



DIVISION OF SOCIAL STUDIES AT BARD

The Division of Social Studies houses eight major disciplines—anthropology, economics, economics and finance, historical studies, philosophy, political studies, religion, and sociology. The division is also the locus for many interdivisional programs, including human rights, experimental humanities, Russian and Eurasian studies, global and international studies, and Africana studies. Faculty in the division—such as British history and literature professor Richard Aldous; Robert J. Culp, specializing in modern Chinese history; and sociocultural anthropologist Yuka Suzuki, whose areas of focus include race and environment—introduce students to a variety of methodological perspectives and encourage them to examine fields of study through the prism of other disciplines.

Students are advised to take courses from a range of fields in the division to develop a comprehensive perspective on humanity in contemporary and historical contexts. By applying what they have learned—about general philosophical, historical, and scientific methods and of

particular research techniques and interpretations—students focus on aspects of the diversity of human cultures and civilizations, institutions, values, and beliefs. Students are encouraged to design courses of study to satisfy personal curiosity and interests. Events that may contribute to primary research range from forums into the impacts of climate policy to symposia on aesthetics and philosophy. Most Upper College courses in social studies are seminars in which students participate actively.

Conferences with advisers, tutorials, fieldwork, and independent research constitute preparation for the Senior Project, which may take any form appropriate to the student's area of interest, subject, and methodology. Most are original research, but a Senior Project might consist of critical reviews of literature, close textual analysis, a series of related essays, or even a translation. In interdivisional majors, in which students rethink the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines, the Senior Project combines the dual nature of both areas of study.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Courses in the Anthropology Program encompass the subfields of sociocultural, linguistic, historical, archeological, and applied anthropology. The program examines cultural dynamics in the formation of the nation-state; precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial societies; and politics of difference, identity, and inequality in the modern world. Area strengths include sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, South and Southeast Asia, Australasia, and the United States. Students can design a course of study in varied topical, areal, and theoretical orientations or pursue a more specialized program.

RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

"Curated Spaces for Global Citizenship: Popularization of the English Language in Seoul" Kayla Yvonne Adams '19, Brooklyn, New York (Anthropology; Asian Studies)

"In Plastic: Sturdy Materiality as Debris Splay: A Cultural History, Ethnographic Experiment, and Installation Performance Dwelling on 'Plastic' in American Visions" Lily Brooke Beaumont Lasher '19, Wake Forest, North Carolina (Anthropology; Art History and Visual Culture)

"(Yuumei): Authoring the Tadaki Family Photo Album" Sancia Meara Shiba Nash '19, Kihei, Hawaii (Anthropology; Film and Electronic Arts)

ECONOMICS

The Economics Program is distinctive in its emphasis of different perspectives and methodologies. The curriculum is firmly grounded in Bard's liberal arts tradition; Bard is one of very few colleges that require economics majors to take courses in economic history and the history of economic thought to complement the usual requirements in economic theory and research methods. The faculty are broadly trained and offer courses that span paradigms from ecological to post-Keynesian economics. The program's close association with the Levy Economics Institute, an independent think tank located on campus, exposes students to cutting-edge research and opportunities such as innovative 3+2 BA/MS and 4+1 BA/MA programs.

RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

"Impact of Transnational Remittances on Income Distribution and Development in Developing Countries: A Human Rights Perspective" Basel Alyazouri '19, Gaza (Economics; Human Rights)

"Analysis of the Real Estate Market in China" Jiajin Li '19, Zhuhai, China

"Understanding Greek Unemployment: Is Greece's Nightmare Over?" Dionysis D. Tzortzis '19, Kalamata, Greece

ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

The five-year Economics and Finance track is designed for students who wish to achieve a broad education in the liberal arts and sciences as they prepare for careers in the financial world; students taking this option receive a BS degree in economics and finance and a BA in a field other than economics. Recent alumni/ae have proceeded to graduate programs in economics, finance, marketing, public policy, and law, and work at investment banks, consulting firms, international organizations, and government agencies.

RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

"Forecasting Error in Economic Assumptions by the Social Security Administration," an evaluation of Social Security Trust Fund forecasts and recommendations for better projections and presentation in the Trustees Report Abhishek Dev '16, Bagmati, Nepal

"Testing the Predictive Power of Equity Valuation Metrics: A Minskyan Approach" Mohd Ahnaf Habib Khan '16, Jessore, Bangladesh

HISTORICAL STUDIES

The Historical Studies Program focuses primarily on political, social, economic, and cultural aspects of history and encourages students to examine history through the prism of other disciplines and forms of expression. Faculty introduce students to methodological perspectives used in historical research, and to the philosophical assumptions about humanity and society that underlie those perspectives.

Students may concentrate on national, regional, or local history and choose among time periods and topical specializations.

RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

"'Freedom Now': The Function of Jazz in the Civil Rights Movement" Christa Rose Gammage '19, New York, New York

"CIA in Laos: A Secret Collaboration of CIA and Hmong" Mingze Linghu '19, Beijing, China

"Privileges, Protestantism, Money, and Masts: Béarn and the Crown in 17th-Century France" Alec Hopper Waters '19, Concord, Massachusetts (Historical Studies; Chemistry and Biochemistry)

PHILOSOPHY

The curriculum in the Philosophy Program is designed to provide students with an understanding of the nature and background of philosophical inquiry. The core of the program consists of courses in the history of philosophy and such areas of study as ethics, political philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, logic, philosophy of language, and aesthetics. Students may focus on the work of one philosopher: for example, Plato, Arendt, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, or Wittgenstein.

RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

"After Translation," investigation of the risks and complexities of linguistic meaning manifested in processes of interlingual, intralingual, and intersemiotic translation Sofia Koukia '19, Athens, Greece

"Authority and Exaltation" Danielle Adina Nordenberg '19, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts (concentration: Mind, Brain, and Behavior)

"It Will Depend on How the Question Is Used: Freud on Dreams in the Light of Wittgenstein on Images" Matteo Waldinger-White '19, Amherst, Massachusetts (Philosophy; Written Arts)

POLITICAL STUDIES

Students in the Political Studies Program care about politics and want to reason critically about political outcomes and issues at the local, national, and international levels, since

political outcomes shape the fates of communities, states, and nations, as well as the choices we can make as individuals. Political theory, American politics, comparative politics, and political studies are the four core subfields on which the program focuses.

RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

"Familias Separadas: The Zero-Tolerance Policy That Changed the U.S. Immigration System" Saúl García Amezcua '19, New Orleans, Louisiana (Political Studies; Human Rights)

"A Study of Chinese Immigrants and Chinese Americans in the United States: A Focus on New York City" Xishixin Song '19, Tianjin, China

"Myth Busting: Rethinking Social Contract Theory and Relocating Sovereignty from John Locke to Georges Bataille" Mandalay Maelee Win '19, Seattle, Washington (concentration: Gender and Sexuality Studies)

RELIGION

The Religion Program involves students in an interdisciplinary examination of ways in which religion influences the thinking, ethics, and ritual behavior of practitioners. Courses approach religion through multiple perspectives, including the study of scripture; religious practices; and concepts such as tradition and secularism. Students become familiar with major religious traditions, led by professors with expertise in Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. Graduates teach at major universities, lead congregations and retreat centers, and go into professions such as law, medicine, and environmental science.

RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

"Securing Nature's Blessing: God's Eternal Role in American Constitutional Law" Austin James Gent '19, San Diego, California (Religion; Literature)

"Religious Rights of Parents and Children in the U.S. Foster Care System" Nikki Rachael Sway '19, Florida, New York

"Yes, No, or Maybe: A Look into the Denotations of Chinese Fu Talismans" Obadiah Diaz Wright '19, San Jose, California (Religion; Composition [BMus])

SOCIOLOGY

Students in the Sociology Program learn to think about the structures and processes of social life, and also learn to conduct rigorous research using quantitative, qualitative, and historical methods. Sociology enables students to examine how social institutions operate and how social, political, and economic forces shape people's behaviors. The program focuses on the study of social policy, inequality, politics, gender, race and ethnicity, immigration, criminal justice, globalization, and long-term cultural and historical change.

RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

"Checking White, Feeling Brown: Iranian American Racial Ambiguity in Relation to Whiteness and Blackness" Lily Yasmin Mojdehi '19, La Jolla, California

"A Different World': Navigating between White Colleges and Low-Income Racially Segregated Neighborhoods" Joshua Martin Perez '19, Bronx, New York (concentration: Science, Technology, and Society)

"Beyond Repair: An Investigation of the Experiences, Interpretations, and Self-Construction of Black Women Welfare Recipients in the Deep South" Eniyah Willingham '19, Peachtree City, Georgia (concentration: Gender and Sexuality Studies)

INTERESTED IN BUSINESS?

Economics, sociology, economics and finance, and other subject areas are structured to give Bard students the tools and framework to understand the business climate. Simultaneous study in mathematics, global and international studies, and political studies is as important in helping business-oriented students learn to dissect complex problems and think critically about meaningful solutions.

INTERESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN STUDIES?

The interdependence of human societies and the physical environment is the focus of this wide-reaching major with regional, national, and international scope. Students choose one subject from areas that offer empirical experience, which include: global perspectives on environment, society, and culture; urban and regional studies; and economics, policy, and development. Majors pursue an internship in their field of interest.

INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS?

The field of human rights, in which Bard has been an academic pioneer, encompasses the social sciences, arts, natural sciences, and literature. Bard's Human Rights Project, separate from the interdisciplinary major, sponsors internships at organizations ranging from the Southern Poverty Law Center to Women Wage Peace. The new Bard Center for the Study of Hate focuses on the study of human hatred and how to combat it nationally and internationally.

INTERESTED IN LAW?

The best path to law school, according to the American Bar Association, is "to pursue an area of study that interests and challenges you." Developing research and writing skills is recommended, as well as taking a range of courses that help aspiring lawyers think critically and consider multiple perspectives. Alumni/ae cite Bard's writing-intensive curriculum as particularly helpful to their law school and professional successes, along with distribution requirements allowing for exploration outside of their majors.

HANNAH ARENDT COLLECTION

The philosopher Hannah Arendt articulated a rich and compelling vision of the human need for a public and political life. She also warned against the political dangers of philosophy and fearlessly raised unpopular questions, which enraged and engaged interlocutors from all political persuasions. Embraced by liberals and conservatives, Arendt has become the most taught and arguably most influential political thinker of the 20th century. After Arendt's death in 1975, the roughly 4,000 volumes, ephemera, and pamphlets that made up the library in her last apartment in New York City were acquired by Bard College. Of particular significance are more than 900 volumes containing marginal notes, underlining, and endnotes, many of which have been digitized and posted on the collection's website, making her annotations available to the scholarly community. In addition, the collection, which is housed in Stevenson Library, includes tapes and transcripts of many lectures given by Arendt's husband, Heinrich Blücher, who taught at Bard from 1952 to 1967. Arendt was so convinced of the value of the lectures that she devoted much of her last years to having them published, but she died before the project was completed.

NOTABLE FACULTY

Diplomat in Residence **Frederic C. Hof** (political science) was ambassador and special adviser for transition in Syria under President Obama and special coordinator for regional affairs in the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Special Envoy for Middle East Peace, and a recipient of the Purple Heart; **Walter Russell Mead** (political science) is Global View columnist at the *Wall Street Journal* and was Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations; **John Ryle** (anthropology) is cofounder of the Rift Valley Institute, a research and public information organization operating in Eastern and Central Africa; **Pavlina Tcherneva** (economics) consulted for Bernie Sanders' 2016 U.S. Presidential campaign

RECENT FACULTY BOOKS

Richard Aldous (historical studies), *Schlesinger: The Imperial Historian*; **Myra Armstead** (historical studies), *Freedom's Gardener: James F. Brown, Horticulture, and the Hudson Valley in Antebellum America*; **Bruce Chilton** (religion), coeditor, *Intolerance: Political Animals and Their Prey* (Dialogues on Social Issues: Bard College and West Point Book 1); **Robert Culp** (historical studies), *The Power of Print in Modern China: Intellectuals and Industrial Publishing from the End of Empire to Maoist State Socialism*; **Mark Danner** (human rights), *Spiral: Trapped in the Forever War*; **Ian Buruma** (human rights), *A Tokyo Romance: A Memoir*; **Omar Encarnación** (political science), *Out in the Periphery: Latin America's Gay Rights Revolution*; **Allison McKim** (sociology), *Addicted to Rehab: Race, Gender, and Drugs in the Era of Mass Incarceration*; **Sean McMeekin** (historical studies), *The Russian Revolution*; **Michelle Murray** (political science), *The Struggle for Recognition in International Relations: Status, Revisionism, and Rising Powers*; **Pavlina Tcherneva** (economics), *The Case for a Job Guarantee*; **L. Randall Wray** (economics), *Why Minsky Matters: An Introduction to the Work of a Maverick Economist*

NOTABLE ALUMNI/AE

Betsaida Alcantara '05 (political studies), after holding positions in federal government and the Obama and Hillary Clinton campaigns, is vice president, communications and digital, for the Anti-Defamation League in New York; **Cristeena Chitrakar '12** (anthropology) is digital archivist in the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; **Ruddman Davis '03** (philosophy) is a tech entrepreneur who sold his in-store analytics and marketing start-up, Swarm Mobile, to Groupon; **Fredric S. Maxik '86** (philosophy and political studies) is founder of the Lighting Science Group Corporation, a leader in the development of commercial lighting that takes advantage of LED (light-emitting diode) technology; **Bo Bo Nge '03** (economics) is a deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar; **Daniel Pacheco '07** (economics) runs a sustainable solar energy firm he founded in Cambodia; **Amy Comstock Rick '81** (historical studies), director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics from 2000–03, is president and CEO of the Food and Drug Law Institute, a nonprofit organization that promotes discussion of food and drug law issues to inform public policy and regulation; **David Rolf '92** (historical studies), former vice president of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and founder and president emeritus of SEIU 775, is working with a venture capitalist on a project to rebuild the U.S. middle class; **Abby Zwick '13** (economics) is attending Georgetown University Law School after working for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York

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Bard

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Page 1: Vine Deloria Sr. '26, an exceptional athlete at St. Stephen's College (which became Bard), was Episcopal archdeacon of Indian parishes in South Dakota and a vocal advocate for tribal governments. Photo: Bard College Archives

Page 4: A student examines stone specimens, collected at a dig, with Christopher Lindner, archaeologist in residence.

Photo: Claire Debost '18