

FIRST YEAR SEMINARS SPRING 2015

CRN: 20003

LOST CONTINENTS, ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS, AND MYSTERIOUS MOUNDBUILDERS: PSEUDOSCIENCE, EPISTEMOLOGY AND THE HUMAN PAST

Professor Paul Thacker, Department of Anthropology

The human past often is portrayed as full of mystery, with Moundbuilders, mummy curses, lost arks and refugees from Atlantis eluding discovery. This course explores these archaeological problems while critically examining how scientific archaeologists build knowledge about the past. Case studies including the peopling of the Americas, prehistoric cannibals, and the African civilization of Great Zimbabwe provide students with an opportunity to evaluate archaeological evidence and arguments of interpretations. Discussions about archaeological ethics demonstrate the social context of scientific archaeology and the politics of the past in the present.

MW 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Carswell 019

Spring 2015

CRN: 19871

POVERTY ACROSS RACE, GENDER, AND SPACE

Professor Sherri Lawson Clark, Department of Anthropology

This seminar explores poverty by examining its historical, political, cultural, and geographical contexts. We address several questions such as: What is poverty? What are the causes and consequences of poverty? How do different groups experience poverty? What are the intersections of race, gender, and poverty? Where is poverty located? How do public policies shape the lives of children and families? Students will address these questions and others throughout the semester.

TR 9:30-10:45 am

Carswell 019

Spring 2015

CRN: 16935

RENAISSANCE MEN / RENAISSANCE WOMEN

Professor Bernadine Barnes, Department of Art

We often call multi-talented people “renaissance men” whether they lived hundreds of years ago or are still living today. But who were the men and women of the Renaissance, and why does the Early Modern Period (as the Renaissance is often called) seem to be a time when individuality flourished? In this seminar we will learn about several “renaissance men,” including the artists Hans Holbein, Titian and Michelangelo and the humanist and social critic, Erasmus. We will then compare their experiences to those of accomplished women in the Renaissance, like the Veronica Franco and Vittoria Colonna. How can we understand the lives of people who lived in a distant place and time? How do they present themselves to us, and how do we in turn present their lives to our readers or viewers?

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Scales 103

Spring 2015

CRN: 14928

BEHIND THE SCENES: FORENSICS

Professor Katy Lack, Department of Biology

Interest in forensic science has exploded recently. Television programs, documentaries and novels with a forensic theme are everywhere. The goal of this course is to take a look at real forensic science. When it works, when it doesn't work, and the accuracy of forensic fiction. Students will be learning about techniques used in forensic science, examining case studies, presenting findings and writing papers that examine all of aspects of forensics.

MW 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Winston 221 3H

Spring 2015

CRN: 18944

SEEKING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

Professor Dilip Kondepudi, Department of Chemistry

Twentieth century has seen growths in human population, economies and energy consumption that are hard to grasp. This rapid growth is largely based on energy resources that are not sustainable. History has many examples of civilizations that rose and thrived using unsustainable resources and then collapsed when the resources were exhausted. When resources become insufficient, political conflicts and wars ensue. Therefore, it is imperative that we base our global economy on resources that are sustainable. This seminar will first provide the student with the basic understanding of the history and relationship between growth in economies and energy consumption. Then the students will be asked to take a critical look at sustainability of current energy resources and the impact the consumption of these resources has on the environment. Finally, the seminar will address the quest for sustainable energy resources, the role of technology, innovation and public policy.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Salem 207

Spring 2015

CRN: 16933

ANALYTICAL METHODS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Professor Brad Jones, Chemistry

The novels and short stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will be used as a guide for the development of the scientific skills of observation, deduction and reporting. Holmes' analytical method and Dr. Watson's flair for the report will be used as models for the experimentalist's laboratory notebook. Several of Holmes' techniques will be reproduced as group experiments: deductions from a common object, the identification of pipe tobaccos, and the preparation of a seven percent solution, to name a few. Students will submit anonymously their own short story written in Doyle's style, and these will be critically analyzed in a group setting.

TR 5:00 – 6:15 pm

Salem 210

Spring 2015

CRN: 14921

BEWARE THE IDES, BEWARE THE HEMLOCK: REENACTING CRISIS IN THE ANCIENT GREECE & ROME

Professor T.E.D. Gellar-Goad, Department of Classical Languages

The Thirty Tyrants have at long last been expelled from Athens, and now it is up to you and your closest friends and enemies to determine the future of the greatest city-state in the Mediterranean - and the future of the gadfly philosopher Socrates. The conspiracy of Catiline has been uncovered, and the fate of the conspirators and of Rome rests in your hands. Two decades later, the dictator Julius Caesar has been assassinated, and it falls upon you to maneuver through the wrangling in the Senate to decide what the People of Rome should do. You will play in three "Reacting to the Past" scenarios set in ancient Greece and Rome: you will become a stakeholder in these world-changing crises and you will fight, speak, study, sweet-talk, and coerce your way to power over your classmates, be they allies or adversaries. This course is suitable for all students of all kinds, interests, and backgrounds, and will offer fun, low-pressure opportunities to develop writing, public-speaking, critical thinking, and persuasion skills.

MWF 1:00 – 1:50 pm

Tribble A201

Spring 2015

CRN: 20229

CRN: 19886

CITIZENSHIP ANCIENT AND MODERN

Professor Brian Warren, Department of Classical Languages

Two civilizations in particular have shaped our understanding of political life and civic responsibility in deep and profound ways: Greece and Rome. We are heavily indebted to the ancient world for our ideas about not only the structure and operation of government but also what it means for the individual to be citizen and to act like one. This course will aid students in returning to the intellectual roots of our beliefs about citizenship. We will also investigate how classical history and literature influenced modern Western political thought, especially in the late medieval and early modern periods.

MW 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Tribble A309

Spring 2015

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Tribble A309

Spring 2015

CRN: 19989

THE LOOKING-GLASS SELF: EXPLORING COMMUNICATION AND IDENTITY

Lecturer Dee Oseroff-Varnell, Department of Communication

What is identity? Is it stable, or does it develop and change over time? What is communication? How does communication relate to identity? In this class we will examine these basic questions by starting with a variety of readings to build a framework from which to discuss identity construction and communication. Through reading, discussing, reflecting, and writing, students will examine communication factors that contribute to and result from a variety of planned and unplanned turning points in individuals' lives.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Carswell 118

Spring 2015

CRN: 19988

CHILDREN AND THE MEDIA

Associate Professor Marina Krmar, Department of Communication

This course will examine the use of media by children and effects of these media on them. Many forms of media will be studied from older forms such as music and television to newer media such as social networking sites. Where appropriate, research and theories concerning child and adolescent development will be considered.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Carswell 305

Spring 2015

CRN: 18927

HISTORY THROUGH THE LENS OF DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS

Professor Cara Pilson, Department of Communication

This course allows students to examine seminal events in U.S. history through the lens of historical documentary filmmakers. Through the screening of historical documentaries, students will explore how filmmaking conventions shape the portrayal of history, how historians have participated in and responded to these interpretations of history, and what these films ultimately contribute to a better understanding of history. In addition to analyzing and synthesizing the work of historians and filmmakers, student will get the opportunity to grapple with the challenges of telling history in a precise and visual manner by creating a website on a local or regional historical event.

MW 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Carswell 305

Spring 2015

CRN: 21226

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN MEDICINE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Professor Ed Shaw, Department of Counseling

Current Issues in Medicine and Mental Health examines current medical and mental health issues confronting the developed and developing world, with a focus on the United States. Topics will include addiction (alcohol and tobacco), cancer, depression, dementia, euthanasia, HIV, homelessness, obesity and serial killers.

TR 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Carswell 208

Spring 2015

CRN: 19999

ECONOMICS IN SPORTS

Visiting Assistant Professor Todd McFall, Department of Economics

In Economics in Sports, students will learn to use various tools of economics analysis to study questions from the sports world. Supply and demand analysis, game theory, and expected value techniques will be used to analyze issues like the formation of leagues, the public financing of stadiums, the measuring player performance, the strategies employed by competitors in different sports, the impact of technology on performance and strategy, and the effect that league rules regarding salary structure have on competition. Students will be expected to be willing to learn to use data in order to reach conclusions about various questions they will face. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to use economic modeling techniques to think more deeply about issues related to the sporting world and beyond.

MWF 2:00 – 2:50 pm

Kirby 108

Spring 2015

CRN: 19995

CRN: 20001

GLOBALIZATION, EDUCATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

Professor Ann Cunningham, Department of Education

Students in this seminar will explore how globalization impacts education in the US and around the world. Topics will address the role of technology, economic growth, and changes in perspectives on what “education” means in a globalized 21st century world. Examples from traditional and non-traditional education programs from around the world will be shared and discussed, in particular Finland, China, New Zealand, and the US. Students will be asked to deeply examine their own educational experiences against models in other countries, evaluate the substance of the models, and contemplate what type of educational opportunities and experiences they feel will be relevant to their children and grandchildren.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Tribble B216

Spring 2015

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Tribble A206

Spring 2015

CRN: 17707

PURSUIITS OF HAPPINESS

Professor Jessica Richard, Department of English

In this seminar we will examine a broad range of approaches to the human pursuit of happiness, from psychology, philosophy, and religion, to politics, literature, and film. What do we mean by happiness? What roles do pain, pleasure, sorrow, memory, faith, choice, family, and culture play in happiness? Is the pursuit of happiness worthwhile, or is the pursuit itself counterproductive? As you embark on your study at Wake Forest and consider the various paths you can take in college and beyond, you will explore what the liberal arts and sciences can teach you about happiness.

MW 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Tribble A204

Spring 2015

CRN: 91781

MAKING LIGHT OF THE DARK AGES

Professor Gillian Overing, Department of English

What was happening in England and Europe in the so-called “Dark Ages?” This course is an introduction to the literature, history and philosophy of that period before Chaucer and Shakespeare that no one seems to know much about, but where a great deal of artistic and intellectual interest was happening. **We will look at a variety of texts from Anglo-Saxon and Viking cultures, including sagas, histories, laws, and epic and lyric poetry.** These early transitional cultures shed light on some important and current questions: how we evaluate civilization as “progress,” how crises and redefinitions of religious practices have political meaning, how gender roles are defined and changed, and how these early societies both create and deal with violence and persecution. We will also look at some contemporary versions of early medieval texts and concepts, examining modern counterparts to the heroes, outlaws, monsters and saints of the “Dark Ages.”

MW 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Tribble A209

Spring 2015

CRN: 20158

LAUGHTER AND FORGETTING: CZECH LITERATURE FROM THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT

Professor Kurt Shaw, Department of German and Russian

In this course, we will examine what it means to be Czech, as reflected in the works of a number of important Czech writers. In addition to discussing the works as literature, we will also look at the impact of Czech history on its literature, from the establishment of an independent Czech state after World War to the collapse of Communism in the wake of the Velvet Revolution of 1991. In addition to reading and discussing works by such important writers as Hašek, Škvorecký and Kundera, we will also examine selected secondary literature dealing with Czech history, society and culture.

WF 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Greene 341

Spring 2015

CRN: 20000

UNRAVELING THE RIDDLE THAT IS RUSSIA: CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Professor Elena Clark, Department of German and Russian

This will be a seminar-style course, incorporating multiple written and oral assignments, that focuses on contemporary Russian culture and society, the significant events that made Russia what it is, and the results we see in the geopolitical situation today. We will use film, fiction, memoirs, scholarly essays, and news reports to examine different aspects of Russian society while also keeping abreast of the current situation there. By the end of the semester we should have a more thorough understanding of Russia and perhaps even some answers to questions that often vex Westerners such as “Why is Putin so popular?” and “What is the mysterious Russian soul?”

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Greene 341

Spring 2015

CRN: 20002

TRADITIONAL DIETS FOR HEALTH

Professor Gary Miller, Department of Health and Exercise Science

Students will study the role of the science and social aspects of foods for shaping community and global health. This will be from a perspective of gaining knowledge from bench science in the laboratory, to applying this knowledge in randomized controlled trials, to implementing the findings in the community. We will study dietary practices and research how this influences the community's health. The original impetus for this class stems from observing in my global experiences and travels that there is wide variety of dietary habits that sustains health in a population. Often, this may be in contrast to what Americans perceive as a “healthy” diet. The class will be involved in the creation of a typical meal from these areas based on the limitations the local markets may have with the foods.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

REY Gym 210

Spring 2015

CRN: 19991

CONTROVERSIES IN AMERICAN MEDICAL HISTORY

Professor Simone Caron, Department of History

This course examines controversies in American medical history from the colonial period to the present. Questions driving the class include: What is health? What is disease? Who is to blame for disease? Who is responsible for maintaining health – the individual or the state? Are drug abuse, alcoholism, kleptomania, anorexia nervosa, obesity, Erectile Dysfunction and ADHD, to name a few, social ills, syndromes or public health issues? How do race, class, ethnicity and gender shape societal responses to medical controversies? Some of the issues we will discuss include germ warfare; religious freedom versus state regulation; slave health care; venereal disease; the Right to Die; fetal alcohol syndrome versus “crack babies”; over-dependence on prescriptions; abortion and sterilization; Human Experimentation; medical marijuana; National Health Care from Teddy Roosevelt to Obama; stem cell and cloning; the anti-vivisection movement; electroconvulsive therapy and lobotomies; PTSD; Gender and Sexuality (Hermaphrodites, Intersex, transgender, and homosexuality); and childbirth. We will also discuss who has the right to practice medicine – Allopaths? Midwives? Chiropractors? Homeopaths? Osteopaths? – and how this right has changed over time.

MW 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Tribble A104

Spring 2015

CRN: 14899

THE FLOATING CITY: PUBLIC LIFE IN VENICE THROUGH THE AGES

Professor Monique O’Connell, Department of History

Venice stands out in the popular imagination because of its extraordinary physical form—it seems to float on the water supported only by magic. This class looks at the ways Venetians and visitors have created and lived in the public spaces of the floating city from the medieval era to the present. We will look at images and read historical, literary, and travelers’ views of the city; read plays and listen to music composed and performed in the city; and debate the city’s fragile future in an age of mass tourism and climate change.

MW 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Tribble A102

Spring 2015

CRN: 18950

EXPLORING INDIA THROUGH TRAVELERS AND TRAVELOGUES

Professor Mohammad Raisur Rahman, Department of History

American traveler and author Mark Twain once wrote about India as “the cradle of the human race” and “the most extraordinary country.” Hundreds and even thousands of travelers from around the world have penned their observations on and reminiscences about their travels in India. This rich body of literature vividly captures the social, economic, political, and cultural history of India. This first-year seminar explores facets of Indian society through the eyes of indigenous and foreign travelers. Such travel accounts will be complemented with other textual sources and a host of visual materials—films and documentaries—in order to explore various themes such as landscape, arts, architecture, religious rites, customs, festivals, and politics of India.

WF 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Tribble A104

Spring 2015

CRN: 19987

THE GREAT WAR AND THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD

Professor Charles S. Thomas, Department of History

This course examines the First World War in its broader context. The seminar will of necessity devote attention to the military course of the war, but will concentrate more heavily on its diplomatic origins, its effect on the social and economic circumstances of belligerent nations, the reactions of cultural and literary figures to the experience of war, the effect of the war on the lives of ordinary Europeans and non-Europeans, and the long shadow that the war cast over the rest of the twentieth century. The course abounds in critical issues that require critical thinking and analysis of arguments. Students will prepare three individual position papers for classroom discussion and, in consultation with the professor, will prepare a ten to twelve page research paper on a topic of their choosing.

MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am

Tribble B117

Spring 2015

CRN: 15996

HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN FILM, MEDIA & LITERATURE

Professor David Phillips, Department of Humanities

This course is designed to provide class members with a broad overview of the way in which the environment and our relationships to the environment are depicted in film and media. How can we classify these depictions? To what extent are they utopian or dystopian? What can we learn about ourselves and how we view ourselves in relation to our environments? What can we learn from local communities about the nature of these relationships and the role humans tend to play in mediating environment?

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Wingate 306

Spring 2015

CRN: 21060

"COUNTING ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY: DOES IT ADD UP?"

Professor Sarah Mason, Department of Mathematics

In this course we will explore and compare the environmental costs and benefits of different forms of energy production, energy consumption, and other aspects of environmental sustainability. We will attempt to attach numbers and computations to these processes and use real data to analyze the values and costs of things like recycling, hybrid cars, and alternative energy sources. We will gather data from companies and organizations involved in these processes and use this data to compare predictions and estimations with implementations. We will focus specifically on energy consumption and potential sustainable energy production on Wake Forest's campus.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Manchester 124

Spring 2015

CRN: 16856

AUDIO ENGAGEMENT: ETHICS AND MEANING IN THE PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE OF SOUND

Professor Elizabeth Clendinning, Department of Music

Sound is all around us; yet, how often do you think about the politics of sound? In this course, we explore sound and audio(visual) technology within important ethical debates of our time, including: musical sampling and copyright; noise pollution and sonic weaponry; audio(visual) documentation and the rights of the documented, particularly indigenous or disadvantaged communities; and how to preserve and present sounds of the present and past. After gaining a theoretical grounding in sound politics through debating written, audio, and audiovisual sources, we will take a practical approach to sound documentation—pulling out audio and video recorders and applying our theoretical considerations by heading out into the local community to create short audio (visual) documentary works.

WF 12:30 – 1:45 pm

SFAC M308

Spring 2015

CRN: 14930

MUSIC AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

Professor Pat Dixon, Department of Music

The American Dream is at the heart of the United States identity as a nation. In this seminar we will examine how the American Dream is a constantly emerging concept that is reformulated in our culture as we experience change and transition. We will study how musical narratives inform us of these transitions, how they challenge the ideals of the Dream, how they reformulate the concept to debase the myth and or expose the truth.

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm

SFAC M306

Spring 2015

CRN: 19996

PHILOSOPHY GOES TO THE MOVIES

Associate Professor Adrian Bardon, Department of Philosophy

Many excellent films have been built around interesting philosophical issues and tough philosophical questions. This course uses film, in conjunction with targeted readings, to inspire discussion and debate of a variety of classic philosophical issues such as moral responsibility, personal identity, the metaphysics of time travel, artificial intelligence, drugs, abortion, religious belief, race, economic justice, and immigration. Students will do individual short essays and work in groups to lead discussion. ****Some classes will go beyond the scheduled time due to the length of movie being viewed****

WF 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Tribble A304

Spring 2015

CRN: 19985

CRN: 19993

SPORTS AND SOCIETY

Professor Adam Kadlac, Department of Philosophy

Sports occupy an inordinate amount of our time and attention, but we often approach sports uncritically, whether as a participant on the field of play or a fan watching games on television. We play sports and we watch sports because we enjoy them. But we do not often think about why we do these things, whether they are really worth doing, or how these activities relate to other pursuits we take to be important. This course takes a critical approach to sports and examines the role that sports play in our lives, both as participants and as spectators.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Tribble A307

Spring 2015

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Tribble A307

Spring 2015

CRN: 14916

GOD

Professor Christian Miller, Department of Philosophy

"Is it rational to believe in the existence of God, understood as an all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving being? Do features of the natural world entitle us to believe in the existence of such a being? How are we to understand the claims that God is omnipotent and perfectly good? Can we reconcile human freedom with divine foreknowledge, and the existence of evil with God's perfect goodness? Are divine commands the source of the moral rightness of acts? These are some of the questions which we will consider in a setting which will aim to be fair to both sides and encourage lots of discussion."

MW 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Tribble A307

Spring 2015

CRN: 20004

UNDERSTANDING STUFF: MATERIALS OF OUR TECHNOLOGY, OUR PLANET, OUR SELVES

Professor Richard T. Williams, Department of Physics

Epochs of human progress have been labeled by the mastery of a new material enabling a major change of culture: stone age, bronze age, iron age, and industrial (steel and carbon) age, for example. We are on the cusp of mastering new materials for information technology, transportation, energy, frightful weapons, genomics – or is it the other way around? As a species, we are suddenly in a position of being able to change the planet and change ourselves. Is that good or bad? What is the materials science that puts you in this position? How can you use it well?

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Olin 102

Spring 2015

CRN: 19997

NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

Professor Terry Blumenthal, Department of Psychology

Students will learn about the symptoms of several neurological disorders, with special attention paid to the physiological mechanisms underlying these disorders. The course will include exams, term papers, and oral presentations, to learn more about the way in which patients learn to live with their disorder.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Greene 312

Spring 2015

CRN: 14919

LIFE PERSPECTIVES

Professor Eric Stone, Department of Psychology

The purpose of this course is to investigate various thoughts, research, and philosophies on how we can best live our lives. To this end, we will consider both traditional Western ideas as well as a range of less traditional perspectives (such as Eastern religions). To the extent possible, the focus will not be on abstract concepts, such as the “meaning of life,” but instead on more tangible recommendations on how to live. In so doing, the hope is that we can apply these ideas to how we approach our own lives, and get a better sense of how we fit into the world in which we live.

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Greene 310

Spring 2015

CRN: 18925

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES ON WAR & PEACE

Professor Earl Crow, Department of Religion

The study of Christian Perspectives on War and Peace will include a survey of attitudes beginning with the early post-New Testament church, through the era of Constantine, the Middle Ages crusades, to modern Christian thought. Attention will be given to divergent views: Holy Wars, The Concept of Just Wars, and Christian Pacifism. Selected works by a wide-range of theologians and philosophers will be studied.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Wingate 206

Spring 2015

CRN: 19998

TALES OF MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION

Professor Elizabeth Anthony, Department of Romance Languages

Through analyses and discussion of selected tales of mystery and imagination this seminar seeks to challenge our assumptions and our modes of perception. The texts under consideration invite us to probe beyond perceived events. They require us to become careful and attentive readers as we assume the role of detective, judge, or psychoanalyst. We will consider the choices authors make when constructing tales of mad scientists, scorned lovers, and supernatural events. Reading will include works by Robert Louis Stevenson, HG Wells, Edgar Allan Poe, Prosper Mérimée and Steven Millhauser. Films include works by Hitchcock, Wilder, and Salvatores.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Greene 512

Spring 2015

CRN 16938

ART OF THE WILD: CREATIVITY, ACTIVISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Professor Rachel Paparone, Department of Romance Languages (French)

Using the idea that creativity and wildness go hand in hand, this course will consider the ways that creative and artistic endeavors are used to promote environmental education and non-violent activism. We will draw on a variety of art forms, including poetry and short stories, music, visual art, and film and discuss how they are used to educate the public on ecosystems and on environmental issues, to encourage debate, and to influence public policy. Course materials will include literary works by Thoreau, Rachel Carson, Gary Snyder, and Michael Crichton; music by Metallica, Jack Johnson, Pearl Jam, and R.E.M; and films such as Blackfish, An Inconvenient Truth, and 180° South.

MW 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Greene 512

Spring 2015

CRN: 14917

WHO'S ON TOP? GENDER TO POWER IN HISPANIC DICTATOR NARRATIVE

Professor Patricia Swier, Department of Romance Languages

In this seminar, students will read literary works and critical essays dealing with dictatorships in the Hispanic world beginning from the nineteenth century to the present. Through selected literary readings and film, we will explore the use of gender and its relationship to power, focusing on the strategic ways in which the writers promote a politics of change in their respective nations. In this way students will gain deeper understandings of the psychological manifestations of the national body during dictatorships that are not so easily expressed through historical texts.

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Greene 250

Spring 2015

CRN: 18968

PUBLIC SEXUALITY

Lecturer/Visiting Assistant Professor Katherine McFarland Bruce, Department of Sociology

Sexuality is thought of as a private aspect of our individual lives, but sexual attitudes, behaviors, and identities are frequently the subject of public debate. Same-sex marriage and reproductive rights top the list of "social issues" that concern voters, activists, and religious leaders on both the left and the right. In this seminar we will explore issues of public sexuality as a window into the dynamic interplay between the public and private in our social lives.

MWF 2:00 – 2:50 pm

Kirby B01A

Spring 2015

CRN: 16930

"BORN THIS WAY?" SCIENCE AND THE POLITICS OF SEXUALITY

Professor Kristina Gupta, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Since the late 19th century, scientists have studied various aspects of sexuality, from the origins of sexual orientation, to gender differences in sexuality, to the biological components of an orgasm. Up until the 1970s, scientists usually saw any type of sexuality that differed from heterosexuality as "deviant" and investigated these types of sexuality in order to find ways to

eliminate them. More recently, some scientists have studied sexuality in order to learn about sexual diversity and variation in the natural world. At the same time, since scientists first started studying sexuality, commentators, politicians, and activists (both conservative and progressive) have used scientific evidence to support arguments for either sexual repression or sexual tolerance. For example, in recent years some gay rights activists have argued that sexual orientation is innate (i.e., we are born gay or straight) in order to argue for civil rights for gays and lesbians. In this seminar, we will investigate different topics within the field of "sexual science" and the use of scientific evidence by sexual activists. We will examine the assumptions being made by both scientists and activists, and how these assumptions are informing both scientific research and efforts to transform societal attitudes and institutions related to sexuality.

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Tribble A-4

Spring 2015