**State University of New York at Stony Brook**

**Honors College Seminar**

**HON 105–Modes of Knowledge**

**Fall 2020 Tu/Th 9:45-11:05 AM**

**Important Note:** **This course will be taught (mostly\*) online; the course will be taught synchronously on Zoom at the regularly scheduled time (U.S. Eastern Time Zone).** The Zoom session link is available on the Blackboard course Website (in the Menu tab on the left side of the screen). Each session will be recorded and made available on Blackboard for those whose circumstances do not allow them to be part of the live Zoom discussion. Please check Blackboard regularly for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule, but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Any further changes will be clearly noted in course announcements or through your Stony Brook email (please check both regularly).

\*[The recitation for Section 06 (only!!) on Thursdays will be held on campus.]

This seminar is a team-taught class covering multiple modes of knowledge:

1. French History and Literature

2. Ancient History and Historiography

3. Rhetoric, Culture and Epistemology

**Each instructor will lead four group lectures on Zoom at 9:45 on Tuesdays.**

**All readings are on Blackboard under Documents.**

**All papers should be submitted through Blackboard (details will be explained during class sessions).**

**Instructors:**

Miryam Laifer, Ph.D.

[miryam.laifer@stonybrook.edu](mailto:miryam.laifer@stonybrook.edu)

**Lectures and Recitations on Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:45 until 11:05.**

Office Hours by appointment on Zoom on Tu/Th at 2:30 - 3:30.

Eric Miller

[eric.miller@stonybrook.edu](mailto:eric.miller@stonybrook.edu)

Office: SBS (Social and Behavioral Sciences) S-320 TU/TH11:45-12:45, or on Zoom by appointment.

Recitation in Light Engineering Lab 102.

Soni Adhikari

[soni.adhikari@stonybrook.edu](mailto:soni.adhikari@stonybrook.edu)

Office: Humanities 2037

(appointment via link on Blackboard)

**Overall Purpose**:

The purpose of this course is:

* to develop further intellectual curiosity,
* to improve critical thinking skills, and
* to practice communication skills through debates, small-group work and presentations.

Specifically, the goal is to exposed students to different modes of knowledge in its content and production. In particular, seminars from experts on issues of social and global importance, and textual and cultural theories are presented. Students are required to explore and perform independent research on these subjects, and to discuss their impacts in medical, ethical, global, economic, environmental, and societal contexts.

This work will be explored in class discussions, weekly assessments, short papers (after every two lectures), and a final project (with the option of multi-modal composing). Findings will be presented in a final presentation. Most work will be submitted solely to one’s recitation professor according to her specifications.

**Learning Outcomes**:

**Professor Laifer Lectures 1-4**

Students will be able to:

a. Improve critical thinking

b. Explore the cross-cultural context of French history and literature

c. Apply different perspectives to challenging world problems

d. Discuss difficult issues for a deeper understanding of situations

e. Connect the past to the present with its multifaceted relevant challenges

**Professor Miller Lectures 5-8**

Students will be able to:

a. Understand the problems and challenges in examining ancient history

b. Develop critical skill in analyzing primary and secondary source material

c. Analyze how ancient societies create their own narrative and identity

d. Understand debates and conflicting perspective among scholars of ancient history

e. Analyze how knowledge of the past can impact understanding society today

**Professor Adhikari Lectures 9-12**

Students will be able to:

a. Examine traditions, techniques, and tools of knowledge-making from global and cultural perspectives

b. Read, analyze, and respond to texts for developing intellectual positions

c. Integrate and engage sources to explore and represent different cultural perspectives

d. Practice skills for drafting, revision, and editing

e. Present ideas orally

**Fall 2020 HON 105 Course Schedule**

**Professor Laifer:**

**Tues 8/25/: Introduction**

**Thurs 8/27: Lecture 1: Women in Literature and History**

**Tues 9/1: Lecture 2: Communication**

**Thurs 9/3: Recitation on Lecture 1 and Lecture 2**

**Tues 9/8: Lecture 3: Early "technology"**

**Thurs 9/10: Recitation on Early "technology"**

**Tues 9/15: Lecture 4: Art: French Cinema**

**Thurs 9/17: Recitation on Art: French Cinema**

**Professor Miller:**

**Tues 9/22: Lecture 5: Women Impacting Ancient Society**

**Thurs 9/24: Recitation on Women Impacting Ancient Society**

**Tues 9/29: Lecture 6: Communication through History**

**Thurs 10/1: Recitation on Communication through History**

**Tues 10/6: Lecture 7: Technology: The Origins of Writing in the Western World**

**Thurs 10/8: Recitation on Technology: The Origins of Writing in the Western World**

**Tues 10/13: Lecture 8: The Origins of Drama**

**Thurs 10/15: Recitation on the Origins of Drama**

**Professor Adhikari:**

**Tues 10/20 Lecture 9: Women, Rhetoric, and Epistemology**

**Thurs 10/22 Recitation on: Rhetoric, and Epistemology**

**Tues 10/27 Lecture 10: Epistemology and Rhetorical Traditions:**

**Communication in the Non-Western World**

**Thurs 10/29 Recitation on Epistemology and Rhetorical Traditions: Communication in the Non-Western World**

**Tues 11/3 Lecture 11: Technology, Literacy, and Epistemology**

**Thurs 11/5: Recitation on Technology, Literacy, and Epistemology**

**Tues 11/10: Lecture 12: South Asian Theater**

**Thurs 11/12: Recitation on South Asian Theater**

**Final Presentations:**

**Tues 11/17: Presentations 1**

**Thurs 11/19: Presentations 2**

**11/21 - 11/29: No Classes > Thanksgiving Recess**

**Tues 12/1: Final Presentations 3**

**Thurs 12/3: Final Presentations 4 (last day of classes)**

**Evaluations Procedures**

1. **Class Attendance** (expected) and **Participation:** **15%**

2**. Assignments**: **70%**

a. Weekly response papers of **five parts due every Thursday prior to the start of Recitation (10%).**

For each reading:

i. write a summary of the reading, briefly capturing its main idea(s)

ii. choose one major idea that you found worth exploring, discussing, etc

iii. find any critique, or different perspective of your own, you may want to offer

iv. have one question for the class for each reading

v. research a scholarly article pertaining to the reading, found on Google scholar or Stony Brook online research engine.

\*Just see the title, or skim the abstract and/or introduction, of a new item that you may want to draw on during discussion.

\*Finding something relevant is the requirement; how deep you want to go for drawing related ideas during discussion is up to you. You can cite such sources in your papers.

b. **3 unit papers**: after every four lectures, you must express your intellectual and emotional reaction to the lectures in the form of a critique **(60%).**

**You must:**

1. Analyze the topics

2. Express your opinion

3. Explain how the topics have moved you and/or inspired you

4. Tell how the topics relate to your life and/or the impact those topics might have on your life

3. **Final Oral Presentation 15%**

Explore **the theme of gender or race** in **one** of these areas:

1. Literature

2. Theater

3. History

4. Politics

5. Philosophy

6. Science

7. Media

**Each student will present his/her final Project starting Tuesday, 11/17.**

Each presentation will last **3 minutes**.

**Attendance Policy**

a. Timely attendance is expected.

b. Any unexcused absence will count negatively.

c. Attendance which is required will be taken at the beginning of each class.

d. **Your FINAL grade will be dropped ONE LETTER GRADE for every three unexcused absences.**

**Grading System**

**Letter Grade %**

**A 94-100**

**A- 90-93**

**B+ 87-89**

**B 83-86**

**B- 80-82**

**C+ 77-79**

**C 73-76**

**C- 70-72**

**D+ 67-69**

**D 63-66**

**F <62**

**Protocol**

Please turn off your cell phone.

We would appreciate if you leave your camera video on during sessions

**Additional Matters:**

**How We Will Communicate:**Course-related questions should be posted in the General Questions Forum in the course Discussion board. For personal/private issues, email me directly. If you use Blackboard’s **email tool** from the course site, it will automatically include your full name, course name and section when you send me an email. **Please allow between 24-48 hours for an email reply.** Your Stony Brook University email must be used for all University-related communications. You must have an active Stony Brook University email account and access to the Internet. All instructor correspondence will be sent to your SBU email account. **Plan on checking your SBU email account regularly for course-related messages.** To log in to Stony Brook Google Mail, go to <http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud> and sign in with your NetID and password.

Regular announcements will be sent from Blackboard. These will be posted in the course site and may or may not be sent by email.

Regular communication is essential in online classes. Logging in once a day, checking the discussion board and participating with your colleagues ensures that you are able to remain an active member of the class and earn full points for participation.

**Technical Requirements:**This course uses Blackboard for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting of grades and feedback. The Blackboard course site can be accessed at <https://blackboard.stonybrook.edu>

If you are unsure of your NetID, visit <https://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/finding-your-netid-and-password> for more information. You are responsible for having a reliable computer and Internet connection throughout the term. **Caution!** You will be at a disadvantage if you attempt to complete all coursework on a smart phone or tablet. It may not be possible to submit the files required for your homework assignments.

Students should be able to use email, a word processor, spreadsheet program, and presentation software to complete this course successfully.

The following list details a minimum recommended computer set-up and the software packages you will need to have access to, and be able to use:

* PC with Windows 10 or higher (we recommend a 3-year Warranty)
* Macintosh with OS 10.11 or higher (we recommend a 3-year Warranty)
* Intel Core i5 or higher
* 250 GB Hard Drive
* 8 GB RAM
* Latest version of Chrome or Firefox; Mac users may use Chrome or Firefox. (A complete list of supported browsers and operating systems can be found on the My Institution page when you log in to Blackboard.)
* High speed internet connection
* Word processing software (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.)
* Headphones/earbuds and a microphone
* Webcam (recommended)
* Printer (optional)
* Ability to download and install free software applications and plug-ins (note: you must have administrator access to install applications and plug-ins).

**Technical Assistance:**If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Blackboard you can:

* Phone: 631-632-9800 (client support, Wi-Fi, software and hardware)
* Submit a help request ticket: <https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/itsm>
* If you are on campus, visit the Walk-Up Tech Support Station in the Educational Communications Center (ECC) building.

**University Policies:**

**Student Accessibility Support Center Statement:**If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center, 128 ECC Building, (631) 632-6748, or at [sasc@stonybrook.edu](mailto:sasc@stonybrook.edu). They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and the Student Accessibility Support Center. For procedures and information go to the following website: <https://ehs.stonybrook.edu/programs/fire-safety/emergency-evacuation/evacuation-guide-people-physical-disabilities>  and search Fire Safety and Evacuation and Disabilities.

**Academic Integrity Statement:**Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at [http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic\_integrity/index.html](https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html)

**Important Note:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to the Academic Judiciary.

**Critical Incident Management:**Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.

**Course Policies:**

**Understand When You May Drop This Course:**It is the student’s responsibility to understand when they need to consider withdrawing from a course. Refer to the Stony Brook Academic Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/registrar/calendars/academic_calendars>.

* [Undergraduate Course Load and Course Withdrawal Policy](https://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/records_registration/course_load_withdrawal.php)
* [Graduate Course Changes Policy](https://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/graduatebulletin/current/regulations/registration_requirements/course_changes.php)

**Incomplete Policy:**Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. Circumstances must be documented and significant enough to merit an incomplete. If you need to request an incomplete for this course, contact me for approval as far in advance as possible.

**Course Materials and Copyright Statement:**Course material accessed from Blackboard, SB Connect, SB Capture or a Stony Brook Course website is for the exclusive use of students who are currently enrolled in the course. Content from these systems cannot be reused or distributed without written permission of the instructor and/or the copyright holder. Duplication of materials protected by copyright, without permission of the copyright holder is a violation of the Federal copyright law, as well as a violation of Stony Brook’s Academic Integrity.

**Online Communication Guidelines and Learning Resources:**Maintain professional conduct both in the classroom and online. The classroom is a professional environment where academic debate and learning take place. I will make every effort to make this environment safe for you to share your opinions, ideas, and beliefs. In return, you are expected to respect the opinions, ideas, and beliefs of other students—both in the face-to-face classroom and online communication. Students have the right and privilege to learn in the class, free from harassment and disruption. The course follows the standards set in the Student Code of Conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary action for violation of that code. If your behavior does not follow the course etiquette standards stated below, the grade you receive for a posting may suffer. I reserve the right to remove any discussion messages that display inappropriate language or content.

**Online Etiquette:**

* Offensive language or rudeness will not be tolerated. Discuss ideas, not the person.
* Avoid cluttering your messages with excessive emphasis (stars, arrows, exclamations).
* If you are responding to a message, include the relevant part of the original message in your reply, or refer to the original post to avoid confusion;
* Be specific and clear, especially when asking questions.
* Use standard punctuation and capitalization. Using all UPPERCASE characters gives the appearance of shouting and makes the message less legible;
* Remember that not all readers have English as their native language, so make allowances for possible misunderstandings and unintended discourtesies.

**Online Classes Require Better Communication:**   
It is important to remember that we will not have the non-verbal cues that occur in a face-to-face classroom. I cannot see the confused, frustrated, or unhappy expressions on your face if you encounter problems. You MUST communicate with me so that I can help. To make the experience go smoothly, remember that you’re responsible for initiating more contact, and being direct, persistent, and vocal when you don’t understand something.

**Our Role as the Instructors:**As the instructors, we will serve as “guides” in our online classroom. While we will not respond to every post, we will read what is posted, and reply when necessary. Expect instructor posts in the following situations:

* To assist each of you when it comes to making connections between discussion, lectures, and textbook material.
* To fill in important things that may have been missed.
* To re-direct discussion when it gets “out of hand.”
* To point out key points or to identify valuable posts.

**Student Resources**

Academic and Major Advising (*undergraduate only*): Have questions about choosing the right course? Contact an advisor today. Phone and emails vary-please see website for additional contact information; website: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/for-students/academic-advising/>

Academic Success and Tutoring Center *(undergraduate only)*: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/tutoring/>

Amazon @ Stony Brook: Order your books before classes begin. Phone: 631-632-9828; email: Bookstore\_Liaison@stonybrook.edu; website: [http://www.stonybrook.edu/ bookstore/](http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/bookstore/)

Bursar: For help with billing and payment. Phone: 631-632-9316; email: bursar@stonybrook.edu; website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/bursar/>

Career Center: The Career Center’s mission is to support the academic mission of Stony Brook University by educating students about the career decision-making process, helping them plan and attain their career goals, and assisting with their smooth transition to the workplace or further education. Phone: 631-632-6810; email: sbucareercenter@stonybrook.edu; website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/career-center/>

Counseling and Psychological Services: CAPS staff are available by phone, day or night. <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/caps/>

Ombuds Office: The Stony Brook University Ombuds Office provides an alternative channel for confidential, impartial, independent and informal dispute resolution services for the entire University community. We provide a safe place to voice your concerns and explore options for productive conflict management and resolution. The Ombuds Office is a source of confidential advice and information about University policies and procedures and helps individuals and groups address university-related conflicts and concerns. <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ombuds/>

Registrar: Having a registration issue? Let them know. Phone: 631-632-6175; email: registrar\_office@stonybrook.edu; <http://www.stonybrook.edu/registrar/>

SBU Libraries: access to and help in using databases, ebooks, and other sources for your research.

* Research Guides and Tutorials: <http://guides.library.stonybrook.edu/>
* Getting Help: <https://library.stonybrook.edu/research/ask-a-librarian/>

Student Accessibility Support Center: Students in need of special accommodations should contact SASC. Phone: 631-632-6748; email: sasc@stonybrook.edu; <https://www.stonybrook.edu/sasc/>

Support for Online Learning: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/online/>

Writing Center: Students are able to schedule face-to-face and online appointments. <https://www.stonybrook.edu/writingcenter/>