

First-Year Seminars, Spring 2025

First-year seminars are small classes – limited to 19 students – that fulfill general education (distribution) requirements. Many of the seminars involve activities in New York City. Seminars are an excellent way to connect with peers and faculty in a relaxed and friendly setting. Seminar course descriptions begin on page 2 of this document.

Note: As long as you started taking classes at Hofstra in the Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 semesters, you are eligible to register for a spring 2025 first-year seminar, even if you will reach sophomore class standing (30 or more credits) upon completion of the fall 2024 semester.

You can prepare for Spring 2025 registration by signing up for a group advising session in October. ***First-year students will be sent information about signing up for a Fall group advising session via Pathway to Pride, now located in Canvas.*** Check your Hofstra email for more information about this process. Attendees will receive the alternate PIN for Spring registration.

First-year students with an alternate PIN may register for a Spring 2025 first-year seminar or any other course on or after Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

If you have questions about this process, please contact your advising dean. You can find your advising dean's name on the Hofstra portal in several locations:

- Log in to **my.hofstra.edu**.
- Go to **Menu**, click on **Student Services**, then click on **Your Success Team**.
- Select the **Student Success Navigate** icon on the homepage to view **Your Success Team** on the bottom right of the home screen.
- Click on the **Degree Works** icon to view your degree audit. Your advising dean's name will appear at the top of the audit.

You can also contact the **Center for University Advising** (CUA) and ask, "Who is my advising dean?" Please email or call the CUA office for any assistance you may need. The CUA Office is located in:

Center for University Advising
Room 101 Memorial Hall, South Campus.
516-463-6770
<mailto:advising@hofstra.edu>

ART HISTORY

1. AH 14S, sec. 1: NYC Art & Architecture: From Colonial to Contemporary (AA), 3 s.h.
M/W, 11:20 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Susan Schafer
CRN 21576

This course provides a window onto New York City as built by its architects and depicted by its artists. Our journey will take us from Dutch and English colonial beginnings, to the American Revolution, to forming the metropolis in the 19th century, through the Gilded Age and 20th century urban realism, and finally, to early 21st century architecture developments and artistic representations of the city. We will study well-known monuments along with lesser-known but important works, and consider the political, cultural and economic factors that fueled the development of New York's built environment. We will also look closely at the culture of the city through the lens of a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, and photography. By stressing the importance of analyzing artistic movements alongside the built environment, this course encourages students to develop critical and visual analysis of the built environment and the visual art movements of New York City -- "the greatest city of the world."

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Humanities category.

ASTRONOMY

2. ASTR 14S, sec. Q1 and Q1L: Shining Stars and Beyond: The Birth, Life, and Death of Stars, Galaxies, and the Entire Universe (NS, QR), 4 s.h.
M/W, 4:50-6:45 p.m., Brett Bochner
CRNs 23538 & 23539

In this survey of the universe on truly big scales, we show how an understanding of light can bring us information from the greatest distances, and how matter itself is turned into energy to make the stars shine. We explore the births and deaths of stars, discovering how dying supergiant stars create the most powerful explosions, while also forming deadly Black Holes. We explore the different varieties of galaxies, and examine galactic clusters so large that the entire Milky Way is an invisibly tiny dot in comparison. The ideas of Albert Einstein are discussed, from the well-known $E=mc^2$, to his discovery that gravity is really a warping of space and a stretching of time. Lastly, we discuss how the universe itself originated in the "Big Bang", and how we can observe that the entire universe still expanding (and even accelerating in speed) to this day. This class includes lectures, participatory labs and evening astronomical observations at the Hofstra Observatory.

Please note: This course satisfies University graduation requirements in both the Natural Sciences and Quantitative Reasoning categories.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

3. CLL 14S, sec. 1: Demons, Devils, Self-Destruction (LT), 3 s.h.
T/R, 1:00 p.m.-2:25 p.m., John Krapp
CRN 21834

Human beings are complicated. Capable of profound kindness, compassion, and generosity, humans cooperate to transform the environment in ways that make their lives easier, more satisfying, and fulfilling, both personally and collectively. They also consistently do stunning harm to themselves, to others, and to the world around them. Why? Is there something wrong with us? Is this the natural condition of who we are as human beings? For as long as there has been literature, literature has endeavored to understand and to explain these contradictory impulses in us. In this course, we read a variety of literary texts that look at our most inexplicable behavior and account for it as the result of the work of evil spirits, of the failure of moral and academic education, and of who we are as human beings. As we discuss the implications of all of these possibilities, we look particularly at the risks and rewards of religious faith in explaining, and overcoming, the harm that humans bring to the world.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Humanities category.

DRAMA

4. DRAM 14F, sec. 01: Broadway Goes Hollywood (AA), 3 s.h.

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category; it does not satisfy the DRAM 3 requirement for drama majors.

FINE ARTS

5. FA 14S, sec. 1: Off the Wall Painting (CP), 3 s.h.
M/W, 9:40 a.m.-11:05 a.m., James Lee
CRN 21577

This experimental painting course combines aspects of painting and sculpture to produce hybrid artworks that are mounted on the wall. Cave paintings, among the earliest surviving works of art, incorporated the natural irregularities of the walls with two-dimensional images. Throughout art history, painting has extended into the third dimension in a great variety of applications, including the traditions of mosaic and the modern invention of collage. Students learn formal aspects of painting such as color, shape, and composition, while being encouraged to experiment with new materials, paints, and adhesives. Prior experience with painting and sculpture is not expected.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Humanities category.

HISTORY

6. HIST 14S, sec. 1: 1968: Youth Rebellion in the United States. What did it contribute? (HP), 3 s.h.
T/TH, 2:40 p.m.-4:05 p.m., Carolyn Eisenberg
CRN 22603

1968 is recognized as a time when young people in the United States rebelled against political authority, as well as parental and societal norms. In this course we will look at some specific examples of the upheavals during that period. What were the causes of these uprisings? What forms did these rebellions take? Were they fun, dangerous, challenging, meaningful? Did they produce valuable changes or just bad will? To explore these questions, we will be reading memoirs, conducting interviews, and looking at films and media from that time.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Social Sciences category.

ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

7. ITLT 14S, sec. 1: Queer Identities in Italian History: From Ancient Rome to the Present (LT), 3 s.h.
T/TH, 1-2:25 p.m., Riccardo Costa
CRN 23573

Students do not need to have any knowledge or exposure of the Italian language or culture to register for this course. All works will be read and discussed in English. This interdisciplinary course is designed to uncover the hidden narratives and vibrant contributions of LGBTQ+ figures across centuries. It spans literature, arts, cinema, and science, revealing the rich mosaic of queer cultural influence, and is ideally suited for students in LGBTQ+ studies, history, Italian culture, cultural studies, cinema, music, arts, and the humanities. This course will also appeal to anyone interested in exploring the intersections of history, culture, and gender studies through an engaging and innovative academic lens. It promises not just to educate but to inspire,

offering new insights into the complexities of identity, art, and the human condition across centuries.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Humanities category.

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

8. LACS 14S, sec. 1: Divas and Ballers: Politics of Popular Culture in Latin America (CC, IS), 3 s.h.
M/W, 11:20 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Brenda Elsey
CRN 23516

Polls show that singer Shakira could win the presidency of Colombia in 2026, while the current President of Brazil has been responding to global racism against soccer star Vinicius, Jr. The power of celebrity in our era is undeniable. What does it mean for the human experience, politics, and social justice? This course introduces students to Latin America through an examination of popular culture. We will begin in the 19th century in order to understand the legacies of colonialism and slavery. We will also take a look at the roots of contemporary problems through their cultural expressions, for example, how did Mexican music portray the drug trade in the 1920s? How does it respond to the violence of narco-trafficking today? Along the way, the course seeks to help students develop their writing and research skills.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Cross-Cultural or Interdisciplinary Studies category. This course is cross-listed with WST 014S

LITERATURE

9. LIT 14S, sec. 1: Ghostbusters (LT), 3 s.h.
T/TH, 4:20-5:45 p.m., Neil Donahue
CRN 23573

This course introduces students to an international selection of ghost stories (and a couple popular films – Ghostbusters!) as a means of understanding literary analysis as well as critical thinking and interpretation. We will focus on relations among characters and how suspense gets generated through gaps of knowledge or instances of uncertainty, ambiguity and conflict. We will raise questions about the existence of an elusive Other or Others beneath or behind surface appearances. We will look at how ghosts ‘haunt’ a narrative, slipping in between the lines. Who are the implicated ‘others’ in these haunted texts? Which disciplines might help identify the ghost and its meaning? Are there psychological, social, economic, political or historical dimensions? Just think of any text as a haunted house that we will have to explore together to find out what’s hidden in the attic, the upper ‘story,’ or in the cellar, beneath the surface! In this way, literary analysis becomes a form of ‘ghostbusting’!

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Humanities category.

PHILOSOPHY

10. PHIL 14S, sec. 1: Truth, Lies, and BS (HP), 4 s.h.
T/TH, 2:40 p.m.-4:35 p.m., Terry Godlove
CRN 23525

In his little book, *On Bullshit*, Harry Frankfurt says, “One of the most salient features of our culture is that there is so much bullshit.” Most of us would agree. Why is this? We want to know the truth, don’t we? Why, then, are we surrounded by so many lies, falsehoods, and nonsense? Many people feel that we are in a “post-truth” era—an era dominated by such things as alternative facts, fake news, echo chambers, information silos, confirmation bias, science denial, conspiracy theories, disinformation, and distrust of expertise. How can we cope with, or even remedy the post-truth condition? What is so great about truth anyway? Students will pursue these questions through reading classical and contemporary material and by examining the rise of social media.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Social Sciences category.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

11. PSC 14S, sec. 2: Law, Politics, & Society (BH), 4 s.h.
AVAILABLE ONLY TO STUDENTS REGISTERED IN THE LEAP program
M/W, 9:10-11:05 a.m., Celeste Kaufman
CRN 23751

Every year, tens of thousands of young people enter law school and begin the study of legal rules. Most do so because they see the legal profession as a noble calling, and they enter it with a desire to promote justice. In their three years of full-time study of the law, however, these future lawyers spend little time thinking critically about legal rules and about the place of the lawyer in a just society. In this course we explore how our legal rules and constitutional norms have developed; how the American legal system interacts with the rest of our political institutions; how the American legal system reflects the cultural norms, class distinctions, and idiosyncrasies of our society; and how legal rules and the role of the lawyer relate to larger ideals of a just society.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Social Sciences category.

WOMEN STUDIES

12. WST 14S, sec. 1: Divas and Ballers (CC, IS), 3 s.h.
M/W, 11:20 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Brenda Elsey
CRN 23614

Polls show that singer Shakira could win the presidency of Colombia in 2026, while the current President of Brazil has been responding to global racism against soccer star Vinicius, Jr. The power of celebrity in our era is undeniable. What does it mean for the human experience, politics, and social justice? This course introduces students to Latin America through an examination of popular culture. We will begin in the 19th century in order to understand the legacies of colonialism and slavery. We will also take a look at the roots of contemporary problems through their cultural expressions, for example, how did Mexican music portray the drug trade in the 1920s? How does it respond to the violence of narco-trafficking today? Along the way, the course seeks to help students develop their writing and research skills.

Please note: This course satisfies a University graduation requirement in the Cross-Cultural or Interdisciplinary Studies category. This course is cross-listed with LACS 014S.