From Stone Tools to Micro-Robots: The Evolution of Surgery
Ryan Halter, Assistant Professor of Engineering and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Surgery, Geisel School of Medicine
Can you imagine going for surgery and the doctor pulling out a flint knife and scraping stone? What about being treated without any anesthesia or pain relief? Medical technologies have come a long way since the inception of surgical practice. We'll discuss the evolution of surgical technologies and highlight current and future advances in surgery ranging from image-guidance to minimally invasive procedure to the micro-robotic surgeons of the future.
Follow the RED balloons—Murdough Center, Cook Auditorium

Did Ballot-design Oust an Incumbent Senator? A Study of the 2018 Midterm Election in Florida
Michael Herron, Professor of Government and Chair, Program in Quantitative Social Science
Looking at precinct and county election returns in Florida and from across the country, we will discuss how the format of ballots affects the rate at which voters skip races, i.e., undervote. We will focus in particular on Broward County, Florida, where in the 2018 midterm election, a confusing ballot format led several thousand Floridians to abstain from the United States Senate race, a hotly contested battle that was barely won by Republican challenger Rick Scott over former Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson.
Follow the WHITE balloons—Kemeny Hall, Room 008

Networks of Success: How Friendship Networks Matter for College and Beyond
Janice McCabe, Associate Professor of Sociology
How do friendships matter socially and academically during college? What happens to these friendship networks after college? In my recent book Connecting in College, I argue that the friendships students form are one of the most overlooked and crucial aspects of college. This session will show how college students form different types of friendship networks (tight-knitters, compartmentalizers, and samplers) and use them in different ways to manage their academic and social lives. This class will be both theoretical (examining social capital, for example) and practical (including an activity to figure out your own network type).
Follow the YELLOW balloons—Dartmouth Hall, Room 105

Coming to America: Zika Virus as a Recent Example of an Emerging Infectious Disease
C. Robertson McClung, Professor of Biological Sciences
On Feb 1, 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Zika virus infection to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Zika virus was discovered in mosquitoes in Uganda in 1947. Its infection of humans is widespread in Africa and Asia, where infection is typically asymptomatic or associated at most with mild fever. However, in 2013, as Zika virus began to spread across the Pacific Ocean, an association with neurological symptoms, including Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), was detected. In 2016 a soccer fan attending the World Cup brought Zika virus to Brazil. The unknown fan was bitten by a Brazilian mosquito, infecting it. That infected mosquito bit and infected other people and Zika spread rapidly among both the Brazilian mosquitoes and people, and subsequently throughout South and Central America. Soon it became clear that maternal zika virus infection was associated with severe neurological symptoms, including moderate to severe fetal microcephaly. This class will address the biological explanation for the change in Zika virus infection from an inconsequential mild fever to the extreme fetal debilitation of Congenital Zika Syndrome.
Follow the PINK balloons—Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center, Oopik Auditorium

Sex – A Brief and Incomplete Global History
Veronika Fuechtner, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of German Studies
Where did the first sex counseling clinics emerge? Who coined the term “transvestitism”? When did the first sex-reassignment surgery take place? Why was the female orgasm such a hot topic in the early 20th Century? The way we conceive of sex, gender and sexuality today was shaped by sexual science of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Scientific notions of sexuality did not simply migrate from the “West” to the “rest,” but developed as a result of complex global inter-actions and networks. In this interactive lecture we will explore a few key contributions to sexual science from all over the world from disciplines such as anthropology, medicine or psychiatry.
Follow the BLUE balloons—Carpenter Hall, Room 013

Reading Lincoln in the Age of Trump
Leslie Butler, Associate Professor of History
How can our current political moment inform how we think about the past, specifically the presidency of Abraham Lincoln? Using President Trump’s novel reliance on Twitter as a mode of political and presidential communication as our point of departure, this lecture will offer a reconsideration of the sixteenth president’s own innovative efforts at communicating with the public. Lincoln developed a sophisticated understanding of the role that opinion played in a representative government. Both before and during his presidency, he pioneered new efforts to shape that opinion and to attach fresh meaning to American ideals.
Follow the PURPLE balloons—Wild Hill, Room 104

Students with balloons will lead you to the 3:15 p.m. classes. See balloon colors below class descriptions.
Cleaning Up The Cell
Michael Ragusa, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Over time, different components of a cell may become damaged, misfolded or may no longer be needed. As a result, cells utilize a highly specialized pathway, termed autophagy, to identify material to be broken down and recycled. When this doesn’t happen, damaged, non-functional or superfluous materials can accumulate, causing diseases like neurodegenerative disease, inflammatory disease or metabolic disorders. We will start with a discussion of the process of autophagy: How does this process work? How important is autophagy for maintaining the health of a cell? Then we’ll move onto a discussion of how autophagy knows where to start. This is a daunting task as there is a lot of cellular material that could be recycled. How does the cell know which components should be recycled and which components should be left alone?

Location: Wilder Hall, Room 104

Beauty and the Meme
Nirvana Tanoukhi, Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing

The 1990s witnessed the rise of two entwined cultural phenomena. “Relatability” became the millennial generation’s category of choice for expressing aesthetic pleasure in things, scenarios, people, and works of art. Also, “the meme” was born and instantly declared the “genre of relatability.” While “relatable” has now become ubiquitous, most academic and mainstream commentators continue to be skeptical, some arguing that the term is meaningless, self-indulgent, and even dangerous. How does one go about adjudicating the legitimacy of relatability as a category of aesthetic evaluation? This class sets up and facilitates a group reflection on this question by going to the field of aesthetics where the assessment of works of art was first associated with the perception of beauty. I will provide an introductory crash course on the core ideas of Immanuel Kant’s Critique of Aesthetic Judgment (1790), in order to streamline our debate on whether calling a meme “relatable” entails making what Kant described in the case of judgments of beauty as “aesthetic judgment of reflection.”

Location: Carpenter Hall, Room 013

What Painting Is: Paintings/Prints in the Hood Collection from a Studio Art Perspective
Jennifer Caine, Senior Lecturer of Studio Art

This class will introduce core topics in Painting including color theory, composition, and paint handling. Referencing a selection of paintings spanning over 200 years from the Hood Museum collection – from John Constable and Edouard Vuillard in the past to contemporary artists Susannah Coffey, Rosemarie Beck, and Victor Ekpuk to name a few - you will consider the expressive potential of oil paint and related media.

Location: Hood Museum of Art, Bernstein Center for Object Study
*Space constraints limit this session to 14 guests. The Hood Museum will also be open for a tour from 7:15-7:45 p.m., with time afterwards to explore the galleries on your own before the museum closes at 8 p.m.

Monica White Ndounou, Associate Professor of Theater

In addition to her work for the theater department and affiliations with the Film and Media Studies and African and African-American Studies departments, Dr. Monica White Ndounou has been the Sony Music Fellow (2017-2018) at Dartmouth College and immediate Past President of the Black Theatre Association of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Her current work explores black American acting theories and practices, and this interactive class will focus on black cultural production across multiple platforms by considering the success of contemporary work in a historical context.

Location: Dartmouth Hall, Room 105

Five Facts That Everyone Should Know About Language, But Hardly Anyone Does
Lindsay Whaley, Professor of Classics and Linguistics

Language pervades nearly every aspect of the human experience. Without it, our thought life, the nature of our relationships, our forms of social organization, our ability to create new technologies, and our artistic production would be impossible. Yet, because we use language so effortlessly in our daily activities, few people appreciate how complex and fascinating the human capacity for language is and why artificial intelligence has such a hard time in getting human language right. In this class session, we examine five basic facts about language that will alter your view of how language actually works: our physical use of language and our cognitive interpretation of language are different; vision is involved in hearing; grammar is far more complicated than your English/French/Spanish/Latin teacher let on; a question is often not a question; and language shapes social judgments more than you might hope.

Location: Kemeny Hall, Room 008