

Theme B Descriptions, Spring 2010

B1: The Struggle for Justice in 1950's America (ECO, ETH, HIS) Meeropol Mon. 9:40am-12:10pm & 5:30-8:00pm

Combining literature, politics, economics and law, this course looks at the 1950s not as an era of conformity and conservatism but as an era which saw the beginnings of the modern Civil Rights movement with non-violent, direct action for social change in the South, feminist stirrings that challenged the traditional male-centered middle and working-class family, and questioning of the virtually unanimous homophobia that existed on the surface. Students will have the opportunity to hear from some of the most distinguished, exciting artists and scholars in America today, including, E.L. Doctorow, David Levering Lewis, Blanche Wiesen Cook, and Eric Foner, among many others.

B2: When Control Creates Chaos (ENG, LAW, LIT) Rothschild/Scott Monday 12:30 – 3:00pm

Societies have long struggled to find effective ways to control their “disruptive” groups and individuals. Prison and rehabilitation systems and penal colonies are examples of this effort. Despite the attempts to exert control, unintended consequences – including chaos - often arise. This course will look at some of the more extreme examples and their consequences.

B3: What Happened to the Future? (ENG, LIT, SOC) Rothschild/Ronald Monday 8:00 – 10:30pm

Early 20th Century predictions of the future included flying around streamlined cities on elevated monorails, weekends on the Moon visiting grandma & extended vacations to Mars, and innovations that would help us live longer, healthier, happier lives. Some science fiction writers and filmmakers predicted time travel and peace among nations; others predicted robot armies, chaos, destruction, & 24-hour government surveillance. What happened to these futures? Which aspects of the future came true? How do existing "technologies of the future" affect societies and relationships between individuals? What happened to the utopian visions of a more just and equal society? [& what happened to all those cool gadgets?]

B4: Brooklyn of the Imagination (DRA, ENG, LIT, SPE) Green/Haw Tue. 9:40am-12:10pm & 5:30-8:00pm

Brooklyn is one of the most famous and evocative places in America. A quarter of all US citizens can trace their ancestry back to Brooklyn, and for over three hundred years, it has stood as a great blank page upon which generation after generation of Americans have written their thoughts and feelings. In this course we will look at films and photographs, read history, plays, novels and autobiographies, and take tours of the borough, in order to better understand what Brooklyn has meant to legions of natives, exiles and newcomers, and examine its place in the national imagination.

B5: Brains, Minds, Frankenstein and the Unpredictability of Human Behavior (PSY, PHI) Leftoff/McClure Tue. 12:30 – 3:00pm & 8:00 – 10:30pm

If we knew enough about the functioning of the brain, could we design an ideal human being? Would this modern invention relieve human suffering or become a Frankenstein, a 19th century scientific creation that turned into an uncontrollable monster? Using the insights of psychology and philosophy, studies of brain disorders, psychosurgery, and neuropsychology, this course examines the implications of scientific knowledge about the brain to consider the relationship between the science of human behavior and the art of being human.

B6: Fathers, Families, and Fables (DRA, HIS, SPE) Sherman/Aman Wed. 9:40am-12:10pm & 5:30-8:00pm

In what ways are families the crucible of great comfort as well as the setting of explosive conflicts? In what ways do the images, fables, and the realities of fathers dominate lives—of children growing up as well as nations being born. In this course we will explore these issues from the perspectives of drama, literature, and history.

B7: Chaos and Control: An Intensive Research Seminar (ENG, LIT, HIS)

Allen/Crowder

Wednesday 9:40am-12:10pm

Do you have a topic that you are itching to explore? If you are a junior or senior who excels in his/her ISP courses and is thinking about graduate or law school, this is the course for you. Raise your thinking and writing to the next level by joining a select group of students for this semester-long workshop/seminar in which you will learn the fundamentals of advanced research and produce a significant paper on an interdisciplinary topic of your choice related to the theme of chaos and control. We will draw upon a wide variety of primary and secondary sources to address the theme from multiple angles--political, artistic, mathematical, etc. Great preparation for your major capstone project.

B8: Love and Death: Legal and Social Science Perspectives (ANT, CRJ, LAW, PSY)

Sarna/Stein

Wednesday 12:30-3:00pm

Pulling the plug on life support for a cherished parent... Unrequited lovers driven to suicide... Stalkers who conclude "if I cannot have you, no one will"... This course will examine the human motives and legal boundaries at the crossroads where love meets death.

B9: Portraits of Women & Crime (CRJ, DRA, SPE)

Kimora/Landowne

Wednesday 8:00 – 10:30pm

In this course, we examine various portraits of women and crime as they are depicted in theatre, music, literature, poetry and other forms of media. How, over time, have women been represented as criminals, as victims of crime, and as criminal justice professionals? How do depictions of women in these roles differ from those of men? What do these depictions tell us about attitudes toward women and crime, and what influence can they have on policy and behavior in the real world?

B10: Order and Humanity (PHI, HIS)

McClure/Sherman

Thur. 9:40am-12:10pm & 5:30-8:00pm

How can we explain our longing for order, our concerns for humanity, and our willingness to commit acts of violence? Why has the last century witnessed the growth of humanistic concerns along with an unprecedented willingness to commit total war and genocide? In this course we will investigate these questions from the perspectives of philosophy, history, and literature.

B11: Hearing the Globe: History through Music (ETH, HIS, MUS) Thomas/Umbach

Thur. 12:30-3:10pm & 8:00-10:30pm

How can the study of a society's music help us understand the historical and social forces that shaped it? Traveling from the Caribbean Sea to the Himalayan Mountains, this course will delve deeply into five cultures and the music they produce. In uncovering the pasts of five societies, students will analyze musical forms and historical documents, musical roots and historical routes. *No music skill required or necessary.*

B12: Internship (SOC)

One day per week (96 hours per semester) on site, plus regularly scheduled seminars meetings with academic advisor (15 hours per semester), including written assignments and oral presentations. *Must have sophomore standing and minimum GPA of 2.5*