

**“Energy and Environmental History of New Haven and the American City,”** led by Paul Sabin  
Randolph W. Townsend, Jr. Professor  
of History and Professor of American  
Studies

The seminar will explore U.S. urban environmental history, including such topics as energy, water, animals, transportation, industry, housing, public health, open space, environmental justice, and restoration ecologies. These broad topics will be linked to the history of New Haven, including such issues as oyster harvesting; small dams and water management; canal, railroad, and highway development; air pollution and toxic pollution; urban parks, etc. As part of our seminar, we will take a field trip to visit history sites around the city. We also will connect with New Haven leaders active in urban environmental issues who can provide perspective on the longer history and current status of subjects that we discuss. We might also visit local archives to examine relevant primary sources. Participants will gain a broad perspective on urban environmental issues, and also develop a community of faculty interested in teaching about urban environmental issues in New Haven. At the close of the seminar, we will discuss what a sustainable future might look like for New Haven, and how teachers might engage students in thinking about the city's present and future environmental challenges.

This seminar draws on my past experience teaching U. S. energy and environmental history, including a regular “Environmental History Tour of New Haven” that I take my undergraduate students on each semester.

*A note on scheduling: This seminar will participate in a field trip to relevant sites around New Haven, including meetings with local organizations and leaders, on Thursday, June 22, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. The seminar will not meet on July 5.*



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## **Seminar Descriptions**

**2023**

## **“Latinx Histories, Cultures, and Communities,”** led by Albert Laguna, Associate Professor of American Studies and of Ethnicity, Race and Migration

This course provides participants with a critical overview of some of the central themes and issues that have shaped the experiences of Latino/a/x/e populations in the U.S. The main areas of inquiry that this course will address include: U.S.-Latin American relations; the history of ethnic labels; the formation of transnational communities and identities; the politics of language and bilingualism; race, class, and ethnicity; gender and sexuality; political and social movements; geographic space and localities; literature; and media and popular culture. In order to foster an interdisciplinary and hemispheric approach to Latinx Studies, course materials will draw from the social sciences and the humanities, as well as from U.S. and Latin American scholarship and cultural traditions. Syllabus content will be adjusted to serve the interests and needs of participating teachers.

## **“Poetry as Sound and Object,”** led by Feisal G. Mohamed, Professor of English

Poetry can often be the most intimidating of literary genres, for students and teachers alike. This seminar will aim to reduce that threshold of intimidation by focusing on poems as an experience of sound and as fascinating material objects with ties to the visual arts. A focus on sound makes poetry much more like song—and like songs, contemporary poets have added image to sound to create video poems. In seeing poems as objects, we will look at poems printed in ways that add to our experience of them. We will explore the relationship between poetry and book arts, a relationship reaching back to the Middle Ages that is alive and well in poetry of the present day—recent examples include Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen* (2014) and Tyehimba Jess’ *Olio* (2016). We will also look at, and create, poems that manipulate the poetic object, such as erasure poems. Throughout our sessions, we will consider how poetry can be mobilized as a teaching tool across many subjects and grade levels.

## **“Writing Queer and Trans Lives,”** led by Juno Jill Richards, Associate Professor of English

This course offers a wide-ranging introduction to LGBTQ life writing, here broadly construed as genres of queer and trans self-fashioning, including autobiography, graphic novels, zines, essays, diaries, and autobiographical fiction. The course will approach these works alongside background reading in the history of sexuality, moving from the pre-Stonewall era to the present day. A component of the course will include creative approaches to narrative non-fiction, or ways of telling the story of a life, through zine making, journaling, podcasting, documentary, and collaborative writing projects.

### Possible Texts:

Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues*  
Cherrie Moraga, *Loving in the War Years*  
Audre Lorde, *Zami*  
Samuel Delany, *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue*  
Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*  
Lou Sullivan, selections  
Miriam Gurba, *Mean*  
Joshua Whitehead, *Johnny Appleseed*  
Kai Cheng Thom, *Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars*  
Christopher Soto, *Diary of a Terrorist*  
selected zines