Summer Term (June):  World Cultures V (Novakovic) online

BIC 4374 (Novakovic) Africa, Russia, and Central Asia. Dr. Ivo Novakovic’s group will study and compare the sociocultural transformations in two different regions of the world, postcolonial Africa and post-socialist Russia and Central Asia. In the first part, we will study social and cultural history of Africa and examine the impact of colonialism on African developments in postcolonial conditions. In the second part, we will focus on Russia and Central Asia and analyze their developments after the collapse of socialism and the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In the third part, we will compare these two geopolitical regions, in terms of both their postcolonial/post-socialist experiences and their prospects in the contemporary world.

Fall Semester:  World Cultures V

BIC 4374 (Tatum): Dr. Lynn Tatum's small group concentrates on Middle Eastern culture with a particular view towards religion and the role it has played, and is playing, in the region’s history and development. The course will look particularly at the Israeli-Arab dispute and America’s role in that struggle. It will also look at the ISIS phenomenon and the roots of this violent jihadist movement.

BIC 4374 (Njung): Dr. Njung’s small group will broadly survey Islamic and Christian cultures in Africa, and the important roles that these two religions have played in relation to the vexing questions of modernity and progress in the continent. We will also specifically situate Islam within African cultural and traditional matrix and ask whether ‘African Islam’ isn’t proper Islam, a notion that has permeated western discourses, to which we have become accustomed.

AST 4388 (Wang): Dr. Xin Wang's small group will examine contemporary Chinese society and culture. The course will begin with an examination of Chinese culture through a comparative perspective, and then continue to study various sectors of Chinese contemporary society and culture. The course will situate China as “being local and being global” and end with a discussion about an increasing role of China in the global world. The course will also discuss the US-China relations and tensions in recent years.

This course counts as 3 hours of in-residence credit from the Modern Languages Distribution List so if you need in residence credit., you might consider taking this section. For students who need the course for BIC 4374, we will petition AST 4388 for BIC 4374.

Note: you will need a permit to reserve a seat in class. Request the permit from Prof. Chris Moore BEFORE your assigned registration time.

Please note that these offerings are subject to availability; thus, you should have more than one choice possible when you register.