attentive to the ways in which intercultural and interreligious dynamics shaped the meanings and uses of the the esoteric and otherworldly.

[*HISTORY 300-0 - New Lectures in History \(23137\) "US Digital Culture Since WWII: The Computerized So" - Michael J Kramer - TuTh 12:30PM - 1:50PM | University Hall 122](#)

What is the history of the digital? From the invention of the modern computer during World War II to the emergence of the Internet to Google and contemporary social media, the history of what French theorist Jean-Francois Lyotard called "the computerized society" is only beginning to emerge. It turns out to be about far more than just machines: technological developments in the modern United States are inextricably linked to other factors. This course allows you to make those connections by approaching the history of the digital from multiple angles: political, cultural, legal, and in terms of questions of gender, race, ethnicity, class, region, ideology, and other themes. Students will attend lectures, read, view, and learn broadly and deeply, participate in biweekly discussion sections, and write four analytic essays that begin with creative prompts. Qualifies for Historical Studies Area Distro.

[*HISTORY 300-0 - New Lectures in History \(23139\) "Science and Religion" - Daniel A Stolz - MoWe 2:00PM - 3:20PM | Harris Hall L06](#)

Few ways of thinking about the modern world are as firmly entrenched as the notion of a conflict between science and religion. According to a 2015 survey by the Pew Research Center, 59% of Americans believe that science and religion are "often in conflict." As many as 30% of Americans believe that science often contradicts their own religious beliefs. And how people think about the relationship between science and religion correlates strongly with their positions on a range of policy issues, from the teaching of evolution in public school to the ethics of genetic modification. As timeless as it may seem, however, the notion of a science-religion conflict is relatively young. This course will explore its origins, evolution, and ramifications over the last century and a half, devoting special attention to global contexts from which the "conflict thesis" emerged in the late nineteenth century, including debates over Darwinism, historical criticism of the Bible, colonialism, Christian missionizing, and a boom in popular science writing.

*[HISTORY 300-0 - New Lectures in History](#) (23141) "[Technology and Society](#)" -
Diana Kurkovsky West - MoWe 2:00PM - 3:20PM | University Hall 122

How do new technologies emerge? Does society create technology, or does technology create a new society? What can history of technology tell us about some of the more important issues of our time? This course will trace the history of technology through some of the key social issues around innovation and the emergence of new technological forms. In exploring this dynamic, we will investigate a wide array of questions on the interaction between technology, society, politics, and economics, emphasizing the themes of innovation and maturation, systems and regulation, risk and failure, and ethics and expertise. Among the specific topics to be explored are computers and digital technologies, energy infrastructure and politics, bioengineering, medical mistakes, toxic waste, global distribution of risk, gender and advocacy, and other pressing issues at the nexus of social and technological. Students will become familiar with key debates around technology, will learn to situate these debates in historical perspective, will master techniques for analyzing the pros and cons of technological advancements, will learn how to collect, compile and analyze bibliographic sources, and will hone their analytical skills in considering the interplay between innovation and social change.

*[HISTORY 309-0 - American Environmental History](#) (23202) [Keith Mako Woodhouse](#)
- TuTh 9:30AM - 10:50AM | Shepard Hall B25

This course will survey American history from the Colonial Era to the present with two premises in mind: that the natural world is not simply a passive background to human history but rather an active participant in historical change, and that human attitudes toward nature are both shaped by and in turn shape social, political, and economic behavior. The course will cover formal schools of thought about the natural world? from Transcendentalism to the conservation and environmental movements? but also discuss the many informal intersections of human activity and natural systems, from European colonialism to property regimes, migration and transportation, industry, consumer practices, war, technological innovation, political ideology, and food production.

* [HISTORY 322-2 – Development of the Modern American City, 1870-Present \(22986\)](#)
[Henry Claxton Binford - MoWeFr 9:00AM - 9:50AM](#) | Kresge Centennial Hall 2-415

This is the second half of a two-quarter course dealing with urbanization and urban communities in America from the period of first European settlement to the present. The second quarter deals with the period from 1870 onward. Topics include the role of cities in the formation of an industrial society, the influence of immigration and rural-urban migration, political machines, professional planning, the automobile, electronic media, and the expansion of the federal role in city government. History 322-1 is NOT a prerequisite for 322-2.

* [HISTORY 352-0 - Global History of Death and Dying \(23206\)](#) [Sean Allen Hanretta - TuTh 3:30PM - 4:50PM](#) | Harris Hall L07

Does death have a history? Explores the changing realities of, attitudes towards, and ways of coping with death. The role of death in shaping the modern world via the global slave trades, imperial conquests, pandemics, wars, and genocides. Ways people have made sense of death in extraordinary circumstances and during calmer times. Continuities and transformations in death rituals, intellectual and philosophical debates about the personal and social meanings of death, and the consequences of ways and patterns of dying.

* [HISTORY 392-0 - Topics In History \(23006\) "Environment and Energy in the Middle East" - Daniel A Stolz - TuTh 3:30PM - 4:50PM](#) | Kresge Centennial Hall 2-343

"Oil states." The desert. The Nile. When we think of the Middle East, we think of specific environments, and even of specific social and political arrangements built around those environments. But those environments and arrangements have a history, which this course will explore in depth. We will focus on how Middle East environments have become enmeshed in global interactions over the last two hundred years. Not only the rise of oil, but industrialization, colonial and postcolonial policies of "development" and aid, and new technologies of water management and disease prevention, have all reshaped - and been shaped by - the environments of the Middle East. The course aims to understand the rise of oil, and its consequences for Middle East societies, as part of this longer history in which Middle Eastern environments have become sites of global intervention and management.

PHILOSOPHY:

[PHIL 254-0 - Introduction to Philosophy of the Natural Sciences \(23916\)](#) [Axel Mueller - MoWe 9:30AM - 10:50AM](#) | Locy Hall 214

The course will introduce students to deep philosophical issues raised by modern natural science of metaphysical and epistemological nature. From a reflection on methodological questions, it will approach the question of realism. We will be guided by nested "what does it take"-questions. For example: What does it take for a system of sentences to count as a good scientific theory? What does it take for a scientific theory to be testable by

observational and experimental data (and, by the way: what does it take for certain series of experiences to count as data or observations?)? What does it take for a given theory to be better supported by the available evidence than its competitors? What does it take for a given theory to explain the known phenomena in an area of knowledge? What does it take for an explanatory scientific theory to be credited with reference to underlying structures of reality? We will begin with a brief overview of the scientific revolution of the 16th and 17th century, and then turn to the treatment of certain problems in the contemporary literature, like the problem of induction, the problem of the underdetermination of theory choice by the available data, the problem of rationality and conceptual change, the problem of realism.

POLITICAL SCIENCE:

[POLI_SCI 349-0 - International Environmental Politics](#) (24233) [Kimberly Ruggles](#)
[Marion Suiseeya](#) - MoWe 11:00AM - 12:20PM | Kresge Centennial Hall 2-415

Environmental problems that transcend national borders, such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, climate change, and ocean governance, are amongst the most intractable challenges facing our global community. Collective action problems are pervasive in negotiations and attempts to address, monitor, and enforce international environmental agreements are often weak. Yet, despite these constraints, international actors have designed and secured agreement in a variety of policy arenas, aiming to improve global environmental governance. The purpose of this course is to understand how, why, and when the international community is able to overcome collective action problems and effectively address global environmental challenges. We begin by first analyzing the structures, agents, and processes affecting international environmental politics. In the second part of the course, we will conduct an extended negotiation simulation to explore how politics plays out. By doing so, we will identify some knowledge gaps that impede our understanding about the role of international institutions and actors in affecting positive environmental change. Requirements include active participation, discussion papers, a position paper, and role playing.

The class is designed at the advanced undergraduate student level. While there are no formal pre-requisites, students who have had no previous courses in public policy or political science should be prepared for a more challenging semester. As an advanced liberal arts seminar, the class is reading and writing intensive and developing critical thinking and writing skills is a fundamental objective. Finally, active participation in class discussions is essential and will be expected of all students. Students with concerns about these expectations should speak with me before enrolling.

SOCIOLOGY:

*[SOCIOLOG 211-0 - Food & Society: An Introduction](#) (24811) [Susan L Thistle](#) - TuTh
11:00AM - 12:20PM | Fisk Hall 217

This course provides an introduction to thinking about food from a sociological perspective. We will gain an initial understanding of how different social forces have

shaped and continue to shape the way we grow, distribute and consume food, both in the United States and elsewhere around the world. We will look at the role played by culture and politics, as well as economics, in shaping our past and present food system. At the same time we will gain an initial understanding of concepts central to sociology, such as the social construction of seemingly natural choices involving the food we eat, or how social inequality affects such choices. Through looking at the issue of food, we will also become acquainted with different areas in sociology, such as the sociology of health and medicine, and development and globalization.

*[SOCIOLOGY 336-0 - Climate Change, Policy, and Society](#) (24812) [Susan L Thistle](#) - TuTh 3:30PM - 4:50PM | University Hall 121

Climate change is the worst environmental problem facing the earth. Sea levels will rise, glaciers are vanishing, horrific storms will hit everywhere. After looking briefly at the impacts of climate change on natural and social environments both in the present and near future, we then consider how to best reduce climate change and how to adapt to its impacts. Issues of climate justice, divides between the global North and South, social movements, steps taken in different countries and internationally, and the role of market and regulations are addressed.

Climate change is a disaster, the worst environmental problem facing the earth: sea levels will rise, glaciers are vanishing, horrific storms will hit everywhere. What can be done to reduce climate change and to adapt to its impacts? Climate justice, divides between the global North and South, social movements, climate deniers, and the role of the market and regulations are addressed.

*[SOCIOLOGY 355-0 - Medical Sociology](#) (24730) [Carol A Heimer](#) - TuTh 9:30AM - 10:50AM | University Hall 101

This course introduces some of the main topics of medical sociology: the social construction of health and illness; inequalities in the distribution of illness and health care; the globalization of health care; and the organization of health care work, the medical professions, and the health care system. Students will learn about variations in who gets sick and why, how the health professions evolved in the United States and how the health care "turf" has been divided among professions, whether and when patients and their families participate in medical decision making, why physicians have more authority and receive higher incomes in the U.S. than elsewhere, what doctors do when interns and residents make mistakes, what the relationship is between hospitals and other health care organizations and how that relationship has changed over time, how the American healthcare system compares to other healthcare systems, how expenditures on preventive medicine compare with expenditures on high-tech cutting-edge medicine, and why the U.S. invests so much in high-tech medicine.

*[SOCIOLOGY 376-0 - Topics in Sociological Analysis](#) (24732) "[Wars on Science: AIDS, Autism and Other Controversies](#)" - [Onur Ozgode](#) - MoWe 2:00PM - 3:20PM | Locy Hall 111

Does truth still matter? Why did we lose faith in the ability of experts to resolve scientific controversies ranging from AIDS, ebola and autism epidemics to climate change? How can experts regain their authority? This course will examine how truth became a key aspect of politics in our society and why this made experts vulnerable to attacks. Bridging sociology of science and knowledge with the interdisciplinary approach of Science and Technology Studies (STS), we will study how experts produce knowledge, shape our identities, and wield power. Students will develop the skills necessary for critically analyzing the social and political strategies experts use for establishing their authority over truth, as well as the weaknesses these strategies pose for the rule of the expert.