

SPT Courses, AY 2026-2027

GS SPTH 6105 - Master's Practicum: Major Research Paper Development

- › Course Director: Prof. Nalini Persram
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Meets: Wednesday, 14:30 – 17:20
- › Room: FC 110
- › Catalogue #: Y40K01

This course is mandatory for all first year MA students in Social & Political Thought. The course provides students with an opportunity to draft their proposal and their Major Research Paper (MRP) in a collective environment. It also provides them with a chance to work closely with their instructor in developing the design, methodology and theoretical approach of the MRP. Third, it gives students a chance for reflexive and dialogical space for students to interact and provide feedback on each other's projects.

GS SPTH 6106 - Social and Political Thought: Theories, Approaches, and Methods I

- › Course Director: Prof. Laura Kwak
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Meets: Wednesday, 14:30 – 17:20
- › Room: HNE B11
- › Catalogue #: Z81N01

This course is mandatory for all first year PhD students in Social & Political Thought. Normally the course will be facilitated by the GPD of SPT, and will review a diverse variety of ideas, theories, methods and research approaches.

GS SPTH 6423 - The Alchemy Lectures-Public Engagement with Black and Indigenous Thought and Ideas

- › Course Director: Prof. Christina Sharpe
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Meets: Monday, 11:30 – 14:20
- › Room: FC 103
- › Catalogue #: V34E01

This course engages the themes of the annual Alchemy Lecture, a public model of intellectual engagement that brings together Black and Indigenous thinkers to consider the critical issues

of our times. Students engage the works of these thinkers and attend the annual lecture, as well as gain understanding of the curatorial, planning, and publication process associated with the event.

GS SPTH 6431 - African Socialism and Communism

- › Course Director: Prof. Joe Pateman
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Meets: Tuesday, 14:30 – 17:20
- › Room: VH 1020
- › Catalogue #: Y84Q01

This course examines the political history of African socialism and communism, with a focus on sub-Saharan Black Africa. In doing so, the course illuminates the political struggles of Black Africans to overcome imperialism by establishing socialist and communist societies. The course distinguishes between African socialism, which was founded on African political philosophy, and African communism, which was founded on Marxism-Leninism.

GS SPTH 6413 - Considering Black Canada

- › Course Director: Prof. Tiana Reid
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Meets: Thursday, 14:30 – 17:20
- › Room: CB 122
- › Catalogue #: P10F01

Focuses on contemporary black Canadian writing in English, investigating both the literature and theoretical frameworks for locating its concerns and impact.

GS SPTH 6666 - Major Concepts in Deleuze & Guattari's Thought

- › Course Director: Prof. Walid El Khachab
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Meets: Monday, 11:30 – 14:20
- › Room: VH 1020
- › Catalogue #: Y35K01

This course introduces graduate students to the thought of French philosopher Gille Deleuze and his often co-author Félix Guattari. Some of the commonly used (and often misunderstood) concepts in Critical Theory were produced by the pair of French activists and intellectuals. This course surveys 12 among the most important concepts either created by Deleuze and Guattari or redefined by them.

Cross-listed courses

These are courses hosted by other graduate programs at York, which are open for SPT students. Please note that course details are subject to change without advanced warning. Please contact Irina via sptprog@yorku.ca if you are experiencing any issues with adding one of these courses.

GS SPTH 6015 - Pedagogy and Social Difference (GS EDUC 5810)

- › Course Director: TBA
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: K45V01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 5 seats

This course examines what discourses of social difference and theories of representation offer to the rethinking of pedagogy. Topics include psychoanalysis and pedagogy; theories of representing sex, race, and gender; AIDS and education; textuality and social difference; imagined communities; reading practices and the production of difference.

GS SPTH 6043 – Contemporary Topics in Social Theory (GS SOCI 6200) – FA26

- › Course Director: Prof. Sheila L. Cavanagh
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: N47E01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 4 seats

GS SPTH 6043 – Contemporary Topics in Social Theory (GS SOCI 6200) – WI27

- › Course Director: Prof. Radhika Mongia
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: G94N01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 3 seats

GS SPTH 6122 – Modern Cultural History (GS HIST 5701)

- › Course Director: Prof. Joan Judge
- › Term: Year (FA26-WI27)
- › Credits: 6.0
- › Catalogue #: J93U01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 4 seats

GS SPTH 6135 – Black Radical Thought (GS HUMA 6171)

- › Course Director: Prof. Ola Mohammed
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: N29W01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 6 seats

The aim of this seminar is to introduce students to 20th century revolutionary thought that was produced through black struggle against legacies of slavery, colonialism, and imperialism. It engages specifically with the ideas of C.L.R. James, Frantz Fanon, Claudia Jones, and Walter Rodney, all of Caribbean descent, whose intellectual and political work has had international impact.

GS SPTH 6146 – Colonialism, Race and the Law: Sociological Implications (GS SOCI 6893)

- › Course Director: TBA
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: Z29B01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 5 seats

The objective of this course is to provide students with theoretical and methodological tools to critically examine and explore how race and processes of racialization are constituted, exercised, lived and contested in law, through law and by law. This course examines the relationship between race, colonization and the contemporary legal order. The course will address the intersections of law, modernity and liberalism in order to address the role that law plays in the constitution of racialized, gendered and classed subjects. The course will address how legal processes of racialization contribute to the politics of nation-building and to the development of national subjectivities.

GS SPTH 6154 – Black Feminisms (GS GFWS 6910)

- › Course Director: Prof. Bianca Beauchemin
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: Y22P01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 5 seats

An introduction to the histories, theories, concepts and praxis of Black Feminism, as produced through intersectional struggles around race, class gender and sexuality. It considers shifts in the articulation of Black feminisms across geography, culture and time, and encourages further research into the specificities of Black Canadian feminism.

GS SPTH 6155 – Accelerating Technicity: 'Questions Concerning Technologies' (GS CMCT 6527)

- › Course Director: Prof. Shannon M. Bell
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: R55J01
- › Seats open for SPT students: By Permission

Accelerating Technicity examines the concept of technology in select works of Heidegger, Marcuse, Deleuze, Simondon, Stiegler, Hayles, Virilio and Accelerationism. Using these theorists the course will grapple with Heidegger's two conflicting tendencies in technology: the dominant tendency of instrumental technology (the danger inherent in technology) and second, the tendency toward poesis (the revealing and saving potential inherent in technology). The course is presented in blended (BLEN) format that includes in-class, on-line and print EE components: seminar presentation, seminar participation, interactive on-line discussion forum, one minute film, plus paper abstract and essay. The aim is for the student to be able to interact proficiently and seamlessly both online and in person to meet the requirements of a networked world.

GS SPTH 6172 – Histories: Women, Genders, Sexualities (GS GFWS 6001)

- › Course Director: Prof. Cynthia Wright
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: Z66P01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 5 seats

This course examines key concepts, debates, methodologies, and theoretical directions in the history of women, genders and sexualities from a transnational and intersectional perspective. It focuses on the dialogue between gender history and social history and asks how social movements have shaped the questions historians ask and how gender articulates with major analytic categories including class relations and racial formation.

GS SPTH 6183 – French Post-Marxism and Radical Democratic Theory (GS POLS 6021)

- › Course Director: Prof. Martin Breugh
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: Z65P01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 5 seats

This advanced seminar will examine the emergence, in France, of a new theory of radical democracy born of the ruthless critique of totalitarian domination and of the discovery of a politics of emancipation in the wake of the events of May 1968. Inspired by Rosa Luxemburg's alternative 'Socialism or Barbarism', the anti-totalitarian left articulates a democratic project

that remains critical of liberalism while rejecting vanguardism in the name of the political capacity of 'anybody and everybody' (J. Rancière).

GS SPTH 6192 – Economic Geographies: Capital, Labour and Space (GS GEOG 5375)

- › Course Director: Prof. Raju J. Das
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: S70P01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 5 seats

Grounded in three interrelated foundations-dialectical materialist philosophy, historical materialist social theory, and political economy-Marxist theory forms an organic and coherent theoretical whole. This course provides an introduction to key ideas within the Marxist tradition. It is of interest to students in geography, environmental studies, sociology, political thought, international development, and other cognate fields.

GS SPTH 6200A – Appropriating Marx's Capital I (GS POLS 6060)

- › Course Director: Prof. Jeffery R. Webber
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: Z07X01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 5 seats

GS SPTH 6222 – Culture and Modernity (GS HUMA 6319)

- › Course Director: Prof. Elisha Lim
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: K22X01
- › Seats open for SPT students: By Permission

GS SPTH 6230 – Contemporary Cinema and Media Theory (GS FILM 6230)

- › Course Director: Prof. Kate J. Russel
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: X60Q01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 3 seats

This course is intended as an in-depth study of major theoretical schools and debates within contemporary film theory. The course is divided into three key units, each of which will focus on

the historical development, methodological principles and philosophic underpinning of a specific school. This is a required course for all Critical and Historical Studies students.

GS SPTH 6271 – Political Economy: Major Texts (GS POLS 6271)

- › Course Director: Prof. Greg Albo
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: R48Y01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 5 seats

An in-depth introduction to major texts in the history of political economy, in this course we shall analyze texts by such thinkers as Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and J.M. Keynes with particular attention to issues having to do with methodology, the nature of the economic, and the relation of the economic to other areas of social life.

GS SPTH 6322 – Space and Cinema (GS FILM 6242)

- › Course Director: Prof. John McCullough
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: M01T01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 4 seats

Examines a variety of ways that space is created and experienced in film, television and video art with a consideration of themes such as the spaces of production and exhibition, location shooting and realism, cultural industries and real estate, special effects and virtual spaces, cognitive maps and habitus, and moving images as monuments. Featured theorists include Walter Benjamin, Siegfried Kracauer, Henri Lefebvre, Andre Bazin, the Situationists, Fredric Jameson, Laura Mulvey, Jean Louis Baudry, Stephen Heath, Paula Massood and David Harvey.

GS SPTH 6602 – Education and Social Justice in Postmodernity (GS EDUC 5615)

- › Course Director: Prof. Mario G. DiPaolantonio
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: R56T01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 3 seats

What can social justice mean in light of attempts to reconceptualize justice as an ethical and political relation to difference? This question is explored through diverse philosophical and educational writing across such themes as hospitality, promising, forgiveness, and the political uses and depiction of foreignness

GS SPTH 6632 – Thinking Power and Violence: from Nietzsche to Agamben (GS POLS 6086)

- › Course Director: Prof. Robert E. Latham
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: X12B01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 5 seats

About the meaning of power and violence as fundamental categories of modernity and human existence overall. The course is concerned with violence in many forms and manifestations, including: violence at the foundation of human community, conservative violence, 'divine violence,' redemptive violence, self as violence against self and other, exclusionary violence, the violence of liberal freedom and the commodity, counter-hegemonic violence, the violence of the spectacle, the violence of outsiders and gender violence.

GS SPTH 6648 – Politics of Aesthetics (GS POLS 6087)

- › Course Director: Prof. Shannon M. Bell
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: Y24M01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 3 seats

The Politics of Aesthetics develops an aesthetic framework from political and philosophical thinkers who have an aesthetic theory as part of their philosophy. These include Hegel, Kant, Heidegger, Vattimo, Badiou, Rancière and Zabala. The course is presented in blended (BLEN) format that includes in-class, on-line and print EE components: seminar presentation, seminar participation, interactive on-line discussion forum, one minute film, plus paper abstract and essay. The aim is for the student to be able to interact proficiently and seamlessly both online and in person to meet the requirements of a networked world.

GS SPTH 6672 – Issues in Contemporary Theory (GS EN 6997)

- › Course Director: Prof. Marcus B. Boon
- › Term: FA26
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: V17T01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 6 seats

This course focuses on current matters of concern and debate in contemporary literary and cultural theory. Issues will vary with Faculty expertise and contemporary developments. Students will acquire knowledge of the field and how it is variously transformed in practice.

GS SPTH 6674 – Diasporas: Transnational Communities and Limits of Citizenship (GS POLS 6525)

- › Course Director: Prof. Ethel Tungohan
- › Term: WI27
- › Credits: 3.0
- › Catalogue #: H83J01
- › Seats open for SPT students: 5 seats

Provides a comparative inquiry about the nature of transnational communal, religious, and political identities at the age of late capitalism. It puts emphasis on critical approaches to diasporas, their variant constructions of homeland and home, and their marked effects on the politics of the post-Westphalian state and international relations.