

## First -Year Seminars, Spring 2025

First-year seminars are small classes – limited to 19 students – that fulfill general education





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.

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## 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.

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## 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

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,



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## 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.

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## POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.