



responding to current news, students will begin to see how athletes can use their social platforms to influence gender, racial, and cultural issues present in today's society. **Instructors:** Lily Baldwin is a senior majoring in Economics and Finance; Kat Reid is a junior majoring in International Relations.

### **B - I Need a Hero: A Deep Dive into the Marvel Cinematic Universe**

Wednesday, 6:30-9:00 PM

How has the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) influenced our culture and why did it become so successful in the first place? In this class we will take a deeper look at how the MCU has changed the superhero blockbuster by watching the major films and discussing themes such as: What is a hero? How does Marvel utilize genre? And in what ways does fandom influence the story? **Instructors:** Ana Sophia Acosta is a senior majoring in Film and Media Studies; Anna Champion is a senior majoring in Film and Media Studies and Quantitative Economics.

### **C - The Handmaid's Tale in Context**

Tuesday, 6:00-8:30 PM

What would a dystopian society look like? Are we close to approaching one? Through class discussions, media analysis, personal writing, and literature reviews, we will explore how themes in Margaret Atwood's novel and the Hulu Original Series *The Handmaid's Tale* can be applied broadly to our everyday lives. By exploring the complexities of the dystopian society, we will dive deeply into discussions centered on the modern world today, such as gender roles, power dynamics and a caste system, immigration reform, sex and consent, and the outbreak of war. **Instructors:** Layan (Lulu) Soghaier is a junior majoring in Economics and Finance; Saherish Surani is a junior majoring in Psychology and Political Science.

### **D - 'Who Run the World?': Gender and Popular Music**

Tuesday, 6:30-9:00 PM

Ever wondered how the Top 40 hits you can't escape – from Britney Spears' iconic "Oops! I Did it Again" to Ariana Grande's record-breaking "thank u, next" – have shaped society? In this course, we will examine American pop music through the lens of intersectional feminism to better understand how music both creates and disrupts patterns of gender inequality.

**Instructor:** Ruby Belle Booth is a junior majoring in History and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

### **E - Journeys of the Self: Animation and Innovation**

Monday, 6:30-9:00 PM

DreamWorks Animation. Pixar Studios. Marvel Studios. Studio Ghibli. These companies make some of the world's most iconic animated films. One thing common to their success is the ability to create a powerful story. Take a journey through a variety of animated worlds as we uncover stories of self-discovery in everything from "friendly neighborhood heroes" to castles in the sky. This course will challenge you to discover the stories that exist within and to bring your stories to life by exploring examples of the very best that the world of animation has to offer. **Instructor:** Hezekiah Branch is a junior majoring in Cognitive and Brain Sciences.

### **F - Banned in Boston: Forbidden Books in the Cradle of Liberty**

Tuesday, 6:30-9:00 PM

Have you ever wondered why books are banned, and who banned them? What does the censorship of books teach us about the values of the society in which they were banned? Is government mandated censorship a thing of the past? In this course, we will look at a selection of "subversive" books that have been banned in Boston, and discuss what it is exactly about these books that made them receive such treatment. In addition, we will be diving into the history of censorship in Boston, as well as the psychology of censorship. **Instructor:** Owen Finnegan is a senior majoring in English.

### **G - Local Government as an Agent of Change: From *Parks and Rec* to Reality**

Tuesday, 6:00-8:30 PM

What exactly does local government have the ability to do? In a time when it is easy to feel powerless, how can local governments support their communities and how can we be engaged citizens at the local level? This course will review the various structures cities and towns have, including the powers of mayors, city councilors, city managers, and city employees in general, and consider what each path to power means in terms of accountability to the people. Each week, we will use an episode of the sitcom *Parks and Recreation* as an example. We welcome students who know the show very well, those who have never seen it, and everyone in between. **Instructors:** Sophie Gelber is a senior majoring in English; Grace McEnery is a senior majoring in English and Civic Studies.

### **H - The Force is Female: Star Wars and Female Characters**

Wednesday, 6:30-9:00 PM

From Princess Leia to Rey, the Star Wars saga features a number of female characters - many who have defied stereotypes, and others within traditional storylines. After forty years of Star Wars' cultural dominance, how have these characters changed over time, and is this change

reflective of a movement within the film and entertainment industry? This course seeks to understand these changing roles and their greater implications by focusing on five characters, all in either the main Skywalker films, the spinoff films, or the television shows: Leia Organa, Padmé Amidala, Ahsoka Tano, Jyn Erso, and Rey. **Instructor:** Chris Panella is a junior majoring in Film and Media Studies and English.

### **J - Adventure Filmmaking & Photography: Through the Lens of Jimmy Chin**

Monday, 6:30-9:00 PM

To many people, the outdoors is a wild and alien world; to others it is their home, their love, and even their livelihood. Jimmy Chin is one adventurer who has created a career out of bringing the exploits of these wild individuals into the public eye, with unparalleled success: he has won numerous awards from Sundance Film Festival, Outside Magazine, National Geographic and more, culminating in an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature for the 2018 film *Free Solo*, which he co-directed with filmmaker Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi. This class will explore what it takes to become a successful adventure filmmaker or photographer primarily through engagement with Jimmy Chin's filmography and discussions of social response, popularity, race, production techniques, cultural trends, and more. **Instructor:** Shale Hunter is a senior majoring in Biopsychology and Chinese.

### **K - The Aesthetics of Pro Wrestling**

Tuesday, 6:30-9:00 PM

Pro wrestling is at its core, theater. It is theater done in the round in front of thousands of people, with varied formats, intriguing traditions and history, and concepts surrounding the suspension of disbelief that cannot be found in any other major art form of the 21st century. By taking professional wrestling seriously as an art form, students will apply aesthetic theory and artistic critique to better understand various modern myths that permeate our culture.

**Instructor:** Aidan Rowan is a senior majoring in Philosophy and Political Science. He previously taught an Exploration on memes in American culture.

### **M - Asian America in Boston**

Thursday, 6:30-9:00 PM

What is Asian America? Where did the term Asian American come from? This course will examine the history of Asians in America from a critical lens. We will focus on Asian America in Boston through our own experiences living in the city, visits to Boston's Chinatown and Dorchester (with large Asian American communities), writing by Asian American authors like Jhumpa Lahiri and Weike Wang, and working with Asian American community organizations. We will also examine the state of Asian America at Tufts, the histories that have shaped and

situated it. With these histories, we will then explore what it means to move forward through building community, creating art, and celebrating Asian America in Boston and beyond.

**Instructors:** Thao Ho is a senior majoring in Community Health and American Studies; Nora Li is a junior majoring in Community Health.

### **N - A Fun and Fierce Exploration of Education**

Tuesday, 6:00-8:30 PM

What is education, and what could “radical” education be? How do schools prepare us for the rest of the world? In this course, we will be practicing hands-on methods of learning and thinking about activism, art, parenting, nature, and more. We will talk through the different definitions of education and innovate our way towards a collaborative learning space in which we are all teachers and learners. **Instructors:** Mauri Trimmer is a senior majoring in Anthropology; Molly Tunis is a senior majoring in American Studies.

### **P - On Drugs: The Science and History of Psychedelics**

Thursday, 6:30-9:00 PM

Coming into college, are you thinking about engaging with academic research of any kind? Learning how to read papers that are academic in nature can be a daunting task that requires a lot of skills that are often ignored in high school classes. Throughout this course, you will learn how to develop your research skills while we focus our research on one of the most interesting subjects in science through an interdisciplinary approach that will touch upon history, chemistry, biology, and philosophy. **Instructors:** Peter Bixler is a junior majoring in Chemistry and Biology; Santiago Noriega is a junior majoring in Cognitive and Brain Sciences.

### **Q - Mind the Gap: Transportation in Media and Society**

Wednesday, 6:30-9:00 PM

From Tokyo to Cape Town to Los Angeles, different forms of transport compete for our patronage to get from point A to point B. In this class, we’ll compare public and private transport in the form of taxis, buses, trains and Uber as they appear in literature, film and other art and media. In our hometowns, at Tufts, and in cities around the world, we’ll explore what each form of transport represents in societies rural and urban, repressive and liberal, collective and independent. **Instructor:** Rosa Stern Pait grew up on Boston’s Green Line. She is a junior majoring in International Literary and Visual Studies.

### **R - Women in Global Politics**

Wednesday, 6:30-9:00 PM

Who runs the world? (Not) girls - sorry Beyonce. The U.S. has disproportionately less female representation than its global peers. Why is this the case? What can we learn from the examples of women leaders in the U.S. and around the world, and how can we move towards equal political representation? **Instructors:** Dorothy Neher is a senior majoring in International Relations and Spanish; Francesca Rubinson is a senior majoring in Political Science and Religion. They both studied abroad in Chile last year.

### **S - The "Sci" in Sci-Fi: A Creative Writing Workshop**

Wednesday, 6:00-8:30 PM

This course will dive into the scientific aspects found in a wide range of modern fiction, looking at concepts from physics, biology, chemistry, and math to strengthen our own writing. Students will be working on a piece of creative writing throughout the semester that will be shared in class and included in a class anthology at the end of the semester with the theme, What is the Science in Your Fiction? While the class will focus on the Science Fiction genre for its framework, students may write any story they like as long as some scientific aspect is incorporated, for example: the forensics of a mystery or the medical science in a hospital drama. **Instructor:** Connor Hager is a senior majoring in Biology and a science fiction writer.

### **T - Jewish Genealogy: Looking Back and Moving Forward**

Tuesday, 6:00-8:30 PM

Are you interested in exploring your Jewish heritage and family's history? Have you ever wondered about the implications of genetic technology and the fact that new technologies have the ability to reveal so much about ourselves? This course explores tools and methods for researching family history and creating family trees. Students will also learn about the history of Jewish migration to the United States in order to better understand their family's roots. In addition, we will discuss DNA technology and ethical dilemmas associated with it. Finally, we will work towards a better understanding of what it means to be Jewish in today's world.

**Instructors:** Madison Dall is a senior majoring in Economics; Shoshana Goldman is a senior majoring in International Relations.

### **U - Birds in the Anthropocene**

Monday, 6:30-9:00 PM

If your first thought was "BIRDS, hell yeah", read on! We're now in the Anthropocene, an era of time driven by human impacts. In this class we'll be looking at the effects human actions and behavior have on birds, both positive and negative, and discussing the balance between human and avian needs. If you like investigating human-wildlife conflict and talking about topics with as

much nuance as possible, this is the class for you! **Instructor** Ivara Roth is a junior majoring in Biology and Environmental Studies.

### **V - The Mind and its Games**

Thursday, 6:30-9:00 PM

This course will be filled with questions, games, magic, puzzles and even roller coasters that challenge the mind. Through this interactive class, students will learn about the basic functions of the brain, such as perception versus reality, different mind processes, attention to details, and addition through collaboration. **Instructors:** Albert Tseng is a junior majoring in Computer Science; Katey Yang is a junior majoring in Cognitive and Brain Sciences.

### **W - Reflections on Your Schooling: What is School Really Teaching Us?**

Tuesday, 6:30-9:00 PM

How would you describe your schooling? Did you love high school? Hate it? Were you engaged? Disaffected? This course will introduce a space for personal reflection and comparative analysis on the institutions of education that have existed in our own lives and across the U.S. Focusing on the American education system, the course will explore what schools do, how they do it, and why they do what they do. These questions range from personal to political, local to national, and mundane to complex. Yet, over the course of the semester, students will gain a wider perspective of the structure and function of schools - and their school in particular - to better equip them to navigate their new home at Tufts. **Instructors:** Maddie Oliff is a senior majoring in American Studies and Sociology; Sarah Tessler is a senior majoring in Education and Spanish.