

space availability for study groups as of 09/27/2017 07:15AM

Go to <http://www.esc.edu/myesc> to register

Online Study Groups

Adirondack History 4 cr with Kate Dermody

spaces avail 12

Adv./Liberal

fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully

** Online Study Group **

This study will examine the history of the Adirondacks through the lens of a critical paradox: how can humans preserve our natural beauty while allowing public access to these places? The study will first investigate the pull factors and industries of the Adirondacks and the effects on the conservation movements. Students will read William H.H. Murray's writings and explore historical promotional images of the Adirondacks. This class will first investigate the pull factors and industries of the Adirondacks, and the effects on the conservation movements. Murray, as well as other writers wrote of the beauty, solitude and intimacy of the nature and Adirondacks. We will examine these writings, to explore how and why this "tourist propaganda" facilitated in the creation of the "American Vacation." In our study we will examine the lure of simplicity and the illusion of "roughing it" in the Adirondacks. We will read William H.H. Murray's writings, and explore historical promotional images of the Adirondacks. The study will explore the future of conservation and the Adirondacks.

American Historiography & Methods 4 cr with Karen Gamer

spaces avail 13

Adv./Liberal

** Online Study Group **

This study introduces "historiography," which can be described as "the history of history." Historiography explores specific topics and asks how historians have explained events or people or themes in history over time. It asks how world views and/or ideologies impact the interpretation or re-interpretation of previously viewed sources, and how access to new sources or new questions or new methodologies impact historical interpretations. This course also examines the "geography" of American history, the "periodization" of American history, the usefulness of dates in history, major U.S. historians, and major themes or subjects of American colonial and U.S. historical studies. It introduces students to analytical methods applied to various primary and secondary sources, as they specifically relate to the study of United States, or "American History."

American History From 1865 to Present Day 4 cr with Kate Dermody

spaces avail 7

Adv./Liberal

fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully

** Online Study Group **

We will carefully examine our American culture and what makes us precisely unique. We will connect themes, ideas and main concepts that weave our diverse American tapestry. Specifically, the study will look at the American dream and how these goals are still relevant today. We will intensively investigate the Industrial Revolution in the United States during the 1880's and connect to the Information Revolution of the 2000's. Will the United States always be innovators? Where is our future going? The goals of this study are to connect the past and future and examine American History through a critical lens.

American Sign Language I 4 cr with Cheryl Schiemer

spaces avail 7

Intro/Liberal

fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Foreign Language - fully

** Online Study Group **

This course introduces American Sign Language, a visual-gestural language of the Deaf. It incorporates non-verbal communication techniques, basic sign terminology, basic vocabulary, finger spelling, basic linguistic principles, and conversational skills. This course will also introduce the student to Deaf Culture and the job of the Interpreter. In addition to the online study group requirements, this course requires a minimum of one attendance at a local Deaf chat for two hours with active participation. This is mandatory to pass this class. This can include Deaf chat, workshops, or tutoring hours with a Deaf contact. Other local Deaf chat meets available upon request. Questions and concerns should be directed to the instructor, Cheryl.Schiemer@esc.edu

Communication for Peace: Graffiti 4 cr with MaryAnn Bordenspaces avail ***CLOSED*** Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully

** Online Study Group **

Spanning the centuries, graffiti's existence on walls and objects throughout the world has prompted the understanding of language, lifestyle, and culture. Graffiti is both an anonymous and public voice, accomplished at times when no one is looking yet surfaces for all to see. It can be etched, carved, painted, stenciled, knitted, chalked, or even projected onto a surface. This study will focus on a set verve expressed by this art form, which has incited rebellion, sparked social criticism, and cultivated change/peace. We will explore various topics and issues to include its historical context; aesthetics; legalities; collaborated efforts to promote peace; a set influence on other creative fields such as music, film, graphic design, and advertising; and individual artists – i.e. Banksy (Great Britain), Os Gêmeos (Brazil), Daim (Germany), Shepard Fairey (United States); as no other art movement has had such a profound impact on the physical face of the modern world. And considering that this is an art study, introductory exercises in graffiti will surely add to your knowledge of this medium.

Ecological Economics 4 cr with Duncan RyanMannspaces avail **11** Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

** Online Study Group **

Ecological economics is an emerging field that incorporates fundamental resource constraints and environmental problems into the logic and analysis of approaches for thinking about the economy, markets and public policy. Much of the focus is on systems, global perspectives, and long run concerns. Several topics in the area of ecological economics will be investigated in depth including market failures, globalization, fairness, and sustainable development. Specific problems and possible remedies in areas such as climate change, water and air quality, energy consumption, transportation, biodiversity, or recycling will be examined. Students will gain a better understanding of appropriate roles for government as it relates to natural resources and the environment and the tradeoffs that alternative policy choices entail. A few of the questions we will explore include: Is growth good? Are there better ways to measure progress than GDP? What is sustainable development and what does it look like in terms of everyday practice? Will businesses find it profitable to pursue "green" strategies? This is an advanced level study. This study is designed to meet the SUNY general education Social Sciences requirement and the college's economics expectation for degrees in the Business, Management and Economics area of study.

Genocide: A Global Perspective 4 cr with Kate Dermodyspaces avail **10** Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Western Civilization - fully
Other World Civilizations - fully

** Online Study Group **

This study will examine the concept of genocide as it is defined by the UN charter. We will investigate the climate building up to each global genocide and patterns that emerge in all parts of the world. We will read and analyze primary documents and answer the questions: What constitutes genocide? How do these events occur? How and why do ordinary citizens participate? Who is to blame and who should be held accountable? Most importantly, how can we prevent genocide? We will study: the Holocaust, Genocide in Rwanda, Cambodia, Armenia, Famine – Genocide of Ukraine and the recent events in Darfur.

Global Governance in the 20th & 21st Centuries 4 cr with Karen Garnerspaces avail **11** Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Western Civilization - fully

** Online Study Group **

This online study group explores global governance associated with the League of Nations (1919-1945), and (primarily) the United Nations (1945 – 2010), as they have responded to global economic, social and political issues. The study covers the theoretical foundations of global governance as well as the practical roles and real-world impact of intergovernmental bodies, their agencies, treaties and conventions on global populations from 1919 - 2010. This study is designed to provide learning in Social and Theoretical Perspectives for students seeking degrees in the Social Science Area of Study; or to provide learning in Theoretical and Philosophical Concepts and Historical and Comparative Concepts for students seeking degrees in the Public Affairs Area of Study. It fulfills the SUNY General Education requirement for Western Civilization and covers the development of distinctive features of the history and institutions of Western Civilization and relates these developments of Western Civilization to other regions of the world across the 20th century and into the 21st century.

Healthcare Policy 4 cr with Duncan RyanMannspaces avail **8** Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

**** Online Study Group ****

In this study, students will learn about the process of making health care policy and some of the institutions responsible for creating health care policy at the federal and state levels. Student will gain an understanding of the complexities and tradeoffs inherent in the development and implementation of health care policy. Public policy is the study of how societies make decisions regarding the appropriate level of government involvement in the market. Students should find this study of benefit in understanding and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the government sector and market mechanisms in making production and distribution decisions in the health sector. Students will study the major public insurance programs, Medicare and Medicaid, and consider various proposals for reform of the health care system in the U.S., including the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA). Students will examine the functions and effects of public health insurance on access, cost and market efficiency, and quality of health care. Students will investigate several topics in health care policy in some detail; these may include the uninsured, long term care, pharmaceuticals and patents, medical malpractice, and international comparisons of health care policy.

History of Women in America 4 cr with Kate Dermody

spaces avail 5 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully

**** Online Study Group ****

This study will carefully examine the history of women in America. We will study women through the colonial period to modern day in the United States. We will examine the role of women, and how that role has evolved, changed or stayed the same throughout our history. As a class, we will connect themes, ideas and main concepts of women's history and women's Studies. We will look at individuals as well as events that shaped women's history. Students will explore the history of women in the United States through listening, reading and viewing. Students will be required to analyze primary documents, music and videos from the different historical periods and connect to the modern times. We will also analyze current day women's issues from today's "mom" to what influences our younger women.

Rock & Roll History 4 cr with Kate Dermody

spaces avail 6 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully
The Arts - fully

**** Online Study Group ****

We will carefully examine American culture through the lens of Rock and Roll. We will examine Rock and Roll as a part of culture and how it changed perceptions and norms. We will look at what makes rock and roll precisely unique. We will connect themes, ideas and main concepts that weave our diverse American tapestry. Specifically, this study will examine Rock and Roll and how it fit together and how these ideas are still relevant today. As a class we will examine the lives of places, events, and people, it will be your job to find your own sense of historical belonging. Why should we care about Rock and Roll? Students will explore the History of Rock and Roll in the United States through listening, reading and viewing. Students will be required to analyze primary documents, music and videos from the different time periods and connect the historical themes.

Sex, History & Art 4 cr with Anthony Anadio

spaces avail 6 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Western Civilization - fully
The Arts - fully

**** Online Study Group ****

Perhaps one of the most controversial topics in history, sex is as much a necessity for survival as is food, clothing, and shelter, and we can all say we are here because of it. Discussions and depictions of sex can be both taboo and tolerable at the same time with unpredictable swings of opinion throughout time. As part of the biological and cultural evolution of humanity, it is more than mere procreation. Sex is a powerful force in the development of religion, politics, and art. It has played a role in warfare, moral and legal codes, and sometimes it just drives us crazy. Beginning with a bit of pre-history, we will follow-up with the Greeks and continue through the Renaissance as we examine the symbolism and narratives of sex across a range of topics that include: sexuality, homosexuality, bestiality, incest, rape, prostitution, gender roles, love, and marriage. This study fully meets two Gen Ed requirements: Western Civilization and The Arts.

Stories & Poems: Real & Imagined 4 cr with Elaine Handley

spaces avail ***CLOSED*** Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully

** Online Study Group **

Would you like some creative inspiration and practical advice about writing stories and poetry? Would you like to develop a writing practice and an understanding of the craft of writing? If so, this group study is just right for you! You will have the opportunity to share and receive feedback on creative writing in an online environment with your peers. You will obtain instruction, guidance and feedback from the instructor which will help you develop skills in writing stories, both fictional and personal, as well as poetry. The course will consist of exercises and assignments (both reading and writing) to help you understand the process of creative writing. Students will have the opportunity to participate in discussions, share work, and learn how to give and accept feedback in a supportive environment. You will become a better reader and critic of your own work, too. This study meets the General Education requirement in the Arts.

The Golden Age: Hollywood Movies in the 1930's & 1940's 4 cr with Christopher Grill

spaces avail 13 Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - partially
American History - partially

** Online Study Group **

Are you already a fan of, or interested in learning more about, the classic black and white movies from the "Golden Age of Hollywood"? In watching and analyzing selected movies from the 1930's & 1940's, this study will enable you to view them and their stars within the context of the times that they were made, as well as examine their enduring importance in American culture. Along the way you will explore the social, cultural, and political ideas embedded in these films, and in the process learn more about our nation, people, and politics during the tumultuous years of the Great Depression and WWII.

The Hudson River & its Valley: A Highway of Ideas & Commerce 4 cr with Anthony Anadio

spaces avail 13 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | The Arts - fully
American History - fully

** Online Study Group **

In his search for the imagined Northwest Passage to China, Henry Hudson sailed up the river that now bears his name. The immense wealth that would have followed from such a discovery was an irresistible lure for intrepid explorers and European nations. Realizing that he could navigate no further than present-day Albany, Hudson turned back, but over the next four centuries, immense wealth has steadily flowed from the waterway that the Indians called "Muh-he-kun-ne-tuk" (river that flows two ways). We will look at the River and its valley from a multitude of perspectives as we examine its role in the development of the original colonies, transportation, commerce, warfare, literature, the art of the Hudson River School, environmental concerns, and American Identity. Additionally, we will consider the notion of local history. In that context, even though the River is in the eastern part of New York State, the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 stretched its influence across the state. Few things have transformed a state so completely, and in this study, we will explore the many connections between culture and history.

The Literature of Aging 4 cr with Elaine Handley

spaces avail *CLOSED* Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Humanities - fully

** Online Study Group **

Using fiction, drama, poetry, memoir and films we will explore the experience of aging and ask the questions what does it mean to age? What purpose and meaning can it have both for the aged and those around them? These questions have new immediacy as people live longer and consequently have the opportunity to question the moral and spiritual dimensions of their life in "the third age." As a lamp and a mirror literature takes on the complex dilemmas of being human---and aging is the vibrant literary topic that will be investigated in this study. This study will expose students to a wide range of literature and will be useful for anyone considering a career in some aspect of gerontology or working with senior citizens, such as student pursuing a Community and Human Services degree.

Adirondack Study Groups

Meeting dates/times/locations not yet published

Degree Program Planning 4 cr with Connelly Akstens

spaces avail 15 Intro and Adv./Liberal

*** Meeting dates/time/location not yet determined ***

In this study, students formulate and design a program of study consistent with the students' personal needs and interests which also satisfy the academic expectation of the institution. This study is for matriculated students. Students who want credit amounts other than 4 should contact their primary mentor to have a study added to their worksheet that meets their needs.

Albany Study Groups

Tuesdays

Diversity Competence 4 cr with Nadine Wedderburn

spaces avail 9 Adv./Non-Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

Albany(Latham) 424 Tuesdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 11/21, 12/5, 12/19.

This study in human diversity enhances students' abilities to understand, evaluate and provide culturally sensitive and competent professional services to members of diverse groups. The study gives students the opportunity to reflect upon their own cultural development and to be more sensitive to others. Upon completion of this study, students would be expected to demonstrate the ability to evaluate and apply informed perspectives on the social, cultural and political influences that commonly impact individuals and communities in contemporary societies.

Health Care Policy 4 cr with Duncan RyanMann

spaces avail 14 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

Albany(Latham) 423 Tuesdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/18, 10/3, 10/17, 10/31, 11/14, 11/28, 12/12

Students will learn about the process of making health care policy and some of the institutions responsible for creating health care policy at the federal and state levels. Students will gain an understanding of the complexities and trade-offs inherent in the development and implementation of health care policy. Students should find this study of benefit in understanding and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the government sector and market mechanisms in making production and distribution decisions in the health sector. Students will study the major public insurance programs, Medicare and Medicaid, and consider various proposals for reform of the health care system in the U.S. Students will examine the functions and effects of public health insurance on access, cost and market efficiency, and quality of health care. Students will investigate several topics in health care policy in some detail; these may include the uninsured, long term care, pharmaceuticals and patents, medical malpractice, and international comparisons of health care policy.

Introduction to Human Services 4 cr with Joseph Yogtiba

spaces avail 11 Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

Albany(Latham) 423 Tuesdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 11/21, 12/5, 12/19

The purpose of this study is to provide the student with an overview of the Concept and field of human services. The student will have the opportunity to examine a range of informal and formal human services and the roles and responsibilities of human service professionals. The study will explore the organizational structures and range of services in the field. The foundational knowledge of the field, introduction to basic skills, and intervention strategies used will be introduced. Ethical principles and the core values necessary for working in the field of human services will be explored.

Power & Privilege 4 cr with Sylvain Nagler

spaces avail 15 Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

Albany(Latham) 444 Tuesdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 11/21, 12/5, 12/19

A major learning objective of this study is to deepen our awareness of the prejudices we harbor as individuals and those that are inherent in the institutional arrangements that govern our lives and the consequent discriminatory behaviors and public policies and practices that follow. An important premise which will inform much of our work is that it is on the basis of categories of identity that we make judgments about others and others make judgments about us. Thus, an initial step will be to identify what some of these categories might be. The ones that stand out and are most recognized are race, class, gender, ethnicity, religious affiliation, sexual orientation and disability. For sure, there may be others that have particular relevance to individuals but in all likelihood the forces that contribute to their existence are not much different than the forces that we shall surface about the list cited above. Students should confer with the instructor prior to registration to consult about individualizing the study to meet the student's interests and needs.

Social Welfare Policy 4 cr with Nadine Wedderburn

spaces avail 11 Adv./Non-Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

Albany(Latham) 424 Tuesdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 10/31, 11/14, 11/28, 12/12.

This study is designed to provide students with a substantial understanding of social policies and the social welfare system in the United States. Rational and political frameworks for policy analysis are developed across multiple areas of social welfare policy including poverty, disability, welfare, hunger, healthcare, education, employment, services for children and elderly, and policies surrounding mental illness and substance use. The study will explore issues of diversity in terms of social welfare policies directed at achieving racial equality, civil rights and gay rights. Students will examine ethical issues of policy making and policy implementation. Students will be encouraged to think critically about the role of politics and policy in the delivery and sustenance of human rights and social and economic justice.

Wednesdays

College Writing 4 cr with Sandra Winn

spaces avail 12 Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Basic Communications - fully

Albany(Latham) 424 Wednesdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13

College writing focuses on the basics of academic writing: writing processes, essays, research skills. Students will write and evaluate thesis statements for essays, and learn how to develop the thesis idea with supporting details. Students will learn how to structure ideas and information in essays. Students will learn how to research, incorporate, and document sources to support a thesis argument. Additionally, students will develop proficiency in oral discourse through discussion of essays and college writing skills.

Contemporary Issues in Human Services 4 cr with Joseph Yogtiba

spaces avail 11 Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

Albany(Latham) 423 Wednesdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, 11/22, 12/6, 12/20

The purpose of this study is to introduce the student to current trends and pertinent issues in the field of human services. It will look at relevant topics with special emphasis on diversity issues and special populations. The student will learn to identify several contemporary trends or issues that may have impact on human services, be able to compare and contrast how these issues effect the delivery of services, and analyze current issues from both the consumer and provider perspectives. Also the study will explore the origins and concept of the Human Services, general purposes, goals, delivery modes, various settings and fields of human service practice. Specific issues that will be examined in detail include: challenges in social policy formulation and implementation, adequacy of professional training and practice, adherence to professional codes of ethics, accessibility to, and utilization of, services by children & families, mentally ill, the poor, as well as the efficacy of a range of human service intervention strategies employed today. Other issues that will be analyzed in this study include poverty, special populations, and international dimensions of the Human Services. Each student will be expected to choose/identify a specific human service issue (or set of inter-related issues) that he /she is "passionate" about and to produce a good research paper on it - possibly for publication. The issue may be related to social problems, social policy, programs / services, administration/delivery of services, accessibility/utilization of services etc. This study is part of the Adirondack Environmental Studies Residency with a mandatory on-site meeting Oct. 9-11 at Camp Huntington in the Adirondacks. Students may also register for one of the additional 2 or 4-credit studies (Medical Humanities, Drawing from Nature, or Adirondack History) that extends the on-site meeting through Oct. 12. For more information on the residency, please visit <http://www.esc.edu/AdirondackRes> Prior to and after the on-site meeting, students will interact with their instructor online.

Corporate Finance 4 cr with Chris Liberty

spaces avail 8 Adv./Liberal

Albany(Latham) 102 Wednesdays 5:30p - 7:30p 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 11/30, 12/14

This study provides an introduction to the issues, theory, and methodology that comprise a framework for rational decision-making by financial managers. We will emphasize the role of the financial manager as decision maker, how a financial manager might proceed in a given situation and the need for managerial input and judgment. Basic concepts, theories and issue include: Financial Markets and Interest Rates, Financial Statements and Cash Flows, Financial Performance, Time Value of Money, Risk and Return, Bond Valuation, Stock Valuation, and International Business Finance.

Thursdays

American History & Business: Gold, Gild, & Greenbacks 4 cr with Anthony Anadio

spaces avail 20 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully

Albany (Latham) 102 Thursdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/9, 11/30, 12/14

American History and Business is designed to introduce students to the emergence and development of the American nation from an economic standpoint. We will begin by defining the fundamental terms associated with the study and then connecting them to the founding principles of the United States and its Constitution. Those ideas will provide the context for the Industrial Revolution as we study how business, society, and politics simultaneously worked together and at odds. By the end of the 19th century, American business had risen to unprecedented levels and stood at the doorstep of global ascendancy. Also by the end of the 19th century, politicians had consolidated a firm position as regulators of the US economy, and that role dramatically increased in the 20th century. How the Federal government justified and practiced their regulatory functions, and how businesspersons responded, will conclude our study. Throughout the period of this study, culture, and the role of ideas will be emphasized as a means of analyzing and connecting the people and events that make up the trajectory of history.

Art, Music & History 1 4 cr with Anthony Anadio

spaces avail 9 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Western Civilization - fully
The Arts - fully

Albany (Latham) 102 Thursdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 11/2, 11/16, 12/7, 12/21

Art, Music and History 1 is a survey of European culture from ancient Greece through the Renaissance, which examines the many historical contexts that underlie art and music. Students do not need any background in the arts, as this is a study we will build from the ground up by first exploring the questions: What is art? Is it necessary? Where does it come from? Why is it important? and What does it mean? Our world is filled with art and music, and it did not get that way by accident. Broadly speaking, this is a study about cultural history, or how people live their lives in society -- what they think, what they value, and what they do. If you can understand these basic ideas within your own life, then you will be able to understand them in history and vice versa. Although our focus here is on the arts, it is important to emphasize that we will study them within the political, social, economic, and technological backgrounds from which they sprang and which they also influenced. Hopefully, you will see art, music, history and the world around you in ways you never thought possible.

Liberty & Justice for All? : U.S. Politics, Policy, & Process 4 cr with Joseph Yogtiba

spaces avail 15 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

Albany (Latham) 424 Thursdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30, 12/14

Despite what many of us think, politics matters! This study, co-taught by a consortium of Northeast Center mentors, is designed to engage students in contemporary debates over key issues in U.S. politics such as religious freedom, power and privilege, voting rights, education reform, social welfare policy, and criminal justice. The purpose of this study is to provide an interdisciplinary framework for understanding critical issues and institutions in U.S. politics as they intersect various aspects of public and private life. Students in multiple areas of study - especially Public Affairs, Community and Human Services, and Social Science - will find this study particularly relevant to their degree programs as they explore and examine issues through different disciplinary perspectives.

Liberty & Justice for All?: U.S. Politics, Policy & Process 4 cr with Christopher Grill

spaces avail 15 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Social Sciences - fully

Albany (Latham) 424 Thursdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30, 12/14

Despite what many of us think, politics matters! This study, co-taught by a consortium of Northeast Center mentors, is designed to engage students in contemporary debates over key issues in U.S. politics such as religious freedom, power and privilege, voting rights, education reform, social welfare policy, and criminal justice. The purpose of this study is to provide an interdisciplinary framework for understanding critical issues and institutions in U.S. politics as they intersect various aspects of public and private life. Students in multiple areas of study - especially Public Affairs, Community and Human Services, and Social Science - will find this study particularly relevant to their degree programs as they explore and examine issues through different disciplinary perspectives.

Liberty & Justice for All?: U.S. Politics, Policy, & Process 4 cr with MaryNell Morgan

spaces avail 13 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | American History - fully
Social Sciences - fully

Albany (Latham) 424 Thursdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30, 12/14

Team-taught by the faculty of the Northeast Center and Units. Despite what many of us think, politics matters! This study, being co-facilitated by a consortium of Northeast Center mentors, is designed to engage contemporary debates over important issues in U.S. politics such as religious freedom, power and privilege, voting rights, education reform and funding, economic policy, social welfare, and immigration. The purpose of this study is to provide an interdisciplinary framework for understanding critical issues and institutions in U.S. politics as they intersect various aspects of public and private life. Students in multiple areas of study, especially Public Affairs, Community and Human Services, and Social Science, will find this study particularly relevant as they explore and examine issues through different disciplinary lenses.

Quantitative Reasoning 4 cr with Amy Salvati

spaces avail 7

Intro/Liberal

fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Mathematics - fully

Albany (Latham) 444 Thursdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/30, 12/14

This introductory level study will develop the ability to interpret and reason with information that involves mathematical ideas or numbers. As students explore issues that directly affect their lives, they will gain an appreciation of mathematics and its importance in a technological world. Topics will be chosen from statistical reasoning, symmetry and proportion, mathematical modeling, probability, and geometry. These topics will cover the required general education competencies of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, data analysis, and quantitative reasoning. Applications of mathematics to the social sciences, environmental issues, business, art, and music will be featured.

Empire State Plaza Study Groups

Meeting dates/times/locations not yet published

Cultural Diversity through Literature 4 cr with Robert Congemi

spaces avail *CLOSED* Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Humanities - fully

*** Meeting dates/time/location not yet determined ***

The principal aim of this study group is to increase the students' awareness of cultures through selected readings in Latin, Asian, Arabic, African literature, as well as in those works that bring insight into American sub-cultures. The study group will address such themes as signature cultural characteristics, social and political justice, cultural stereotypes, cultural traditions and rituals, cultural disorientation and transition, quality-of-life and poverty issues, racism and misogyny, and imperialism.

Saratoga Study Groups

Mondays

Critical Thinking & Writing 4 cr with Elaine Handley

spaces avail *CLOSED* Intro/Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Basic Communications - fully

Saratoga (113 West) 146 Mondays 5:30p-7:30p 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11

This study is a very practical one: because everything we do or want or feel is influenced by our thinking, it makes sense that we should study how we think and cultivate the best possible thinking skills. Without developing critical thinking skills we often rely on biased, partial, uninformed, distorted or prejudiced thought processes to make decisions, which often don't involve good judgment. We now know that writing and thinking are intricately linked--by improving one you improve the other. So in addition to improving how you think, this study will help you hone your college writing skills. Through a variety of lively activities, projects, readings and writing assignments we will develop strategies for looking at the complexity of issues and reasoning them through. The skills developed in this study should enhance your academic ability (especially writing), work and personal life. Students will need to attend weekly study group sessions held in Saratoga Springs. This study fully meets the general education requirement in Basic Communication as well as the competency in Critical Thinking.

Tuesdays

Reading the Souls of Black Folk 4 cr with MaryNell Morgan

spaces avail 14 Intro and Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Humanities - fully

Saratoga (113 West) 145 Tuesdays 5:30p-7:30p 9/19, 10/3, 10/24, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5

This study will be a close reading of William Edward Burghardt Du Bois' most popular book, *The Souls of Black Folk*. Through the lens of African American experiences, Dr. Du Bois presents a compelling and enduring argument for dismantling race and color prejudice. First published in April 1903, this classic text continues to serve as a textbook in virtually all of the social sciences and humanities. Students will examine the epigraphs; that is the lines of poetry and the bars of music from traditional spirituals (or sorrow songs) at the beginning of each chapter and consider how they connect with the themes in the chapters to which they are attached. Students will consider the social and historical context in which the book was written and the enduring relevance of the topics covered in the book. The role of education in the life of the individual, the community, and the larger world is addressed throughout the book. Race relations and social justice are prominent themes in the book. Du Bois' most quoted ideas and theories are presented throughout the book; these include "the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line," the Talented Tenth; double-consciousness; and *The Veil*. This study has been inspired by years of examining the life and work of W.E.B. Du Bois and the idea that some texts are essential reading for learned and lay peoples. The default level for this study is Advanced.

Meeting dates/times/locations not yet published

Identity, Self & Gender in Literature, Film & Popular Culture 4 cr with Connelly Akstens

spaces avail *CLOSED* Adv./Liberal fulfills SUNY gen. ed. req | Humanities - fully
Social Sciences - partially

*** Meeting dates/time/location not yet determined ***

This study begins with a question: Is there an essential self? If not, then are our identity and gender simply products of cultural determinants? Are they performance, rather than expressions of a core, personal selfhood? In this study, we will study texts, films and other cultural artifacts that seem to provoke these questions, even as they offer insights that may lead us to productive conclusions. We will pay particular attention to the status of literature in our own cultural context, and to its viability in a technological, consumer culture. The material will include: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *The Danish Girl*, *Zelig*, *Hamlet*, *M Butterfly*, *Boys Don't Cry*, *Photographs* by Cindy Sherman and Yasumasa Morimura, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *Southern Comfort* and "Deacon Blues" by Steely Dan. This study meets the General Education requirement in Humanities OR Social Sciences, not both.