

SPRING 2014

CAS 587 Special Topics seminar

Tuesdays, noon-2:50pm

Location: Center for Advanced Study

Instructors: Shao Dan (EALC), Feisal Mohamed (English), Siobhan Somerville (English, GWS)

This team-taught course takes a broadly comparatist approach to the interdisciplinary field of law and the humanities. The course will be organized into three sections, each investigating legal issues of contemporary relevance through approaches based in history, literary studies, political theory, and critical theories of race, gender, sexuality, and indigeneity. Drawing on several national contexts – Egypt, China, Japan, England, and the U.S. – for case studies, we will consider questions such as revolution, constitution-building, the transnational circulation of legal norms, national borders, formal citizenship, and deportation. Throughout the course, we will pay particular attention to the slippages, continuities, and distinctions between legal subjects and embodied, historical subjects. Our discussions will include visiting speakers sponsored by the Center for Advanced Study in conjunction with the INTERSECT initiative on Cultures of Law in Global Contexts. Requirements include active participation in discussion, a class presentation, weekly response papers, and a final essay.