

Spring 2024 Humanities Colloquia



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Religion East and West: The Big Questions (and Answers in Words and Art)

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Salsa: History in Motion

Mon-Sat TH 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm
HONOR 350 – 005

This interdisciplinary colloquium provides the opportunity to examine and experience the history, aesthetics, and movement of salsa dancing, from its origins in the Afro-Cuban rhythms and dances of enslaved and formerly enslaved peoples to its modern emergence in the Latin neighborhoods of New York during the 1970s. Through reading, discussion, and debate, we will analyze how the various rhythms and dances encompassed in salsa emerged within complex histories of globalization, colonialism, enslavement, immigration, and cultural commodification in the Caribbean and New York. Through movement, we will explore the embodied strategies through which various peoples navigated their historical circumstances and the meanings they assigned to their music and dance. As an experience in interdisciplinarity, this course invites us to imagine and participate in new ways of learning, teaching, and communicating history. Assessment will not be based on dancing ability. Instead, the course will develop its own creative language to reflect on our discovery of the history and motion of salsa.

Adapting the Mystery: The Mystery of Adaptation

Mon-Wed TH 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm
HONOR 350 - 006

The classical mystery story/novel is a genre known for its strict conventions