What is knowledge, and what does it mean to be an “expert”? What is “expertise”? How have these concepts taken shape in Western discourse and institutions, particularly in academic institutions? And what are the skills associated with them? What does “expertise” look like in spaces that are not dominated by these Western epistemological priorities? In the first 5 weeks of this course we will first develop a broad genealogical context in which to analyze knowledge and “expertise” -- in particular, Humanities “expertise” -- in order not only to understand academic Humanities intellectual commitments but also to open “expertise” to other discourses, formations, actants, spirits. How do various communities create, gather, document, share, disseminate, and support things they take to be, and value as, true? In the following 10 weeks the course will be structured around the elements (specific methods, skills, and associated values) of academic expertise in order to understand how they operate outside the academic enterprise. In selected weeks invited guests will share their experiences of Humanistic endeavor in and beyond academic settings.

The course is a seminar, entirely dependent on student participation in group discussion. Students will be required to post two-page responses to the assigned reading, uploaded to the “Forums” section of our NYU Classes website by 9:00pm on the day prior to each class meeting. Each student is required to post eight such responses over the course of the semester; these, in addition to attendance and participation, will count for 25% of the final course grade. Students are also required to present one 15-minute (no more, no less) class presentation on some aspect of the assigned readings (25% of final grade). Finally, each student must submit both a 3,000- to 4,000-word midterm paper (20% of final grade) and a 6,000- to 7,500-word final seminar paper (30% of final grade). (The midterm paper may be a preliminary version of the final seminar paper.)
SCHEDULE OF READINGS

INTRODUCTION

Week 1: The shape of public “expertise” in the US and beyond: The TED Talk

Sir Ken Robinson, “Do Schools Kill Creativity?”
Stephanie Trigg, “What Does Normal Look Like?”
Anna Kazumi Stahl, “The World as a Haiku”

PART ONE: Some Genealogies of Knowledge

Week 2: Genealogies of Knowledge I: Categories of Knowledge and the Colonial Conditions of Emergence


Week 3: Genealogies of Knowledge II: What is Left Out of Humanist Knowledge?


**Week 4: Genealogies of Knowledge III: Further Reckonings with Humanist Knowledge**


**Week 5: The Emergence of Specialists; Amateurs Strike Back**


Stefano Harney and Fred Moten, The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning and Black Study (New York: Minor Compositions, 2013). 159 pp.

**PART TWO: BREAKING KNOWLEDGE DOWN: SOME INTELLECTUAL SKILLS AND THEIR DEPLOYMENTS**

**Week 6: Reading**


- Peter Brooks, “Introduction,” 1-14
- Patricia J. Williams, “The Raw and the Half-Cooked,” 75-82
- Ralph J. Hexter and Craig Buckwald, “Conquering the Obstacles to Kingdom and Fate: The Ethics of Reading and the University Administrator,” 83-91


**Guest: Dr. Josephine Livingstone, staff writer, The New Republic**

**Week 7: Storytelling**


Marshall Ganz, “Public Narrative, Collective Action, and Power,” in Sina Odugbemi and


Guest: Dr. Kay Turner, former Folk Arts Director, Brooklyn Arts Council

Week 8: Asking and Listening: Doing Oral History


ACT UP Oral History Project: explore web site: http://www.actuporalhistory.org


Guest: Prof. Sarah Shulman, CUNY Staten Island and ACT UP Oral History Project

Week 9: Gathering Resources: Archiving


**Guest: Dr. Joseph Plaster, Curator in Public Humanities, Sheridan Libraries and University Museums, The Johns Hopkins University**

**Week 10: Collecting and Exhibiting I**


Guest: Dr. Lanisa S. Kitchiner, Director of Education and Scholarly Initiatives, Smithsonian Institution - National Museum of African Art

Week 11: Collecting and Exhibiting II


Guest: Dr. Crystal M. Moten, Curator, Division of Work and Industry, Smithsonian Institution - National Museum of American History

Week 12: Making Place: Heritage, Preservation, Property


Week 13: Giving and Supporting: Grantmaking, Fundraising, and Philanthropy I

Guest: Dr. Helen Koh, Director of Institutional Giving at CUNY Graduate Center

Week 14: Giving and Supporting: Grantmaking, Fundraising, and Philanthropy II


Guest: Dr. Carla Sutherland, Senior Advisor at The Vaid Group LLC, a social innovation and consulting firm

Week 15: Last class: Student-Led Summing Up and Directions for Further Thought