

BardNYC

COURSE ARCHIVE

The course archive is a list of all courses taught since Fall 2023 and illustrates the innovative curriculum offered at Bard NYC. The list is organized by course number, and each description includes which Bard NYC pathways the course is listed in.

Please note: each semester the course list is determined based on projected student interest and faculty availability. A course being offered in the past is not a guarantee that it will be offered in the future.

City Frictions

ARCH 212

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Practicing Arts (PA)

(Pathways: Performing Arts, Urbanism and the Changing City). This seminar course will examine the political conflicts, material frictions, and social differences that occur within the city. Often urban struggles emerge from the opposing ways in which city planners, government institutions, forces of capital, and the public want the space and land of the city to be used and to develop. At the outset of the semester, students will discuss readings that characterize struggle and discord as fundamental to urban politics. The assigned texts – which will include works by Marshal Berman, Mike Davis, Jane Jacobs, David Harvey, Raquel Polnik, Mimi Sheller, and Samuel Stein – will provide a foundation for analyzing sites in New York City where struggles for affordable housing, racial justice, public land-tenure, social services, cultural spaces, and community-led rezoning have unfolded or are presently taking place. Activists directly involved in these efforts will join the class throughout the semester and students will potentially visit the locations that they are researching. No prerequisites. Offered Fall 2023.

Workout New York: The Architecture of Health

ARCH 325

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Analysis of Art (AA)

(Pathways: Visual Arts, Urbanism and the Changing City). The notions of "Health" and "Well-Being" transcend mere medical concepts: they constitute a thriving and multibillion dollar industry that exerts a profound influence on human and non-human existence, social media, urban fabrics, and vast landscapes. They delineate an idealized state of being, often concurrently excluding what is considered pathological or ill, both within individuals and across environments, thus inadvertently neglecting bodies and ecosystems as a result. This course delves into the domain of design and architecture, focusing on the intricate interplay between health and well-being in the context of New York City. It encompasses a spectrum of architectural elements, ranging from private to public spaces (from gardens to parks), healthcare facilities (from hospitals to gyms), and infrastructural systems. The course will traverse various scales, addressing critical topics such as environmental pollution, aging, the provision of mental healthcare, and green energy sources, among others. In doing so, we will challenge conventional narratives advocating for alternative paradigms that broaden our understanding of well-being, often

drawing from eco-radical alternatives, spiritual dimensions, and non-Western genealogies. The students will work in groups, each researching a specific case study focusing on the architecture of well-being in New York City. Throughout the course, the students will work on two different exercises: a mural depicting the spatial entanglement, temporalities and new proposal for an architecture of well-being based on their case-study (including drawings, axonometric, mappings, photographs, and other visual material); and a performance that explains their project. No previous software knowledge/architecture training is required. Offered Spring 2024.

Seminar on Contemporary Art

ARTH 340

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Analysis of Art (AA)

(Pathways: Visual Arts). This class will survey recent developments in the visual arts. We will take advantage of New York's unparalleled richness of museums and art galleries by having several class meetings at exhibitions of contemporary art, including visits to artists' studios. Presentations in class will survey the backgrounds of recent artistic developments. These will be supplemented by readings of classic texts about contemporary art, plus articles and reviews about the artists whose exhibitions we will be seeing. Students will give two presentations to the class about selected contemporary artists, and will write a midterm and a final paper, plus short responses to a few of their favorite readings. Offered Spring 2024.

NYC Art and Civic Power Lab

ARTS 311

4-credits.

Bard Distribution Area: Analysis of Arts (AA)

(Pathways: Advocacy and Social Justice, Urbanism and the Changing City). In New York, art stands for the experimental, risk-taking, and socially committed dimensions with which the city prides itself. And yet, in spite of its reputation for glamour and exceptionalism, New York City encapsulates many of the political problems within the United States and big cities globally. New York's artists have confronted these issues, from deindustrialization, lack of affordable housing, access to healthcare, to demographic changes, intrusion/rise of technology, treatment of immigrants, climate change, and precarity and indebtedness. In this course, we will paint a panoramic picture of the living city through the experiences of its artists—here examined as citizens as well as makers. Our core focus are those vivid moments where art and politics collide to create complex pictures that stretch our understanding of both. And through this research, we ask: What is the relationship between expression and power? Does art naturally point the way toward individual identities and personal brands, or can we imagine it opening the door to big-tent politics? This question resonates strongly in America's largest city—a place of deep contradictions, dominated by economic inequality yet rich with an ongoing tradition of grassroots organizing. We think the intensities of New York make a good lens for interacting with contemporary art, while also providing perspective on civic power and responsibility. This course will combine aspects of a studio and seminar course, with a series of modules/themes through the semester, and experiential projects tailored to our areas of focus. Rather than studio-based art making, we introduce multi-media documentation techniques, site specific interventions, and performance as tools to map the city's social and political geography. Offered Fall 2023.

Public Art in NYC: Histories and Practice

ARTS 316

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Analysis of Art (AA)

(Pathways: Urbanism and the Changing City, Visual Arts). This class will examine public art now in New York City and the history of important examples, both controversial: Richard Serra's Tilted Arc 1981 and beloved - Balto 1925 in Central Park. Examining readings in the history, culture, and politics of NYC and theoretical work in art criticism, we will analyze how social and political processes like gentrification and inequality generate and result in creative political expression in the form of public art. One question we address is whether we can learn more about local politics from looking at NYC's public art and writing in public spaces. During the course students will meet artists in class who have completed public commissions and learn about the process and the politics involved, in some cases in cooperation with local artist cooperatives. Students will work teams and complete a final project consisting of a complete proposal for a public work for six distinct sites in the Williamsburg community in Brooklyn. Offered Fall 2024; Fall 2023.

Machine Media: A Hands-On Introduction to Machine Learning and Generative Art

ARTS 320

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Analysis of Art (AA)

(Pathways: Visual Arts, Technology and Society). Recent developments in Machine Learning platforms like Dall-E and Midjourney have created a frenzy around 'AI art'. While media outlets question whether AI will replace artists, this interdisciplinary course focuses instead on situating Machine Learning within a larger history of generative art. In this introductory course, we will unpack some of the commonly used terms surrounding Machine Learning and consider the historical relationship between machines and creativity. We will also learn about networks of human labor, ecological resources, and funding structures behind Machine Learning. In addition to readings, students will think through these issues by working with Machine Learning in a hands-on way. Students will spend the semester working slowly and intentionally to prepare a dataset of images that will be used to create their own Machine Learning model. No prior coding experience is required and students will not be evaluated on their technical ability. Instead, we will use the process of designing a dataset and building a model as a catalyst for discussing more ethical and nuanced approaches to thinking with and about machines and how these approaches might translate across disciplines. Offered Fall 2024; Fall 2023.

Social Media and Activism

ARTS 323

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Analysis of Art (AA)

(Pathways: Technology and Society, Advocacy and Social Justice). Social media has transformed into profit-driven platforms that monetize user data by selling it to the marketers. Despite this, many individuals have attempted to leverage these platforms for social change. In recent years, social and political movements have effectively utilized social media as a tool for advancement. This course will explore the various aspects of social media activism. Theoretical concepts by Manuel Castells, Christian Fuchs, and Zeynep Tufekci will be explored. Following a contextual exploration of movements in pre-social media eras, the class will analyze major movements such as the Arab Spring, Occupy Wall Street, #MeToo, and #BlackLivesMatter. Discussion will also focus on issues and challenges related to digital activism, including platform capitalism, disinformation, alt-right populism, censorship in digital

media and the collaboration between platforms and governments. Additionally, the course will delve into the future of social media activism. The work will include several minute papers as well as a research project. Offered Fall 2024.

Queer Issues in Development

ECON 267

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: Economics and Finance; International Affairs). This seminar traces and interrogates the social impacts of the economics discipline becoming more queer and LGBTQ+ inclusive. We will begin by investigating the extent to which hierarchy in the discipline has led to a pattern of production – and regulation – of economic knowledge that is heteronormative. By interrogating hierarchy, and the structures that reproduce it, students will also develop interventions to promote greater inclusion throughout the ranks of the academy and, consequently, the policies the academy influences. The relationship between household models, for example, and the design of household surveys that reproduce heteronormativity and biased policies. We will then interrogate the policy needs facing LGBTQ+ individuals in developing contexts. These include exclusion from participation in markets as well as accessing services, economic disparities they experience, and causes and consequences of poverty. We will investigate the incidence and adequacy of the expansion of multilateral development banks framing LGBTQ+ issues as a matter of economic growth. We will emphasize the historical origins of this framing as well as the broader implications of empowerment for LGBTQ+ individuals. That is, the impact of improved livelihoods of LGBTQ+ individuals on economic growth and development. We will finish by engaging with criticisms of the bias in economics from queer political economists and the methodologies contributing to how LGBTQ+ individuals experience the economy in different contexts. Offered Fall 2025.

Automation, Artificial Intelligence, and the Labor Market

ECON 316

4-credits

. Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: Economics and Finance, Technology and Society). This class will examine public art now in New York City and the history of important examples, both controversial: Richard Serra's Tilted Arc 1981 and beloved - Balto 1925 in Central Park. Examining readings in the history, culture, and politics of NYC and theoretical work in art criticism, we will analyze how social and political processes like gentrification and inequality generate and result in creative political expression in the form of public art. One question we address is whether we can learn more about local politics from looking at NYC's public art and writing in public spaces. During the course students will meet artists in class who have completed Labor markets are always in states of change. Change of late includes the rise in computerization, automation, the gig economy, and artificial intelligence. This course will interrogate the potentially transformative ways through which AI and automation can affect labor markets, employment, wages, and well-being in the short, medium, and long term. We will explore the ways through which AI and automation can change the nature of work and the implications for economic security and outsourcing. We will pay special attention to the impact of these possible changes on pre-existing socioeconomic disparities (by class, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity), social cohesion, job quality, and the role of work in contributing to well-being. Throughout, we will consider the appropriate role of policy such as universal basic income, unemployment insurance, education

subsidies, and job creation in promoting an equitable future commissions and learn about the process and the politics involved, in some cases in cooperation with local artist cooperatives. Students will work teams and complete a final project consisting of a complete proposal for a public work for six distinct sites in the Williamsburg community in Brooklyn. Offered Fall 2024.

Globalization, Finance and Marginalization
ECON 333

4-credits
Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: Economics and Finance; International Affairs). The objective of this course is to explore the reconstitution of local structures of marginalization by the increasing economic integration of the global economy over the last three and a half decades. We place particular emphasis on the increasing dominance of finance in both advanced and developing societies and explore the impact of this process of financialization and the associated financial integration of the world on marginalized constituencies identified on the basis of class, gender, and ethnic identity. We further explore the interplay of the global ascendance of finance capitalism with transnational flows of human beings and commodities that together comprise the economic face of globalization and question the neoliberal assertion that globalization will necessarily empower the marginalized, basing our exploration on both theoretical insights drawn from multiple disciplines and documented evidence. There are no prerequisites for this course; students do NOT need a background in Economics or quantitative analysis. Offered Spring 2025.

Corporate Finance: Theory and Practice
ECON 391

4-credits
Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: Economics and Finance). This course will provide students with practical experience in solving finance issues typically encountered in investment banking and the CFO's office through lecture, case study and excel-based lessons. On successful completion of this course, students should understand corporate policies and actions, such as capital structure, firm valuation, and mergers and acquisitions. Specifically, students will demonstrate an understanding of the impact of leverage on the cost of capital, payout policy, the impact of taxes and agency costs on firm value, and issues related to control of the firm. Lastly, students should demonstrate ethical awareness and the ability to think critically and deal successfully with unstructured problems. The course will consist of lectures, homework assignments, case studies, guest speakers and exams. Lectures will introduce specific finance concepts. Homework and exams will reinforce understanding of concepts. Case studies will apply concepts to real world situations. Guest speakers will highlight personal experience with concepts and application. Offered Spring 2024.

Film Criticism
FILM 377

4-credits
Bard Distribution Area: Analysis of Art (AA)

(Pathways: Visual Arts). A workshop focusing on the weekly writing of short film criticism, on strict deadline. The course is designed for students who wish to engage with cinema in its widest variety of styles and forms, and to practice and discuss what it means to translate the experience of an essentially

audio-visual medium into the written word. Students will be encouraged to write about films screening at theaters in New York City, and will meet with working film critics as guest speakers. In addition, we will read and discuss exemplary pieces of published film criticism, from the era of silent film to our own, in order to widen our understanding of how film has been written about and strengthen our sense for essential characteristics of engaging and intelligent writing. Please note that participants will need to be comfortable with sharing their writing with others in a seminar setting. Offered Spring 2025; Spring 2024.

Foreign Policy in the Age of the Internet

GIS 235

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: Technology and Society; International Affairs). Foreign policy is among the things that the Internet has revolutionized. No longer is diplomacy confined to oak-paneled rooms and gilded corridors. This change, as New York Times reporter Mark Landler noted, "happened so fast that it left the foreign policy establishment gasping to catch up." This course examines how foreign policy and international affairs are being shaped in the age of the Internet. Topics include democracy versus censorship, conflict, climate change and the environment, big data and privacy, global economics and the movement of capital. Among the questions we will explore are: • What is the changing nature of power? Are there actors? • How is the concept of the nation-state changing? • What constitutes world order in this new era? • How have the Internet, the mobile phone, and other technologies changed the conduct of foreign affairs? Offered Fall 2025; Fall 2024.

Issues in Global Public Health

GIS 319

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Historical Analysis (HA)

(Pathways: International Affairs). This course provides a general overview of determinants of health in the developing world and principles within the field of global public health. It will include a review of some current and historical public health problems, such as tuberculosis, malaria, AIDS, small pox, maternal and infant mortality and reproductive health and rights, and the approaches used to understand and address them. Students will also examine the roles of a range of international organizations involved in global public health efforts, including local and international non-governmental organizations, multilateral agencies such as the WHO, UNAIDS, bilateral organizations like the CDC and USAID, governments and donor organizations. The course aims to convey an understanding of the complexity of health problems in developing countries, the impact of health on social and economic development, the contributions of various disciplines and analytical perspectives in decision-making about public health priorities, and the range of players that contribute to developing and implementing the programs to address them. The course will be structured primarily around a series of case studies of public health policies and practices around which there has been controversy or debate about the appropriate course of action. The case studies will include a major focus on HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and will examine such issues as quarantine, testing of new technologies on vulnerable populations, commitment of resources to treatment versus prevention, and the influence of conflicting "moralities" on public health program approaches. These debates will examine the tensions that sometimes arise between efforts to ensure public health and safety, while promoting health equity and rights. It will incorporate perspectives of stakeholders in the developing world, as well as scientists, policy makers

and activists. The analysis and readings will draw from various disciplines, including epidemiology and medical anthropology. Offered Spring 2025; Spring 2024.

Intelligence, Risk, and Decision Making

GIS 321

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: International Affairs). This course is essentially about the relationship between information, analysis, risk and decision makers. On one level, this means that it is about something you do yourself all the time -- but we will be looking specifically at how analysis is produced for those who work in both the public and the private sectors and face critical political, investment, or even humanitarian decisions. Concentrating on three crucial components – collection, analysis and communications – the goal is understand processes behind the production of good analysis and the ways in which it can be conveyed to decision makers. At the same time as studying some of the instances in which intelligence analysis has resulted in success -- and, because it tends to be more revealing, those where it has not -- we will be trying out some of the techniques involved in professional analysis, including writing, presentations, and team work, and looking at analysts working in the government, financial, and non-profit sectors. The intention is to offer an appreciation of what professional analysts do in an intelligence and political risk context, and how their work can feed into the conduct of international relations and international business. Offered Spring 2025; Spring 2024.

Generation Equality? Gender and International Affairs

GIS 359

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: Advocacy and Social Justice; International Affairs). As part of the United Nations Decade for Gender Equality, UN Women and partners launched the Global Equality Forum in 2021 which seeks to be an inflection point in the path to global gender equality. But what do we mean by “gender equality” and why are still so far from achieving the unmet potential of the groundbreaking international articulations of women’s rights and gender equality from the 1990s? This course will critically assess the concepts of gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and gender justice and their application to international policy questions. Through case studies, we will explore a range of issues including how the bodies of women and gender non-conforming people are used to advance authoritarian agendas; the neglected role of the care economy; sexual and reproductive rights and justice; and often contested definitions of feminist foreign policy. Offered Fall 2025; Fall 2024.

Peace Building: Concepts, Cases, Critiques

GIS 363

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: International Affairs). Peacebuilding is a term widely cited as the objective of external assistance to fragile and/or conflict affected states as well as of civil society actors and political leaders in a broader range of countries. Widespread use applied to disparate countries and circumstances and by many different actors raises numerous core questions: What does peacebuilding mean, what does it entail, and who is involved? Can militaries be peacebuilders? Political leaders, civil society organizations, religious leaders, international organizations? Is peacebuilding the exclusive purview of local and national actors or can external actors play a role? The answers depend upon how one defines the concept. As more and more entities claim to be peacebuilders, with accompanying demands for scarce resources

and status, understanding peacebuilding and its historical record is far from an academic exercise. The course will begin with a discussion of what Peacebuilding is: its objective(s), components, and actors, both domestic and foreign. To sharpen our understanding, foundational sessions will include consideration of whether peacebuilding is distinct from peacekeeping, peacemaking, conflict resolution, reconciliation, stabilization and reconstruction, state-building and strengthening fragile states, or if they are all essentially the same with slightly different nomenclature and emphases. We will pursue answers to these and other questions through a deep analysis of case studies. Offered Fall 2024.

History Of New York City

HIST 2014

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Historical Analysis (HA)

(Pathways: Urbanism and the Changing City). This course will survey the history of New York City from its earliest settlement by Native Americans to the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic. We will examine the city's transformation from a Dutch and British colony to a global cultural and economic capital. Special attention will be paid to the development and use of distinct types of urban space such as housing, parks, and skyscrapers. We will also consider how throughout its history New York's population has been transformed through immigration and the resulting divisions of ethnicity, race, religion and socioeconomic class. One recurrent theme will be the various, often controversial solutions proposed to the problems of a modern metropolis such as the need for infrastructure (water management, transportation), political and social reform (Tammany Hall, Jacob Riis), and urban planning (the contrasting approaches of Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs). The course will incorporate visits to sites studied in the course such as Central Park, the Lower East Side, and the site of the World Trade Center. Offered Fall 2024.

New York: City of Immigrants

HIST 397

Offered Spring 2025

Bard Distribution Area: Historical Analysis (HA)

(Pathways: Urbanism and the Changing City). From the arrival of the first European settlers to the present day, successive waves of immigration from around the globe (and from other parts of the United States) have driven New York's growth and created a city known for its ethnic, religious, and racial diversity. This course will trace this history by considering topics including the city's heterogeneous population as a Dutch and British colony; the experiences of enslaved New Yorkers of African descent; the challenges posed by mass immigration from Europe in the nineteenth century to the city's infrastructure and governance; New York as the home of the world's largest Jewish community; its role as a center of African-American culture during the Harlem Renaissance; and the ways that late twentieth and early twenty first century immigrants from Latin America, Asia, and Africa have transformed the city's geography. Students will visit historic and contemporary sites related to New York's immigrant communities and will choose one such community to research.

Deconstructing the Data Industrial Complex

HR 308

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: Advocacy and Social Justice, Technology and Society). This course will introduce students to the analytical tools required to fully understand the opportunities and harms of algorithmic governance. From identifying how bias and other social values become embedded in discrete datasets to mapping the sale of data and government procurement of data-driven technologies, this course will teach students how to critically dissect a discrete point of data as well as the institutional dynamics of those involved in deploying data-driven technologies. The course material will draw from technical introductions to data and database infrastructures, political philosophy, critical data studies scholarship, investigative journalism, and sci-fi film. Students will collaborate in small groups to focus on one type of algorithmic governance system and produce research about the reliability of the data used in that system, as well as the philanthropic, government, academic, and corporate institutions that support and oppose it. Offered Fall 2023.

What They Say about New York City

LIT 389

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Literary Analysis in English (LA)

(Pathways: Media and Publishing, Urbanism and the Changing City). From the late seventeenth century to the present day, New York (aka Mannahatta, New Amsterdam and Gotham) has attracted writers of talent, ambition, and achievement who explore the city's surging energies, ceaseless movement and constant change. Writing about New York-- its boroughs and neighborhoods, rivers, architecture, subways, street life, waterfront, museums, stadiums and parks—offers us dazzling tales of success and failure, wealth and poverty, life both high and low. In novels, short stories, poems, plays, essays, memoirs, and works of journalism, New York authors have continued across centuries to cast a curious, ironic and rhapsodic eye over the intersecting worlds of finance, commerce, the arts, politics, law, crime, scandal, and the media--in short, the New York experience in all its infinitude. The works covered in this course offer countless perspectives on celebrity and obscurity, the tragic and the comic, the upper, middle, and working classes, changes in fortune and victories and defeats. Many delve into the struggles of immigrants and refugees, the routes to assimilation and economic survival, and the struggle to “make it,” observing the City as incubator and nurturer of the hope of creating new individual identities and pursuing as many American dreams as there are American dreamers. We'll be reading assigned anthology selections as well as self-selected complete single works by such authors as Washington Irving, Charles Dickens, Henry David Thoreau; Edgar Allan Poe, Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, Mark Twain, Henry James, José Martí, Jacob Riis, Stephen Crane, Maxim Gorky, James Weldon Johnson, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Claude McKay, Marianne Moore, Edmund Wilson, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Hart Crane, Lincoln Steffens, Dawn Powell, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Edith Wharton, Damon Runyon, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Anzia Yezierska, William Carlos Williams, Alfred Kazin, Joseph Mitchell, Frank O'Hara, Robert Moses, James Baldwin, Joan Didion, Isaac Bashevis Singer, John Cheever, Allen Ginsberg, Ralph Ellison, Oscar Hijuelos, Vivian Gornick, Ha Jin, Colson Whitehead, and many others. Several field trips will be scheduled to literary landmarks as well as The Museum of the City of New York. Written work: a midterm paper and a term paper, and a semester-long reading journal to accompany class discussion. Offered Fall 2024.

New York Street Photography

PHOT 338

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Analysis of Art (AA)

(Pathways: Visual Arts; Urbanism and the Changing City). This class explores photography as made in New York in two ways; history and practice. Photographs made on the streets of New York City throughout the twentieth century define the experience of modernity in America. The great city and its multitudes has been a magnet to our most revered photographers; Lewis Hine, Berenice Abbott, Gordon Parks, Lisette Model, Diane Arbus, the list continues. As does the city, always room for the next photographer ready to describe the here and now in their own uncommon way. In this class, students will study the history of New York street photography as an instrument to learn about how the city evolved; the stories, the conflicts and the triumphs. On the practice side, students will make pictures responding to weekly assignments inspired by expansive themes; power, identity, survival, hubris, play, family. Group field trips will be made in different neighborhoods throughout the five boroughs, the city becomes our learning lab of the human experience. Students will gain confidence making pictures in public places allowing their singular artistic voice to flourish. Offered Fall 2025; Spring 2025; Spring 2024.

Feminist Foreign Policy

PS 258

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: International Affairs). Sweden introduced “feminist foreign policy” in 2014. This policy puts women and girls at the center of every policy decision, with the ultimate aim of advancing gender equality around the world. Since then, several other countries have adopted a “feminist foreign policy”: Canada, Mexico, France, Germany, Netherlands. There is a movement in the United States to adopt a feminist foreign policy. This class will explore the role of women in foreign policy making and the role of gender in foreign policy. It will work to answer these questions: How do we define a feminist foreign policy? How can that be achieved? Can the US adopt a feminist foreign policy? If so, what does that look like? Offered Spring 2025

Democratic Decline and the New Authoritarianism

PS 361

4-credits

Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: International Affairs). “Illiberal democracy” is the catchphrase of the moment, as illiberal politics appear to be winning elections and delivering radical changes with increasing frequency around the world, from Poland and Hungary, to Israel and India, Brazil, Turkey, and of course, the United States. In this course we’ll explore “democratic backsliding” from a global perspective, what is meant by the term, what it looks like, and why it seems to be happening so widely right now. We’ll look at factors contributing to the rise of the far right, sources of support for illiberal politics, and whether this politics offers real solutions to actual problems. Some critics argue that the concept itself of “illiberal democracy” is an oxymoron. But therein lie some of the difficulties facing liberal societies: where and how do we draw a distinction between legitimate disputes among parties within a democratic community, and behaviors that damage, and potentially destroy, the system itself? Readings for this course will be interdisciplinary, drawing on critical texts on democratic erosion, from Daniel Ziblatt and Steven Levitsky, and Ivan Krastev and Stephen Holmes, as well as recent theoretical writings on democracy, its vulnerabilities, and limits, from Patrick Deneen and Roger Scruton, and journalistic works,

such as those by Anne Applebaum and Isabel Wilkerson. We will examine case studies, and students will complete a final assignment that may be devoted to one such case study, an essay or journalistic piece, or another writing project to be determined with the instructor. An underlying line of inquiry in this class will be to consider whether (or not) we may be entering into a “post-liberal” era, and what that might mean for the future of the democratic institutions – the media, civil society, schools and universities, museums, the courts – within which many of us will seek to make our careers and our public lives. Offered Fall 2024.

Statistics in Action: from Clinical Trial to Social Justice

4-credits

SCI 219

Bard Distribution Area: Mathematics and Computing (MC)

(Pathways: Advocacy and Social Justice, Technology and Society). Statistics play a pivotal role in illuminating complex issues, from public health crises to the data mining of social media. Through real-life case studies, students will delve into how these mathematical tools uncover the root causes of significant events, even when masked by societal constructs. The primary aim of this course is to impart a broad statistical literacy relevant to fields ranging from the life sciences, data science, economics, and social sciences. By adopting a problem-solving approach, students will become adept at employing advanced statistical modeling, such as analysis of variance and multiple regression, to apply hypothesis testing to diverse real-world situations. A significant component of this instruction includes using the R-programming environment, allowing students to compute and visually represent their analysis outcomes using open-access software. Furthermore, students will engage in critical discussions about the controversies that have molded contemporary statistics, understanding its power and limitations, especially in big data and social justice. Prior knowledge of statistics or programming is not necessary. Offered Spring 2025.

AI and Society

4-credits

SST 242

Bard Distribution Area: Social Analysis (SA)

(Pathways: Technology and Society, Advocacy and Social Justice). This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), designed to equip students across disciplines with foundational knowledge and practical competencies. Students will critically examine core concepts, methodologies, and ethical dimensions of AI, while exploring its societal, cultural, and professional implications. AI is transforming our relationships with technology and with others, our senses of self, as well as our approaches to health care, banking, democracy, and the criminal justice system. But while AI in its many forms has become ubiquitous and its benefits to society and the individual have grown, its impacts are varied. Concerns about its unintended effects and misuses have become paramount in conversations about the successful integration of AI in society. This course explores the many facets of artificial intelligence: its technology, its potentials, its impact on labor and the economy, its relationship with inequalities, its role in law and governance, its challenges to national security, and what it says about humanity and our collective futures. Offered Fall 2025.

Theater in New York City

4-credits

THTR 270

Bard Distribution Area: Analysis of Art (AA)

(Pathway: Performing Arts). This course offers students an immersive introduction to the landscape of contemporary theater in New York City. Students will survey the historical and artistic aspects of theater in New York City to trace its evolution and cultural significance, while also attending a wide selection of productions from the current New York theater season. Through weekly writing assignments and class discussions, students will develop a critical vocabulary and ability to analyze live performance—understanding it in both its artistic and historical contexts. Bard Distribution Area: Analysis of Art (AA). Offered Fall 2025.

Writing on International Affairs

4-credits

WA 330

Bard Distribution Area: Practicing Arts (PA)

(Pathways: International Affairs, Media and Publishing). This course will put a heavy emphasis on reporting, writing and developing the sensibilities needed for success as an international news correspondent. We will focus heavily on the techniques of the craft, always in the context of contemporary world events and the realities of modern English-language media. A series of lectures, and a visit to one of New York City's great newsrooms, will be included during the semester. This is not a course for purists, but rather a broad look at a varied, complex discipline. We will examine briefly many of the topics an international journalist will confront today. We also will touch upon the broadcast and Internet skills that no journalist who strives to be in interesting places at interesting times can afford to ignore in this modern world. Offered Spring 2024.