

List of politically-controversial courses taught at a major New York City college

compiled by Phillip W. Weiss

SOCY 3202 Race, Class, and Environmental Justice 3 hours; 3 credits **Processes that create inequality** and how they impact the uneven distribution of environmental degradation and protection. **Placement of hazardous facilities in minority communities**, unequal protection of environmental health, employment structure of hazardous industrial workplaces, socio-ecological conditions of migrant farm workers, extraction of resources from Native lands, population control initiatives directed at peoples-of-color, and the national and transnational export of toxic waste.

SOCY 2602 Social Class 3 hours; 3 credits Formation of social classes. Leading theories of class. History of **American class system**. Critical examinations of studies of class. **Intersection of class stratification with race and gender** in contemporary society.

SOCY 3446 Transgender Theories and Politics 4 hours; 4 credits Study of **transgender identities**, sets of practices, social movements, and interventions in gender studies and queer theory. Theoretical overview of key early texts in gender theory. Subsequent readings on social and legal constructions of sex in the United States and internationally and on social and political movements for transgender rights and gender self-determination. Examination of trans as both as a particular kind of **claim for gender recognition and as a move away from norms** organized around the gender binary.

SOCY 3608 Workers United: The Sociology of Labor and Capital 3 hours; 3 credits Theories of labor and work. History of **labor struggles and worker's rights** in the U.S. and globally. Relationship between the labor movement and immigrant groups. Development of worker centers as a response to declining labor union density.

SUST 2101 Mapping Inequalities: Revealing and Combating Racism in America 3 hours; 3 credits Relationship between environment, sustainability, and landscape, focusing specifically on the **production of inequality**. From segregation to gentrification, from slavery to global capitalism and disaster capitalism, inequality is produced spatially and impacts our ability to build sustainable environments and societies. Understanding the geography of inequality helps illustrate the roots of inequality, as well as possible solutions.

WGST 3137 Queer Philosophy 3 hours; 3 credits Examination of **metaphysical, epistemological and ethical issues** arising from the experience of the LGBT community, including: philosophical critiques and defenses of the concept of sexual orientation; homosexuality in the Western philosophical tradition; LGBT marriage and familial relations; **the ethics of outing and of being closeted**; ethical issues affecting LGBT people in medicine, education and the law.

WGST 3319 Workers United: The Sociology of Labor and Capital 3 hours; 3 credits Theories on labor and work. History of **labor struggles and worker's rights** in the U.S. and globally. Relationship between the labor movement and immigrant groups. Development of worker centers as a response to declining labor union density. T

WGST 3342 The Politics of LGBTQ Human Rights 4 hours; 4 credits This course will study sexual orientation and gender identity in international rights institutions and discourses. Topics will include: the criminalization of sexual and gender minorities; tensions between presumptively universalist constructions of sexual orientation and gender identity and regional formations of sexual and gender non-conformity; legacies of colonialism and **strategies of resistance to neo-colonial impositions**; sexual rights; queering development; homonationalism; movements against “gender ideology”; the phenomena of moral panics/sex panics.

WGST 3354 Politics and Sexuality 3 hours; 3 credits Examination of the theory and practice of **lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender politics** in the US including: the many ways the state regulates sexuality and gender through law and policy; the emergence of modern **civil rights movements of sexual minorities**, and brings in several theoretical approaches including queer theory, Black queer studies, and transgender studies. T

ECON 3254 Ecological Economics and Sustainable Development 3 hours; 3 credits The closely intertwined relationship between the human economy and ecological systems. A broad survey of the foundations, key concepts, and methods of ecological economics and sustainable development. We will examine the role of environmental regulation, corporate and private operations, and private-public partnerships in responding to **environmental threats** and opportunities. **We will discuss how businesses and governments can develop sustainable practices.** We will address the following fundamental questions: 1, Is it possible to place a monetary value on nature (or the services that nature provides)? 2, Is it possible to substitute man-made capital for natural capital? I.e., as we degrade the natural environment and exhaust natural resources and produced capital goods compensate for these losses? 3, How can we measure the scale of human activities, their impact on ecosystem state, and determine what level is ultimately sustainable?

ENGL 4110 Queer Literary Studies 4 hours; 4 credits Introduction to the theory and practice of **queer literary studies**. Focused examination of relevant literary texts from one or more historical and/or national tradition, as well as other genres and media.

HNSC 2180 Women's Health: a Feminist Perspective 3 hours; 3 credits Modern medical systems and women's places as medical workers and consumers of medical services. History of women healers and health workers. Influences of race, class, ethnicity, and sexual preference on illness and treatment of women. **Politics of contraception, sterilization, abortion, and childbirth.** Self-help care movement.

HIST 1101 The Shaping of the Modern World 3 hours; 3 credits A history of the world since 1500: the emergence of a global society. Early modern societies, cultures, and state structures. **Trade, colonialism, slavery, and revolutions.** Comparative industrialization and urbanization. Nationalism, internationalism, and totalitarianism. Demography, environment, Developments in the history of ideas, culture, race, sexuality, and gender.

HIST 3550 History of the Middle East in the Twentieth Century 3 hours; 3 credits Ottoman and colonial heritage of the Middle East; competing ideologies; **oil and its impact, origins and development of the Arab Israeli conflict;** Iran under shahs and clergy; roots of radical nationalism in Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, and Syria, sectarianism and class conflict in Lebanon; Islamic reform and revivalism; changing role of women and minorities.

HIST 3210 Terrorism in Modern Europe 3 Hours; 3 credits Beginning with the French Revolution, this course will study both state-sponsored terror and terrorist movements in Europe. Topics will include definitions of terrorism, anarchism, **Nazi and Soviet terror, modern separatist movements, domestic terrorism, and an examination of the West and Islamic fundamentalism.**

HIST 3325 Slavery and Freedom: Comparative Perspectives 3 hours, 3 credits History and historiography of slavery and meanings of freedom in geographical regions including but not limited to the Atlantic and Indian Ocean Worlds. Use of the scholarship, archives, and images inspired by peoples in bondage, to connect and compare the ways in which **slavery was codified, experienced, imagined, narrated, and contested** in different parts of an interconnected world. Concepts of “agency,” “diaspora,” and toposes of “difference,” in histories of slavery and emancipation; boundaries between law and practice, family and the market, and nation and empire within that history; its relationship with discourses of poverty and the workings of political economy, culture and community; **identity formations of race, caste, class, gender, sex, and sexuality; impact of migrations, revolts and revolutions**

HIST 3350 The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, 1881-present 3 hours; 3 credits Roots of the conflict, from Eastern Europe to Ottoman Palestine; History 304 Programs and Courses of Instruction transformation from Ottoman civil conflict to national struggle; **founding of the Israeli state and transfer of the Palestinian population; the Arab-Israeli conflict and roots of peacemaking; return of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Oslo Accords and failure; Second Intifada;** the conflict in literature, music, and film.

HIST 3371 What is Fascism? 3 hours; 3 credits Fascism in an international context from its origins in the 19th Century to its contemporary manifestations; topics include contested definitions, the roots of fascism, how fascist regimes come to power, how fascist regimes rule, fascism as a form of imperialism, **fascism's gender dynamics,** the aesthetics of fascism, antifascism, the fate of fascism after World War II, and **fascism in contemporary Europe and the Americas.**

HIST 3372 The Imperial World at War 3 hours; 3 credits A history of global conflict between imperial states from the late 1800s through the 1980s; topics include competition for colonies and regional conflicts in the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, and Asia; World War I and World War II as instances of conflict between imperial states; **decolonization as an extension of the age of global imperial wars.**

HIST 3375 Decolonization 3 hours; 3 credits The history of decolonization and its legacies in the contemporary world. The first wave of decolonization in the 18th and 19th Centuries; roots of post-World War II decolonizations; the core phase of decolonization from the 1940s through the 1960s; **the post-colonial experience and neocolonialism**; decolonization in the contemporary world.

POLS 3343 Politics of Genocide & Ethnic Cleansing 4 hours; 4 credits Study of the politics of genocide and ethnic cleansing as the most extreme forms of human rights violations. Comparative examination, through in-depth case studies, of causes, international responses, and aftermaths. Exploration of genocide prevention initiatives

POLS 3340 Protest and Revolution 3 hours; 3 credits Comparative study of **protest and revolution** in industrialized and Third World countries. Political, economic, and social conditions that stimulate **protest and revolution. Ideological and organizational characteristics of revolutionary movements.**

POLS 3410 Radical Political Thought 3 hours; 3 credits Radical political thought, classical and contemporary. Critique of such dominant radical themes as anarchism, the role of violence, the authority of the state, privilege, and libertarianism. Readings from such theorists as Bakunin, Rousseau, Marx, Veblen, Mao, and Marcuse.

POLS 3447 Identity Politics and Its Critics 4 hours; 4 credits Identity politics as **an approach to organizing and political change**; critiques of identity politics from the left and the right; theoretical perspectives on identity politics; examination of contemporary iterations, including movements based on race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, indigeneity, and disability.

Note: red highlights added.

Source:

[2023-2024-Undergraduate-Bulletin.pdf \(brooklyn.edu\)](#)