This exciting and interactive FIG explores the concept of “youth” as a socially constructed and political category. Centered on scholarly literature and current events, the main seminar course, “Youth, Education, and Society” (Educational Policy 150), will help students think about how youth are framed in social and educational contexts and how forces such as, race, class, gender, and sexuality may impact that framing. This class explores how youth are shaped by such institutions as the family, the criminal justice system, the health care system, community-based programs, etc., and how they inform their educational and social trajectories. This course will challenge participants to reflect on their own positions in society, and their educational experiences, and also learn about the experiences of others.

In this class, students will:

• Reflect on their own educational journeys as youth and their relationships to social institutions
• Engage in lively discussions with peers and guest speakers
• Draw upon a variety of historical and contemporary ethnographic texts and films to explore the lived realities of youth who are situated within diverse racial, cultural, gendered, and classed contexts
• Engage with and learn from local youth workers.

This FIG also includes two linking courses:

Comparative Literature 203, “Before Beyoncé: Early Black Feminisms”
In this course, students will be introduced to texts by some women they may have heard of, like Sojourner Truth and Harriet Jacobs, but also by important, though less popularly known Black women, such as Harriet Wilson, Ida B. Wells, and Frances Harper. We will also discuss the relevance of nineteenth-century Black feminisms to Black women in the present.

Sociology 134, “Problems of American Racial and Ethnic Minorities”
This course will examine the nature of inter-group relations with an emphasis on: explanations of ethnic and racial prejudice and discrimination; historical background and characteristics of black Americans, Indian Americans, Mexican Americans, and other racial and ethnic minorities; a consideration of economic, housing, political, legal, educational, familial, health and psychological problems of minority groups.
This FIG is a total of 10 credits. Students will need to take a 12 credit minimum to be a full-time student.