

# SOCIETY FOR THE HUMANITIES (SHUM)

## SHUM 1100 - Art Histories: An Introduction (4 Credits)

Crosslisted with ARTH 1100

This team-taught course introduces students to the History of Art as a global and interdisciplinary field. Led by a selection of professors from the department, in collaboration with staff and faculty of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, its primary aim is to familiarize students with the most significant geographical areas, epochs and works of art, as well as with methods employed in their study and analysis. The course will be organized around a changing selection of themes central to the history of art. The theme for fall 2024 is Materiality. Considering how artists and artisans from antiquity to the present have mobilized a broad range of materials and processes to create works of art, we will explore the intimate relationship between makers, matter, and meaning.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## SHUM 1615 - Introduction to Ancient Rome (3 Credits)

Crosslisted with CLASS 1615

Ancient Rome was a village the size of Ithaca that grew into a world empire. In this course students will be introduced to some of its literature, art, and famous personalities in the classical period (2nd c. BCE - 2nd c. CE) and will read some of the greatest masterpieces of Latin literature. Special attention will be given to the late republic, Augustan, and Hadrianic periods, to Roman ethics, and to the rise of Christianity. No prior knowledge of the ancient world is necessary. All readings are in English.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Summer 2022  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## SHUM 1802 - Introduction to Latinos in U.S. History (3 Credits)

Crosslisted with HIST 1802, LSP 1802, AMST 1802, LATA 1802

This course seeks a fuller recounting of U.S. history by remapping what we understand as America. We will examine traditional themes in the teaching of U.S. history-territorial expansion and empire, migration and nation building, industrialization and labor, war and revolution, and citizenship and transnationalism-but we will examine this American experience in a broader hemispheric context and include as actors americanos of Spanish, Mexican, Caribbean, and Central/South American ancestries.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS), (LH-IL, OCE-IL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2019  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## SHUM 1900 - Global Engagements: Living and Working in a Diverse World (3 Credits)

Crosslisted with ANTHR 1900

How might we engage with communities, whether here in Ithaca or across the globe, in our diverse histories, experiences, and perspectives? What structural forces shape inequalities and how do communities go about addressing social and racial injustice? This course is designed to help students bring global engaged learning into their Cornell education with a focus on community engaged learning in Ithaca. It introduces skills that are vital for intercultural engagement, including participant-observation research, ethnographic writing, and the habits of critical reflexivity. Through readings, film, and community partnerships, we will learn about global/local issues including the gendered and racialized aspects of labor, food and housing insecurity, structural violence, and migration. Students will complete projects that help them learn with and from Ithaca community members and organizations.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, D-AG), (GLC-AS, SCD-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-CEL); (LAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## SHUM 1930 - A Global History of Love (4 Credits)

Crosslisted with HIST 1930, FGSS 1940, LGBT 1940, ASIAN 2930

By posing seemingly simple questions such as what is love and who has the right to love, this introductory-level lecture course surveys how love has been experienced and expressed from the pre-modern period to the present. Through case studies of familial and conjugal love in Africa, Asia, the US, Europe, and South and Latin America, the course will examine the debates about and enactment's of what constitutes the appropriate way to show love and affection in different cultures and historical contexts. Among the themes we will explore are questions of sexuality, marriage, kinship, and gender rights. A final unit will examine these themes through modern technologies such as the Internet, scientific advances in medicine, and a growing awareness that who and how we love is anything but simple or universal.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (SEAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Fall 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## SHUM 2006 - Punk Culture: The Art and Politics of Refusal (3 Credits)

Crosslisted with MUSIC 2006, AMST 2006, ENGL 2906, COML 2006

Punk Culture-comprised of music, fashion, literature, and visual arts-represents a complex critical stance of resistance and refusal that coalesced at a particular historical moment in the mid-1970s, and continues to be invoked, revived, and revised. In this course we will explore punk's origins in New York and London, U.S. punk's regional differences (the New York scene's connection to the art and literary worlds, Southern California's skate and surf culture, etc.), its key movements (hardcore, straight edge, riot grrrl, crust, queercore), its race, class and gender relations, and its ongoing influence on global youth culture. We will read, listen, and examine a variety of visual media to analyze how punk draws from and alters previous aesthetic and political movements. No previous experience studying music is necessary. (HC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2020, Fall 2018, Fall 2016  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2010 - Atlantic Travelers (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2010

The objective of this seminar is to introduce students to the subjects of mobility and empires in the early modern Atlantic World. Through close reading of primary and secondary sources and discussions, students will become familiar with the experiences of many types of travelers that between 1492 and the early nineteenth century traversed the Atlantic Ocean from the Old to the New World. The class will also draw students' attention to the multiplicity of perspectives from which history can be narrated. The cast of travelers will include conquistadors, puritan settlers, pirates, slaves, indentured servants, scientists, loyalist refugees, black sailors, creole patriots, military adventurers, and women. The discussions will emphasize the different ways in which these travelers crossed the Atlantic, adapted to life in the Americas, and, in the process, contributed to the creation of the Atlantic World. Although no prior knowledge of Atlantic history is required, this seminar is ideal for students who have previously taken courses on colonial Latin America, early modern Europe, colonial America, African history, and other related surveys and seminars.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Spring 2020, Fall 2012

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2011 - September 11 and the Politics of Memory (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 2011, AMST 2012

As a country, we are what we remember. But who decides what facts and stories about the past are important enough to memorialize? What does that decision tell us about power and truth? This class will discuss how the attacks of September 11 are remembered in the United States and the rest of the world.

**Distribution Requirements:** (SBA-AG), (SSC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2023 - Fighting for Our Lives: Black Women's Reproductive Health and Activism in Historical Perspective (3-4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 2023, GOVT 2022, FGSS 2023, AMST 2023, HIST 2023, STS 2023

This course centers Black women who have often described their reproductive health experiences as fighting for our lives. While grounded in an exploration of Black women's experiences in the US, this course also looks across the diaspora to issues of access, rights, and equity in reproductive health. Deeply inspired by the field of Black Feminist Health Science Studies, a field that advocates for the centrality of activism in healthcare and its importance for Black women's overall health and well-being, this course examines how issues of gender, race, class, ability, and power intersect to inform how reproductive health is conceptualized, practiced, and experienced. Ultimately, this course will yield a deeper understanding of how Black women have transformed existential and literal threats on their lives into a robust terrain of community-based activism and a movement for reproductive justice. We will read across a range of texts and genres from the historical and theoretical, to memoir and documentary. With what we learn together, we will craft contributions to public debates around healthcare issues impacting Black women.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG, SBA-AG), (HST-AS, SSC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2080 - Shakespeare in the Twenty-First Century (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 2080, PMA 2681

More than 400 years after his death, Shakespeare remains an inescapable part of world culture. His influence can be traced at every level, from traditional art forms like theater, poetry, and opera to popular genres like Broadway musicals, science fiction, crime thrillers, and romcoms. Contemporary adaptations and bold re-stagings of his plays abound that reflect his deep understanding of sexual and gender fluidity, racial and class antipathy, and the complex workings of political power. In this course, we'll focus on five plays that continue to generate creative responses across many media: *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Macbeth*. The class counts toward the pre-1800 requirement for English majors.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2082 - Of Ice and Men: Masculinities in the Medieval North (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2082, FGSS 2082, MEDVL 2082

The Middle Ages are usually imagined as a time of manly men and feminine women: no room for gender ambiguity in Conan the Barbarian! Yet gender, then as now, was in fact unstable, multiple, and above all, constructed. This course explores the different ways masculinity was understood, manufactured, and manipulated in northern Europe - primarily early Ireland, England, and Scandinavia - using a variety of literary, legal, historical, archaeological, and artistic sources. Students will gain new perspectives on both gender and sex, on the one hand, and the history of medieval Europe, on the other.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Fall 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2101 - South Asian Diaspora (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with AAS 2100, ANTHR 2410

This interdisciplinary course (with an emphasis in anthropology) will introduce students to the multiple routes/roots, lived experiences, and imagined worlds of South Asians who have traveled to various lands at different historical moments spanning Fiji, South Africa, Mauritius, Britain, Malaysia, United States, Trinidad, and even within South Asia itself such as the Tamil-speaking population of Sri Lanka. The course will begin with the labor migrations of the 1830s and continue up to the present period. The primary exercise will be to compare and contrast the varied expressions of the South Asian Diaspora globally in order to critically evaluate this transnational identity. Thus, we will ask what, if any, are the ties that bind a fifth-generation Indo-Trinidadian whose ancestor came to the New World as an indentured laborer or coolie in the mid-19th century to labor in the cane fields, to a Pakistani medical doctor who migrated to the United States in the late 1980s. If Diaspora violates a sense of identity based on territorial integrity, then could culture serve as the basis for a shared identity?

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG), (LH-IL, OCE-IL)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2132 - Law and Society in Early Modern and Modern China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2132, ASIAN 2280, CAPS 2132

China was and still is regarded in the Western world as a country without the rule of law. In this course, students examine recent scholarship that challenges this simplified understanding of the role of law in Chinese politics and society. It approaches law in early modern and modern China both as a state institution of governance and control, and as a platform that facilitates interactions and negotiations between state and society, between different social forces, and between different cultures. At the same time, this course guides students to develop projects of their own choice, either addressing legal issues or using legal sources, from tentative proposals to research papers based on their examination of original or translated primary sources. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2158 - St. Petersburg and the Making of Modern Russia (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2158, RUSSL 2158

Founded by Peter the Great in the early eighteenth century, St. Petersburg was built expressly to advertise the triumph of enlightened absolutism at home and to display Russia's status as a major European power abroad. But for all of its neo-classical splendor, the image of imperial St. Petersburg has been consistently invoked as a critical touchstone for the expression of political discontent, social unease and spiritual anxiety. The most modern and intentional of Russian cities, Russia's northern capital has come to stand for everything that's wrong with modern life. In this seminar, we will approach St. Petersburg as a cultural text composed by an illustrious trio of Russian writers who saw the complicated history of their country through Peter's window to the west – Nikolai Gogol, Fyodor Dostoevsky and Andrei Bely.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2195 - Biography, History, and Modernity (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2195, JWST 2195

Drawing on a combination of primary and secondary sources, this course explores the multiple forms and evolution of biographical writing from the Renaissance onward. We will interrogate the relationship between biographical reasoning and several modern phenomena, including the construction of national identities, the rise of psychoanalysis, and even the historical profession itself. And we will consider whose voices, experiences, and subjectivities are historically valorized through the increasing prominence of biography, and who has been marginalized, silenced, or erased from history in the process.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2208 - Introduction to Southeast Asia (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 2208

What is Southeast Asia? How does this faraway, "exotic," region intersect with our realities? This course introduces key questions in the study of Southeast Asia (which includes Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and its diasporas using cinematic, literary, historical and scholarly materials. This introduction to Southeast Asia's historical, religious, literary, visual, and political traditions – and the ways in which scholars have thought about them – addresses a variety of themes including notions of kinship, gender, political conflict, colonialism, media and the arts, sexuality, textual and visual genres, and forms of belief and belonging. Students will have an opportunity to investigate topics of interest to them, in the form of research essays as well as small-scale fieldwork, curatorial, or media projects. (GE)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (SEAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Summer 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2220 - From the New Deal to the Age of Reagan (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2220, AMST 2220

This seminar will explore some of the major political and cultural trends in the United States, from the era of the Democratic New Dealer, Franklin D. Roosevelt, through the era of the conservative Republican, Ronald Reagan? This seminar will explore through primary source research and secondary readings the key economic, political, and cultural characteristics and transformations of the period from 1930 through the turn of the century. The course will examine the rise, persistence, and breakdown of the so-called New Deal Order and the crucial political shifts that we call the Reagan Revolution. A key theme in this course will be the transformations and critiques of American liberalism and conservatism.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2240 - Dance Technique Workshop (2 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PMA 2240, VISST 2540, PE 1188

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022, Spring 2018, Summer 2012, Fall 2011

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2241 - Game of Thrones: Multi-Media Fantasies (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 2241

In this course we will use the Game of Thrones series as a way of familiarizing ourselves with different tools of cultural analysis and approaches in literary theory (such as narratology, psychoanalysis, media studies, queer theory, disability studies, animal studies etc.). A strong emphasis will be placed on the different media avatars of the series: novels, TV series, graphic novels, spin-offs, fan fiction, blogs, fan art, etc.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2244 - The Music, Art, and Technology of the Organ (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MUSIC 2244

The organ is an interdisciplinary wonder where mechanics, architecture, acoustics, religion, philosophy, literature, as well as the musical arts and sciences meet. This course uses the organ to explore music's relation to technology, history and culture, and in turn traces the technical and mechanical mysteries, and expressive possibilities, of the 'King of Instruments' across its long history. Students will gain 1) an understanding of some key aspects of musical history and repertoire; 2) a sense for the historical relation between music and technology; 3) a new knowledge of (and enthusiasm for!) the organ; and 4) an insight into the ways in which musical instruments and the musical practice associated with them are cross-cultural and interdisciplinary. With a key focus on the music of J. S. Bach, as well as on the reception of Bach's music in the 19th and 20th centuries, topics include the mechanics of organ construction, the North German organ art and the toccata, virtuosity and the use of the feet, the symphonic organ in the 19th century, 20th-century experimentation with organ sound, the organ and film. The course combines lectures with sessions at the organs as well as regular organ recitals. No prior musical experience necessary, although those interested (and with some keyboard skills) will have the opportunity for an introduction to learning to play - with both hands and feet. (HC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2021, Spring 2020  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2245 - Health and Disease in the Ancient World (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 2245, ARKEO 2245, BSOC 2245

The history of humankind is also a history of health and disease; the rise of agricultural societies, ancient cities, and colonial empires had wide-ranging effects on diet and nutrition, the spread of infectious diseases, and occurrence of other health conditions. This history has also been shaped by complex interactions between environment, technology, and society. Using archaeological, environmental, textual, and skeletal evidence, we will survey major epidemiological transitions from the Paleolithic to the age of European conquest. We will also examine diverse cultural experiences of health, illness, and the body. How do medical practices from pre-modern societies, such as the medieval Islamic world and the Inca Empire, challenge dominant narratives of scientific development? The implications of past health patterns for modern-day communities will also be explored.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2019, Fall 2018  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2260 - Music of the 1960's (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MUSIC 2260, AMST 2260, ASRC 2260 (HC)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Winter 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2018, Spring 2015  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2269 - Korean Popular Culture (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 2269, PMA 2465, AAS 2269

This course introduces Korean popular culture in global context. Beginning with cultural forms of the late Choson period, the course will also examine popular culture during the Japanese colonial period, the post-war period, the democratization period, and contemporary Korea. Through analysis of numerous forms of media, including films, television, music, literature, and music videos, the course will explore the emergence of the "Korean Wave" in East Asia and its subsequent global impact. In our examination of North and South Korean cultural products, we will discuss theories of transnationalism, globalization, and cultural politics. The course will consider the increasing global circulation of Korean popular culture through new media and K-Pop's transculturation of forms of American music such as rap. Readings for the course will be in English or in English translation and no prior knowledge of Korean culture is required. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2015  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2287 - Gods, Ghosts, and Gurus: A Global Exploration of the Fantastic in Asian Religions (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 2287, RELST 2287

This course serves as an introduction to key concepts in the study of the Fantastic, a fundamental analytic category in several academic disciplines, including literature, psychology, anthropology, art, and religion. Asia, the continent with the world's largest population and the birthplace for several major religious traditions, is replete with narratives, beliefs and artistic practices which traverse the Fantastic's diffuse aspects and explore its myriad dimensions. Our encounter with such phenomena will be concentrated on three of its key genres with roots in Asian and Asian-inspired religious movements: gods, ghosts, and gurus. Accordingly, course readings will discuss case studies from Hinduism, Buddhism, Traditional Chinese Religions, Vietnamese Cao Đài, and other such sectarian perspectives. Beyond gaining an empirical understanding of how each of these traditions has interpreted the classifications of god, ghost, and guru, we will also consider how religious practitioners have articulated their ideas about these entities in storytelling, visual objects, cinematic productions and other arenas of cultural expression. Overall, these inquiries will encourage students to critically engage with the following question: "How can studies of Fantastical Figures affirm and expand conventional notions of religion?" (RL)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)



**SHUM 2315 - The Occupation of Japan (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2315, ASIAN 2258, AMST 2315

In August 1945, Japan was a devastated country; its cities burned, its people starving, its military and government in surrender. World War II was over. The occupation had begun. What sort of society emerged from the cooperation and conflict between occupiers and occupied? Students will examine sources ranging from declassified government documents to excerpts from diaries and bawdy fiction, alongside major scholarly studies, to find out. The first half of the course focuses on key issues in Japanese history, like the fate of the emperor, constitutional revision, and the emancipation of women. The second half zooms out for a wider perspective, for the occupation of Japan was never merely a local event. It was the collapse of Japanese empire and the rise of American empire in Asia. It was decolonization in Korea and the start of the Cold War. Students will further investigate these links in final individual research projects. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2017  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2350 - Literature and Medicine (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 2350, FGSS 2350, BSOC 2350, LGBT 2350, AMST 2330

How does literary language depict the experience of physical suffering? Can a poem or a novel palliate pain, illness, even the possibility of death? From darkly comic narratives of black plague to the rise and fall of hysteria to depictions of the AIDS crisis, this course examines literature centered on medical practices from the early modern period through the twentieth century. Why have medical practices changed, and how do writers address their political, social, and ideological implications? Readings will include a broad range of genres, including poetry (Dickinson, Whitman, Keats), fiction (McEwan, Chekhov, Gilman, Kafka, Camus), theater (Kushner), nonfiction prose (Woolf, Freud), and critical theory (Foucault, Scarry, Canguilhem, Sontag).

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2352 - How Do You Know? The Ethics and Politics of Knowledge (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MUSIC 2352, ANTHR 2352, FGSS 2352

This course critically examines the politics and ethics of knowledge production across the humanities and social sciences. It poses an expansive and complex question: how, by whom, and for whom is knowledge produced and to what ends? We will explore quantitative and qualitative research methods, theories of the archive and curation, and artistic and creative work as forms of knowledge production while centering questions of access across a range of categories, including but not limited to disability, language, geopolitical positioning, and neurodivergence. In a semester-long active learning project, students and faculty will collaboratively produce knowledge and disseminate it via the in-progress, open-access digital humanities platform Palestinian Pedagogy Network. (HC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2354 - African American Visions of Africa (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2354, ASRC 2354, AMST 2354

This seminar examines some of the political and cultural visions of Africa and Africans held by African-American intellectuals and activists in the 19th and 20th centuries. Emphasis is placed on the philosophies of black nationalism, Pan Africanism and anticolonialism and the themes of emigration, expatriation, repatriation and exile. Awareness of Africa and attitudes toward the continent and its peoples have profoundly shaped African-American identity, culture and political consciousness. Notions of a linked fate between Africans and black Americans have long influenced black life and liberation struggles within the U.S. The motives, purposes and outlooks of African-American theorists who have claimed political, cultural, or spiritual connection to Africa and Africans have varied widely, though they have always powerfully reflected black experiences in America and in the West. The complexity and dynamism of those views belie simplistic assumptions about essential or natural relationships, and invite critical contemplation of the myriad roles that Africa has played in the African-American mind.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2018  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2367 - Humanitarianism: A Counter-History (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with NES 2367, HIST 2637

This course is a counter-history of modern humanitarianism, humanitarian law, and human rights, with perspectives from the Near East. Humanitarianism aspires to fulfill the promise of human rights. It envisions a world based on peace among nations, individual liberties, and the sanctity of life - and of markets. To that end, what means are justified? During this semester, we will critically analyze the ideology of human rights, examine the practices of humanitarian rescue, and question the necessity of humanitarian violence. We will scrutinize the ideological and material entanglements of humanitarianism with the forces of empire, nations, and markets, and how humanitarianism shaped the peoples and borders of the modern Near East. We will discuss how the demands for solidarity, equality, and justice challenge and subvert the work of humanitarianism. In doing so, we will consider how the atrocities of the past and the pursuit of justice haunt our turbulent present.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2369 - Race, the Nation, & American Outdoor Recreation (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2369

This class will explore how access to the outdoors has been impacted by social inequalities related to race, class, and gender throughout U.S. history. The idea of “the outdoors” and its synonyms (whether “wilderness” or “nature”) has sustained lasting cultural resonance in the United States. Since the nineteenth century’s development of American Romanticism, “nature”—or the idea of a landscape not manipulated by humans—has become a powerful cultural symbol and one of the nation’s most cherished attributes. However, this course will examine how this strong reverence for natural places in the United States has been overlaid by racist ideologies.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2435 - Global Maoism: History and Present (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2435, CAPS 2435

Maoism and Chinese Communism are not history after Mao's death in 1976. In China, Maoism holds the key to the enduring success of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), one of the most remarkable organizations of the 20th and 21st centuries that has survived the collapse of communism in Europe and the USSR. With the beneficial transformation brought by capitalism and globalization in China, the end of the Cold War and the narrative of the end of history cannot explain the resurgence of Maoism.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2437 - Economy, Power, and Inequality (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 2437

How do humans organize production, distribution, exchange, and consumption? What social, political, environmental, and religious values underlie different forms of economic organization? And how do they produce racial, ethnic, class, gender, and sexual inequalities? This course uses a range of historical and contemporary case studies to address these questions, in the process introducing a range of analytic approaches including formalism, substantivism, Marxist and feminist theory, critical race studies, and science and technology studies. Course themes include gifts and commodities; the nature of money, markets, and finance; credit and debt relations; labor, property, and value; licit and illicit economies; capitalism and socialism; development and underdevelopment.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, SBA-AG), (OCE-IL), (SCD-AS, SSC-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-SBY)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2455 - Introduction to Bioethics (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PHIL 2455, STS 2451

Bioethics is the study of ethical questions raised by advances in the medical field. Questions we'll discuss will include: Is it morally permissible to advance a patient's death, at his or her request, to reduce suffering? Is there a moral difference between killing someone and letting someone die? What ethical issues are raised by advance care planning? What is it to die? What forms of cognitive decline or physical change could you survive (and still be you)? On the flip side, were you ever a fetus? How should the rights of pregnant women be balanced against those of the fetus? Should parents be given control over the genetic make-up of their children? Are some forms of human enhancement morally troubling? Should we aim to be better than well? What is it to be disabled? How should scarce health care resources or costly therapies be allocated to those in need? Should organ sales be permitted? Should medical treatment (or health insurance!) ever be compulsory, or is mandating treatment unacceptably paternalistic? Should doctors or hospitals be permitted to refuse to provide certain medical services that violate their consciences?

**Distribution Requirements:** (ETM-AS), (KCM-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Summer 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2462 - Personal Histories of Global Events: Microhistorical Approaches to the Writing of Global History (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2462, JWST 2462, NES 2462

In this course we will read some of the most influential micro-history writers and explore examples of different subgenres of microhistory, such as individual biographies, family histories, social histories of towns, city, and village histories, histories of singular events and the impact they have on a family or a community, a history of an object, and fictional narratives of individual experiences of global events. The course aims to explore how seemingly a limited-scale of analysis can illuminate the experience of much larger events. The course will draw on examples that focus on a wide range of experiences from around the world, with special attention paid to the the Middle East and Africa. The final research project will build on the student's own family's history, or the history of one individual, or an object (such as an inherited jewelry, a document, a painting, or a photograph etc) and research to situate that person/object/family's history in the context of an event of global importance (such as a war, colonialism, mass violence, environmental history, empire, etc).

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2467 - Holocaust in History and Memory (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with JWST 2467, GERST 2567, HIST 2567

This course explores the history of the Holocaust during which the Nazis murdered six million Jews. Topics covered in this class include the history of antisemitism in Europe and twentieth-century Germany, the origins and rule of the Nazis, the politics of World War II, the Final Solution and extermination camps, Jewish literary responses to the Holocaust, among other topics.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2482 - Anthropology of Climate Change (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 2482

What does it mean to study humanity at a time when it has become a geological force? What is required of us as thinking subjects under the Anthropocene? In this course, we will argue that anthropologists have an important role to play at this historical juncture. But we will also consider how climate change troubles some of the discipline's central categories. Time, space, nature, power, reason - climate change throws these concepts into question. It inflects our ways of knowing. It demands adaptive thinking. Throughout the semester, we will take on this work in common, proceeding from the presumption that it is not enough to think of climate change as a simple ethnographic object. Climate change is the unavoidable context of contemporary anthropology.

**Distribution Requirements:** (SBA-AG), (SSC-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-SBY)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023, Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2515 - Anthropology of Iran (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with NES 2515, RELST 2515, ANTHR 2415

This course explores the major debates that define the study of contemporary Iran. Drawing from ethnographic works, literary criticism, intellectual histories and more, we will examine historical events and cultural developments from a diverse set of theoretical approaches. Topics include the Iranian revolution in comparative perspective, the Iran-Iraq war and its continued legacy, media forms and practice, contemporary film and literature, women's movements, youth culture, religious diversity, legal systems, techniques of governance, and more. Of particular interest will be the intersections of religion and secularism in Iranian society. Ultimately, it is the objective of the course to explore the diverse cultural, political, and material worlds that shape collective life and individual subjectivity in Iran today.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, D-AG), (GLC-AS, SCD-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2528 - Borderlands History of Jazz: Mexico and African America (3-4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 2528, MUSIC 2528

(HC)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2542 - The Making of Contemporary Africa (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2542, ASRC 2542

Most people learn about Africa through the media. However, media critics note that coverage is disproportionately skewed toward negative stories - poverty, war and corruption. While these factors are a reality for too many people on the continent, media observers note that too often the coverage lacks context and breadth. Furthermore, media outlets do not report positive developments even where they exist. This course will provide some of the depth and context necessary to understand events in contemporary Africa. The first two-thirds of the course will examine African social and economic history since the nineteenth century - Africa's integration in the international economy, the rise of new social classes, the creation of the colonial state and the post-colonial state. Our primary examples will be drawn from East, West and Southern Africa to highlight both the similarities and differences of their historical development. The final third of the course will examine several contemporary issues in which scholars and journalists have attempted to address the weaknesses in general press coverage.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022, Fall 2020, Spring 2015

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2550 - Introduction to Latin American Art (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 2550, LATA 2050, VISST 2550, AMST 2555

This course is designed to introduce students to Latin American art from the pre-Columbian period to the present. It will cover the arts of ancient civilizations including the Olmec, Maya, Aztec, Moche, and Inca, as well as the colonial, modern, and contemporary arts of Latin America and the Latino/a diaspora. Major themes include the relationship between art and religion, innovations and transformations in Latin American art across time, art and identity, as well as Indigenous and Afro-Latin American contributions to the visual arts. This course examines the societal relevance of images across Latin American cultures by paying close attention to the historical and political contexts in which they were created. Course readings are drawn from the disciplines of art history, anthropology, and history, along with theoretical perspectives on colonialism, postcolonialism, identity, race, and ethnicity.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Spring 2021, Spring 2019, Spring 2017

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2650 - Introduction to African American Literature (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 2650, AMST 2650, ASRC 2680

This course will introduce students to African American literary traditions in the space that would become North America. From early freedom narratives and poetry to Hip-Hop and film, we will trace a range of artistic conventions and cultural movements while paying close attention to broader historical shifts in American life over the past three centuries. We'll read broadly: poetry, fiction, speculative fiction, newspapers, and the like. We will ask: How do authors create, define, and even exceed a tradition? What are some of the recurring themes and motifs within this tradition? Authors may include: Phillis Wheatley, David Walker, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, Octavia Butler, Toni Morrison, and Eve Ewing. This course satisfies the Literatures of the Americas requirement for English majors.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (D-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (AFAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2652 - Ancient Greek Drama (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with CLASS 2652, PMA 2652, FGSS 2652

This course introduces students to ancient Greek drama, with a particular focus on the genre of tragedy and its relation to the cultural, political, and performance context of Athens in the 5th century BC. Students will read plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides in English translation and explore how they address key themes such as gender, racialization, slavery, war, mourning, trauma, empathy, and justice. Students will also study how contemporary artists, writers, and communities have adapted and restaged Greek drama, transforming and animating these ancient scripts across various media (theater, film, literature, etc.) to speak to complex and urgent social issues today (e.g., state/institutional violence; sexual violence; racism and xenophobia; queer bodies and desires; mental health; disability and caregiving).

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2675 - Cultures of the Cold War (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 2675, AMST 2675

This class aims to approach the literature and culture of the Cold War as the birth of the present Age of Information, as well as the origin of modern notions of privacy that are now being superseded. We will begin with Hiroshima and the several forms of American anti-communism, and proceed from containment culture to the beginning of the counterculture, and from atomic weapons to the start of the environmental movement. Units of study will include intelligence (espionage), advertising (publicity), civil rights, and the public questioning of gender roles. We will also view a few films and discuss music and painting of the period. Authors include James Baldwin, Sylvia Plath, Marshall McLuhan, John Okada, Jack Kerouac, Frank O'Hara, Patricia Highsmith, and Rachel Carson.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2014, Spring 2012

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2701 - Music and Digital Gameplay (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MUSIC 2701

This course considers both music and digital games in light of their playability. It aims to provide students with critical frameworks for addressing the diverse roles played by music in digital games as well as the ways in which playing digital games can be considered a musical activity. Focusing on games across an array of genres from first-person shooters to rhythm-action titles, the course will introduce students to recent scholarship on digital games from multiple disciplinary angles. (HC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Summer 2025, Winter 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2703 - Thinking Media (3-4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GERST 2703, COML 2703, PMA 2703, ENGL 2703, MUSIC 2703

From hieroglyphs to HTML, ancient poetry to audiotape, and Plato's cave to virtual reality, Thinking Media offers a multidisciplinary introduction to the most influential media formats of the last three millennia. Featuring an array of guests from across Cornell, including faculty from Communication, Comparative Literature, German Studies, Information Science, Literatures in English, Music, and Performing & Media Arts, the course will present diverse perspectives on how to think with, against, and about media in relation to the public sphere and private life, archaeology and science fiction, ethics and aesthetics, identity and difference, labor and play, knowledge and power, expression and surveillance, and the generation and analysis of data. (HC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2711 - Archaeology of the Roman World: Italy and the West (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with CLASS 2711, ARKEO 2711, ARTH 2711

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2017, Fall 2016

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2729 - Climate, Archaeology and History (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with CLASS 2729, ARKEO 2729, ANTHR 2729

An introduction to the story of how human history from the earliest times through to the recent period interrelates with changing climate conditions on Earth. The course explores the whole expanse of human history, but concentrates on the most recent 15,000 years through to the Little Ice Age (14th-19th centuries AD). Evidence from science, archaeology and history are brought together to assess how climate has shaped the human story.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-SBY)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Fall 2020, Spring 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2750 - Introduction to Humanities (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2050, ENGL 2950, ARTH 2750, GOVT 2755, COML 2750, CLASS 2750, AMST 2751, ASRC 2750, ROMS 2750, VISST 2750, ARKEO 2750, FGSS 2750

These seminars offer an introduction to the humanities by exploring historical, cultural, social, and political themes. Students will explore themes in critical dialogue with a range of texts and media drawn from the arts, humanities, and/or humanistic social sciences. Guest speakers, including Cornell faculty and Society for the Humanities Fellows, will present from different disciplines and points of view. Students will make field trips to relevant local sites and visit Cornell special collections and archives. Students enrolled in these seminars will have the opportunity to participate in additional programming related to the annual focus theme of Cornell's Society for the Humanities and the Humanities Scholars Program for undergraduate humanities research.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment preference given to: students accepted in the Humanities Scholars Program.

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-SBY)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2754 - Wondrous Literatures of the Near East (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with NES 2754, COML 2754, JWST 2754, ENGL 2754

This course examines Near East's rich and diverse literary heritage. We will read a selection of influential and wondrous texts from ancient to modern times, spanning geographically from the Iberian peninsula to Iran. We will explore a range of ancient myths of creation and destruction. We will also trace encounters with otherness in travel narratives. Together we will read and discuss such ancient works as the The Story of Sinuhe and The Epic of Gilgamesh, as well as selections from the Hebrew Bible, New Testament and Qur'an. We will explore medieval works such as the Travels of Ibn Battuta, the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi, and The Arabian Nights. We will also read Orhan Pamuk's My Name is Red, and Sonia Nimr's Wondrous Journeys in Strange Lands, as well as excerpts from Yochi Brandes's The Orchard. Students will also have the opportunity to research and analyze primary source materials in the collections of Cornell Rare Books and Manuscript Collection, and the Johnson Art Museum. All material is in English translation.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL); (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)



**SHUM 2792 - Monuments, Museums, and Memory: An Introduction to Public History (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2792, AMST 2792

In this course we will examine how we have come to narrate social, cultural, and political history in the United States, investigating the ways scholarly, curatorial, archival, and creative practices shape conceptions of the American past, in particular understandings of racial, gender, sexual, and class oppression and resistance. Students will build skills in historical interpretation and archival research and explore possibilities and challenges in preserving and presenting the past in a variety of public contexts-monuments, memorials, museums, historical sites, movies and television, and community-based history projects.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Fall 2019  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2800 - Introduction to the Arts of China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 2800, ASIAN 2288, ARKEO 2800

This course offers a survey of the art and culture of China from the Neolithic period to the twenty-first century to students who have no previous background in Chinese studies. The course begins with an inquiry into the meaning of national boundaries and the controversial definition of the Han Chinese people, which will help us understand and define the scope of Chinese culture. Pre-dynastic (or prehistoric) Chinese culture will be presented based both on legends about the origins of the Chinese and on scientifically excavated artifacts. Art of the dynastic periods will be presented in light of contemporaneous social, political, geographical, philosophical and religious contexts. This course emphasizes hands-on experience using the Chinese art collection at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art for teaching and assignments. In addition to regular sections conducted in the museum, students are strongly encouraged to visit the museum often to appreciate and study artworks directly. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2020, Spring 2018, Spring 2017  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2805 - Introduction to Asian Art: Material Worlds (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 2805, VISST 2805, ASIAN 2285

Trade in and to Asia proved to be a key force in creating our modern globalized world. The Indian Ocean and the China Seas converged on Southeast Asia, where a cosmopolitan array of ships from every shore plied their trade, set sail, and returned with the monsoon winds. People, goods, and ideas also traveled on camelback across the undulating contours of the Gobi Desert, connecting India, the Near East and Central Asia with China, Korea, and Japan. This course introduces students to the raw ingredients of things in motion, poised interactively in time and space, as material worlds collide. Wood, bamboo, bronze, clay, earthenware, ink, spices, textiles and tea - students will navigate sites of encounter at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum from pre modern to the present. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA, SAAREA, SEAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 2812 - Hieroglyphs to HTML: History of Writing (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with CLASS 2812, NES 2812, STS 2812, ARKEO 2812, VISST 2812, LING 2212

An introduction to the history and theory of writing systems from cuneiform to the alphabet, historical and new writing media, and the complex relationship of writing technologies to human language and culture. Through hands-on activities and collaborative work, students will explore the shifting definitions of writing and the diverse ways in which cultures through time have developed and used writing systems. We will also investigate the traditional divisions of oral vs. written and consider how digital technologies have affected how we use and think about writing in encoding systems from Morse code to emoji.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3010 - Sweetness: How Sugar Built the Modern World (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 3010, LATA 3015, ROMS 3010, AMST 3015

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3022 - Science and Discovery: Japan and the "New World," 16th–17th Centuries (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 3022

In 1610, Nahua chronicler Chimalpahin wrote that a group of Japanese merchants had made landfall in Mexico, bringing with them writing desks, folding screens, porcelain, and silk. During this period, Japanese warlords, merchants, and converts began to engage in overseas exploration, journeying from Acapulco to Rome and traversing the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. At the same time, these actors engaged in colonial expansion, invading Korea, settling in parts of Southeast Asia, colonizing the island of Ezo (Hokkaido), and dominating the Ryukyuan islands (Okinawa). We will disentangle the complex and obscured role of the Japanese archipelago in early modern globalization through decolonial and archipelagic thinking. In each session, we will apply the readings to a primary source, such as an edict, a world-map folding screen, a set of playing cards, or an anti-Christian tale, that will serve as a focal point for the respective theme of the session. By grounding our interpretations in a diverse array of primary sources, you will develop an interdisciplinary skillset in visual, literary, and historical evidence and gain robust knowledge of transoceanic exchange. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3075 - Print Matters (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GERST 3075

"Print Culture from the Medieval to the Modern" employs texts and images in the Kroch Rare Books Library and Johnson Museum of Art as a prism to consider how advances in printing technology transformed life in Germany by making verbal and visual literacy possible for most members of society. Topics include Martin Luther and the Creation of a National Language, Albrecht Dürer and the Creation of Print Art, and Käthe Kollwitz and the Politics of Print Art. All discussion, reading, and writing in German. Taught in German.

**Prerequisites:** one German course at the 2010-2499 level or equivalent.

This course may be counted towards the requirement for 3000-3209 level language in the major and minor.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3175 - Nobody Expects the Spanish Inquisition: Inquisitors, Heretics, and Truth in the Early Modern World (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 3175, JWST 3175, NES 3175

This course uses the history of the Spanish Inquisition, and the richness of its archival records, to explore the variety of ways in which the pursuit of heresy was intertwined with transforming how knowledge was constructed, scrutinized, repressed, and deployed in the early modern world. Topics covered will include the struggle over religious authenticity in the age of Reformation, the formation of the bureaucratic state, the rise of empiricism and the scientific revolution, the birth of modern psychiatry, and the intellectual revolutions typically associated with the Enlightenment.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3206 - Black Women and Political Leadership (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 3206, FGSS 3206, ENGL 3606

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2017

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3211 - Sharing Space: Fantasy and Form in German Architectural Imaginations (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GERST 3211

From Neuschwanstein's fairy tale palace and faux ruins at Sanssouci to Bauhaus functionality, German architectural ideas shape how people live, work, and socialize in German-speaking areas and beyond. This course will explore the planning and construction of German environments at historical junctures from 1750 through today to investigate how architecture and urban design inform values and shape societies. How do built environments reflect social commitments, and what do architectural styles signal about how we want or ought to live together? What makes a space a place? How do migration and climate change stress design, and how can architecture respond? By examining German design principles, movements, and debates, we will investigate the construction of community and place in German-speaking areas as relevant more widely. Taught in German.

**Prerequisites:** one course at the GERST 3000-3209 level or equivalent, or placement by examination. This course may be counted towards the requirement for 3210-3499 level language in the major.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3212 - Germanophone Science and Speculative Fiction (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GERST 3212, FGSS 3212, LGBT 3212

A humanoid robot, an attic portal to another world, a haunted small town, an instance of time travel gone wrong—we will encounter all of these (and more) in this course on science and speculative fiction. Instructed in German, this course centers texts in German and/or about Germanophone spaces. Students will read novels, short stories, and poems; look at zines, comics, and webcomics; play through video games; and watch films. Class discussions will address topics like colonialism, climate change, escapism, dystopia/utopia, and formations of gender, sexuality, race, and nation. We will explore how narratives make use of worldbuilding, immersion, plot devices, and formal elements to unfurl these futuristic and fantastic places. Taught in German.

**Prerequisites:** One course at the GERST 3000-3209 level or equivalent, or placement by examination. This course may be counted towards the requirement for 3210-3499 level language in the major.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS, SCD-AS)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3230 - Humans and Animals (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 3230, ARKEO 3230, BSOC 3230

Human-animal relationships are often seen in utilitarian, nutritional terms, particularly in archaeology. But animals and meat have significance far beyond their economic value. This course focuses on a broad range of these non-dietary roles of animals in human societies, past and present. This includes the fundamental shift in human-animal relations associated with domestication; the varied meanings of wild and domestic animals; as well as the importance of animals as wealth, as objects of sacrifice, as totems or metaphors for humans, and as symbols in art. Meat can be used in feasting and meat sharing to create, cement, and manipulate social relationships. This course is open to students of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and other disciplines with an interest in human-animal relations.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG), (GLC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Spring 2021, Spring 2018, Spring 2016

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3265 - Power and Freedom: Words, Concepts, Politics (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 3265

Power and freedom are among the most important elements of the language of politics, and of the scholarly study of politics, but they are notoriously difficult to define. In this class, we'll try to clarify these terms by studying some important past and present debates, both academic and political, about their meaning. We will also consider some more general questions: Why are so many basic political terms so deeply contested? Are the concepts we use to study politics always themselves political—and if so, in what sense? What's the relationship between political words and political concepts, anyway? What can we learn about the theory and practice of politics by paying attention to language and its histories?

**Distribution Requirements:** (KCM-AG, SBA-AG), (SSC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3310 - Afro-Asia: Futurism and Feminism (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 3310, FGSS 3310, COML 3310, AAS 3312, LGBT 3310

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2020, Fall 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3324 - Modern and Contemporary Korean Literature (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 3324

This course examines major writers, works, and developments in modern and contemporary Korean literature from the early twentieth century to the present. Beginning with the cultural transition at the end of the Choson dynasty, we will consider how social issues such as class, gender, sexuality, race, migration, and the environment factor into literary constructions of the self, community, and nation. The course integrates creative writing workshops to illuminate the process of literary composition and deepen analytical engagement. We will engage numerous theoretical frameworks to explore and interpret Korean literature in a transnational and global context, including (post)colonial criticism, feminist criticism, and ecocriticism. Readings for the course will be in English or in English translation and no prior knowledge of Korea is required. (LL)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3325 - Game Studies and Japan (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 3315

Video games have become one of the major cultural forces of the world, far surpassing the size of the film and music industries combined. They have also been key to developments in digital culture and technology, with the full extent of their impact on contemporary society only beginning to be understood. For much of the history of digital games, the vast majority of popular works have come from Japan—Nintendo, Sony, Sega, Capcom, Namco, and other companies have defined the medium as we know it—yet this remains largely not reflected in the growing discipline of game studies. In this course, we will explore key works from throughout game history and game studies in relation to culture and media in Japan, through experiments in writing, gameplay, and other forms of critical media practice. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023, Fall 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3334 - Black Body Politics: Histories, Theories, and Debates (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 3334, AMST 3334, FGSS 3334

The body has been crucially important to Black liberation politics. Not only has it been a site of contestation and control, but it has also served as a productive site of protest, alliance, and collective action, in ways both real and imagined. This course explores the historical debates and theories surrounding the body with a particular focus on how blackness informs bodily meanings and negotiations across the African diaspora. Weekly topics will allow students to consider the metaphorical and material dimensions of the body while also interrogating the very concept of embodiment, the ways in which individual bodies are constituted and reconstituted over time.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG), (SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3370 - Listening for Blackness: Sound, Noise, Music (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MUSIC 3370

This course will examine how theorists, scientists, artists, and other audiences ask questions of sound and questions of blackness, as well as what those questions reveal about the listener. We will also consider how everyday practices of sounding and listening for blackness challenge and undermine preconceived notions of race, gender, sexuality, and individuality. The intention of this course is for students to develop a better understanding of how sound shapes our experience and understanding of the world. The course is interdisciplinary; we will draw on black studies and sound studies approaches to sound, speech, aurality, and musicality from contemporary and historical moments. (HC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3434 - Underground Railroad Seminar (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 3434, AMST 3434

This seminar offers students the unique opportunity to explore the abolition movement of upstate New York and to visit and research some of the Underground Railroad routes in Ithaca and the Central New York region. The course provides an introductory examination of antebellum slavery and its abolition in the United States, including slave narratives and the alliances among free African Americans, Quakers, and other abolitionists in the United States. One of the principal student projects includes writing a brief fictional piece on the experience of being on the Underground Railroad or assisting someone to travel on it. These creative writing exercises will be considered for uploading to the Voices on the Underground Railroad website.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-CEL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3465 - Anthropology of the Body (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 3465, STS 3460, BSOC 3460

This class considers the relationship between the body, knowledge and experience. We investigate the production and reproduction of the body across different times and spaces. Students examine specific histories through which the physical body came to be the purview of science, and its meaning the purview of social science and the humanities. In addition, students study other ways of knowing and being that capture the relations through which bodies emerge as simultaneously material and social. Ethnographies concerning healing and medicine, discipline and labor, governance and religion, aesthetics and desire offer alternative ways of approaching the body as both subject and object. Together, we will consider the historicity of the body, and in so doing explore questions of gender, race, class, sexuality, and coloniality.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, SBA-AG), (SCD-AS, SSC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2015, Fall 2012, Fall 2010

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3475 - Philosophy of Punishment (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PHIL 3475

This course addresses central debates in the philosophy of legal punishment. We will analyze the leading theories of punishment, including the familiar retributivist and deterrent alternatives, as well as lesser-known hybrid, self-defense, and rehabilitative accounts. We will ask whether each theory offers a general justification for establishing institutions of punishment, and whether each theory justifies specific acts of punishment. Other topics may include criminal responsibility, the legitimacy of collateral consequences (e.g., the denial of felons' voting rights), alternatives to punishment, etc.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ETM-AS), (KCM-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3514 - Trash Talk: Garbage and Beauty (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GERST 3514

"Talking trash" usually seeks to devalue its target through pejorative language or slander. Yet it's also a way to separate self and other, or establish order by distinguishing use and waste. When is trash a helpful byproduct? What can we learn about a society from the things it rejects or discards? How might trash become a site for philosophy and art, and if it can be viewed as beautiful, should it be? This seminar explores poetic and popular "trash talk" that employs metaphors about garbage, its landscapes (landfills, wastelands), and its cognates (excess, abject, refuse, waste) to investigate what values and alternatives arise from the parts of society deemed unvaluable and the parts of life determined unviable. Taught in English.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3520 - (Dis)ability Studies: A Brief History (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with FREN 3520, FGSS 3520

This course will offer an overview of theoretical and historical responses to bodily and cognitive difference. What was the status of people with (dis)abilities in the past, when they were called monsters, freaks, abnormal? How are all of these concepts related, and how have they changed over time? How have we moved from isolation and institutionalization towards universal design and accessibility as the dominant concepts relative to (dis)ability? Why is this shift from focusing on individual differences as a negative attribute to reshaping our architectural and more broadly social constructions important to everyone? Authors to be studied include: Georges Canguilhem, Michel Foucault, Lennard Davis, Tobin Siebers, David T. Mitchell and Sharon L. Snyder, and Jasbir Puar.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG), (SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3545 - Imagining the Middle Ages: Films, Games, and Media (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GERST 3545, MEDVL 3545, COML 3113, PMA 3545, VISST 3545

Today, the legacy of the Middle Ages can be found everywhere, from the game of chess to Game of Thrones, the parliament to the university, the Crusades to the Vikings, the nostalgia for tradition to the very concept of modernity. This course explores the function of the medieval past through the lens of modern visual culture, as part of an emerging field known as "Medievalism." Along with readings of classic theories of Medievalism (Huizinga, Balázs, Panofsky, Bazin, McLuhan, Eco), screenings will put auteur films (Dreyer's *Passion of Joan of Arc*, Bergman's *Seventh Seal*, Kurosawa's *Ran*) in dialogue with popular culture (from Monty Python to *A Knight's Tale*) in order to raise the question of a Global Middle Ages. Taught in English.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3555 - Comics as a Medium (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GERST 3555, VISST 3555, PMA 3555, FGSS 3555, LGBT 3555

What is a comic? How might comics attend to complex historical, social, and political topics? How do comics facilitate a coming to terms with the past or function as an activist medium—spurring on political and cultural shifts? Given this great variety of comics from Germanophone locales this course engages with comics as a key literary form and one that provides a deep engagement with histories, cultures, activisms, and representations thereof. Our readings will include queer/trans comics and zines, early text/image works preceding the comic form, and webcomics on decolonization projects and fantastical places. We will also read comics scholarship and historical texts that will provide a solid foundation from which to approach these literary works. As a way of immersing ourselves into the world of comics, each student will create their own comic over the course of our class—building upon the formal components we locate in class texts. (Drawing skills are not required! Come as you are.) As comics have their own medium-specific vocabulary for visual and textual analysis, we will also spend time building the skills and vocabulary necessary for analyzing the comics we read. Taught in English.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3610 - Fables of Capitalism (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GERST 3610, COML 3542, GOVT 3606, ENGL 3916

This course examines the stories, literary examples, and metaphors at work in elaborating capitalist society and its "hero," the modern economic subject: the so-called "homo oeconomicus." We will examine the classic liberal tradition (e.g., Locke, Smith, Mill) alongside its later critiques (e.g., Marx, Nietzsche, Weber, Brecht) as well as more recent feminist, Black, and indigenous interventions (e.g., Federici, Davis, "land-grab university" research). Throughout we will create a dialogue between texts, both across centuries (e.g., Locke on Property with Indigenous Dispossession; Balzac's *Pere Goriot* with Piketty's *Capital* in the 21st Century) as well as across genres (e.g., *Nomadland* with Geissler's *Seasonal Associate*). At stake are the narrative and figurative moments in theoretical texts as well as crucial literary sources (novels, novellas, and plays) as they collectively develop the modern economic paradigms of industry, exchange, credit-debt, and interest – as well as the people they often leave out: women, people of color, the working class. The seminar will include working with an archive, collection, or museum at Cornell. Taught in English.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, ETM-AS)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)



**SHUM 3615 - Podcast, Radio, Gramophone: Literary Technologies of Sound (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 3615, AMST 3616

How can we account for the contemporary popularity of podcasts? In what ways do they build on, and break from, earlier forms of writing for the ear? In this class we will study innovative podcast fictions like *Welcome to Night Vale*, *Forest 404*, and *Homecoming* together with pathbreaking aural works of the 20th century, from *The War of the Worlds* to John Cage's *Roaratorio* and albums by the *Firesign Theatre*. We will consider the new opportunities and challenges of the podcasting medium, making our own recordings along the way. And we will look at well-known authors - from James Joyce and Dylan Thomas to Ursula Le Guin and Amiri Baraka - who experimented with then-new technologies like the gramophone, radio, audiotape, LP, headphones, the Walkman, and more.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2019  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3620 - Dissent and Protest in U.S. History (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with AMST 3621, ASRC 3626

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3625 - Paris, Capital of Modernity? (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 3625

This course takes a critical perspective on the centrality of Paris to canonical narratives of modernity and modern art and architecture. We will look both at some of the defining art movements of the 19th century and at the influx of people and objects from other cultures-many of whom and which arrived in Paris via colonialist violence and imperialist plunder-that contributed to those movements. Beginning with the French and Haitian Revolutions, moving through Impressionist travels in North Africa and the export of Haussmanization to South America, and ending with Le Corbusier's plan for redesigning Algiers, the course aims to redress some of the silences and oversights written into the history of modern art.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3635 - Queer Classics (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with CLASS 3635, FGSS 3636, LGBT 3635

This course engages classical antiquity and its reception through the prism of queer studies. Cruising Homer, Sappho, Euripides, Plato, Ovid and more, we will explore how queer theoretical frameworks help us account for premodern queer and trans bodies, desires, experiences, and aesthetics. We will trace how people historically have engaged with the classical past in political and affective projects of writing queer history and literature, constructing identities and communities, and imagining queer futures. We will unpack how classical scholarship might reproduce contemporary forms of homophobia and transphobia in its treatments of gender, sexuality, and embodiment in the classical past, and in turn how modern uses of the classical might reinforce or dismantle exclusionary narratives around 'queerness' today as it intersects with race, gender, sexuality, and class. Finally, we will consider how the work we are doing in this class (where the 'Queer' in 'Queer Classics' may be taken as an adjective or an imperative) relates to the ways that contemporary writers, activists, artists, and performers have animated the classical past with queer possibilities. All readings will be in translation; no knowledge of Latin and Greek is required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3636 - Introduction to Critical Theory (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GERST 3620, COML 3541, GOVT 3636, ENGL 3920

Shortly after the 2016 election, *The New Yorker* published an article entitled "The Frankfurt School Knew Trump was Coming." This course examines what the Frankfurt School knew by introducing students to Critical Theory, juxtaposing its roots in the 19th century (i.e., Kant, Hegel, Marx, and Freud) with its most prominent manifestation in the 20th century, the Frankfurt School (e.g., Kracauer, Adorno, Benjamin, Marcuse) alongside disparate voices (Arendt) and radical continuations (Davis, Zuboff, Weeks) as they engage with politics, society, culture, and literature (e.g. Brecht and Kafka). Established in 1920s and continued in exile in the US during WWII, the interdisciplinary circle of scholars comprising the Frankfurt School played a pivotal role in the intellectual developments of post-war American and European social, political, and aesthetic theory: from analyses of authoritarianism and democracy to critiques of capitalism, the entertainment industry, commodity fetishism, and mass society. This introduction to Critical Theory explores both the prescience of these diverse thinkers for today's world ("what they knew") as well as what they perhaps could not anticipate in the 21st century (e.g., developments in technology, economy, political orders), and thus how to critically address these changes today. Taught in English.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, ETM-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2021, Fall 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3637 - Loving Latinx L.A.: Music, Literature, Art, and Stage (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 3635, AMST 3637, LSP 3635, FGSS 3635

This course will explore the kaleidoscopic experiences of Latinx writers, musicians, and filmmakers who have made Los Angeles their home and the subject of their artistry. Featuring the work of renowned writers such as Helena Maria Viramontes and film makers such as Luis Valdez, the course will explore how Latinx creative thinkers tangle with the city's history, propel significant resistance movements, and bring new visions of creative possibilities to the world. Students will have the chance to research any aspect of LA artistry that they find compelling as part of this course.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3651 - Women in New Media Art (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 3651, VISST 3651, FGSS 3655

The work of women artists has been central to the development of new media art. These rich and varied practices include installation, virtual reality environments, net art, digital video, networked performance, tactical media, video games, remix and robotics. This course will begin with an overview of feminist art and early experiments in performance and video art to then investigate multiple currents of digital media. Discussions will focus primarily on works by women artists from Europe, the Americas and Australia.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3655 - Minorities of the Middle East (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with NES 3655, JWST 3655, COML 3743

This course examines the historic diversity of the modern Middle East, exploring histories of inter-communal contact and conflict. We begin by investigating the legacy of the Ottoman Empire and the impact of its dissolution. We will focus our attention on commercial centers that fostered inter-communal relations, as well as investigating sites of strife and cases of minority repression. We will read histories, memoirs, and fiction, and view films that help us better understand inter-communal relations, tensions, and conflict. We will also interrogate the terms for exploring a range of distinctions among majority and minority populations including: religious difference (Muslims, Christians, and Jews); divisions of religious rite (Sunni and Shi'a); ethno-linguistic minorities (Armenians and Kurds); national identities (Israelis and Palestinians); cultures of origin (Mizrahi, Sephardi, and Ashkenazi Jews). We will explore how these divisions inform urgent current conflicts: the civil war in Syria and the refugee crisis; the civil war in Iraq and the campaign by ISIS against minorities; as well as tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG), (GLC-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3717 - Modern Sephardi and Mizrahi Identities (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with NES 3717, JWST 3717, COML 3744

This class examines modern articulations of identity by and about two distinct Jewish diasporas: Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews. Sephardic Jews trace their origins to the Iberian Peninsula prior to the end of the 15th century. Mizrahim are Jews who lived in the Middle East and North Africa until the mid-20th century, and their descendants. We will explore Sephardic and Mizrahi identities in works of fiction, memoirs, essays, poetry and films produced from the mid-twentieth century to the present. We will trace routes of migration across generations, paying particular attention to how texts construct identity in relation to language and place. Works will be drawn from wide geographic distribution including the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and the Americas, and produced in Arabic, English, French, Hebrew, Ladino, and Spanish.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3721 - Playing God: Medieval and Early Renaissance Drama (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 3720, PMA 3720, MEDVL 3720

After Rome's collapse, drama was gradually re-created from many sources: school-room debates, popular festivals, and, especially, religious liturgy. By the 17th century it was one of the most polished literary arts (and one of the sleaziest). This long span allows us to consider what happened in the middle. This course traces the residues of Roman drama and some rebeginnings of European drama, 10th to 13th centuries, then focuses mainly on late medieval drama in English in the 15th century, following that into the drama of the early Renaissance. We'll consider what became modern and what was utterly unlike anything later. Discussion, lecture, regular writing, some experiments with production. English texts will be read in Middle English with lots of help; no previous knowledge required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2021, Spring 2014

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3741 - Design Thinking, Media, and Community (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 3741

This StudioLab course connects critical design teams with researchers, NGOs, and nonprofits working on human rights, public health, and environmental and land rights in the US and abroad. Practicing methods of transmedia knowledge, critical design thinking, and strategic storytelling, students collaborate on projects with the Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, Health Access Connect (Uganda), NYS 4-H, and SOOFA Ranch (GA). Consulting on partners' ongoing projects, teams study and practice processes from IDEO's Human-Centered Design Thinking and Stanford's Design for Extreme Affordability, as well as UX, tactical media, and activist organizing developed by ACT-UP, Black Lives Matter, Guerrilla Girls, and contemporary, multi-platform campaigns, presenting and sharing their collaborations via project site and other platforms.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3742 - Africans and African Americans in Literature (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 3742, AMST 3732, ASRC 3742

When an African and an African American meet, solidarity is presumed, but often friction is the result. In this course, we will consider how Africans and African Americans see each other through literature. What happens when two peoples suffering from double consciousness meet? We will examine the influence of historical forces including slavery, colonialism and pan-Africanism on the way writers explore the meeting between Africans and African Americans. Specifically we will look at how writers and political figures such as Maya Angelou, Chimamanda Adichie, Richard Wright, Eugene Robinson, Philippe Wamba, Martin Luther King Junior and Malcolm X have understood the meeting.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3750 - Humanities Scholars Research Methods (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 3375, ANTHR 3950, NES 3750, ARTH 3755, COML 3750

This course explores the practice, theory, and methodology of humanities research, critical analysis, and communication through writing and oral presentation. We will study the work and impact of humanists (scholars of literature, history, theory, art, visual studies, film, anthropology, gender and sexuality studies), who pose big questions about the human condition. By reading and analyzing their scholarship-critiquing them and engaging their ideas-we will craft our own methods and voices. Students will refine their research methods (library research, note taking, organizing material, bibliographies, citation methods, proposals, outlines, etc.) and design their own independent research project.

**Enrollment Information:** Priority given to: students in the Humanities Scholars Program (HSP).

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3778 - Free Speech, Censorship, and the Age of Global Media (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 3778

Disinformation, gag laws, de-platforming, violent hate speech, recommendation algorithms, chatbots, image generators. This course will help us make sense of our increasingly volatile public sphere by surveying the history of free speech and censorship from the print revolution to the information age. In democratic societies, freedom of expression is both a cultural value and protected right; yet governments routinely regulate speech through a variety of mechanisms: from direct censorship, to licensing and copyright laws, to high court decisions about what qualifies as speech. We'll track the categories of dangerous speech-blasphemy, pornography, treason, libel-as they've changed over time. And we'll also consider forms censorship that protect freedoms and ensure civil discourse, such as banning racial stereotyping or genocide denial.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3825 - The Past and Future of Holocaust Survivor Testimonies (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with JWST 3825, GERST 3825, HIST 3835

This course will explore Holocaust survivor testimonies, from the multilayered history of their recording across the globe and their increasing institutionalization after the 1980s to their current uses and future promises, including digital methods. How can we approach, use, and make sense of what amounts to 20 years of uninterrupted listening? This seminar will offer a hands-on, interdisciplinary approach to these largely untapped archives around the world, probing them through the lens of history, film and media studies, trauma studies, cultural studies, and memory studies. Throughout the semester, students will each pick one video testimony to work on individually. Collectively, the course will develop tools to make these video testimonies not only a lasting memorial, but a proper object of study at the global level. Taken together, we will offer a tentative answer to an urgent question: what is the future of Holocaust and atrocity testimony, now that the last generation of survivors is passing away?

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 3980 - Latinx Popular Culture Matters (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 3980, LSP 3980, AMST 3981

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2021, Spring 2019, Fall 2016, Spring 2014

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4025 - Literature and Science: Transfers in Poetics and Epistemology (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 4825, FREN 4825, ROMS 4825

Part epistemology and part experimental humanities, this seminar looks at improbable encounters between the divergent regimes of thought and knowledge expressed by literature and the sciences. Our main concern is not the literary thematization of the scientific, nor is it an exploration of science fiction as a genre. Our reflexive focus is rather on the noetic and poetic transfers different modes of textuality could unfold, beyond their hiatus in terms of writing, apparatus, signification, and mental experience. Readings include scholars such as Foucault, Kuhn, Strabo, Haraway, or Hayles, and writers such as Homer, Rousseau, Shelley, or Borges. Several discrete disciplines, such as geometry, cognitive science, botany, primatology, or AI, could be analyzed. The seminar is also linked to the research activities of the Humanities Lab.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, ETM-AS), (CA-AG, KCM-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4035 - Cornell's Collection of Greek and Roman Art (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 4035, CLASS 4035, ARKEO 4035

This class examines the history and holdings of Cornell's teaching collection of ancient Greek and Roman objects. Designed to start a systematic inventory of the collections, it requires hands-on engagement with the objects (defining their material, age, function etc.) as much as archival work. Questions concerning the ethics of collections and calls for decolonizing museums will play a central role as we ultimately think about how to make use of and display the objects in our custody.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4040 - Fictions of Dictatorship (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with AAS 4040, AMST 4040, COML 4040, PMA 4740

Fictions of dictatorship, as termed by scholar Lucy Burns, denote both the narratives and spectacles produced by authoritarian governments and the performances, events, and cultural objects that work against these states of exception. This course will critically examine histories of dictatorships, through both documentary & creative forms (i.e. novels, memoirs, and performance) and with a geographic focus on Asia and Latin America, in order to understand authoritarian returns in our present historical moment.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG), (GLC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022, Fall 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4081 - Cages and Creativity: Arts in Incarceration (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PMA 4681, AMST 4681

This course explores the increasing presence of all the arts in prisons throughout the country and examines the increasing scholarship surrounding arts programs and their efficacy for incarcerated persons. The course uses video's, archival material, reading material and in-person or Zoom interviews to investigate how and why art is taught in prisons. The course will also look at art produced by incarcerated artists as well as art by those who are still practicing after going home. And finally, the course will explore the increasing scholarship around the impact practicing the arts while incarcerated has on recidivism rates and preparation for re-entry.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SSC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG, SBA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4103 - Nabokov, Naturally (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 4103, ENVS 4103

Vladimir Nabokov's legacy at Cornell is not limited to the world-famous literary works he produced here. The university's natural and built environments also provided powerful material for his lifelong pursuit of butterflies within their geo- and biodiverse ecosystems. In this project-oriented course on the writer-lepidopterist, we will read his words, look at his drawings, study his collections of insects and plants, and develop our own modes of engaging with place and planet through a lively science-art practice.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2023  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4109 - The Practice and Theory of Public History: Slavery and Self-Emancipation in US History (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4109, AMST 4109, ASRC 4109

This course will offer students the opportunity to both study and shape the ways in which US public culture attempts to remember and forget some of the most contentious aspects of American history: racialized slavery, Black resistance to it, and the legacy of both.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4112 - The Historical Geography of Black America (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4112, ASRC 4102, AMST 4111

This course provides students with a challenging and interdisciplinary examination of race and space in North American history. It engages public history and critical geographic study through the lens of African Diasporic place-making from the early national period to the present day. How did Afro-descendant people in North America come to know the landscape and fashion communities around wilderness, swamps, urban cores and other undesirable areas? What material elements of black spaces came to define what is meant by slums and ghettos? This course illustrates how ongoing struggles that Black communities face with displacement and gentrification are part of a long history that developed alongside territorial expansion and nation building that charted uneven paths to prosperity based on race, gender, and class. This course is timely given that there are about 1,912 sites listed in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places Database as having significance to Black heritage and will help students develop their facilities for assigning meaning to these identified sites and what place these spaces have in the understanding of American history.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4127 - The Body Politic in Asia (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4127, ASIAN 4415, FGSS 4127, CAPS 4127, BSOC 4127, STS 4127

Visions of bodily corruption preoccupy ruler and ruled alike and prompt campaigns for moral, medical, and legal reform in periods of both stability and revolution. This seminar explores the links between political, sexual, and scientific revolutions in early modern and modern Asia. The focus is on China and Japan, with secondary attention to South Asia and Korea. Interaction with the West is a major theme. Topics include disease control, birth control and population control, body modification, the history of masculinity, honorific violence and sexual violence, the science of sex, normative and stigmatized sexualities, fashion, disability, and eugenics. The course begins with an exploration of regimes of the body in traditional Asian cultures. The course then turns to the medicalization and modernization of the body under the major rival political movements in Asia: feminism, imperialism, nationalism, and communism. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (SAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2021, Spring 2020, Fall 2017  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4172 - Tolstoy: History and Counter-Culture (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4172, RUSSL 4172

Tolstoy is impossible. An aristocrat who renounced the privileges of wealth and rank. A man of titanic appetites who repudiated meat, alcohol and sex. A Christian who did not believe in God and tried to rewrite the Gospels. An anarchist who ruled his estate like an ancient patriarch. A writer of genius who thought literature was evil and a waste of time and referred to his greatest novel as garbage. A pacifist who described the frontline experience of soldiers in the most careful, loving detail. In Tolstoy's imaginative universe, we may find the origin of contemporary conflicts and anxieties about money, about love and about power. But Tolstoy's modern consciousness was not made in Paris or New York - Tolstoy was made in late imperial Russia, notoriously the least modern country in nineteenth century Europe. How, then, did Tolstoy happen? How can we account historically for the contradictions that informed his epic project of self-fashioning? In this seminar, we will see Tolstoy at work in his single-handed creation of a counter-culture at war with the social and political currents of his time - and of ours.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG, KCM-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2019  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4180 - Critical Approaches to Video Games (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 4680

This seminar will read key texts in critical video game studies to consider how race, gender, indigeneity, and sexuality shape the code and the machines that we play. In addition to critical readings by scholars in Indigenous studies, Black feminism, and video game studies including Joanne Barker, Christine Sharpe, Bo Ruberg, and, we will also read creative works by Mark Danielewski, Gabrielle Zevin, and Elissa Washuta among others to consider how books, narratives, and non-fiction essays transform in relation to video games.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)



**SHUM 4200 - Field Methods in Community-Engaged Archaeology (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 4200, ARKEO 4200

Community-engaged archaeology brings together knowledgeable communities located within and beyond academic institutions who collaborate to produce higher-quality accounts of the past. In this course, students will build their archaeological fieldwork and laboratory skills while contributing to strong university-community relationships in the local area. Drawing on historical documents, previous scholarship, expert collaborators, and archaeological investigation, students in this course contribute to the understanding of regional sites and landmarks. The topic for Fall 2022 addresses the Underground Railroad through a partnership between Ithaca's historic St. James AME Church, the Cornell Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies, and local schools. Students in this course will study archaeological evidence related to the everyday experiences of people who formed part of a congregation active in the Underground Railroad during the early- to mid-19th century.

**Prerequisites:** at least one prior course in archaeology or history.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-CEL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4202 - Women and Gender Issues in Africa (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 4602

There are two contrasting views of the status and role of women in Africa. One view portrays African women as controlled by men in all social institutions. Another view projects women as having a relatively favorable position in indigenous societies where they were active, with an identity independent of men's; in they were not clustered in a private sphere of the home while men controlled the public sphere. This course examines critical gender theories and African women in historical and contemporary periods. The topics covered include: women in non-westernized/pre-colonial societies; the impact and legacy of colonial policies; access to education and knowledge; political and economic participation in local and global contexts; women's organizations; armed conflicts and peace; same-gender love and evolving family values; the law and health challenges; the United Nations and World Conferences on Women: Mexico 1975, Copenhagen 1980, Nairobi 1985, Beijing 1995, post-Beijing meetings, the 2010 superstructure of UN Women, and Beijing +20 in 2015 with the UN Women's slogan Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, D-AG), (GLC-AS, SCD-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (AFAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4212 - Black Women's Autobiography in the 21st Century WritingHerStory (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 4212, AMST 4212, ENGL 4912, FGSS 4212

Black women first began to shape the genre of autobiography during antebellum era slavery. They were prolific in developing the genre of autobiography throughout the twentieth century, to the point of emerging as serial autobiographers in the case of Maya Angelou. Significantly, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1970), the first autobiography of six by Angelou, along with autobiographies by a range of other black women writers, helped to launch the renaissance in black women's literature and criticism in African American literature during the 1970s. In this course, we will focus on how black women have continued to write and share their personal stories in the new millennium by examining autobiographies that they have produced in the first years of the twenty-first century. More broadly, we will consider the impact of this writing on twenty-first century African American literature, as well as African diasporan writing in Africa and the Caribbean. In the process, we will draw on a range of critical and theoretical perspectives. We will read memoirs and autobiographies by a range of figures, including Michelle Obama, Jennifer Lewis, Monica Coleman, Serena Williams, Gabrielle Union, and Tiffany Haddish, among others.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2020, Fall 2017

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4231 - Fakes and the Authentic: Connoisseurship, Value, and Judgement (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 4231, ARKEO 4231, ARTH 4231

What is authenticity and why does it matter? Connoisseurship-the expertise required to make discerning judgments-involves assessments of quality, authenticity, historical and cultural significance, and many other issues. This course focuses on connoisseurship in the fine arts, archaeology, and ethnography in both academic contexts and the art world. Emphasis is on developing a nuanced understanding of authentication, at the core of the art market and an important determinant of relevant data for academic art historians and archaeologists. Topics include the role of authenticity in assigning value; looting and faking in relation to antiquities markets; technical analysis and forgery detection.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4233 - Music and Touch (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MUSIC 4233

This seminar explores musical, aesthetic, physiological, and mythical concepts of touch in relation to music. Focusing on the relationship between the body of the musician and musical sound, we will develop an interdisciplinary history of musical touch from the late 18th century to the present. How are sensibility and sympathy, performance and material culture, instruments and bodies, figured in terms of touch and touching? Exploring haptics, disability studies, new musical instruments, music cognition, physiology, theory of listening, topics include the clavichord as tactile revelation of genius; the glass harmonica, blindness, and physiology of the nervous system; technologies of touch in the 19th century; the fetishization of the disciplined hand; the absent or fantastic touch and its relation to music-making at early 20th-century electronic instruments, especially the Theremin; deafness, musical vibration and wearables; contemporary touch-sensitive keyboarding. Readings include C. P. E. Bach on keyboard practice, Diderot on sympathetic vibration, German romantic fiction, contemporary theory of sensibility, physiology, and new materialism; composers include Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, MacPherson and many unknowns. Visual materials include representations of the sensing body, hand casts and photographs, and 'hand-fetish' films such as the 1924 expressionist classic *The Hands of Orlac*. Our aim will be to develop a broader understanding of music culture in the 18th and 19th centuries, and to recognize connections between keyboard culture, histories of the body, and the fine arts. Students will refine critical reading and research skills, and practice the art of developing imaginative research questions. (HC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2021Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 4243 - Public History in Place: Interpreting the Environment (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4243

This class moves beyond the traditional disciplinary confines of academic history to examine museums, archival collections, parks, monuments, podcasts, op-eds, maps, and more as sites of historical inquiry, memory, and knowledge production. We will think critically about what it means to craft place-based and environmental history narratives for a "public" audience. Throughout the semester, we will also consider the following questions: Who counts as a historian? To whom are historians responsible when they conduct archival research and craft narratives? What makes history in/accessible? Who are the actors in environmental history (humans, or also non-human animals and plants)? This course will also reconsider what it means to write place-based histories by incorporating site visits (including a park, an archive, and a museum) into our coursework.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS)Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 4252 - Pop Music in the Archive: Researching Subcultures of the Recent Past (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MUSIC 4252

Using Cornell University Library's extensive archival collections on punk, hip hop, electronic music and EDM, this course will introduce students to the practice and theory of archival research on these music subcultures from the 1970s to early 2000s. Through a focus on primary sources, students will engage directly with the history of these genres and develop the critical skills for evaluating and working with different types of artifacts (including correspondence, photographs, flyers and posters, business records, recordings, contemporaneous newspapers and magazines). The course will also consider topics such as: ethical approaches to working with communities of living people; the sustainability and futurity of community controlled and institutional archives; and how archivists and archival repositories identify, appraise, acquire, describe, and provide public access to materials. Guest speakers may include musicians who have placed their personal archives at Cornell, and pop music journalists and biographers who have used the archives in their work, and other curators and community archivists. Open to graduate students and upper-level undergraduates. Some familiarity with popular music history from 1960-2000 is required. (HC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (HST-AS)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 4258 - Jazz and the Common Wind: Afro-Caribbean and African American Dialogues (3-4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 4258, MUSIC 4258

(HC)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 4265 - Gender, Sexuality, and the U.S. in the World (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4265, AMST 4264, ASRC 4265, FGSS 4265

This seminar explores the intertwined histories of sex, sexuality, and gender at the intersection of major themes in American transnational and global history: race, labour, empire, and the state. What would a queer history of American foreign relations look like? How has the legacy of sexual violence in plantation slavery underwritten the systems - such as private property, police power, white supremacy, and carcerality - that structure modern American society and its international entanglements? How can a focus on gender help us to better understand the contemporary challenges of globalisation and the Anthropocene? Uncovering the pasts of the most marginalised historical actors - enslaved women, rape victims, trans and queer people - requires innovative methodologies and new relationships to the archive. In this seminar, then, we will also think about how we do gender history, and develop tools for reading, writing and researching that take us beyond the boundaries of the written record and into the realm of the speculative, the spectral, and the imaginary.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2023Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4317 - Ottoman Modernity, 1798-1925 (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with NES 4317

This course is an introduction to the history of modern Ottoman Empire, from 1798-1925. It will cover a survey of the fundamental debates about Ottoman Modernity, focusing on key actors, events, and concepts that define the advent of modernity in the Middle East and North Africa. We will first discuss the importance of being modern in order to survive in the age of Empires. We will then see what modernity promised to the peoples of the Ottoman Empire and what made modernity such a contentious, and (un)desirable event. We will finally address the violent legacies of empires and markets in how they shaped race, religion, and nationalism in the region.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4422 - Oral History: Theory, Practice, and Method (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4422

This course explores the method of oral history in theory and practice, across different topics, contexts, and geographic/national terrains. It will consider questions like: what sorts of insights do oral histories enable? How can oral history as a method supplement, destabilize, and enrich existing historical accounts? What are the challenges and risks of oral histories, and how can historians mitigate those risks? What theoretical assumptions underlie oral historical work? Are certain topics more appropriate than others to oral historical investigations, and if so, why? We will explore these questions through reading a wide range of texts, hearing from oral historians about their work, and workshoping methods in class, as well as through independent research.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4451 - Gender and Sexuality in Southeast Asian Cinema (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 4451, FGSS 4451, PMA 4451, RELST 4451, LGBT 4451, COML 4451

Examines the new cinemas of Southeast Asia and their engagement with contemporary discourses of gender and sexuality. It pays special attention to the ways in which sexuality and gendered embodiment are at present linked to citizenship and other forms of belonging and to how the films draw on Buddhist and Islamic traditions of representation and belief. Focusing on globally circulating Southeast Asian films of the past 15 years, the course draws on current writing in feminism, Buddhist studies, affect theory, queer studies, postcolonial theory, and film studies to ask what new understandings of subjectivity might emerge from these cinemas and their political contexts. Films are drawn from both mainstream and independent cinema and will include the work of directors such as Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Danny and Oxide Pang, Yau Ching, Thunska Pansittivorakul, Garin Nugroho, and Jean-Jacques Annaud. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (SEAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4455 - Threads of Consequence: Textiles in South and Southeast Asia (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 4855, ASIAN 4487, VISST 4855

This seminar explores how patterned cloths serve as a symbolic medium, functioning on multiple levels of understanding and communication. As spun, dyed, and woven threads of consequence, textiles can be seen to enter into all phases of social, economic, political, religious, and performance processes, often assuming unusual properties and attributes. As bearers of talismanic messages, signifiers of rank, and as the recipients of influences from maritime trade and touristic demand, textiles are read between the folds of complex exchange mechanisms in South and Southeast Asia. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (SAAREA, SEAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2020, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4465 - Early Modern Materialities, 1400-1700 (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 4465, HIST 4665

This seminar analyzes the contours of early modern Europe's material landscape and the ways in which global exchanges and technological advancements impacted material production and consumption. Working within an interdisciplinary framework, we will explore the dynamic material, global, and social dimensions of objects, and the meanings that different materials could generate in art production. Each week we will investigate an early modern art material - from ivory, to amber, shells, and pearls - and its use and/or representation in a range of artworks. Students will learn to think materially; they will be introduced to multiple techniques of production, harvesting, and fashioning of materials, and will consider the broader social, economic, political, and environmental factors that shaped material culture.

**Enrollment Information:** Not open to: first-year students.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4474 - Race and Identity in the Atlantic World (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4474, JWST 4474

This course explores the intricacies of identity-making and processes of racialization in the Atlantic World from ca. 1500 onward. The range of topics covered include the encounters between Europeans and Indigenous people in the Americas and the invention of the Indians, the spread of blood purity discourses across the Ibero-Atlantic, the intertwining of African Slavery and racializing ideologies in the British Atlantic, the development of medical frameworks for defining social differences, and the myriad ways in which subaltern groups and individuals resisted, adopted, and subverted the identities that were ascribed to them.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4520 - Reading Race Early Modern Art (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 4520

This seminar explores the ways in which artists and craftspeople created representations of non-Europeans that shaped, negotiated, and challenged pluralistic biological and symbolic conceptions of race between 1450 and 1700. Against the backdrop of increasing global contact, European colonial enterprises, and the explosion of the Atlantic slave trade, this seminar will critically explore constructions of Blackness, whiteness, and racialized otherness and will consider the roles played by art and material culture in practices of race-making. Thinking materially, students will assess the impact of different artistic media on understandings of racialized difference. Considering race at its intersections with gender, class, religion, science, and disability, this seminar will analyze how artworks reveal and obscure the real, complex experiences of non-Europeans in Europe.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 4537 - Shi'ism: Poetics and Politics (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with NES 4537, RELST 4537, ANTHR 4637

This course offers a broad survey of contemporary Shi'i beliefs, practices, and politics with a focus on Twelver or Imami Shi'ism. Through a close examination of ethnographies, intellectual and political histories, theological writings, and more we will investigate the themes which define the politics and cultural practices of contemporary Shi'ism. In particular, we will highlight the ways in which Shi'is utilize their theological beliefs to negotiate and respond to the socio-political context of the times in which they live. The course begins by examining the early days of what would later be called Shi'ism. We then examine the key theological concepts which distinguish Shi'ism from Sunnism, including themes of *adalat* (divine justice), *shahadat* (martyrdom), the Karbala paradigm, and the role of the imamate and clerical class. The rest of course is devoted to investigating the ways that Shi'ism informs and interacts with the social realm and vice versa, ranging from negotiations of the everyday to responding to moments of great civil and society unrest and to that which is called sectarianism. Travelling from South Asia to the Middle East, from Africa to America, we will ultimately examine how Shi'i beliefs and identity act as a dynamic force for shaping the worlds in which they live today.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2020, Fall 2018Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 4540 - Fascism, Nationalism and Populism (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with SOC 4540, GOVT 4543

This seminar will look broadly at challenges to democratic institutions in the United States and Europe. To think about the present, we will delve into historical fascism as well as nationalism and populism. We will (1) respond to contemporary political events in the US and beyond; (2) explore the terms fascism and populism which in the last few years have come to dominate our political vocabulary in the media and the academy; (3) mobilize the instructor's area of academic expertise (fascism and populism) in the service of broad liberal arts concerns. The course focuses upon themes and readings. It is not chronological-rather it looks at different iterations of the same ideas, concepts, and fears as they emerge in different historical contexts. Seminar materials draw upon various sources: scholarly articles, films, and if possible, an occasional guest lecturer.

**Distribution Requirements:** (SBA-AG), (SSC-AS)**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-SBY)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 4555 - Indigenous Erasure and Resurfacing (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 4755, ARKEO 4755, AMST 4555

This seminar examines long-term colonialist processes of erasing Indigenous histories, and recent attempts to bring this heritage back to visibility. We will read texts by Michel-Rolph Trouillot, Jean O'Brien, Patrick Wolfe, Keith Basso, Andrea Lynn Smith, and others. Students will engage in critical analysis of primary sources, Indigenous histories, and monuments related to the American 1779 Sullivan-Clinton invasion of Haudenosaunee (Six Nations Confederacy) territory and also the post-1779 Haudenosaunee reoccupations after the devastation. Student projects will focus on local Indigenous heritage and can include artwork, videos, counter-monument designs, poetry, and prose fiction, as well as more traditional academic research papers.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 4561 - Evaluation and Society (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with STS 4561, SOC 4560, INFO 4561

Evaluation is a pervasive feature of contemporary life. Professors, doctors, countries, hotels, pollution, books, intelligence: there is hardly anything that is not subject to some form of review, rating, or ranking these days. This senior seminar examines the practices, cultures, and technologies of evaluation and asks how value is established, maintained, compared, subverted, resisted, and institutionalized in a range of different settings. Topics include user reviews, institutional audit, ranking and commensuration, algorithmic evaluation, tasting, gossip, and awards. Drawing on case studies from science, technology, culture, accounting, art, environment, and everyday life, we shall explore how evaluation comes to order our lives - and why it is so difficult to resist.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment preference given to: seniors, STS/BSOC majors.**Distribution Requirements:** (SBA-AG), (SSC-AS)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2019Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)



**SHUM 4605 - Black Speculative Fiction (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 4605, ASRC 4655, AMST 4603

This course takes up literatures and arts of Black speculation in the broadest terms, from science fiction and fantasy to Afrofuturism and Afropunk to Phillis Wheatley's and Outkast's poetics. We'll give special attention to speculation in African American literature to think through how Black people used art in the midst of anti-blackness to imagine worlds otherwise and for the pleasure of the craft. We'll read Black speculation through multiple forms, including novels, graphic novels, film, and music. Figures for consideration include William J. Wilson (Ethiop), Pauline Hopkins, Frances E. W. Harper, W. E. B. Du Bois, Octavia Butler, Ryan Coogler, Eve Ewing, N.K. Jemisin, Sun Ra, and Erykah Badu.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4639 - Global Currents: Immobility and Multi-Sited Ethnography (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MUSIC 4239, ANTHR 4139

(HC)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4659 - The Idea of Biblical Israel (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with NES 4659, JWST 4659, RELST 4659, ANTHR 4659, ARKEO 4659

This course examines the fixity of Bible's representations of Israel as it relates to the fluidity of Israel's social, political, and religious experience as revealed in archaeology and texts from outside the Bible. We will use the tools of biblical criticism (philological, archaeological, literary historical) and methods drawn from such disciplines as History, Political Science, Anthropology, and Literary Criticism, to examine four biblical narrative traditions: The Joseph story; the exodus from Egypt; the Israelite conquest of Canaan; and the Song of Deborah, a text widely regarded as the oldest in the Hebrew Bible. Each of these played an essential role in the process of fabricating biblical Israel. As works of biblical historiography, each functioned to create a shared sense of a Jewish past in light of the urgencies of the present. Each is also witness to a creative process that unfolded when the past was still malleable, the terms not yet rigid. We will focus on the modes and materials of textual production and on how modern historians engage biblical narrative in fabricating their own narrative histories of ancient Israel. We will also consider how ancient and modern historical writing on ancient Israel has been put into the service of contemporary political discourse on boundaries and borders in Israel-Palestine.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4661 - Rethinking Boundaries of the Human: Crip Ecology, Disability, and Otherness (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with FGSS 4661, COML 4260

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4663 - Utopia Lost? Failure and its Aftermaths (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 4493, NES 4663, COML 4261

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4664 - Death in the City: Funerary Architecture in Muslim South Asia (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 4471, ARTH 4664, VISST 4664

(SC)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4665 - Female Complaints: Gender in Early Modern Lyric and Modern Theory (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 4965, FGSS 4665, ROMS 4655, COML 4262

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4666 - Specters of Latin America (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with SPAN 4666, LATA 4666

In this course, we will take an inter- and multidisciplinary approach that examines works of fiction, film, performance, and photography to explore how specters intervene in and mold the social, political, and cultural landscape of contemporary Latin America. We will discuss how different spectral figures challenge official narratives of memory, ground political authority, complicate transitions and endings, and fuel social movements and revolutions. As we engage with overlapping times, uncanny spaces, and restless bodies, we will also consider how spectrality shapes is shaped by the development of new media, the contemporary resurgence of populist discourse, the global migration crisis, and the urgency of ecological concerns.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4667 - Sonic Remains: Media, Performance, and Material Culture (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MUSIC 4667, STS 4667

(HC)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4668 - Afro-Diasporic Afterlives: The Archive, Refusal, and the Disappeared (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 4668, FGSS 4668, LSP 4668

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4669 - From Slavery to Mass Incarceration: A History of Policing in Black Communities (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with AMST 4669, ASRC 4669, HIST 4669

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4670 - Race and Justice After DNA (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 4470, ASRC 4670, STS 4670

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4673 - The Kinship of Repair: Asian and Asian American Artists in Collaboration (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 4467, ARTH 4673, FGSS 4673, VISST 4673, AAS 4673

(SC)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4674 - Dispossession, Truth, and Reconciliation (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4674, AMST 4674, AIIS 4674

The dispossession of Indigenous nations by Europeans represents the foundation of the past five centuries of North American history. Yet the truth of that history remains cloaked behind various Western legal-religious justifications for the dispossession of Indigenous American populations by Europeans (i.e., terra nullius, the Doctrine of Discovery, the right of conquest, and Manifest Destiny). Through analysis of primary texts and up-to-date historical and legal scholarship, students in this course will unpack these still-thriving tropes of settler-colonial justification for dispossession, assess the true impact of the taking of Indigenous lands, and explore prospects for meaningful reconciliation in the present.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4675 - Pandemics Past and Pending (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 4472, FGSS 4675, STS 4675

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4676 - Lyric Interventions: Illness Narratives and the Aesthetics of Repair (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with FGSS 4676, ENGL 4976

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4677 - Freud in the Tropics: Psychoanalysis, Surrealism, and Colonialism (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 4627

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4678 - Abolition. Justice. Reparations. (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 4464, ASRC 4678

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4679 - Ethnographies of Brokenness and Repair (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 4469

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4680 - Art and the Remapping of the World (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 4620, VISST 4680

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4681 - Post-Conflict Justice and Resolution in Africa (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ROMS 4681, ASRC 4681, COML 4628

This course combines literature, film, and other artistic projects in order to explore African forms of collective justice and repair, following the numerous conflicts that have shaken the continent in the 20th and 21st centuries, from anti-colonial struggles to civil wars. We will look at aesthetic productions from post-independence Algeria and Ghana, post-apartheid South Africa and post-genocide Rwanda, among others, in order to reflect on multiple questions, including: How do aesthetic works and state institutions offer competing narratives of a traumatic past, and what ways of healing can they generate? How do they negotiate between the retributive and the restorative impulses of justice? Is justice sufficient for resolution to take place? And conversely, can repair ever be achieved in the absence of justice?

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4682 - Disturbing Settlement (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with AMST 4682, ANTHR 4182

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4683 - Disturbing Settlement - Engaged (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with AMST 4683, ANTHR 4183

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4684 - The Labor of Images: Encountering the Collective in Visual Cultures (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 4684, COML 4684, ENGL 4984, PMA 4684, VISST 4684

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4685 - Feeling Free: Radical Aesthetics and Political Affects (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with FGSS 4685, AMST 4686

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4686 - Textures of Friendship: Ethics, Politics, Crossings (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 4186, FGSS 4686

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4688 - Trans Studies at a Crossroads (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 4688, FGSS 4688, LGBT 4688

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4690 - Borders, Frontiers, and Walls in Global History (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4690

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4691 - Crossing the Apocalypse (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with JWST 4695, MEDVL 4691, NES 4695, RELST 4691, CLASS 4691

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4692 - Trance and Media (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 4692, NES 4696, PMA 4692

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4695 - Queer Archives and Archiving Queerness (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PMA 4695, AMST 4695, FGSS 4695, LGBT 4695

This course contemplates challenges associated with researching and representing LGBTQ+ pasts. We approach this topic from several angles:

1) by asking what constitutes queer and trans in different historical contexts and different geographical locations, when sexuality and gender are by their nature fluid; 2) by training in LGBTQ+ archival methods; and 3) by engagement with queer and trans activists who make archives central to their praxis. We will visit Cornell's Human Sexuality collection, explore online repositories and academic databases (e.g., ONE and Cengage), and consider archive-based artistic projects (e.g., Killjoy's Castle and MOTH).

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4696 - Critical Perspective on Machine Listening (3 Credits)**

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4701 - Nightlife (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PMA 4701, AMST 4705, FGSS 4701, LGBT 4701, LSP 4701

This course explores nightlife as a temporality that fosters countercultural performances of the self and that serves as a site for the emergence of alternative kinship networks. Focusing on queer communities of color, course participants will be asked to interrogate the ways in which nightlife demonstrates the queer world-making potential that exists beyond the normative 9-5 capitalist model of production.

Performances of the everyday, alongside films, texts, and performance art, will be analyzed through a performance studies methodological lens. Through close readings and sustained cultural analysis, students will acquire a critical understanding of the potentiality of spaces, places, and geographies codified as after hours in the development of subcultures, alternative sexualities, and emerging performance practices.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4704 - From Fossil Fuels to Future Fossils: Reimagining Plastics (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with LATA 4704

Plastics are a staple of everyday life. Yet, the oil and petrochemicals that make them possible remain largely out of sight. Their afterlife either as microplastics inside our bodies, or as trash that will take centuries to decompose, are subjects of fear and avoidance. This course explores why plastics are everywhere, how they affect our societies and cultures, and how artists, thinkers, and activists across North and South America are working to imagine alternatives to a life dependent on plastics and other petrochemicals.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4705 - How to Make Queer Kin: Sustaining Bonds in LGBTQ Culture (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 4706, VISST 4705, FGSS 4705, LGBT 4705

How do queer people make family? What cultural and artistic practices sustain queer bonds? To answer these questions, this course examines queer and trans kinship narratives across a range of genres, including literature, film, television, and critical theory. We will theorize kinship's relationship to cis-heteronormativity, capitalism, white supremacy, and colonialism, and debate whether queer and trans kinships can model new political forms.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4706 - The Poetics of Embodiment: Figurines in the Early Middle Ages (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MEDVL 4706, RELST 4706, ARKEO 4706, ARTH 4706

How can a small sculpture produce monumental effects? Recent shifts in metal-detecting and excavation practices have transformed our understanding of the scope of figural art after the Roman empire's collapse; the field is newly flooded with evidence of toys, puppets, and other tiny bodies. Working across the disciplines of anthropology, archaeology, art history, philosophy, and gender studies, this course investigates how figurines shaped space, ritual, and concepts of personhood in the early medieval world.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4707 - Scale, Size, and the Politics of Expression in Asia (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 4707

When Beijing hosted the summer Olympics in 2008, its opening ceremony left viewers, journalists, and visitors impressed and sometimes alarmed by its enormity, encompassing a massive cast of dancers, musicians, and other performers led by iconic film director Zhang Yimou. It was judged as not just a celebration or an artistic achievement, but as a message: China was ready to overwhelm the world. Size mattered, likely in the moment's design, and certainly in its reception and interpretation. This interdisciplinary seminar takes an innovative approach to politics in Asia, considering size and its meanings: from the small and the close-knit to the expansive and powerful. We will consider especially the varied techniques of their political, public, and pop cultural representations. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4709 - Modeling between Numbers and Stories (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 4709, ENGL 4709

This course compares narrative method and statistical modeling historically, teaching the history of predictive data techniques from the 19th century to the present while reading short-form literature - Aesop, Gogol, Dickinson - to compare the stories the numbers tell to narrative itself. The intent is to illuminate the rhetorical forms that prediction uses while studying the development of its quantitative techniques.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4710 - Matters of Scale: Microhistory, Big History, and the Space Between Them (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4711

This seminar will introduce students to some of the classic and more recent works that have allowed historians to re-think geographical and temporal scales, paying particular attention to the definitions, possibilities, and limitations of microhistory, world history, global history, and big history and the multiple geographical scopes of regional histories. We will start by analyzing how historians have thought about scale as a useful tool to recast grand historical narratives, before moving to readings that offer critical takes on how microhistory, world history, and global history have been defined and used. We will then read a variety of case studies that have productively played with scale to uncover worlds that tended to be eclipsed by approaches that favored national or conventional area studies frameworks.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4711 - Staffage: Figures for Scale, 1500-1850 (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARKEO 4712, ARTH 4361, VISST 4711, COML 4711

"Staffage" is a term in the history of landscape painting. It refers to little figures who populate the scene, invariably dwarfed by their surroundings. The few critics who noticed them assigned them various roles: to illustrate "the benefits which nature affords to creatures living in the region" (Goethe, 1800); or, alternatively, "to lend the landscape its specific poetic character" (Fenolosa, 1806). From landscape, staffage migrated into archaeological documentation and architectural illustration. Here, tiny figures gain additional roles: to convey the scale of the monuments depicted, and the societies that inhabit them. Our study of staffage alternates between close looking at a wide range of pictures, and readings from the historical and theoretical literatures on the aesthetics and politics of landscape painting.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4712 - Scaling Race: Race-Making in Science in Society (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 4713, ASRC 4712

Race is but one of many ways that we classify ourselves and others as we navigate the world. But what role has science, technology, and medicine played in shaping our understanding of race as both a concept and aspect of our personal identity? This course investigates how ideas about race have been constructed and deployed at various scales in both social and scientific contexts. Students will trace the historical production of racial meaning from the 18th century to the present, exploring topics such as: individual projects of racial self-fashioning, national projects of technological racial surveillance, and even global networks of genomic data. Rather than focusing solely on scientific authority, this course will underscore how marginalized communities have challenged scientific scrutiny and engaged as co-producers of racial knowledge.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4713 - Labor On and Off Screen (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 4713, PMA 4513, VISST 4706

Labor is a universal human activity that orders societal hierarchies and determines value. Cinema and television, by zooming in and out of labor paid or unpaid, masculine or feminine, tedious or pleasurable, individual or collective, manual or intellectual, variously highlight the dual nature of work and workers as scaled objects on screen, and scaling agents off screen. This course introduces students to North American, European, and Asian films and television series that raise questions about what it means to work, and how work has shaped the way we think about time, space, identities, and social relations. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4714 - Global Indigenous Religious Histories (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with RELST 4714, ANTHR 4714

This course uses an interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion to introduce students to Indigenous histories from a sample of locations around the world. The class is organized geographically and thematically and encourages students to engage with questions about the category of religion, the idea of "Indigenous" as a global term, and the role of colonization in shaping history.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4750 - Senior Capstone Seminar for Humanities Scholars (1 Credit)**

This course is designed to support seniors in the Humanities Scholars Program working on their capstone projects. Students in the course will be guided in their project research and writing. The course aligns with the following HSP learning goals.

**Enrollment Information:** Primarily for: seniors in the Humanities Scholars Program.

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-UG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Creating a cohort of humanities researchers (students meet weekly to discuss their projects, short- and long-term goals, and how they are progressing).
- Sharing work in progress so that each student can test out arguments, forms of presentation, and evaluate their disciplinary positions.
- Gaining experience working collaboratively and in groups.

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4773 - Twice A Stranger: Transnational Figures and Their Stories (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4773, CAPS 4773

What does it mean to travel across political and cultural boundaries? How are people's thought, behavior, and identity shaped by such experiences and vice versa? How do historians explore and represent transnational and transcultural figures and their stories? Is it possible for historians to help the audience not only understand but also experience transnationality through narrative? The relationship between analytical history and history as narrative is complex and everchanging. We build on this relationship not by theorizing it but by examining history works and practicing writing history, in the context of lives and stories of transnational figures, that integrates analysis and narrative. Students read analytical works and narratives about people who operated, willingly or not, in multiple geographical, political, cultural, and religious worlds. While reflecting on the pros and cons of approaching history writing in different ways, students also develop skills in working on primary sources and develop projects on transnational figures of their own choice from any areas or historical times, from proposal to full-fledged papers.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4800 - Rural Humanities Seminar (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PMA 4450

The Rural Humanities seminar will introduce students to the public humanities as both a disciplinary inquiry and a set of practices grounded in public and community engagement. It is intended to train cohorts of graduate students and advanced undergraduates in the various theories, methods, and practices of public humanities, to think collectively with and beyond disciplinary interests, and to bring these discipline-defined research agendas to much wider communities by first focusing on local rural communities. Students will produce a collaborative project related to or working with a community partner. Topic: TBA

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG), (SCD-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-CEL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)



**SHUM 4860 - Prison Theatre and the Possibilities of Transformation (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PMA 4680

To explore cultural aspects of imprisonment through a focus on theatre produced by those incarcerated. Does making theatre in prison seem to assist in transformation? Students create work with PPTG members in lab sessions, do narrative interviews, create annotated Internet data base.

**Prerequisites:** some evidence of previous community engaged learning.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-CEL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2019, Spring 2017

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4866 - Producing Cloth Cultures (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 4856, VISST 4857, CLASS 4756

It is a fundamental part of human activity to dress or cover one's body and environment. While the symbolic significance of such clothing has long been recognized, the activity of producing fabric itself deserves more attention. By this we do not only mean the various techniques and technological devices involved in spinning, weaving, stitching, or sewing, but also the analogical activities and metaphors they entailed. What stories did they tell? How did their connection to writing, remembering, lovemaking, or ruling one's kingdom, to name but a few examples, play out metaphorically in cloth? And how did fabrics depend on or transform the transmission of techniques, fashions and motives, but also gender, concepts of the body or the built environment? This team-taught seminar explores the presence, production, function and meaning of fabric in the built and lived environment. In a comparative approach we will explore evidence from Greco-Roman and Asian Art from the distant past to the contemporary moment.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022, Spring 2015

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4916 - Modern Chinese Art (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 4816, ASIAN 4473

China, a cultural giant of East Asia, made a passive entrance into modernity. With the advent of Western and American colonialism and imperialism, coupled with recent successes in westernization by the Japanese, Chinese artists had to redefine their roles as well as their visions. This turmoil bore witness to a vibrant beginning in modern Chinese art. Interactions between the Chinese themselves, and Chinese interactions with foreigners in the major cities of Shanghai and Beijing, fostered new directions in Chinese art and helped shape western visions of Chinese art history. Issues covered include: Chinese debates on western influence—their theoretical foundations and rationales; New visions for the future of Chinese art in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; Pluralistic approaches and arguments on Chinese identity in the modern era; Collecting art and the vision of history; The identity of traditional literati painters in the modern era—their roles, artworks, and deeds; Foreigners in China—the formation of major European collections of Chinese art, and the formation of Chinese art history in the West. (SC)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 4948 - Pleasure and Neoliberalism (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 4948, FGSS 4948, ROMS 4948, ENGL 4948

The comparative seminar explores pleasure and its relationship with neoliberalism. We will adopt an interdisciplinary approach and a historical trajectory, starting with the Ancient world through the contemporary. Our investigation of philosophical, literary, and filmic reflections on pleasure and neoliberalism will engage important concepts such as the market, subjectivity, race, gender, and queerness. We highlight and conceptualize how new/old media, literary, and other artistic productions facilitate the expression, the search for, and the achievement of pleasure. Through public speaking and deep attention to writing, you will refine your conceptual accounts of pleasure and neoliberalism and their mutual imbrication.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, D-AG), (GLC-AS, SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Spring 2021, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6200 - Field Methods in Community-Engaged Archaeology (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 7200, ARKEO 7200

Community-engaged archaeology brings together knowledgeable communities located within and beyond academic institutions who collaborate to produce higher-quality accounts of the past. In this course, students will build their archaeological fieldwork and laboratory skills while contributing to strong university-community relationships in the local area. Drawing on historical documents, previous scholarship, expert collaborators, and archaeological investigation, students in this course contribute to the understanding of regional sites and landmarks. The topic for Fall 2022 addresses the Underground Railroad through a partnership between Ithaca's historic St. James AME Church, the Cornell Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies, and local schools. Students in this course will study archaeological evidence related to the everyday experiences of people who formed part of a congregation active in the Underground Railroad during the early- to mid-19th century.

**Prerequisites:** at least one prior course in archaeology or history.

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-CEL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6243 - Public History in Place: Interpreting the Environment (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 6243

This class moves beyond the traditional disciplinary confines of academic history to examine museums, archival collections, parks, monuments, podcasts, op-eds, maps, and more as sites of historical inquiry, memory, and knowledge production. We will think critically about what it means to craft place-based and environmental history narratives for a "public" audience. Throughout the semester, we will also consider the following questions: Who counts as a historian? To whom are historians responsible when they conduct archival research and craft narratives? What makes history in/accessible? Who are the actors in environmental history (humans, or also non-human animals and plants)? This course will also reconsider what it means to write place-based histories by incorporating site visits (including a park, an archive, and a museum) into our coursework.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: graduate and professional students only.

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6317 - Ottoman Modernity, 1798-1925 (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with NES 6317

This course is an introduction to the history of modern Ottoman Empire, from 1798-1925. It will cover a survey of the fundamental debates about Ottoman Modernity, focusing on key actors, events, and concepts that define the advent of modernity in the Middle East and North Africa. We will first discuss the importance of being modern in order to survive in the age of Empires. We will then see what modernity promised to the peoples of the Ottoman Empire and what made modernity such a contentious, and (un)desirable event. We will finally address the violent legacies of empires and markets in how they shaped race, religion, and nationalism in the region.

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6540 - Fascism, Nationalism and Populism (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with SOC 6540, GOVT 6543

This seminar will look broadly at challenges to democratic institutions in the United States and Europe. To think about the present, we will delve into historical fascism as well as nationalism and populism. We will (1) respond to contemporary political events in the US and beyond; (2) explore the terms fascism and populism which in the last few years have come to dominate our political vocabulary in the media and the academy; (3) mobilize the instructor's area of academic expertise (fascism and populism) in the service of broad liberal arts concerns. The course focuses upon themes and readings. It is not chronological-rather it looks at different iterations of the same ideas, concepts, and fears as they emerge in different historical contexts. Seminar materials draw upon various sources: scholarly articles, films, and if possible, an occasional guest lecturer.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6639 - Global Currents: Immobility and Multi-Sited Ethnography (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MUSIC 6239, ANTHR 7139

Ever-increasing global interconnection drives some of the most pressing political and ethical questions of our time. This seminar centers on two intersecting areas of inquiry. The first deals with the nature of global movements: how people, ideas, arts, and capital move through world. Engaging postcolonial theory and scholarship on contemporary migration and transnationalism, we will interrogate the idea of borders and nations as well as those categories-like diaspora-that surpass or circumvent them. The second addresses how and why we might study these processes ethnographically. Here we will consider the potential and limitations of multi-sited and global ethnography, and question the possibility of an activist ethnography of global interconnection.

**Enrollment Information:** Not open to: undergraduates.

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6656 - Religion, Emotion, and Imagination (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with RELST 6656, CLASS 6856

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6657 - Equality (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 6846, CLASS 6857, PHIL 6909

This seminar inquires into the interrelations among three meanings of equality that initially appeared in the ancient world: equality before the law, isonomia; equality of voice or participation, isegoria; and equality of power, isokratia. Tacking back and forth between ancient texts and contemporary materials in law and analytic and continental political philosophy, this course will explore how these different practices of equality circulate and interact in popular and institutional (judicial and legislative) settings marked by historical injustice, scarce resources, and asymmetries of wealth and power. This seminar will include texts by Herodotus, Plato, Aristotle, Ta-Nehisi Coates, John Rawls, Bernard Williams, Amartya Sen, Danielle Allen, Etienne Balibar, among others, probing the meaning of equality.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6661 - Rethinking Boundaries of the Human: Crip Ecology, Disability, and Otherness (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 6260

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6663 - Utopia Lost? Failure and its Aftermaths (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 7493, NES 6663, COML 6261

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6664 - Death in the City: Funerary Architecture in Muslim South Asia (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 6641, ARTH 6664 (SC)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6665 - Female Complaints: Gender in Early Modern Lyric and Modern Theory (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ROMS 6655, COML 6262

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6666 - Specters of Latin America (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with SPAN 6666, LATA 6666

In this course, we will take an inter- and multidisciplinary approach that examines works of fiction, film, performance, and photography to explore how specters intervene in and mold the social, political, and cultural landscape of contemporary Latin America. We will discuss how different spectral figures challenge official narratives of memory, ground political authority, complicate transitions and endings, and fuel social movements and revolutions. As we engage with overlapping times, uncanny spaces, and restless bodies, we will also consider how spectrality shapes is shaped by the development of new media, the contemporary resurgence of populist discourse, the global migration crisis, and the urgency of ecological concerns.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6667 - Sonic Remains: Media, Performance, and Material Culture (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MUSIC 6667, STS 6667

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6668 - Afro-Diasporic Afterlives: The Archive, Refusal, and the Disappeared (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 6668, FGSS 6668, LSP 6668

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6669 - From Slavery to Mass Incarceration: A History of Policing in Black Communities (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with AMST 6669, ASRC 6669, HIST 6669

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6670 - Race and Justice After DNA (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 7470, ASRC 6670, STS 6670

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6673 - The Kinship of Repair: Asian and Asian American Artists in Collaboration (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 6673, ASIAN 6667, FGSS 6673, VISST 6673, AAS 6673

(SC)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6676 - Lyric Interventions: Illness Narratives and the Aesthetics of Repair (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with FGSS 6677

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6677 - Freud in the Tropics: Psychoanalysis, Surrealism, and Colonialism (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 6575

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6678 - Abolition. Justice. Reparations. (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 7464, ASRC 6678

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6679 - Ethnographies of Brokenness and Repair (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 7469

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6680 - Art and the Remapping of the World (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 6620, VISST 6680

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6681 - Post-Conflict Justice and Resolution in Africa (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ROMS 6681, ASRC 6681

This course combines literature, film, and other artistic projects in order to explore African forms of collective justice and repair, following the numerous conflicts that have shaken the continent in the 20th and 21st centuries, from anti-colonial struggles to civil wars. We will look at aesthetic productions from post-independence Algeria and Ghana, post-apartheid South Africa and post-genocide Rwanda, among others, in order to reflect on multiple questions, including: How do aesthetic works and state institutions offer competing narratives of a traumatic past, and what ways of healing can they generate? How do they negotiate between the retributive and the restorative impulses of justice? Is justice sufficient for resolution to take place? And conversely, can repair ever be achieved in the absence of justice?

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2023Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6682 - Disturbing Settlement (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with AMST 6682, ANTHR 7182

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6683 - Disturbing Settlement - Engaged (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with AMST 6683, ANTHR 7183

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6684 - The Labor of Images: Encountering the Collective in Visual Cultures (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARTH 6684, COML 6684, PMA 6684, VISST 6684

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6685 - Feeling Free: Radical Aesthetics and Political Affects (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with FGSS 6685, GOVT 6985, AMST 6686

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6686 - Textures of Friendship: Ethics, Politics, Crossings (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 7186, FGSS 6686

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6688 - Trans Studies at a Crossroads (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 6688, FGSS 6688, LGBT 6688

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6689 - Sex, Gender, and the Natural World in Medieval Culture (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with FGSS 6689, MEDVL 6689, LGBT 6689, FREN 6689

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6690 - Borders, Frontiers, and Walls in Global History (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 6690

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**SHUM 6691 - Crossing the Apocalypse (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with JWST 6695, MEDVL 6691, NES 6695, RELST 6691, CLASS 6691

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6692 - Trance and Media (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 6692, NES 6696, PMA 6692

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6695 - Queer Archives and Archiving Queerness (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PMA 6695, AMST 6695

This course contemplates challenges associated with researching and representing LGBTQ+ pasts. We approach this topic from several angles:

1) by asking what constitutes queer and trans in different historical contexts and different geographical locations, when sexuality and gender are by their nature fluid; 2) by training in LGBTQ+ archival methods; and 3) by engagement with queer and trans activists who make archives central to their praxis. We will visit Cornell's Human Sexuality collection, explore online repositories and academic databases (e.g., ONE and Cengage), and consider archive-based artistic projects (e.g., Killjoy's Castle and MOTH).

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: graduate students.

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6696 - Critical Perspective on Machine Listening (3 Credits)**

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6704 - From Fossil Fuels to Future Fossils: Reimagining Plastics (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with LATA 6704

Plastics are a staple of everyday life. Yet, the oil and petrochemicals that make them possible remain largely out of sight. Their afterlife either as microplastics inside our bodies, or as trash that will take centuries to decompose, are subjects of fear and avoidance. This course explores why plastics are everywhere, how they affect our societies and cultures, and how artists, thinkers, and activists across North and South America are working to imagine alternatives to a life dependent on plastics and other petrochemicals.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: graduate students.

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6705 - How to Make Queer Kin: Sustaining Bonds in LGBTQ Culture (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 6705, VISST 6705, FGSS 6705, LGBT 6705

How do queer people make family? What cultural and artistic practices sustain queer bonds? To answer these questions, this course examines queer and trans kinship narratives across a range of genres, including literature, film, television, and critical theory. We will theorize kinship's relationship to cis-heteronormativity, capitalism, white supremacy, and colonialism, and debate whether queer and trans kinships can model new political forms.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: graduate students.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6706 - The Poetics of Embodiment: Figurines in the Early Middle Ages (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MEDVL 6706, RELST 6706, ARKEO 6706, ARTH 6706

How can a small sculpture produce monumental effects? Recent shifts in metal-detecting and excavation practices have transformed our understanding of the scope of figural art after the Roman empire's collapse; the field is newly flooded with evidence of toys, puppets, and other tiny bodies. Working across the disciplines of anthropology, archaeology, art history, philosophy, and gender studies, this course investigates how figurines shaped space, ritual, and concepts of personhood in the early medieval world.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: graduate students.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6707 - Scale, Size, and the Politics of Expression in Asia (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 6707

When Beijing hosted the summer Olympics in 2008, its opening ceremony left viewers, journalists, and visitors impressed and sometimes alarmed by its enormity, encompassing a massive cast of dancers, musicians, and other performers led by iconic film director Zhang Yimou. It was judged as not just a celebration or an artistic achievement, but as a message: China was ready to overwhelm the world. Size mattered, likely in the moment's design, and certainly in its reception and interpretation. This interdisciplinary seminar takes an innovative approach to politics in Asia, considering size and its meanings: from the small and the close-knit to the expansive and powerful. We will consider especially the varied techniques of their political, public, and pop cultural representations. (SC) **Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: graduate students.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6709 - Modeling between Numbers and Stories (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 6709, ENGL 6709

This course compares narrative method and statistical modeling historically, teaching the history of predictive data techniques from the 19th century to the present while reading short-form literature - Aesop, Gogol, Dickinson - to compare the stories the numbers tell to narrative itself. The intent is to illuminate the rhetorical forms that prediction uses while studying the development of its quantitative techniques.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: graduate students.

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6710 - Matters of Scale: Microhistory, Big History, and the Space Between Them (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 6711

This seminar will introduce students to some of the classic and more recent works that have allowed historians to re-think geographical and temporal scales, paying particular attention to the definitions, possibilities, and limitations of microhistory, world history, global history, and big history and the multiple geographical scopes of regional histories. We will start by analyzing how historians have thought about scale as a useful tool to recast grand historical narratives, before moving to readings that offer critical takes on how microhistory, world history, and global history have been defined and used. We will then read a variety of case studies that have productively played with scale to uncover worlds that tended to be eclipsed by approaches that favored national or conventional area studies frameworks.

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6711 - Staffage: Figures for Scale, 1500-1850 (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ARKEO 6712, ARTH 6361, VISST 6711, COML 6711

"Staffage" is a term in the history of landscape painting. It refers to little figures who populate the scene, invariably dwarfed by their surroundings. The few critics who noticed them assigned them various roles: to illustrate "the benefits which nature affords to creatures living in the region" (Goethe, 1800); or, alternatively, "to lend the landscape its specific poetic character" (Fenollosa, 1806). From landscape, staffage migrated into archaeological documentation and architectural illustration. Here, tiny figures gain additional roles: to convey the scale of the monuments depicted, and the societies that inhabit them. Our study of staffage alternates between close looking at a wide range of pictures, and readings from the historical and theoretical literature on the aesthetics and politics of landscape painting.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)



**SHUM 6712 - Scaling Race: Race-Making in Science in Society (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 6713, ASRC 6712

Race is but one of many ways that we classify ourselves and others as we navigate the world. But what role has science, technology, and medicine played in shaping our understanding of race as both a concept and aspect of our personal identity? This course investigates how ideas about race have been constructed and deployed at various scales in both social and scientific contexts. Students will trace the historical production of racial meaning from the 18th century to the present, exploring topics such as: individual projects of racial self-fashioning, national projects of technological racial surveillance, and even global networks of genomic data. Rather than focusing solely on scientific authority, this course will underscore how marginalized communities have challenged scientific scrutiny and engaged as co-producers of racial knowledge.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: graduate students.

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6713 - Labor On and Off Screen (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 6713, PMA 6513, VISST 6706

Labor is a universal human activity that orders societal hierarchies and determines value. Cinema and television, by zooming in and out of labor paid or unpaid, masculine or feminine, tedious or pleasurable, individual or collective, manual or intellectual, variously highlight the dual nature of work and workers as scaled objects on screen, and scaling agents off screen. This course introduces students to North American, European, and Asian films and television series that raise questions about what it means to work, and how work has shaped the way we think about time, space, identities, and social relations. (SC)

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: graduate students.

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6714 - Global Indigenous Religious Histories (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with RELST 6714, ANTHR 6714

This course uses an interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion to introduce students to Indigenous histories from a sample of locations around the world. The class is organized geographically and thematically and encourages students to engage with questions about the category of religion, the idea of "Indigenous" as a global term, and the role of colonization in shaping history.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: graduate students.

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6800 - Rural Humanities Seminar (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PMA 6450

The Rural Humanities seminar will introduce students to the public humanities as both a disciplinary inquiry and a set of practices grounded in public and community engagement. It is intended to train cohorts of graduate students and advanced undergraduates in the various theories, methods, and practices of public humanities, to think collectively with and beyond disciplinary interests, and to bring these discipline-defined research agendas to much wider communities by first focusing on local rural communities. Students will produce a collaborative project related to or working with a community partner. Topic: TBA

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-CEL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**SHUM 6819 - Urban Justice Lab (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ART 6419, ARCH 6319, ENGL 6919, PMA 6819, MUSIC 6819

Urban Justice Labs are innovative seminars designed to bring students into direct contact with complex questions about race and social justice within the context of American urban culture, architecture, humanities, and media. Drawing from Cornell's collections, such as the Hip Hop Collection, the Rose Goldsen Archive of New Media Art, the Human Sexuality Collection, holdings on American Indian History and Culture, the John Henrik Clarke Africana Library, and the Johnson Museum of Art, students will leverage archival materials to launch new observations and explore unanticipated approaches to urban justice. Urban Justice Labs are offered under the auspices of Cornell University's Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Collaborative Studies in Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities grant. Topic: Sound, Music, Public Space.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: fellowship recipients, who receive a \$1500 stipend.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)