NEW First-Year Seminars (199H1 and 199Y1)
SOCIAL SCIENCES - 2016-2017

SII: Society and Its Institutions

Half Courses

Sociology of “Accidents”
Question: What do Princess Diana, film star James Dean, painter Jackson Pollock, writer Emile Zola, singer Marvin Gaye, boxer Rocky Marciano, inventor George Washington Carver, and financier Benjamin Guggenheim all have in common? Answer: they all died accidentally. This course will examine psychological, sociological, and public health approaches to “accidents” – that is, unexpected and unintended injuries (and deaths) – to find out how they connect and where they diverge. We will discuss the problematic idea of “accident proneness” and look at accidents in a variety of venues: in sports, at home, at work, and on the road. We will also consider why both marriage and religious faith reduce the likelihood of accidental injury (and death).
Lorne Tepperman, Sociology

Year Courses

Social Justice and the City
Who benefits and who loses from urban transformation? This course is an introduction to the concept of social justice from an urban perspective. It will highlight how unequal relations of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability operate through the urban environment, and how these conditions can be contested through political mobilization. A variety of cases from cities around the world are used to explore issues related to segregation, gentrification, policing, migration, and access to public spaces and services.
Theresa Enright, Political Science