Overview
The theme of this course is things that we take for granted as natural, but which are actually historically constructed. These include perception (time and space) and hierarchy (race and gender). The way we experience time and space, relate to each other in terms of social characteristics, and organize our affairs is often assumed to lie outside of social explanation, either in physical nature, biological foundations, or human nature. This course will try to find the social explanations for these things by probing the variation among different societies. In doing so, it is hoped to lay bare our own society's assumptions and learn more about ourselves.

This class is a seminar, which means that the sessions are entirely discussion. Groups of students will lead discussion (after the first week), critically evaluating the reading material and connecting it to other knowledge and personal experience. The educational goals include learning how to integrate an academic understanding of issues with personal experience. This means that the students learn from each other as well as from the reading and the professor.

The final class session on June 6 will be devoted to 3 class presentations prepared by groups of students. The class will be divided into thirds, with each group preparing a presentation on some aspect of reality typically taken for granted as natural but is really socially constructed. We will decide in class what those topics are to be. Possible topics might include ethnicity, crime, intelligence, nationality, homosexuality, heterosexuality, health, age (life stages), art, literacy, numeracy, science, capitalism, markets, corporations, education, cities, the public, the self, nature or terrorism. The class session on May 30 will be devoted to group planning and presentations will be given the following week. It is hoped that students will be creative in terms of the ideas and the mode of presentation. Audio-visual equipment can be arranged for the presentations.

Since this seminar has no exams or written materials, attendance is essential. To get passing credit, no more than one week can be missed, except for medical reasons or personal emergencies, for which documentation must be given.

**Weekly Schedule**
Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Chapter 1: Constructing Historical Reality

Week 3: Chapter 2: “Time”

Week 4: Chapter 3: “Space”

Week 5: Chapter 4: “Race”

Week 6: Chapter 5: “Gender”

Week 7: Chapter 6: “Class”

Week 8: Chapter 7: “Intersections”

Week 9: Plan for Presentations

Week 10: Class Presentations