SCIENCE IN SOCIETY PROGRAM

The sciences and scientifically sophisticated medicine and technology are among the most important and far-reaching human achievements. Scientific work has affected people’s intellectual standards, cultural meanings, political possibilities, economic capacities, and physical surroundings. Scientific research has also acquired significance, direction, authority, and application within various cultural contexts. To understand the sciences as human achievements is, in significant part, to understand the world in which we live.

The Science in Society Program (SISP) is an interdisciplinary major that encourages the study of the sciences and medicine as institutions, practices, intellectual achievements, and constituents of culture. Students in the program should gain a better understanding of the richness and complexity of scientific practice and of the cultural and political significance of science, technology, and medicine. The major is well suited for students interested in a variety of professional and academic pursuits after graduation, since it encourages students to integrate technical scientific knowledge with a grasp of the historical and cultural setting within which it is understood and used.

FACULTY

Paul Hilding Erickson
BA, Harvard University; MA, Univ of Wisconsin Madison; PHD, Univ of Wisconsin Madison
Associate Professor of History; Associate Professor, Science in Society; Associate Professor, Environmental Studies

Anthony Ryan Hatch
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Associate Professor of Science in Society; Associate Professor, African American Studies; Associate Professor, Sociology

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Professor of History; Academic Secretary; Professor, East Asian Studies; Professor, Science in Society; Professor, Environmental Studies

Jill G. Morawski
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Wilbur Fisk Osborne Professor; Professor of Psychology; Chair, Science in Society; Professor, Science in Society; Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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Hedding Professor of Moral Science; Professor of Science in Society; Professor of Philosophy; Professor, Environmental Studies

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Associate Professor of History; Chair, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Associate Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Associate Professor, Environmental Studies; Associate Professor, Science in Society

AFFILIATED FACULTY

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Associate Professor of History; Associate Professor, Environmental Studies; Associate Professor, Science in Society

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VISITING FACULTY

H.C. Robinson
AB, Harvard University; JD, Harvard University
Visiting Assistant Professor of Science in Society

DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERT

Jill Morawski

- Undergraduate Science in Society Major (catalog.wesleyan.edu/ departments/sisp/ugrd-sisp)

SISP109 Psychology and Technologies of the Self and Social World

The psychological sciences are generating novel and remarkable understandings of individual minds, social interactions, groups, and institutions, and these findings are being extended to benefit individual
and social welfare. As we dwell in a world increasingly understood in psychological terms and managed through psychological technologies, crucial questions warrant attention. What are the implications of adopting these new understandings of self and others? Does this new knowledge change us and, if so, how? How do we assess the consequences of this knowledge as it is implemented in social practices? These questions guide our examination of cases where psychological knowledge has informed new practices and policies. The cases include research on decision-making, integration, positive psychology, psychopharmacology, stress, and attitudes. Also considered will be instances where psychological ideas have been implemented then challenged, including psychosurgery and token economies.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC109
Prereq: None

SISP113 Care and Suffering
In this introductory course, we will explore the production and representation of human suffering, in addition to the modes of care deployed by healers, kin groups, aid workers, and state actors to alleviate the suffering of others. We will begin by mastering dominant approaches within anthropology for studying affliction. We will then examine case examples of bodies in distress. We will discover that suffering is inherently social: it is shared, socially produced, and communicated through socially learned and sanctioned means. Suffering is also social in the sense that it often begs a moral response. With that in mind, we will turn our attention to different regimes of care -- such as experimental, pharmaceutical, and humanitarian care -- and explore their limitations, paradoxes, and transformative possibilities. Taken as a whole, the course will invite you to question the creation and reproduction of suffering, while at the same time critically reflecting on dominant norms and forms of "doing good. As a first-year seminar, this course will also guide and support you in fostering skills as academic researchers and writers. We will start from the position that college-level academic writing is its own genre, distinct from the kind of writing typically taught in high school, and that the steps required to hone this skill are not always transparent, self-evident, or without challenges. As such, the course will include detailed instruction, regular in-class writing exercises, and three take-home writing assignments designed to introduce you to the main principles of successful academic writing.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ANTH113
Prereq: None

SISP118 Reproduction in the 21st Century
This course will cover basic human reproductive biology, new and future reproductive and contraceptive technologies, and the ethics raised by reproductive issues.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL118, FGSS118, PHIL118
Prereq: None

SISP123 The Magic Bullet: Drugs in Modern America
Pharmaceuticals are a powerful presence in our daily lives. Turn on the TV for 15 minutes and you are likely to encounter numerous drug ads; scan the news headlines and you are sure to see reports on drug cost debates, latest miracle cures, or jarring tales of terrifying side effects. We look to drugs for everything from curing minor aches and pains to enhancing our personality. Are we hooked on the quick fix? What comes first—the drug or the condition that it is intended to treat? To begin to answer these questions, one first needs to understand something about the dynamic processes through which drugs are developed, manufactured, and marketed. These are the kinds of issues that will come up in the course, as exemplary of the questions that scholars in the social studies of medicine bring to their inquiries.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Prereq: None

SISP125 TechnoPrisons: Corrections, Technology, and Society
The United States currently incarcerates more of its citizens than any other nation; most of them are members of disadvantaged social groups. How does our government practically accomplish mass incarceration? This first-year seminar examines prisons as technologies and the role that specific technologies play in the U.S. prison system. To say that prisons are technologies means that prisons operate as an architectural system that is designed to hold people captive within enclosed social spaces. At the same time, prisons are the location for multiple kinds of technological systems including surveillance systems, biomedical technologies, classification and administrative technologies, and military technologies. This seminar introduces basic concepts within science and technology studies (STS), criminology, and sociology to investigate how prison happens.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Prereq: None

SISP130 Science and Technology at the Supreme Court in Current Term
This seminar will introduce students to legal decisionmaking in the context of "disruptive" scientific and technical innovation by considering several cases that will be taken up by the U.S. Supreme Court this term that concern science and technology. To contextualize the specific factual and legal disputes in these cases, students will learn about science, technology, and law as social institutions that shape each other and also shape their constituents and publics. The seminar will further consider the history and theory of the state monopoly on the use of force, which is what will be set into action by the enforcement of these court decisions.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Prereq: None

SISP202 Philosophy of Science
This course is a fast-moving introduction to some central topics in the philosophy of science, aimed at students with some college-level study of at least one natural science. Topics include the norms of scientific understanding or explanation; the relation between finished theories or explanations and ongoing research; the recognition and dissemination of discoveries; the justification of scientific claims; conceptual and technical (revolutionary) change in the science; the significance of instrumentation, experiment, and artifice in science; the places of laws, models, and causal relations in scientific understanding; and whether various sciences differ fundamentally in their aims, methods,
and achievements. Considerable attention will be given to examples of scientific practice, both historical and contemporary.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-SISP
Identical With: PHIL287
Prereq: None

SISP205 Sciences as Social and Cultural Practices
Philosophers long construed scientific knowledge as achieved and assessed by individual knowers, but recent work has recognized a greater epistemic role for scientific communities, disciplines, or practices and has taken seriously the social and cultural context of scientific research. This course surveys some of the social, cultural, and political aspects of the sciences that have been most important for scholars in science studies, including differences between experimental, field, and theoretical science; the role of disciplines and other institutions in the sciences; interactions between science and various publics; the politics of scientific expertise and science policy; the globalization of science; the social dimensions of scientific normativity, from metrology to conceptions of objectivity; race and gender in science; and conceptual exchanges between sciences and other discursive practices. The concept of the social will also receive critical attention in its purported contrasts to what is individual, natural, rational, or cultural.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: PHIL288, ENV205
Prereq: None

SISP206 Theorizing Science and Technology
How is scientific knowledge created? This course explores knowledge production as a social process and introduces students to the puzzles that animate social studies of science and medicine. Students will consider, for example, how technologies, training, laws, demographics, and work practices affect what we take to be matters of fact. This course sets the groundwork for upper-level courses in SISP.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Prereq: None

SISP215 Metabolism and Technoscience
This course will investigate the scientific idea of metabolism through the lens of technoscience. Metabolism is a flexible and mobile scientific idea, one that has been applied at the micro-level of analysis within biological organisms, at the meso-level of social collectivities, and at the macro-level of global ecologies. Metabolism encompasses all of the biological and technosocial processes through which bodies (both human and not human) and societies (again, human and not) create and use nutrients, medicines, toxins, and fuels. The lens of technoscience enables us to investigate the technological and scientific practices that define and drive metabolic processes within sciences, cultures, and political economies. These processes implicate forces of production, consumption, labor, absorption, medicalization, appropriation, expansion, growth, surveillance, regulation, and enumeration. Accordingly, as we will learn, metabolism is also a profoundly political process that is inextricably linked to systems that create structural and symbolic violence as well as modes of resistance and struggle. In these contexts, we will interpret the some of the most pressing metabolic crises facing human societies including ecological disaster, industrial food regimes, metabolic health problems, and industrial-scale pollution.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: SOC220
Prereq: None

SISP217 Bioethics and Social Justice
Health has replaced salvation," wrote the nineteenth-century philosopher of medicine José Miguel Guardia. This course will examine the increasing importance that health, medicine, biotechnology, and health care systems have taken in contemporary societies. Dramatic changes in medicine allow us to prolong life and treat disease in previously unimaginable ways, even as these same changes open the door to new forms of exploitation, violence, racism, and oppression in the name of medicine itself. Our goal will be to grasp the ethical and philosophical significance of these contradictions. We will begin by examining some of the most prominent medical abuses of the twentieth century, including the Tuskegee syphilis trials and the lingering effects of eugenics and Social Darwinism. Then we will consider the mainstream response in U.S. ethics to these abuses—the creation and institutionalization of the discipline of bioethics—and the critics of this response. From there, we will reflect on the limits of the bioethics approach in light of the current global crises of health, life, and medicine. Readings will include selections from philosophical bioethics (including continental approaches, e.g., Canguilhem, Foucault, and Fanon), the history of medicine, the social sciences, and current journalism.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL217
Prereq: None
logics that render some lives killable and others grievable in global states.

psychopharmacological drugs that are used to intervene on mental traumas are transformed into discrete psychiatric disorders by exploring of the criminal justice system. We will ask how social and psychic psychiatry plays in managing people's daily lives to the administration and legitimating human suffering than psychiatry, from the role that of medicine. No field of medicine is more deeply implicated in creating movement that has critically analyzed and opposed psychiatry as a field

This course will investigate anti-psychiatry, the social and scientific function of literature. Best summed up by Emile Zola's suggestion that, through literature, we are capable of "possess[ing] knowledge of man, scientific knowledge of him, in both his individual and social relations," authors during this period began to explore the literary possibilities of evolutionary science. By reading works of literature alongside influential scientific treatises, this course encourages students to think about the kinds of knowledge literary experience gives us access to, and the relationship between literary knowledge and other disciplinary forms that emerged at the turn of the twentieth century.

Darwinian Fictions

This class tracks the discourse surrounding evolutionary science as it circulated through various spheres of American intellectual life in the decades after the Civil War. If the ideas proposed by Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer fundamentally changed the way scientists and politicians understood the natural world and human beings' relation to it, these ideas would also influence the way writers understood the function of literature. Best summed up by Emile Zola's suggestion that, through literature, we are capable of "possess[ing] knowledge of man, scientific knowledge of him, in both his individual and social relations," authors during this period began to explore the literary possibilities of evolutionary science. By reading works of literature alongside influential scientific treatises, this course encourages students to think about the kinds of knowledge literary experience gives us access to, and the relationship between literary knowledge and other disciplinary forms that emerged at the turn of the twentieth century.

Disease and Epidemics in Historical Perspective

Disease and epidemics have been powerful agents of historical change as well as determinants of human development before the advent of historical records. In this lecture course we will examine how diseases have changed human societies over time, with special attention given to the place of disease-causing organisms, from viruses to parasites, in the ecological networks they make home. Yet at the same time, we will keep in mind the ways in which human society and culture also have important causal roles in human disease. HIV, for example, arose because of human interactions with animals but reached pandemic proportions, in part, because of cultural, social, and political forces.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST222
Prereq: None

SISP225 Darwinian Fictions

This class tracks the discourse surrounding evolutionary science as it circulated through various spheres of American intellectual life in the decades after the Civil War. If the ideas proposed by Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer fundamentally changed the way scientists and politicians understood the natural world and human beings' relation to it, these ideas would also influence the way writers understood the function of literature. Best summed up by Emile Zola's suggestion that, through literature, we are capable of "possess[ing] knowledge of man, scientific knowledge of him, in both his individual and social relations," authors during this period began to explore the literary possibilities of evolutionary science. By reading works of literature alongside influential scientific treatises, this course encourages students to think about the kinds of knowledge literary experience gives us access to, and the relationship between literary knowledge and other disciplinary forms that emerged at the turn of the twentieth century.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL225, AMST257
Prereq: None

SISP230 Anti-Psychiatry

This course will investigate anti-psychiatry, the social and scientific movement that has critically analyzed and opposed psychiatry as a field of medicine. No field of medicine is more deeply implicated in creating and legitimating human suffering than psychiatry, from the role that psychiatry plays in managing people's daily lives to the administration of the criminal justice system. We will ask how social and psychic traumas are transformed into discrete psychiatric disorders by exploring the cultural production of diagnostic criteria used to diagnose and the psychopharmacological drugs that are used to intervene on mental states.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Prereq: None

Economies of Death, Geographies of Care

Living, dying, and care work are processes often governed by economic logics that render some lives killable and others grievable in global regimes of power. This course explores how theoretical frameworks of "economies of death" and "geographies of care" can help to illuminate how human and nonhuman lives, deaths, and systems of care are intertwined with economic logics. Whose lives are privileged over others and with what consequences? How are certain bodies made killable and others grievable? How do we understand and face care processes of death and dying, and how are these processes often geographically determined? How do we live and die well, give and receive care, and who has this privilege? This class interrogates these and other questions related to how we live and die with others in a multispecies world. With attention to race, gender, species, and other sites of perceived difference, students will gain a nuanced understanding of core themes related to fundamental processes of living, dying, and caring labor. This course asks students to theorize economies of death and geographies of care to understand the deeply political nature of life and death as differential moments on a continuum of being. We focus on key questions related to an affirmative politics of life—in other words, how we should live, how we care and for whom, and how we might foster nonviolent interpersonal life-affirming encounters. Students can expect to explore pressing contemporary issues such as mass incarceration and "social death;" climate change; valuing and commodifying life; breeding and raising nonhuman animals for food; plant consciousness; end-of-life care and euthanasia; and the role of marginalized bodies in biomedical research. The course will be primarily discussion-based.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS235
Prereq: None
Slaughter and rendering? How does art act as a form of witnessing, for instance, through photographers like Chris Jordan documenting the afterlives of plastic in the bellies of albatrosses on Midway Island? Throughout the semester, we will use art, fiction, poetry and memoir to explore these concepts of witnessing, mourning, and haunting in the context of animal lives and deaths. The course will be heavily discussion-based.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS238
Prereq: None

SISP253 Science and/as Literature in Early Modern England
Seventeenth- and 18th-century England saw the development and popularization of the "new science." Microscopes, telescopes, airpumps, automata, and experiments captured the popular imagination. The first important scientific societies and journals were founded, and the public learned about new discoveries through sermons and coffeehouse lectures. This course will trace the literary reaction to these cultural changes. A female natural philosopher wrote utopian science fiction, and Jonathan Swift satirically skewered mathematicians and experimenters. While the best of early 18th-century nature poetry takes Newton quite seriously as it depicts the way light glimmers off objects, by the century's end, William Blake villainized Newtonian thought as reductive and deadening. We will try to understand what writers found exhilarating, scary, confusing, hilarious, or important about science at this key moment of its development. At the same time, we will read this science as literature—considering, say, Francis Bacon's symbolically fraught "idols" and Robert Boyle's "literary technology," the role of poetry in spreading scientific ideas, and the importance of analogy and metaphor to the very logic of scientific thought. The disciplines of science and literature were not as cleanly separated in this period as they are now, and we can better understand both by exploring their intersections.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL253
Prereq: None

SISP254 Science in Western Culture
This course offers an introduction to the history of the sciences between the late 17th and early 20th centuries, with the aim of understanding the varied ways of knowing that have come to be called "science" and how they have attained such an important status in shaping modern Western culture. To do so, we will both investigate key intellectual developments—such as Newtonianism, theories of energy and matter, and the rise of evolutionary thought—and consider these ideas in the cultural contexts in which they developed to better understand how people have "done science" in different times and places. Throughout, we will pay attention to the relationships between science and other knowledge systems, between scientists and nonscientists, and between science and state power by exploring the changing nature of scientific authority, the cultural status of the scientist, and the connections among science, commerce, technology, and empire.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST254
Prereq: None

SISP255 Seeing a Bigger Picture: Integrating Environmental History and Visual Studies
This interdisciplinary course approaches the history of environmental policy and opinion making through a frame that takes seriously the rise in power accorded to visual imagery and visual practices (including photography, digital image production, film and new media) in modern society. The course introduces students to key landmarks in the visual history of environmentalism spanning a period from colonial America to the recent past, focusing both on images of nature and on the nature of images.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST262, ENVS255, ARHA262
Prereq: None

SISP256 Race and Medicine in America
This course will trace ideas of race in American medical science and its cultural contexts, from the late 19th century to the present. We will explore how configurations of racial difference have changed over time and how medical knowledge about the body has both influenced, and helped to shape, social, political, and popular cultural forces. We will interrogate the idea of medical knowledge as a "naturalizing" discourse that produces racial classifications as essential, and biologically based. We will treat medical sources as primary documents, imagining them as but one interpretation of the meaning of racial difference, alongside alternate sources that will include political tracts, advertisements, photographs, newspaper articles, and so on. Key concepts explored will include slavery's medical legacy, theories of racial hierarchy and evolution, the eugenics movement, "race-specific" medications and diseases, public health politics and movements, genetics and modern "roots" projects, immigration and new technologies of identification, and intersections of race and disability.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST256
Prereq: None

SISP256 The Evolution of Scientific Medicine
This course will follow the transformation of medicine from the art of healing to the science of disease. What kind of science has medicine become? How has the professionalization of medical practice and the commercialization of medical science altered our experience of being a patient and our understanding of health and illness? These questions will guide our exploration of both historical documents and analytical pieces from the vast scholarship on the social studies of medicine. Though much of the focus will be on the American context, a thorough exploration of these issues, particularly in the 20th century, will require us to venture far beyond our national borders.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Prereq: None

SISP259 Discovering the Person
This course surveys major developments in psychology and psychiatry from 1860 to 1980. Through readings and lectures, the course introduces the major schools, theories, and systems in the American "psy" sciences. We examine the kinds of persons who were "discovered," the techniques of discovery, the extensions of psychological ideas to institutions and
policy formulations, and the consequences of these discoveries for public as well as private life. We examine psychological phenomena that were located, catalogued, and explained by these sciences, including irrationality, sexuality, cognitive powers, personality, emotional processes, neurotic behaviors, intelligence, addictive tendencies, and the will. Attention is also given to the scientific grounds for investigating persons, the empirical evidence sought in the century-long process of discovering and naming psychological kinds, and the modes of producing this knowledge (aggregate methods, case study, and theories). Readings include primary source documents, histories of the disciplines, and philosophical analyses.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PsyC
Identical With: PSYC259, AMST259
Prereq: PSYC105

SISP260 Bioethics and the Animal/Human Boundary
In this course, we will explore the construction of the animal/human boundary through the lens of bioethics. We will define bioethics as the study of the ethical consideration of medical, scientific, and technological advances and their effects on living beings. At the same time, we will pay close attention to the cultural contexts in which these advances emerge, imagining the realms of scientific progress and popular culture as mutually constitutive. We will consider topics such as cloning, organ transplantation, pharmaceutical testing, and gestational surrogacy, with a focus on the late 20th and early 21st centuries. We will begin by interrogating how ideas of the "animal" and the "human" are constructed through biomedical and cultural discourses. We will ask, How is the human defined? By intelligence or consciousness levels? By physical capabilities or esoteric qualities? Similarly, how has the human been defined against ideas of the animal? Or, what ethical justifications have been cited in the use of animals in biomedicine? What makes certain species "proper" research subjects, and others not? What do these formulations tell us about our valuation of animal and human life, and what kinds of relationships exist between the two? To answer these questions, we will consult a wide range of interdisciplinary scholarship, from authors in the fields of animal/rty studies, bioethics and medicine/science history, sociology, anthropology, and philosophy. Students will also be exposed to the basics of biopolitical theory.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST260
Prereq: None

SISP262 Cultural Studies of Health
Nothing is more fundamental to the human condition than our most basic right—the right to healthy life. Tragically, this right is inequitably distributed across human bodies and populations, especially along axes of race, gender, class, age, and nationality. In fact, persons residing in the U.S. do not have a right to healthy life. Issues of health and illness are, quite literally, matters of life and death that are shaped by broader political and economic institutions in human societies. In neoliberal nation states like the U.S., the guardian of the right to live a healthy life is a highly bureaucratic and technological form of corporate medicine. Medicine comprises a network of social institutions and technoscientific practices that people have created and use to diagnose and heal our bodily and psychic ills. While the practice of medicine has produced dramatic improvements in life expectancy and quality of life for billions of people, most people on the planet do not have access to basic medical care. Who thrives, who gets sick, who dies, and why constitute core questions for social justice. This course investigates the complex embroidery of biosocial and cultural processes that shape the unequal experiences and meanings of health. Cultural studies of health document the role of medicine as a great instrument of power that both generates and alleviates suffering. As more and more areas of social life and parts of bodies are falling under the control of medicine (a process called medicalization), we must ask, What are the dynamics and implications of medicalization for human societies and cultures? Drawing on provocative readings and media from diverse fields in sociology and cultural studies of science, technology, and medicine, this course will investigate these questions and more with an emphasis on the answers to them might contribute to social justice and improve the conditions necessary for human thriving.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: SOC259, AMST272
Prereq: None

SISP264 Social and Cultural Studies of Science
This course provides a survey of theories and methods attending the social and cultural study of science and technology. Students will consider the role of design (such as by engineers) and use (such as by consumers), and will learn historical perspectives that frame the question of whether scientific and technological innovation, and the social and cultural configurations involved, are really "new."

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Prereq: None

SISP266 Introduction to History: Science in the Making: Thinking Historically About Science
This course introduces students to a range of perspectives—drawn from history, sociology, anthropology, geography, media studies, and literary studies, among others—on how to write about the history of science. Throughout, the emphasis is on understanding the relationship between the histories of science we can tell and the materials that our histories draw upon, from publications and archival documents to oral histories, material culture, and film. In addition to reading academic literature, students will gain practical experience working with historical sources and conducting original research. They will also familiarize themselves with new digital tools for presenting historical materials by developing a course website that showcases their research projects.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST176
Prereq: None

SISP281 Post-Kantian European Philosophy
In this study of 19th- and 20th-century philosophy in Europe (primarily France and Germany), special attention will be devoted to the interpretation of modern science, its significance for understanding the world as distinctly modern, and ourselves and the world as natural (or as transcending nature). Related topics include the scope and limits of reason, the role of subjectivity in the constitution of meaning, the place of ethics and politics in a science-centered culture, and the problems of comprehending historical change. Philosophers to be read include Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Husserl, Heidegger, Weber, Marcuse, Habermas,
and Foucault. The course is designed to introduce students to a very difficult but widely influential philosophical tradition and will emphasize close reading and comparative interpretation and assessment of texts and reasoning. This course meets the Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory Certificate’s requirement in philosophical origins of theory.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL258
Prereq: None

SISP283 What Is Rationality?
What does it mean to be rational? Although this question has traditionally been the province of philosophy, reference to reason and rationality is also pervasive in the modern social and behavioral sciences. Humans are rational creatures—or if they are not in practice, they should be. This course takes an expansive view of rationality and its history, tracing how the concept has changed over time, and critically examining its significance in the sciences and broader culture today. From the role of reason in human flourishing and civic discourse in the ancient world, to early modern conceptions of logic as "the art of thinking," to Cold War attempts to build machines that might reason more reliably than frail humans, this exploration of reasoning and rationality explores several interlocking themes: the relationship between reason and other facets of the mind, especially emotion; conceptions of reason as an evaluative versus a calculating faculty, the role of reason in human judgment; the relationship between rationality and rules; the relationship between choosing rationally and choosing ethically; and the fraught history of attempts to formulate universally valid principles of rationality.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST283, PHIL154
Prereq: None

SISP285 History of Science and Technology in Modern China
Science, technology, and medicine played an integral role in the China’s transition to modernity and inspired dramatic economic, social, and political transformations. As scholars of modern China developed a keen interest in transnational histories and comparative methodologies, they have paid closer attention to the histories of science, technology, and medicine. This course introduces students to this emerging field of study. It examines broad philosophical questions that motivate the research in history of those areas. We will learn to explore science, technology, and medicine in China on "its own terms" by understanding how the unique political and social challenges of modern China shaped Chinese science.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST386, CEAS222
Prereq: None

SISP286 Philosophy of Mind
This class is a philosophical investigation into the nature of the mind. We will explore such questions such: What kinds of beings are capable of having mental states? Can non-human animals or computers think and feel? What is it to be conscious, and can the subjective, first-personal experience of consciousness be adequately captured by a scientific theory? How do our minds represent the world? By what mechanism do our thoughts, feelings, and desires get linked up to the things around us? We will ask these questions with the goal of shedding light on our nature as thinking, feeling beings, and on the relation of our inner lives to the physical world.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL286
Prereq: None

SISP300 Black Phoenix Rising: Death and Resurrection of Black Lives
The Black Lives Matter Movement has renewed our collective need to theorize the value of black lives within a deluge of death and disappearance in black communities. This movement is part of a deep transnational tradition in black radical praxis that aims to transform scholarly, activist, and public discourse and public policies concerning the systemic and epistemic effects of institutional racisms and the prospects for antiracist futures. How might we envision a black radical praxis that simultaneously recognizes the vitality of black lives and challenges the cultural ideas and social practices that generate and justify black people’s death and suffering? This seminar traces a genealogy of black radical praxis that interrogates the necropolitics of race and positions this system of power against the prospect of thriving black people. In doing so, the course erects an interdisciplinary theoretical framework that features scholarship in critical race science studies, intersectionality, and transnational cultural studies as they inform how a black radical praxis can contribute to the uprising and raising up of black communities.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM300, AFAM300
Prereq: None

SISP303 Matter, Community, Environment
In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to consider human communities without also considering questions of “nature” or “environment.” Actor-network theory condemns nature/society dualisms; ecological theory argues that there is indeed no “nature” or “society”—only the anthropocene; and, drawing from the former two positions, object-oriented ontology conceives of ideas (such as “community” or “society”) as objects and ecological actors. In this seminar, we will consider various approaches taken in recent years to thinking about our relations to the worlds we inhabit. We will attempt to think not only outside a focus on “us” as humans in the first place, but even outside a focus on sentient life or life in general. Examining theories of matter, community, and environment, we will discuss and analyze work by philosophers, evolutionary biologists, literary scholars, and sociologists, among others. We will pay special attention to how theorists and critics are blurring the boundaries between nature and society, environment and community, life and matter. In addition to class participation and a series of brief reading responses, students will be required to produce a final paper dealing with any topic related to the course.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM305, ENGL302, COL303
Prereq: None

SISP304 Techno-Orientalism
This class analyzes the ways Asians and Asian Americans have been tied to science and technology, an association that may seem obvious but is understudied. Throughout the course, the overarching theme of
techno-Orientalism will help frame discussions of cyborgs, globalization, digital industry, labor, high-tech education, and economics. Students will understand how and why Orientalism—or the Western sense of people from the East as dangerous enemies/exotic foreigners—gets warped in the technological age. Key issues include the preponderance of Asians in scientific fields and technological industries and the popular representation of Asians as robots or cyborgs. Our seminar will explore how U.S.-Asian transnational relations shaped the rise of Asian high-tech superpowers like Japan, South Korea, India, Singapore, and China, as well as emergent powerhouses like Vietnam. The class focuses on the contemporary postmodern period, centering on the late 20th century to early 21st century. As an interdisciplinary seminar, we will cover the gamut of fields from sociology to literature to philosophy to technoculture studies.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST304
Prereq: None

SISP305 Moral Ecologies and the Anthropology of Vitality
What is vitality? How is vitality nurtured? What hinders vitality? How might we participate in the flourishing of all life? This course will explore the "anthropology of vitality" to designate a body of emerging literatures in anthropology, science studies, religious studies, human geography, and ecological humanities centered on questions of the health, wealth, and vitality of communities understood to include both the human and the nonhuman worlds. Much of this literature is emerging in response to the intertwined global crises of social and environmental justice and a corresponding and urgent call for a new ethics. We will approach these concerns as an issue–moral ecology–in response to Michel Foucault’s point in THE ORDER OF THINGS (1970) that "modern thought has never been able to propose a morality." The authors we will read work across the nature-culture ontological divide by expanding modes of reasoning to bring together, for example, medicine and ecology, ritual and environment, nature and morality, politics and religion, cosmology and pragmatism, gift exchange and the production of wealth, regeneration and death, knowledge and ethics. Topics include the meanings of prosperity and vitality, moral idioms of nature, animism, epistemologies of embodiment, ecological and cosmological reasoning and systems of classification, relational ontologies, death, waste and pollution, ecology and healing, ritual and world making.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ENVS
Identical With: ENVS305, ANTH303
Prereq: None

SISP306 Disease, Health, and Power in Latin America, 1850-1990
When we think of historical change, we often look to people, wars, and discovery as key "moments" in history. Yet, we often overlook "biological" agents of change. Disease, next to man, has been one of the greatest changers in human history. Smallpox, for example, a disease that is now vaccinated, decimated Mesoamerican societies after the arrival of the Spanish to the Americas. In the late 1800s, developments in contagion theory spurred the development of the modern state and the professional medical field. Phrases such as, "hygiene," "germs," and "cleanliness" became common phrases that were given class, gender, and socioeconomic connections. The state equated healthy citizens as proper modern citizens and as examples of national development. Disease was equated with rural, economic, racial, and social backwardness that required transformation from the state. Often detrimental to long-term health, DDT spraying and the poisoning of the environment became common place. With the rise of globalization, diseases and health became global problems that united some nations and purposely excluded others. With this, the goals of "assisting" and "healing" became proxies for periods of neocolonialism and questionable medical testing among unsuspecting populations. This course will examine some of the most recent scholarship and provide students with an understanding of where the field of medical history in Latin America is heading.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-LAST
Identical With: LAST307
Prereq: None

SISP307 The Economy of Nature and Nations
On many of the key environmental problems of the 21st century, from climate change to biodiversity conservation, the perspectives of ecology and economics often seem poles apart. Ecology is typically associated with a skeptical stance toward economic growth and human intervention in the environment, while economics focuses on understanding (and often, celebrating) human activities of production, consumption, and growth. At the same time, ecology and economics share a common etymology; both words spring from the Greek oikos, or household. They also share much common history. This course thus explores the parallel histories of economics and ecology from the 18th century to the present, focusing on changing conceptions of the oikos over this period, from cameralism’s vision of the household as a princely estate or kingdom, continuing through the emergence of ideas about national or imperial economic development, and culminating in the dominant 20th-century recasting of economics as being centrally concerned with problems of resource allocation. Simultaneously, it explores connections between changes in economics and the emergence of ecological science over this period, from Enlightenment natural history and early musings on the "economy of nature," to the design of markets for carbon credits today.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST307, ENVS307
Prereq: None

SISP314 Theories in Psychology
Theory is a central tool in psychology, directing empirical investigations and interpretations of human action. Psychology theory likewise has come to significantly guide social policy and personal understandings of human actions. This course introduces the practice of theory construction and appraisal. We will ask, What is a good psychological theory, what are its origins, and how should it be appraised? The theories to be considered include classic works from learning theory to psychoanalysis; mid-range theories such as dissonance, mass action, script, and role theory; and contemporary theories emerging in social psychology, cognitive psychology, emotion research, and neuroscience.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC314
Prereq: None

SISP315 The Health of Communities
Our focus will be on understanding the role of social factors (such as income, work environment, social cohesion, food, and transportation
systems) in determining the health risks of individuals; considering the efficacy, appropriateness, and ethical ramifications of various public health interventions; and learning about the contemporary community health center model of care in response to the needs of vulnerable populations. We explore the concept and history of social medicine, the importance of vocabulary and the complexity of any categorization of persons in discussions of health and illness, ethical issues related to the generation and utilization of community-based research, the role of place and the importance of administrative and cultural boundaries in the variability of health risk, and the idea of just health care. Enrolled students serve as research assistants to preceptors at the Community Health Center (CHC) of Middletown.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.25
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: SOC315
Prereq: None

SISP316 Global Biopolitics
This advanced seminar explores health and disease as issues of global political importance. The course covers both the theoretical roots of the concept of biopolitics and empirical studies of biopolitics in action. We focus on some of the most salient contemporary issues within global health including the politics of clinical trials, population control, and infectious disease containment.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Prereq: None

SISP317 Disability, Embodiment, and Technology
In this course, we will explore the relationship between the body and technology through the lens of disability studies scholarship. We will address the following questions: How is the dis/abled body imagined in technological discourse? How have technological advances transformed understandings of the dis/abled body? How have attempts to surpass physical limitations—from issues of accessibility to assistive technologies (such as cochlear implants and prostheses)—transformed definitions of disability? How do bodily norms shape constructions of disability, and how do other categories of difference—including race, gender, and sexuality—work to constitute ideas of able-bodiedness? Finally, how does the treatment of disabled bodies, and their relationship to technological progress, speak to broader anxieties about the nature of human embodiment in the modern world? To consider these and other questions, we will consult a wide range of texts, focusing primarily on disability studies scholarship, but also including perspectives from scholars of law, history, ethnography, queer studies, critical race studies, and science and technology studies.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST317
Prereq: None

SISP318 Critical Global Health
What does it mean to approach global health as not an applied science but an ethnographic object? This course will explore this question by bringing critical, social science perspectives to bear on global health issues and interventions. It covers three areas of scholarship. First, we will examine the processes by which social inequalities produce patterns of health and disease in globalizing contexts. This will be followed by an interrogation of the term "global health," in which we will trace its emergence as a discourse and enterprise and unpack its contested meanings. While some view global health as a clinical practice, others conceptualize it as a business, security concern, charitable duty, or human right; yet another camp probes the term's ideological construction. We will consider how such vantage points are underpinned by cultural assumptions and ethical agendas that, in turn, can determine how, and to whom, care is delivered. As a third area of inquiry, we will investigate the implications and unintended effects of doing global health by probing such questions as, When are good intentions not good enough? How useful is biomedicine for alleviating locally-defined problems? Under what conditions does global health exacerbate the social inequalities it seeks to overcome?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ANTH316
Prereq: None

SISP320 Life and Death: Relations of Biopower and Necropower
This seminar is an advanced examination of how science and technology shape the politics of life and death. We will consider how science and technology have become handmaidens to human (and, in some cases, not human) life and death, impacting the social, legal, and ethical frameworks we use to define what constitutes the embodied, relational, and conceptual space between "alive" and "dead." Using theories of biopower and necropower as our guides, we will consider how science and institutions of power. We will ask, How can we better understand the ways in which social institutions and actors deploy sciences and technologies to foster health or manufacture death?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: SOC320
Prereq: None

SISP321 BioFeminisms: Science, Matter, and Agency
This course rethinks feminism's relationship to nature, the body, and biological matter in light of new considerations of ontology in science studies, cultural studies, and feminist thought. We will read contemporary treatments of science, of Darwin and evolutionary theory, of neurobiology and epigenetics, and other fields and disciplines that consider biological matter, and think about them in feminist and queer frameworks. Readings will include "new materialists" alongside other works on the "new biology" and the "new sciences"; we will also revisit some second- and third-wave feminism. The course raises issues that challenge traditional boundaries of the body and self, conventional ideas of agency, and dualisms of mind/ body. Readings include works by Donna Haraway, Anne Fausto-Sterling, Elizabeth Grosz, Karen Barad, Vicki Kirby, Elizabeth Wilson, among others.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS321
Prereq: None

SISP324 Race and the Enlightenment: A Historical and Philosophical Enquiry
It was during the Enlightenment Era (c. 1760-1800) that scientific reasoning, a belief in progress, and new claims on personal and political
liberty swept away a tenacious medieval worldview. It was also during this era, however, that the notion of race crystalized in European and North American thought. Today, we still live with implications of this major shift, be it in classification schemes, anatomical prejudices, or ethnographical myths. This is particularly true for Africans or people of African descent. This class will bring some of the Enlightenment’s most prominent thinkers into dialogue with the emergency of the concept of race theory. In particular, we will focus on the clash between the Enlightenment era’s belief that “all men were created as equals” and the various ways that the Black African came to be studied within “natural history” and various philosophical models. This historical backdrop will lead us not only to a discussion of the economic imperatives of human slavery but to a series of contemporary reflections on the status of the Enlightenment put forward by postcolonial critics. Note: This class is offered in the context of the Wesleyan’s Center for the Humanities’ “Grand Narratives/Modest Proposals” theme and speakers series during the Spring 2018 semester.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM325, CHUM324
Prereq: None

SISP325 Sociology of Medicine, Health, and Illness
This course will address the sociology of medicine, health, and illness from a range of critical perspectives and theoretical vantage points, including feminist social constructionism, actor network theory, the governmentality literature, queer theory, neomaterialist feminism, and disability studies. We will examine current manifestations of medicalization, health and illness, and biosociality as social products of the neoliberal context and will pursue both illness and disability as sites of social struggle. We will consider the promise and limits of social constructionism in understanding the sick body and the disabled subject; we will address the medicalization of impairments as well as trends in psychiatry; we will look at the emerging transnational trade in organs, cell lines, and bioinformatics and consider how sociological frameworks can contributing to understanding these.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS325, SOC325
Prereq: None

SISP328 Waiting: Bodies, Time, Necropolitics
Waiting: Bodies, Time, Necropolitics, is an interdisciplinary course that draws from social theory, gender studies, medical anthropology, disability studies and science studies to address the social stratification of time in corporeal terms. Many theorists have described the 21st century as marked by acceleration; this course addresses its counterpoint: the slow, interminable wait, the being made-to-wait, the socially structured scenes and experiences of waiting. How can we understand waiting in the city emergency room for the mentally ill immigrant? What is it in the gender transition clinic? The polluted, toxic neighborhood? The refugee camp? We will begin by surveying multiple frameworks through which we can theorize time and its suspension. We will then focus on experiences of waiting in intersectional terms, that is, in relation to gender and sexuality, race, class, and dis/ability. We will explore how practices that produce life, health and wellbeing (biopolitics) can also be necropolitical, when attention, care, or action is given to some, but prolonged or suspended for others. Readings will include works on necropolitical theory (Georgio Agamben, Achille Mbembe), medical and state subordination and abandonment (Javier Auyero, Joao Biehl), and queer and crip time (Lee Edelman, Elizabeth Freeman, Alison Kafer). We will explore a wide range of experiences of waiting, from those related to cancer diagnosis (Sarah Jain), gender assignment surgery (Alexandre Baril), to environmental toxicity (Michelle Murphy) and asylum seeking (Jennifer Bagelman).

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM328, FGSS329
Prereq: None

SISP330 Race, Science, Gender, and Species
What does it mean to be human or animal? How are these socially constructed lines drawn, redrawn, enforced, and contested? How are categorizations and contestations surrounding humanity and animality a concern for feminist scholars? How does critical theory help us to understand the (at times) uneasy intersections—or “dangerous crossings,” as Claire Jean Kim calls them—between race, species, gender, and theories of science intersect to formulate ideas about humanity and animality? What theoretical and practical possibilities arise from exploring these overlapping taxonomies of power? This course explores these questions, engaging in an ongoing conversation about how theories of science and law shape ideas about race, gender, and species. We will consider human and animal bodies in science and medicine. We interrogate how the human is a site of political contestation, articulated through colonial and racialized processes that render some lives human/subhuman/nonhuman within hierarchies of power and exclusion. Central to this uneven rendering of what it means to be human is the way law and legal processes naturalize and racialize human beings, and sustain anthropocentrism. Informed by these literatures, we move into exploring the possibilities and limits of posthumanism, with a particular emphasis on work that aims to decolonize posthumanist theory. Within these theoretical frameworks, we move into thinking about the boundaries of the human/animal body, the politics of being and becoming in multispecies worlds; the fraught cultural and political cases where race and species intersect are negotiated; what the “feral” can add to these entanglements of race, species, gender, and the intertwining logics of species, colonialism, and empire; and how different ways of being embodied can inform a politics of multispecies care. We will conclude our work together for the semester with a collectively curated selection of readings, to be determined by our seminar.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS330
Prereq: None

SISP338 Masculinities
This course examines masculinities and the psychology of men using theories and research findings. We survey a range of perspectives on men and masculinity, drawing from evolutionary theory, cognitive psychology, psychoanalysis, social psychology, and queer theory. We will ask how the psychological attributes associated with men relate to private life and public spaces, and whether our enactments and conceptions of masculinity have changed over time. Exploration of these questions will be informed by both psychological research and close analysis of media representations. The course thus emphasizes methods for examining representations of masculinity in science and the media.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC338, FGSS338
Prereq: PSYC105 OR FGSS209

SISP344 The Rise of the Neurosciences
This course examines the expansion and proliferation of the neurosciences from the early modern period to the present. We will investigate the recent claim that we are living in the midst of a "neuro-revolution" with vast social, political, and economic consequences around the globe. Yet at the same time, we will look to the past for similar moments of transition and transformation of the modern sciences abetted by experiments on the nervous system. Students will analyze texts from Descartes to Damasio, paying attention to the rhetorical explanatory power of certain epistemic objects and instruments—samples of brain tissue, synaptic networks, clinical case histories, MRI scans—as well as the institutional power-shifts that sanctioned research practices such as vivisection, phrenology, electrophysiology, and functional imaging. Through our reading of primary sources by philosophers and physicians and secondary sources by historians and sociologists, this course will explore what is at stake in the "neuro-turn," and why it provokes such a mixed reaction of hope and hype, then as well as now.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC344
Prereq: None

SISP353 Health, Illness, and Power in America
In this class, we will explore the interlocking histories of health, illness, and power in America. Special attention will be paid to the ways in which discourses of the healthy body have undergirded notions of citizenship and belonging in the nation. We will consider how processes of disease, disability, and contagion have been imagined through the lenses of social difference, including race, gender, sexuality, and class. We will address civil institutions designed to manage individual and population health, and we will consider theories of political power in the making of the "modern" body. Sample topics covered will include immigration policies and contagious disease scares; STDs and the politics of public health campaigns; physical fitness and the value of bodily labor under capitalism; the management of diseases that are symptomatic and those that are not; race- and gender-based approaches to medicine and medical difference; clinical trials and the ethics of human experimentation; regulations surrounding blood and organ donation; changing rituals of bodily hygiene; preventative medicine and the call to personal responsibility; mental health policies and institutions; and pride movements surrounding the "unhealthy" body.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST353
Prereq: None

SISP366 Bodies, Machines, and Meaning: Cultural Studies of the Sciences
This course will explore the recent claim that we are living in the midst of a "neuro-revolution" with vast social, political, and economic consequences around the globe. Yet at the same time, we will look to the past for similar moments of transition and transformation of the modern sciences abetted by experiments on the nervous system. Students will analyze texts from Descartes to Damasio, paying attention to the rhetorical explanatory power of certain epistemic objects and instruments—samples of brain tissue, synaptic networks, clinical case histories, MRI scans—as well as the institutional power-shifts that sanctioned research practices such as vivisection, phrenology, electrophysiology, and functional imaging. Through our reading of primary sources by philosophers and physicians and secondary sources by historians and sociologists, this course will explore what is at stake in the "neuro-turn," and why it provokes such a mixed reaction of hope and hype, then as well as now.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC366
Prereq: None

SISP367 Life of Modern Fact
Facts aren't born; they are made. The challenge is to understand how people have come to think of facts as existing in the world independent of human intervention. This seminar explores the tools and techniques that people have used to craft facts. We consider examples from the 18th century through the present day, such as training manuals, films, and instruments. We also examine how broader structures such as social networks and the law help produce facts as people share, defend, and use them. Finally, this course encourages skepticism and creativity in the use of primary sources and the formulation of original research, questioning the givens of human knowledge.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL367
Prereq: None

SISP338 Disease and Health in Modern Asia
While this course might seem highly focused and specialized at first glance, it is intended for students of all majors and backgrounds. It has two main goals. The first is to explore the influence of epidemics and diseases more broadly on the course of East Asian history while keeping a global context in mind. The focus is on China and Japan, but Korea will be included when possible. The second is to consider how studying other ways of understanding how language reflects, touches, and transforms the material world? This course will grapple with big questions about nature, language, literary form, and human minds—as well as the complex interactions between and among these. We will seek answers by attending closely to both literary and theoretical texts.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL367
Prereq: None
historically, diseases and epidemics are best understood through multiple disciplinary approaches, including biology, epidemiology, anthropology, sociology, and iconology. Colonialism and empire—both Western and Japanese—are, of course, underlying themes throughout. We will examine several important historiographical and methodological approaches as well as some basic issues in the history of science and some important examples of specific diseases such as cholera, tuberculosis, and plague from different approaches using both secondary and primary sources.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST370, CEAS272
Prereq: None

SISP373 Religion, Science, and Empire: Crucible of a Globalized World
The development of modern science—and of modernity itself—not only coincided with the rise of European imperialism, it was abetted by it. Meanwhile, religion was integral to both the roots of European science and Western encounters with others. This class will explore how the intersections of religion, science, and empire have formed a globalized world with examples of European engagement with the Americas, Middle East, and, particularly, India from the age of Columbus through to the space race. We will examine how the disciplines we know today as biology, anthropology, archaeology, folklore, and the history of religions all crystallized in the crucible of imperial encounter and how non-Westerners have embraced, engaged, and resisted these epistememes.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI373
Prereq: None

SISP374 Food Security: History of an Idea
The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations has held that "food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." This course is a history of food insecurity as a material condition and a geopolitical concept for explaining uneven access to provisions. Although we begin with the emergence of food security as a concept during World War II, we will spend the majority of the course studying other ways of organizing access to the means of subsistence. Topics discussed will include why human beings share food, the invention of agriculture, transportation infrastructure, international trade, food aid, agricultural research and development, poverty, conflict, and famine.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST374
Prereq: None

SISP377 Worlding the World: Creation Myths from Ancient Greece to the Multiverse
This course will focus on two questions that have thwarted and enthralled scientists, philosophers, and theologians for millennia: Where have we come from? and Where are we going? By reading ancient Greek and early Christian sources alongside contemporary astrophysicists, we will witness the reconfigured resurrection of some very old debates about the creation and unmaking of the world. Is the universe eternal, or was it created? Is it finite or infinite? Destructible or indestructible? Linear or cyclical? And is ours the only universe, or are there others?

The semester will be divided into four sections. The first will explore the dominant, or "inflationary," version of the big bang hypothesis in relation to the Christian doctrine of creation. The second will consider the possibility that the whole universe might be a negligible part of a vast "multiverse" in conversation with the early Greek atomists, who posited an extra-cosmic space teeming with other worlds. The third will explore contemporary cyclical cosmologies—that is, theories that posit a rebirth of the cosmos out of its fiery destruction—in relation to early Stoic philosophy and cross-cultural cyclic mythologies. The fourth will explore quantum cosmologies, in which the universe fragments into parallel branches each time a particle "decides" upon a position. We will examine these varied cosmologies of multiplicity, not with a view toward adjudicating among them, but toward pointing out their mythic and ontological genealogies and consequences.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI377
Prereq: None

SISP379 Technology and Culture
Technology is defined as the branch of knowledge that deals with the industrial arts—that is, as the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes. But this definition belies the complexity and importance of the phenomenon. In this seminar, we will look at technology as more than the handmaiden of science, focusing on the roles we have assigned it in politics, economics, and society writ large. In addition to considering the physical impacts of technology on the environment we live in and on ourselves, we examine technology as an analytical category, a frame of reference we employ in navigating our relationship to the world, and to each other.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Prereq: None

SISP381 Japan’s Nuclear Disasters
The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 are central to the history of the 20th century. This course examines the scientific, cultural, and political origins of the bombs; their use in the context of aerial bombings and related issues in military history; the decisions to use them; the human cost to those on whom they were dropped; and their place in history, culture, and identity politics to the present. Sources will include works on the history of science; military, political, and cultural history; literary and other artistic interpretations; and a large number of primary source documents, mostly regarding U.S. policy questions. In addition, we will be examining the development of the civilian nuclear industry in Japan with a focus on the nuclear meltdowns in Fukushima and other accidents. This is an extremely demanding course. This interdisciplinary, experiential, and experimental course combines studio learning (movement studies and interdisciplinary, creative exploration) and seminars (presentations and discussions). No previous dance or movement study is required, and the course is not particularly geared toward dancers or performers. However, your willingness to experiment on and share movement is important. We encourage you to think about movement as a method of accessing human experiences and making distance malleable, a way to explore your own sensations, thoughts, and reactions in learning history. Weekly journal entry is required, and each student will create his/her own final project to deepen the syllabus.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
SISP382 Anthropocene as Modern Grand Narrative
The Anthropocene refers to the new age in which humankind started to have a significant impact in altering or rupturing the Earth's system, and the Earth is now moving out of its current geological epoch (the Holocene) and into "a less biologically diverse, less forested, much warmer, and probably wetter and stormier state." (Steffen, Crutzen, and McNeill 2007, Sciences Module, 614). This course begins by examining the debates on the definition and periodization. It then explores precursors to the concept of the Anthropocene, such as Confucian and Daoist writings on the taming of the natural environment for human needs, the catastrophism versus uniformitarianism debate, and contesting definitions of sustainability. Finally, it looks at how recent works of environmental history engaged with the concept of the Anthropocene and brought our attention to the impact of the transition from organic economy to carbon economy. Is the Anthropocene a new meta-narrative that professes to be the theory that explains all human activity? Is the Anthropocene a call to arms for environmental justice? Is the Anthropocene just a declensionist fairy tale-one that leads us down a cul-de-sac and throw up our arms in resignation over the irreversible destruction of the natural environment?
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM307, HIST382
Prereq: None

SISP385 Understanding Life and Mind
This advanced seminar explores the philosophical significance of recent developments in evolutionary, developmental, and genomic biology for philosophical and scientific conceptions of mind and language. After initial treatment of preparatory topics such as naturalism and reductionism, the course takes up four primary themes: organism/environment entanglement; relations between genetics, epigenetics, and genomics; developmentalist challenges to orthodox neo-Darwinist conceptions of evolution; and evolutionary approaches to understanding mind and language, especially those that emphasize niche construction and the co-evolution of language and homo sapiens.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-SISP
Identical With: PHIL385
Prereq: None

SISP387 History of the End
How will it end? Scientific hubris, a nuclear event, an asteroid, environmental disaster, overpollution, resource scarcity, commodity price spikes, riots, social chaos, social control? This seminar investigates how people have imagined apocalypse and post-apocalypse over time, on the premise that fantasies of the end provide a window into the anxieties of the societies that produce them.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST387, ENVS387
Prereq: None

SISP389 Advanced Research in Social and Historical Process
In this advanced research course, students will become familiar with core theories that consider the temporal dynamics of social psychological phenomena and undertake empirical projects that attend to historical processes, including the history of psychological objects themselves. Students will work collaboratively on all aspects of the research project, including reviews of the literature, assessment of theories, and the design, conduct, and analysis of a study.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC389
Prereq: PSYC105

SISP393 Materia Medica: Drugs and Medicines in America
This course investigates the identification, preparation, and application of drugs and medicines in the U.S., emphasizing the period before the 20th-century institutionalization of corporate research and development. Topics include early modern European prospecting for medicinal plants, the development of an international drug trade, and the formation of national pharmaceutical markets in the U.S. in the 19th century. Participants will explore the production, circulation, and restriction of medical knowledge through local practice, public and private institutions, trade and commerce, and regulation. In addition to knowledge of the social history of drugs and medicines in the U.S., students are expected to develop competencies in historical research using primary and secondary sources. The final weeks of the course are devoted to applying historical knowledge to contemporary debates in global public health, including international pharmaceutical research, drug development, and epidemic disease.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST393, AMST393
Prereq: None

SISP399 History and Geography
Maps are part of a broader family of value-laden images. This is a research seminar about the global history of cartography from 1490s to the recent past. We will study maps from the early modern and modern world and examine how maps were used as instruments of political power, shaped the imagination of peoples around the world, and inspired new ways to imagine our self-identity.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST399, CEAS214, ENVS399
Prereq: None

SISP401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

SISP402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

SISP403 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

**SISP404 Department/Program Project or Essay**
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

**SISP407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)**
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

**SISP408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)**
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

**SISP409 Senior Thesis Tutorial**
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

**SISP410 Senior Thesis Tutorial**
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

**SISP411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate**
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

**SISP412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate**
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

**SISP419 Student Forum**
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

**SISP420 Student Forum**
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

**SISP465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate**
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

**SISP469 Education in the Field, Undergraduate**
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

**SISP491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial**
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

**SISP492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial**
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT