FEIT INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR PROGRAM
SPRING 2022 SCHEDULE

Who Speaks for the Oceans? Art, Science, and Inter-Species Discourse
MMH
Monday 11:10-2:05
David Gruber, Biology and Environmental Sciences
Alaina Claire Feldman, Director and Curator, Mishkin Gallery/Fine and Performing Arts

This interdisciplinary course will draw on the rich research from an upcoming Mishkin Gallery exhibition *Who Speaks for the Oceans?* to reimagine and rethink humanity's desire to experience the non-terrestrial, specifically focusing on an epistemological, historical and scientific analysis of what we think we know about life in the ocean. Many of these ideas have been informed by colonial, racialized, gendered, and terra-centric conventions alongside the production of nature, which will be exposed and critiqued through the multiple perspectives of an international group of artists.

Using art, materials and concepts from the exhibition, students will be required to engage with a thematic in the exhibition and produce their own research project or environmental campaign (a poster series, a petition, the proposal of a new local law, a website/media campaign) that appeals to these topics. Students will be encouraged to present their campaigns and scholarship in a public program hosted by the Mishkin Gallery. Sub-topics to be considered: media and feedback, whale as “other”, human-animal relations and consent, biocapitalist management of non-human and human populations, colonization of the ocean and ocean life, speculative futures, the production of nature and more.

Martial Arts: A Global Perspective
ETRH
Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:45
TJ Obi, History
Steve Jackowicz, Martial Arts Instructor

This course explores the cultural history of martial arts from a global perspective. Popular culture often portrays martial arts as ancient, even timeless traditions from East Asia, yet martial arts developed in Africa and Europe as well. This course will expand our understanding of the martial arts by seeking to explore the military, medical, moral, social, and spiritual traditions that helped shape individual martial arts styles in specific times and places across the globe. We will then consider how these martial arts in turn impacted both local and global culture through their impact on national identity, performance art, and modern cinema. All students will conduct at least one field trip to a local martial arts school to gather data that will be used to analyze the art according to one on the many methodological lenses that will be used in this class (history, oral history, history of science, sociology, kinesiology, etc.).
Make it Better: Designing and Prototyping for Social Innovation
MWH
Wednesday 11:10-2:05
Zoe Sheehan-Saldana, Fine and Performing Arts
Romi Kher, Management

This course takes a strategic, hands-on approach towards social entrepreneurship and provides a framework for designing and prototyping innovative solutions to meet contemporary social needs. As a design-focused course, students will identify and craft solutions for real world problems by leveraging a variety of prototyping technologies. This “maker mindset” will help students validate their ideas by creating, testing and refining their prototypes and in the process, students will learn how social innovations can scale for impact. The course utilizes an interdisciplinary, collaborative learning approach and is ideal for students with non-technical backgrounds who prefer to “learn by doing.” Readings, assignments and in-class exercises will be used to illustrate principles, stimulate discussion, and foster the creative thinking necessary for social change.