American Studies Seminars
Fall 2010

Students from all departments are welcome to apply

History of the Supreme Court
Judge Joseph Greenaway
In this course we consider the origins of the Supreme Court, including how the framers of the Constitution envisioned the function and authority of the judicial branch of the federal government; the importance of judicial independence; and the Supreme Court’s role in the development of American democracy. We examine the lives and work of several individual justices to determine the role that perspective and life experiences have on judicial decision making.

Cultures of Harlem
Professor Farah Griffin
At the end of the 19th Century, black Americans living in Manhattan neighborhoods began to relocate to Harlem. Black ownership of residential housing grew. By World War I, thousands of black people from the South and the Caribbean began to migrate. Harlem quickly became the international capital of the Black World. Always a dynamic community, today Harlem is undergoing tremendous change. This seminar will explore the history and cultures of the diverse people who have given life to Harlem.

Immigrant New York
Professor Rebecca Kobrin
This course will compare immigrants’ encounters with New York at the dawn of the 20th Century with contemporary issues, organizations, and debates shaping immigrant life in New York City. As a service learning course, students will work 2–4 hours/week in the Riverside Language Center or programs for immigrants run by Community Impact.

Food & American Life
Professors Sarah Phillips, Rachel Adams
This course employs a cross-disciplinary perspective to blend examinations of food’s materiality (production and distribution) with its many meanings and functions (social, cultural, and aesthetic). The course integrates these broader themes with class visits to New York locations and with a class project on food at Columbia University.

Gender History & American Film
Professor Hilary Hallett
Motion pictures have played a unique role in shaping and reflecting new ideals and images of womanhood and manhood in the modern United States. Throughout the 20th Century, movies and their stars have had a complex relationship to transformations affecting the lives of Americans. This seminar examines motion pictures and movie stars as primary sources that, when juxtaposed with other kinds of historical evidence, indicate changes in the gendering of work, leisure, sexuality, family life, and politics.

For additional information and application instructions, please visit the American Studies website

http://www.columbia.edu/cu/amstudies

Or email amd44@columbia.edu