

Spring 2021 Graduate Courses offered by History Affiliates

Historical and Comparative Methods (SOC 510), Nicholas H. Wilson,
nicholas.wilson@stonybrook.edu, Tuesday, 10AM-1PM

This course introduces the family of methods called "Historical and Comparative Sociology." Over the last generation, HCS has become one of the most vibrant and intellectually fecund regions of scholarship not only in sociology, but also in allied disciplines such as history, political science, economics, and anthropology. Our aim will thus be to understand what makes the field so interesting, both in its substance and how it produces scientific knowledge.

Literature Instruction and Citizenship Education (EGL 593), Andrew Newman,
andrew.newman@stonybrook.edu, asynchronous online

This course bridges the gap between the study of literary history and English education by focusing on the most socially-influential site of reader-reception in the recent and contemporary history of the United States: the high school English classroom. As a community of inquiry, we will investigate the historical role of literature instruction in American secondary schools as part of the preparation for American citizenship. We'll explore topics including the responses of English educators to the First and Second World Wars and the Cold War; the opposition between text-centered and reader-response pedagogies; the canon and the push for diversity; and the curricular controversies surrounding particular works, such as Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The course previews a Summer Seminar for K-12 Educators sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, co-directed by Professor Newman: "Making the Good Reader and Citizen: A History of Literature Instruction in American Schools," to be held at Stony Brook in July 2021.

Documentary Cinema in Latin America and Spain (SPN 675), Kathleen Vernon,
kathleen.vernon@stonybrook.edu, Wednesday, 3:30-6:20PM

A selective history of documentary cinema as a narrative form and its multiple interventions in the social and political life of the nation(s)/region(s). We will analyze the role of ethnographic and militant cinema, the links between documentary and the new cinema movements of the 1950s, 60s and 70s, the more recent emergence of first-person, "creative" and auteurist documentary, and the always tenuous boundaries between fiction and non-fiction film. While concentrating on the work of

Spanish and Latin American filmmakers, including Fernando Solanas, Sara Gómez, Basilio Martín Patino and José Luis Guerín, we will also consider the efforts to document (or mythologize) Spanish and Latin American realities by foreign directors such as Sergei Eisenstein, Joris Ivens and Orson Welles. (Note: The course will most likely be conducted in English although a few films do not have subtitles.)

The Black Power Movement (AFN 540), Zebulon Miletsky,
zebulon.miletsky@stonybrook.edu, Monday, 5:30-8:30PM

This course examines the Black Power Movement. Stokely Carmichael's call for "Black Power!" broke through the commotion of everyday politics during 1966's Meredith March Against Fear. Soon after, and for the next decade, Black Power galvanized African American politics, engendering radical movements for social, political, and cultural transformation that impacted blacks in the United States and beyond. An emerging historiography traces the roots of Black Power in the postwar black freedom movement, finding cultural and political touchstones for future Black Power activism among civil rights renegade, trade unionists, and black nationalists. We will examine works produced during the Black Power era and new scholarship to analyze the Black Power Movement's legacy in the politics and culture of African Americans. Permission of advisor is required.

Sertão/pampa: spatial imagination and cultural production in Argentina and Brazil (SPN 662), Javier Uriarte, javier.uriarte@stonybrook.edu, Thursdays, 3:00-5:50 PM

This comparative course discusses the importance of spatial imagination in the national narratives of Argentina and Brazil, seeking to explore the ways in which the notions of nature, landscape, and space have been pivotal in intellectual projects of nation building and identity. How does the city imagine those parts of the country that are different from it? What kinds of relationships (anxiety, conquest, mutual fear and mistrust) are established between the city and its backlands? Which is the status of those lands within the symbolic boundaries of the nation? How are "interiority" and "exteriority" (in other words, belonging) negotiated in these representations? The course also strives to discuss the ways in which geography is transformed and acquires changing meanings and connotations through history and in dialogue with political and social phenomena. We will analyze spaces in relation to movement, circulation (of peoples and goods), and relation to global markets. The blurry notions of border, frontier, and desert will be discussed, as they are key in the articulation of the manifold meanings the pampa and the sertão acquire in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The course will be taught in Spanish.

Automotive Ethics (VIP 695), Wolf Schafer, wolf.schafer@stonybrook.edu, Day and time TBD

This course is open to Undergraduate, Masters, and PhD students from SBU Colleges and Schools, as all Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) are. Our Project explores two questions: Can ethical norms and principles be programmed into the AI of a robot-car, and if so, how? The project started in spring 2020 and has currently 8 students (fall 2020), mainly from CEAS departments, but also a doctoral student from philosophy. The advent of Automated Cars (AVs) will have wide-ranging societal consequences for cities, transportation, work, disability support, etc., and for this reason alone our team would welcome a PhD student from history. Students from the humanities and social sciences can acquire some useful skills for the digital humanities in this course and employment after university. PhD students participate by registering for VIP 695 for 0 to 3 credits. VIP 695 will typically not satisfy a PhD degree requirement but may be used to maintain full-time status through dissertation research and preparation.