

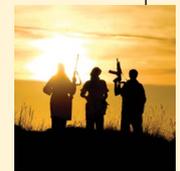
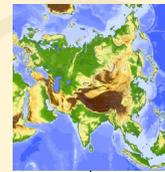


The Signature Courses are specially designed for the Core Curriculum, which consists of three groups of learning goals that form the core of a modern arts and sciences education at a leading public research university:

- Contemporary Challenges [CC]
 - Diversities and Social Inequalities [CCD]
 - Our Common Future [CCO]
- Areas of Inquiry
 - Natural Sciences [NS]
 - Social [SCL] and Historical [HST] Analysis
 - Arts and Humanities [AH]
- Cognitive Skills and Processes
 - Writing and Communication [WC]
 - Quantitative and Formal Reasoning [Q]

The Core opens the door to new worlds of intellectual adventure, advanced study in particular majors, and success in a wide variety of postgraduate programs and careers. Developing a range of critical thinking skills, students build their capacity to face the public and private challenges of local and global citizenship and develop the habit of questioning the known and exploring the unknown. The Core Curriculum and our Signature Courses prompt students to examine both what they want to be and who they want to be, by discovering their values, talents, and passions. Learn more about the Core at sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/core.

Signature Courses



Learn more:

Visit the SAS Signature Courses webpage:
sas.rutgers.edu/signature-courses



About the School of Arts and Sciences Signature Courses

Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Signature Courses are foundational courses covering engaging topics of grand intellectual sweep and enduring importance. They are designed and taught by our renowned scholars and scientists who are not only recognized for their specialized research but are also eloquent and demanding award-winning teachers.

Each course is made up of a combination of capacious lectures by faculty and small discussion sections led by graduate students from our nationally ranked graduate programs. They establish a common basis for intellectual exchange and define us as the School of Arts and Sciences community of students and scholars working together.

Become Real World Ready at Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences



Cities

Professor D. Asher Ghertner
Geography

01:450:250 (4 Credits)
Core: CCO, SCL

More than half of the world's population now lives in cities. The United Nations estimates that net global population growth henceforth will take place entirely in cities, meaning the rural population has reached its historical maximum. Cities also now dominate the economic output of most nations and have become the most dynamic sources of ideas, opportunities, and dreams. Yet, cities are also where inequality is most visible, making them contested territories where different classes and interest groups jostle for space and influence.

This course examines what makes cities contradictory spaces of work, residence, and play that at once enable the release of creative energies, aspirations, and economies yet simultaneously restrict, control, and confine. We will use cities to explore the most pressing social concerns of our times: from the urbanization of terrorism and security; to the enduring effects of housing segregation in the US and abroad; to the impacts of global climate change on human settlement patterns; to the causes and consequences of suburbanization and gentrification.



Past Today:

Why Conflicts Endure
Professor Richard Serrano
French, Comparative Literature

01:195:270 (3 credits)
Core: CCO or CCD; AHo or AHp

The great American novelist William Faulkner famously said, "The past is not dead. It's not even past." Why do some conflicts endure despite the enormous political, technological, cultural, and economic changes of the past several decades?

What can we learn about 21st-century struggles through examining the representation of conflict in comparative literature and arts? How can we understand the ways in which the past remains "undead" through its continuing animation of today's clashes while complicating all attempts to resolve them? How can literature, film, and other visual arts, as well as architecture and music, be used to understand how the past shapes political and cultural strife today? Focusing on three current conflicts from disparate cultures, this course explores how conflicts are constructed and searches for the means to look through and beyond them, to overcome them, and to loosen the past's hold on the present and future.

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Writing after the End of the World

Professor Richard Miller
English

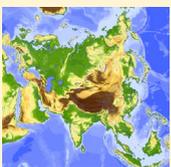
01:358:207 (4 credits)

Core: CCO, AHP

The Internet has given everyone with web access the opportunity to publish whatever they wish. At the same time, streaming services have enabled new ways to engage with all this productivity: you can “binge” watch and “binge” listen to your choice of shows, movies, lectures, music, or podcasts from a virtually infinite catalogue of options. And new forms of entertainment are emerging where you play an active role in shaping your own adventure.

If you’re under twenty, this interactive, screen-centric world is likely the only world you’ve ever known and it may not be obvious that this world is fundamentally different from the paper-based world your parents and teachers grew up in. Information is everywhere now; communication is instant and available 24/7. News, rumors, facts, fiction, truth, lies, conspiracy theories, and doctored videos all vie for that scarcest of commodities in this new world: your attention.

We will spend the semester considering how the art of storytelling is changing as a result of the end of the paper-based world and the rise of the screen-centric world.



Global East Asia

Professor Paul Schalow
Asian Languages and Cultures

01:098:250 (4 credits)

Core: CCO; HST or SCL

China, Korea, and Japan are major economic, political, and cultural players in an increasingly global 21st century. At the same time, the push for globalization within East Asia is being met with an equally powerful resurgence of nationalism and regionalism. How do media empires, international sporting events, and regional flows of Japanese and Korean pop culture shape relations among East Asia’s people? How are the rise of China and the U.S. strategy to focus more diplomatic and military attention to Asia creating political divisions in the region even as it integrates economically? Can complex questions of Taiwan’s and Hong Kong’s autonomy, Korean reunification, and conflicting territorial claims be resolved peacefully, or could a geopolitical crisis lead the region into war in the 21st century?



The Arts of Power: Ritual, Myth, and Propaganda

Professor Alastair Bellany
History

01:510:245 (4 Credits)

Core: HST or SCL

Power. How is it constructed and exercised? What legitimates the use of power and what makes for effective acts of resistance and revolution? What do the conceptual tools of historians, anthropologists, literary critics, and art historians reveal about the cultural construction of political power? What light do the complex experiences of the past throw on our turbulent present and future?

From the cult of the Roman emperor to the sacral kingship of the middle ages; from Renaissance courts to revolutionary cities; from the propaganda image of the totalitarian leader to the tabloid celebrity of the modern princess; from the imperial colony to the surveillance state and wikileaks, myths, rituals, and the arts have created and sustained (and, at times, resisted) many different forms of political authority.

The Arts of Power explores how religious beliefs and legends, art and movies, revolutionary hymns and street posters, dissident rock bands and poets, public executions and political advertisements, and coronations and festivals shape and legitimate, or de-legitimate, the exercise of power in the world around us.



Data 101

Professor Amélie Marian
Computer Science

01:198:142 and 01:960:142 (4 credits)

Core: CCO; QQ or QR

How do you tell good data from bad? Misinformation from useful analysis? And who owns the information about our lives and decisions?

Data 101 will help you improve your data literacy and develop a healthy skepticism about empirical claims presented in the popular media. We will explore examples of erroneous, rushed, and ad hoc conclusions based on so-called “big data,” and you will get hands-on experience analyzing and using data to make persuasive arguments. You will also learn to make more informed decisions about what you find and share online. Along the way, you will learn fundamental concepts in statistics and probability and acquire basic programming skills that will benefit you in your future coursework and beyond.