

# Humanities and Social Sciences

## The Cooper Union

### Course Schedule

### Spring 2026

#### Core Curriculum

The core curriculum of Cooper Union is a required four-semester sequence from HSS1: The Freshman Seminar through to HSS4: The Modern Context: Figures and Topics. The core curriculum requirement is satisfied by completing these four semesters in order. HSS1 and HSS3 are offered in fall semesters; HSS2 and HSS4 are offered in spring semesters.

#### **HSS-2** | *Texts and Contexts: Old Worlds and New*

A study of texts and topics from 1500 to 1800. Sections read common texts and some selections by individual instructors, with emphasis on literary expression and cultural context. Requirements include written analysis and class discussion.

| Section | Faculty  | Meeting Schedule        | Building | Room |
|---------|----------|-------------------------|----------|------|
| A       | Hewitt   | M: 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM  | AP       | 205  |
|         |          | Th: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM | AP       | 205  |
| B       | Hewitt   | M: 11:00 AM - 12:50 PM  | AP       | 205  |
|         |          | Th: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM | AP       | 205  |
| C       | Germano  | M: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM  | AP       | 207  |
|         |          | Th: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM | AP       | 207  |
| D       | Germano  | M: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM  | AP       | 207  |
|         |          | Th: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM | AP       | 207  |
| E       | Stieber  | M: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM  | 41CS     | 106  |
|         |          | Th: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM | 41CS     | 106  |
| F       | Stieber  | M: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM  | 41CS     | 106  |
|         |          | Th: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM | 41CS     | 106  |
| G       | Sayres   | M: 09:00 AM - 10:50 AM  | 41CS     | 401  |
|         |          | T: 06:00 PM - 06:50 PM  | 41CS     | 401  |
| H       | Sayres   | M: 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM  | 41CS     | 401  |
|         |          | T: 07:00 PM - 08:50 PM  | 41CS     | 401  |
| I       | Fink     | M: 09:00 AM - 09:50 AM  | 41CS     | 201  |
|         |          | Th: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM | 41CS     | 201  |
| J       | Fink     | M: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM  | 41CS     | 201  |
|         |          | Th: 09:00 AM - 09:50 AM | 41CS     | 201  |
| K       | Spritzer | M: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM  | 41CS     | 503  |
|         |          | T: 06:00 PM - 07:50 PM  | 41CS     | 506  |
| L       | Nicholls | M: 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM  | AP       | 211  |
|         |          | Th: 11:00 AM - 12:50 PM | AP       | 210  |
| M       | Menon    | M: 09:00 AM - 10:50 AM  | AP       | 211  |
|         |          | Th: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM | AP       | 211  |
| N       | Bantu    | M: 11:00 AM - 12:50 PM  | 41CS     | 427  |
|         |          | T: 06:00 PM - 06:50 PM  | 41CS     | 427  |

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### Spring 2026

#### HSS-4 | *The Modern Context: Figures and Topics*

A study of an important figure or topic from the modern period whose influence extends into contemporary culture. The figures and subjects are chosen from a broad range of disciplines (including literature, history, politics, technology and art history, among others). Through concentration on a single figure or focused topic students are encouraged to develop a deep awareness of works of great significance and to understand them in the context of modernity. Guided independent writing projects and oral presentations give students an appreciation for what constitutes research in the humanities and social sciences.

Please note that HSS-4 may not be repeated for elective credit.

| Section | Topic                                                            | Faculty     | Meeting Schedule        | Room |       |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|------|-------|
| A       | Poverty and Inequality in the US                                 | Abdelwahed  | M: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM  | 41CS | 306   |
| B       | Poverty and Inequality in the US                                 | Abdelwahed  | T: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM   | 41CS | 306   |
| C       | Gender Geographies                                               | Ebner       | M: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM  | 41CS | 105   |
| D       | Gender Geographies                                               | Ebner       | Th: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM | 41CS | 105   |
| E       | Cold War Histories                                               | Pérez       | Th: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM | AP   | 211   |
| F       | Cold War Histories                                               | Pérez       | T: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM   | 41CS | 201   |
| G       | Contemporary Cultural Studies                                    | Peterson II | M: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM  | 41CS | 104   |
| H       | Contemporary Cultural Studies                                    | Peterson II | Th: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM | 41CS | 104   |
| I       | Object Lessons                                                   | Pandit      | M: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM  | 41CS | 101   |
| J       | Object Lessons                                                   | Pandit      | Th: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM | 41CS | 101   |
| K       | Imagining the Body                                               | Wanner      | Th: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM | 41CS | LL101 |
| L       | Capitalism, Socialism and/vs Democracy: China's Economic Miracle | Sarich      | T: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM   | 41CS | LL101 |
| M       | Rock n Roll in the Global Sixties                                | Hodeib      | M: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM  | 41CS | LL101 |
| N       | What is a Body?                                                  | Barnick     | Th: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM | 41CS | 401   |

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## The Cooper Union

### Course Schedule

### Spring 2026

### Humanities (HUM) & Social Sciences (SS) Electives

The following courses fulfill Humanities, Free Elective, and Non-technical elective requirements for Students in Engineering; they fulfill General Studies requirements for students of Architecture; and they fulfill General Studies and Free Elective requirements for students of Art. In addition, courses with the prefix “HTA” fulfill the distributional requirements for Art students in Art History. Prerequisites. The prerequisites for courses with the prefixes “HUM” and “SS” are HSS1-4. Except with special permission, HTA101-102 is the prerequisite for Art History elective courses. Certain courses may have additional prerequisites, which will be stipulated in the course description.

| Course    |                                                            | Faculty            | Meeting Schedule       | Room         | Minors              |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| HUM-308   | Creative Writing                                           | Lin                | F: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM | 41CS<br>401  | LIT L&P             |
| HUM-315   | Science and Contemporary Thought                           | A. Escobar         | F: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM | 41CS<br>306  | STS H&S<br>PHS      |
| HUM-324   | The Polar Imagination                                      | Germano            | W: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM | AP 207       | LIT L&P<br>PHS STS  |
| HUM-354   | Philosophy of Infrastructure                               | Bower              | T: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM | AP 205       | L&P PHS<br>STS      |
| HUM-358   | Studies in Cinema                                          | Awad               | W: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM | 41CS<br>ROSE | HTA L&P<br>H&S PHS  |
| HUM-373   | The Comic Stage                                            | Stieber            | F: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM | 41CS<br>106  | LIT L&P             |
| HUM-375   | Critical Theory                                            | Sayres             | W: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM  | 41CS<br>401  | LIT L&P<br>PHS      |
| HUM-381   | Post-Colonial Studies                                      | Peterson II        | T: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM | AP 207       | H&S LIT<br>L&P PHS  |
| SS-333    | Politics of Ethnonational Conflict                         | Aripova            | W: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM | AP 205       | PHS H&S<br>ECON EPP |
| SS-334    | Microeconomics                                             | Abdelwahed         | W: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM  | 41CS<br>306  | ECON EPP            |
| SS-357    | The Archives in the City                                   | Buckley & Mann     | F: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM | FDN<br>LIB   | H&S PHS             |
| SS-388    | Comparative Cities                                         | Bataille           | W: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM | 41CS<br>401  | ECON EPP<br>H&S PHS |
| SS-318A-1 | Magic, Witchcraft, and Ghosts                              | Roberts            | Th: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM | 41CS<br>401  | PHS H&S             |
| SS-318B-1 | Anthropology of Care                                       | Mclsaac            | W: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM | AP 210       | PHS STS<br>H&S      |
| SS-318C-1 | 1947/48: Decolonization, Nation Building, and Displacement | Grossmann & Pandit | T: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM | 41CS<br>401  | H&S PHS             |
| SS-318N-1 | Histories of Race in Latin(x) America                      | Velayos Larrabure  | F: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM | 41CS<br>201  | H&S PHS<br>STS      |

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#### Spring 2026

### History and Theory of Art | Core Curriculum (HTA-102)

This two-semester art history core course, developed as part of the Foundation year for students in the School of Art but open to all students, is organized around a set of themes running through the history of modernity from the 18th century to the present. Within specific themes, significant works, figures and movements in art/design will be presented chronologically. Students will be able to identify and critically evaluate significant works, figures and movements in art/design in the modern period; be able to describe the main social and political contexts for the changes in art/design over the last two hundred years; and engage, in writing and class discussion, with theoretical perspectives on art/design production. The course will involve museum visits. Grading will be based on class participation, papers, and exams.

| Course    |                                                        | Faculty   | Meeting Schedule        | Room   | Minors |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| HTA-102-A | Modern to Contemporary: An Introduction to Art History | Jeanjean  | W: 02:00 PM - 04:50 PM  | AP 210 |        |
| HTA-102-B | Modern to Contemporary: An Introduction to Art History | Lancaster | M: 02:00 PM - 04:50 PM  | AP 210 |        |
| HTA-102-C | Modern to Contemporary: An Introduction to Art History | Jeanjean  | Th: 02:00 PM - 04:50 PM | AP 211 |        |
| HTA-102-D | Modern to Contemporary: An Introduction to Art History | Lancaster | T: 02:00 PM - 04:50 PM  | AP 210 |        |

### History and Theory of Art | Electives

|            |                                                                         |           |                         |               |         |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|---------|
| HTA-211    | The Renaissance in Italy                                                | Khoury    | M: 04:00 PM - 05:50 PM  | 41CS<br>401   | HTA H&S |
| HTA-275    | 20th-Century Art History: Latin American Art                            | Filippini | Th: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM | 41CS<br>LL210 | HTA H&S |
| HTA-328    | Dada and Surrealism                                                     | Weinstein | T: 09:00 AM - 10:50 AM  | AP 210        | HTA H&S |
| HTA-300A-1 | Single-Artist Seminar: Caterina Cantoni                                 | Khoury    | W: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM  | AP 211        | HTA H&S |
| HTA-300B-1 | Single-Artist Seminar: Lygia Clark                                      | Marino    | Th: 02:00 PM - 03:50 PM | AP 210        | HTA H&S |
| HTA-313D-1 | Global Iron Age in the Mediterranean                                    | Minniti   | T: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM  | AP 211        | HTA H&S |
| HTA-313E-1 | Trans Aesthetics and Visual Cultures                                    | Lancaster | M: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM  | AP 210        | HTA H&S |
| HTA-313F-1 | Public Art in Times of Crisis: Exploring the New Deal's Cultural Legacy | Fortuna   | M: 02:00 PM - 03:50 PM  | AP 211        | HTA H&S |
| HTA-313G-T | Surrealisms                                                             | Kincaid   | T: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM  | 41CS<br>LL101 | HTA H&S |
| TBD        | TBD                                                                     | TBD       | TBD                     |               |         |
| TBD        | TBD                                                                     | TBD       | TBD                     |               |         |

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**\*KEY\***

**Minors**

|      |                                |
|------|--------------------------------|
| ECON | ECONOMICS                      |
| EPP  | ECONOMICS & PUBLIC POLICY      |
| HTA  | ART HISTORY                    |
| H&S  | HISTORY & SOCIETY              |
| LIT  | LITERATURE                     |
| L&P  | LITERATURE & PHILOSOPHY        |
| PHS  | PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY, & SOCIETY |
| STS  | SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & SOCIETY |