***ACADEMIC PROGRAM***

***AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY AND AMERICAN CULTURE***

***July 25 – August 12, 2022***

The Philosophy department at Tufts University will offer to the students of Beijing Normal University a program entitled “American Philosophy and American Culture.” This course is a philosophical examination of some of the influential writings, extending from the colonial period up to the present, which show the emergence in America of an increasingly secular and egalitarian view of the world built on public reason. With a particular focus on conceptions of justice, toleration, and liberty in American political life, the course begins with an exploration of founding American political documents. The course then uses these documents as a lens to view and discuss issues of inequality, such as slavery and suffrage. The course concludes with an examination of more recent work by political philosopher John Rawls, and range of responses to Rawls made in the spirit of the American philosophical tradition.

Objectives:

* To become acquainted with major themes in American religious, political and philosophical culture through a close reading of primary texts and historical sources
* To attain familiarity with contemporary American philosophy and culture through lectures, multimedia presentations, and academic excursions
* To understand the intellectual history of American attention to the virtues of self-reliance, toleration, and pragmatism

Week 1-American Government

* John Lock: Fundamental Constitution of the Carolinas, and Letter Concerning Toleration
* Thomas Paine, The Age of Reason (Part One)
* Declaration of Independence
* Letters between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
* Notes on the State of Virginia (excerpt)
* The Federalist Papers (excerpts)

Week 2-Social Issues

* Asa Gray, Natural Selection not Inconsistent with Natural Theology
* Chauncey Wright, “Darwinism” and “Natural Theology as a Positive Science”
* Henry David Thoreau, Resistance to Civil Government (excerpts)
* John Dewey, Humanist Manifesto
* Herman Melville, Bartleby the Scrivener
* Alison Jaggar, Feminist Politics and Human Nature (excerpts)

Week 3-Contemporary Political Philosophy

* John Rawls, A Theory of Justice (excerpts) from Ch. 4 & Ch. 5, Political Liberalism (excerpts)
* Robert Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia (excerpts)
* Michael Sandel, TBD (excerpts)
* Martha Nussbaum, Frontiers of Justice (excerpts)

BNU Summer Course Field Trips (Video Tours)

Week 1: Monday, July 25 – Friday, July 29

* Mass State House.
* Newport, RI
* Trinity Church
* Whitehall tour
* Breakers tour

Week 2: Monday, August 1 – Friday, August 5

* Concord, MA
  + Old Manse/Concord river walk
  + North Bridge/Visitor Center
  + Concord Museum walking tour of Concord
  + Tour of Concord Museum ed center
  + Cemetery
  + Pond with Reenactor,

Week 3: Monday, August 8 – Friday, August 12

* Harvard/Mt. Auburn cemetery