GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The American Studies Program, a ten-course major, uses interdisciplinary approaches to develop students’ understanding of the complexity of the culture(s) usually labeled “American.” Examining history, literature, visual media, performance, and other forms of expression, we explore the processes of cultural definition as contested by diverse individuals and groups. We ask new questions about aspects of American life long taken for granted; we also use American culture as a laboratory for testing classic and contemporary theories about how cultures work.

NON-MAJORS, FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS, AND SOPHOMORES

America: the Nation and Its Discontents, our introductory course, is open to non-majors including first-year students, who are especially encouraged to take the class. All elective courses are open to students who meet the requirements or prerequisites specified in the course description. American Studies 301, the junior seminar required of majors, is open to non-majors with permission of the instructor.

COURSES AND COURSE NUMBERING

American Studies offers courses at all levels. Our 100-level electives, which give preference to first-year students, explore a substantive topic in-depth without seeking to introduce the field as a whole. Our introductory course, AMST 101, explores broad patterns of power and imagination, struggle and social change in American culture but also introduces the interdisciplinary approach and diverse cultural artifacts, genres, and media that distinguish American Studies as a form of inquiry. Both this course and our occasional 200-level electives are appropriate for students at all levels, including first-years. The intermediate electives at the 300-level are offered primarily for juniors and seniors, although, when space and instructor policy permits, they are open to sophomores. All majors are required to take AMST 301, the junior seminar, which teaches students how to employ theories and methods central to the field. The 400-level courses designated as senior seminars are designed for senior majors, though other students (majors and non-majors) with appropriate preparation are typically welcome in these courses as well.

THE MAJOR

Required Courses

- American Studies 101, America: the Nation and Its Discontents
- American Studies 301, Junior Seminar
- One 400-level course designated Senior Seminar

Elective Courses

Seven courses: four should be chosen from your primary specialization field; the remaining three electives must represent each of the remaining three fields, to ensure breadth of your study. At least one of your seven electives should cover pre-1900 American history or culture.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN AMERICAN STUDIES

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION FOR HONORS
Candidates for honors in American Studies will undertake a substantial, year-long, independent project during their senior year. Applicants should have a consistent record of high achievement in courses taken for the major, and normally will have done work in the field of study of their proposed thesis. Students who wish to write or produce an honors project should consult with both the chair and a prospective faculty adviser in the fall or winter of their junior year. Students who wish to pursue honors must submit a brief proposal describing their project to the Chair of the American Studies Program by the time of spring registration of their junior year. Final admission to the honors thesis program will depend on the AMST advisory committee’s assessment of the qualifications of the student and the merits and feasibility of the project (including the availability of relevant faculty advisers). If your thesis is approved, you will enroll in AMST 491/Winter Study/AMST 492. These courses, taken together, count as one of your required electives.

**TIMELINE FOR AMERICAN STUDIES HONORS THESIS STUDENTS**

The fall and winter study deadlines vary widely, depending on your own rhythms, the timing of your meetings with your adviser, etc. The first part of the fall is typically devoted to refining the questions at the heart of your project, and the scope of your argument (including literature review, archival research, etc.) Most students begin this work over the summer. We encourage our students to start writing as soon as possible. Typically, we aim to have students write a draft of one substantive chapter and the introduction by the end of finals week in fall semester, though some have produced two substantive chapter drafts instead.

January is very important. Many pages of new writing and editing of previous work will be done in this period. Occasionally, seniors will meet together in an informal thesis colloquium. The goal for Winter Study, generally speaking, is to know by the end of it what you will need to write in the last push as Spring semester begins. Your biggest push will come in February and March. All writing and revisions should be done by the end of spring break. Here are the approximate deadlines:

- Immediate after Spring Break: draft of entire thesis is due to your adviser and your two readers;
- Two – three weeks later: deadline for readers to respond to you with comments/suggestions;
- Wednesday of the last week of classes: final version of thesis due to readers.

Senior thesis writers will share their work with interested faculty and students in a public presentation in the last weeks of the spring semester. Designation of Honors or Highest Honors will be decided by the faculty at the end of the semester.

**ADVISING**

All majors will be assigned a faculty adviser. Majors must meet with their adviser during the first week of classes during the fall semester and at the time of the spring semester registration period in order to have their courses and plans for the American Studies major approved. Both majors and non-majors are encouraged to talk at any time with the program chair or other affiliated faculty about the major.

**AMERICAN STUDIES AND OTHER PROGRAMS**

Students majoring in American Studies are encouraged to consider pursuing concentrations in Africana Studies, Environmental Studies, Latina/o Studies, Performance Studies, and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Many of the courses counted for those concentrations may also earn credit toward the American Studies major.

**STUDY AWAY FROM WILLIAMS**

We encourage students to pursue cross-cultural comparative studies. A major in American Studies can be combined with study away from Williams for a semester or a year if plans are made carefully. Many courses that will be approved for College credit may also count toward the American Studies major. Many of the courses offered by Williams at Mystic Program also count toward the major. Please see the chair if you have questions about how your study abroad may enhance your American Studies experience.

Students planning to be away in the junior year should have taken American Studies 101 before they leave; those who can take the Junior Seminar before they go away are strongly encouraged to do so. Students should consult as early as possible with the chair or their adviser about their plans for fulfilling the requirements of the major.

**SPECIALIZATION FIELDS**

To provide focus for work in the major, each student will choose one of the specialization fields listed below and record this choice when registering for the major. (This commitment can be revised, in consultation with the chair.) At least four electives should be taken from this primary field.

**ARTS IN CONTEXT**

This specialization is for students interested in American arts, literature and media. Its approaches are interdisciplinary: it trains students to examine cultural artifacts with attention to aesthetic form and to the contexts—historical, social, political—that determine and situate those forms. Broadly, it asks how history has shaped the arts and media and how the arts and media have shaped how we think and who we are. Students in this specialization take courses across a range of genres and media: poetry, fiction, music, film and video, pop culture, visual culture, performance,
Elective Courses

Students may check with the program chair to see if other courses not listed here might count as electives.

AFR 205 / WGSS 207 TUT She Speaks in Color: Examining the 'Color Complex' in Toni Morrison's Writings
  Taught by: VaNatta Ford
  Catalog details
AFR 208 / AMST 208 / REL 262(S) TUT Time and Blackness
  Taught by: James Manigault-Bryant
  Catalog details
AFR 221 / REL 263(F) SEM Giving God a Backbeat: Rap Music, Religion & Spirituality
  Taught by: TBA
  Catalog details
AFR 299 / PSCI 233 / REL 261 SEM Rastafari: Dread, Politics, Agency
  Taught by: Neil Roberts
  Catalog details
AFR 302(S) SEM Complexion Complexities: Colorism in Literature, Lyrics & Everyday Life
  Taught by: TBA
  Catalog details
AFR 323 / ARTH 223 / COMP 322 / AMST 323 / ENGL 356 SEM Comic Lives: Graphic Novels & Dangerous Histories of the African Diaspora
  Taught by: Rashida Braggs
  Catalog details
AMST 128 / COMP 128 / ENGL 128 SEM Reading Asian American Literature
  Taught by: Anthony Kim
  Catalog details
AMST 142 / STS 142 TUT AlterNatives: Indigenous Futurism and Science Fiction
  Taught by: Eli Nelson
  Catalog details
AMST 300 / ENGL 300 / COMP 357 SEM Re/Generations I: Memory Against Forgetting and the Global American Empire
  Taught by: Anthony Kim
  Catalog details
AMST 307 SEM Experimental African American Poetry
  Taught by: Dorothy Wang
  Catalog details
AMST 321 / STS 321 SEM Unsettled Futures: Time, Crisis, and Science Fiction from the Margins
  Taught by: Eli Nelson
  Catalog details
AMST 335 / ARTH 335 SEM Uncovering Williams
  Taught by: Dorothy Wang
  Catalog details
AMST 357 SEM Re/Generations II: Contemporary Experiments in Memory, Trauma, and Self
  Taught by: Anthony Kim
  Catalog details
AMST 403 / AFR 333 / LATS 403 SEM New Asian American, African American, Native American, and Latina/o Writing
  Taught by: Dorothy Wang
  Catalog details
ARTH 264 / AMST 264 LEC American Art and Architecture, 1600 to Present
  Taught by: Michael Lewis
  Catalog details
ARTH 265 / AMST 265 LEC Pop Art
  Taught by: C. Ondine Chavoya
  Catalog details
ARTH 310 / WGSS 312 / AMST 333(S) SEM An American Family and "Reality" Television
  Taught by: TBA
  Catalog details
ARTH 462 / AMST 462 / LATS 462 / ARTH 562 SEM Art of California: Pacific Standard Time
  Taught by: C. Ondine Chavoya
  Catalog details
COMP 242 / AMST 242 / ENGL 250(S) SEM Americans Abroad
  Taught by: Soledad Fox
  Catalog details
ENGL 105 / WGSS 105(F, S) SEM American Girlhoods
  Taught by: Kathryn Kent
  Catalog details
ENGL 129 / AFR 129 SEM Twentieth-Century Black Poets
Taught by: David Smith
Catalog details
ENGL 204 LEC Hollywood Film

Taught by: James Shepard
Catalog details
ENGL 210 SEM American Modernism

Taught by: John Limon
Catalog details
ENGL 220 / AFR 220 / AMST 220(S) SEM Introduction to African American Literature

Taught by: David Smith
Catalog details
ENGL 272 / AMST 272 SEM American Postmodern Fiction

Taught by: John Limon
Catalog details
ENGL 338 / AMST 338(S) SEM Literature of the American Renaissance

Taught by: John Limon
Catalog details
ENGL 343(S) TUT Whitman and Dickinson in Context

Taught by: Kathryn Kent
Catalog details
ENGL 372 SEM Documentary Poetry

Taught by: Jessica Fisher
Catalog details
ENGL 418 / AMST 418 SEM Modernisms and the Archive

Taught by: Bethany Hicok
Catalog details
ENGL 450 SEM Melville, Mark Twain, & Ellison

Taught by: David Smith
Catalog details
LATS 203 / ARTH 203 / WGSS 203 / AMST 205(F) LEC Chicana/o/x Film and Video

Taught by: C. Ondine Chavoya
Catalog details
LATS 240 / COMP 210 / AMST 240(S) SEM Latina/o/x Language Politics: Hybrid Voices

Taught by: Maria Elena Cepeda
Catalog details
LATS 346 / AMST 346 SEM Latinas/os and the Media: From Production to Consumption

Taught by: Maria Elena Cepeda
Catalog details
LATS 348 / AMST 348 / COMP 348 SEM Drawing Democracy: Graphic Narratives as Democratic Ideals

Taught by: Nelly Rosario
Catalog details
LATS 358 / ARTH 358(S) SEM Latinx Installation and Site-Specific Art

Taught by: TBA
Catalog details
MAST 231 / ENGL 231(F, S) SEM Literature of the Sea

Taught by: Ned Schaumberg
Catalog details
MUS 151 LEC History of Jazz

Taught by: Kris Allen
Catalog details
MUS 211(F) SEM Music, Nationalism, and Popular Culture

Taught by: Corinna Campbell
Catalog details
MUS 252 / AFR 242 LEC Introduction to the Music of John Coltrane

Taught by: Kris Allen
Catalog details
MUS 254 / AFR 254(S) SEM Bebop: The (R)evolution of Modern Jazz

Taught by: Kris Allen
Catalog details
MUS 279 TUT American Pop Orientalism

Taught by: W. Anthony Sheppard
Catalog details
THEA 275 TUT American Drama: Hidden Knowledge

Taught by: TBA
Catalog details
THEA 330 / COMP 330 / AMST 331 SEM New Orleans as Muse: Literature, Music, Art, Film and Theatre in the City
COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN RACE, ETHNICITY, AND DIASPORA

This interdisciplinary specialization examines the role of race, ethnicity, and diasporic movements in the construction of American identities. Students explore how experiences and concepts of race and ethnicity are transformed through the processes of diaspora and immigration. These courses may encompass a broad spectrum of fields such as history, literature, religion, politics, anthropology, gender studies, media and the performing arts, among others. NOTE: Concentrators in this area are required to take a combination of courses that will allow them to comparatively assess the experiences of at least two ethno-racial groups in the Americas.

Elective Courses

AFR 132 / AMST 132 / PSCI 132 SEM Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy
  Taught by: Neil Roberts
 AF 200(F, S) LEC Introduction to Africana Studies
  Taught by: Keston Perry, Allison Guess
AFR 208 / AMST 208 / REL 262(S) TUT Time and Blackness
  Taught by: James Manigault-Bryant
AFR 211 / AMST 211 / ENVI 211 / SOC 211(S) LEC Race, Environment, and the Body
  Taught by: James Manigault-Bryant
AFR 299 / PSCI 233 / REL 261 SEM Rastafari: Dread, Politics, Agency
  Taught by: Neil Roberts
AFR 302(SEM Complexion Complexities: Colorism in Literature, Lyrics and Everyday Life
  Taught by: TBA
AFR 320 / AMST 320 / WGSS 320(S) SEM Dangerous Bodies: Black Womanhood, Sexuality & Popular Culture
  Taught by: Phon Manigault-Bryant
AFR 321 SEM Trending Black: Race & Social Media in the 21st Century
  Taught by: VaNatta Ford
AFR 323 / ARTH 223 / COMP 322 / AMST 323 / ENGL 356 SEM Comic Lives: Graphic Novels & Dangerous Histories of the African Diaspora
  Taught by: Rashida Braggs
AFR 332 (Anti-)Imperialism, Race, and the Archive
  Taught by: TBA
AFR 360 / LEAD 360 / PHIL 360 / PSCI 370 SEM The Political Thought of Frantz Fanon
  Taught by: Neil Roberts
AFR 405(F) SEM CAPSTONE: Africana Studies and the Disciplines
  Taught by: James Manigault-Bryant
AMST 125(F) SEM Introduction to Asian American Studies
  Taught by: Kelly Chung
AMST 142 / STS 142 TUT AlterNatives: Indigenous Futurism and Science Fiction
  Taught by: Eli Nelson
AMST 146(F, S) SEM Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies
  Taught by: Stefan Aune
AMST 202 / AFR 209 SEM Introduction to Racial Capitalism
  Taught by: TBA
AMST 209 SEM Introduction to Black, Brown, and Queer Theory
  Taught by: Eli Nelson
AMST 223 SEM Eating Empire: Asian/Pacific Islander/American Foodways and Culture
  Taught by: Anthony Kim
AMST 243 / AFR 243 SEM Asian/American and Black Literary and Cultural Thought
Taught by: Dorothy Wang

AMST 307 SEM Experimental African American Poetry
Taught by: Dorothy Wang

AMST 321 / STS 321 SEM Unsettled Futures: Time, Crisis, and Science Fiction from the Margins
Taught by: Eli Nelson

AMST 325 / PSCI 333 / AFR 344 SEM Asian/African American Cultural and Political Theory
Taught by: Dorothy Wang

AMST 345 / GBST 344 / AFR 353(F, S) SEM Capitalism and Racism in the American Context and Beyond: A Global Approach
Taught by: Souhail Chichah

AMST 353 / STS 353 SEM Is Science Native to Turtle Island? The History of Native Science in North America
Taught by: Eli Nelson

AMST 357 SEM Re/Generations II: Contemporary Experiments in Memory, Trauma, and Self
Taught by: Anthony Kim

AMST 359 / AFR 351 SEM Spirits of Rebellion: The L.A. Rebellion Filmmakers
Taught by: Anthony Kim

AMST 382 / COMP 382 SEM Transnational Asian/American Film and Video
Taught by: Anthony Kim

AMST 403 / AFR 333 / LATS 403 SEM New Asian American, African American, Native American, and Latina/o Writing
Taught by: Dorothy Wang

AMST 405 SEM Critical Indigenous Theory
Taught by: Eli Nelson

ENGL 220 / AFR 220 / AMST 220 SEM Introduction to African American Literature
Taught by: David Smith

ENVI 246 / AMST 245 / HIST 265 SEM Race, Power, & Food History
Taught by: April Merleaux

HIST 152 / WGSS 152 SEM The Fourteenth Amendment and the Meanings of Equality
Taught by: Sara Dubow

HIST 187 / AFR 167 / AMST 167 SEM Let Freedom Ring? African Americans and Emancipation
Taught by: Gretchen Long

INTR 322 / PSCI 313 / AFR 322 / AMST 322 SEM Race, Culture, Incarceration
Taught by: TBA

LATS 105(F) LEC Latina/o Identities: Constructions, Contestations, and Expressions
Taught by: Edgar Sandoval, Carmen Whalen

LATS 203 / ARTH 203 / WGSS 203 / AMST 205(F) LEC Chicana/o/x Film and Video
Taught by: C. Ondine Chavoya

LATS 224 / AMST 224 / REL 224(S) SEM U.S. Latinx Religions
Taught by: Efrain Agosto

LATS 240 / COMP 210 / AMST 240(S) SEM Latina/o/x Language Politics: Hybrid Voices
Taught by: Maria Elena Cepeda

LATS 286 / HIST 286 LEC Conquests and (Im)migrations: Latina/o History, 1848 to the Present
Taught by: Carmen Whalen

LATS 313 / AMST 313 / WGSS 313 / AFR 326(S) SEM Gender, Race, and the Power of Personal Aesthetics
Taught by: Maria Elena Cepeda
Catalog details
LATS 327 / REL 314 / AMST 327 / AFR 357 SEM Racial and Religious Mixture
  Taught by: Jacqueline Hidalgo
Catalog details
LATS 346 / AMST 346 SEM Latinas/os and the Media: From Production to Consumption
  Taught by: Maria Elena Cepeda
Catalog details
LATS 348 / AMST 348 / COMP 348 SEM Drawing Democracy: Graphic Narratives as Democratic Ideals
  Taught by: Nelly Rosario
Catalog details
LATS 409 / WGSS 409 / AMST 411 SEM Transnationalism and Difference: Comparative Perspectives
  Taught by: Maria Elena Cepeda
Catalog details
MUS 151 LEC History of Jazz
  Taught by: Kris Allen
Catalog details
PSCI 248 TUT The USA in Comparative Perspective
  Taught by: James Mahon
Catalog details
PSCI 349 TUT Cuba and the United States
  Taught by: James Mahon
Catalog details
PSYC 341 / WGSS 339 LEC Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination
  Taught by: Steven Fein
Catalog details
REL 237 / AFR 237 / AMST 237 SEM Islam in the United States: Race, Religion, Politics
  Taught by: Zaid Adhami

CRITICAL AND CULTURAL THEORY

Critical and cultural theory is for students who want their American Studies work to combine philosophy, aesthetics, and social thought. Its approach is methodological, conceptual, and problem-driven. Students combine courses in feminist theory, anti-imperial and postcolonial theory, literary theory, critical race theory, queer theory, psychoanalysis, Marxism, and other counter-traditions in political theory and philosophy.

Elective Courses

AFR 132 / AMST 132 / PSCI 132 SEM Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy
  Taught by: Neil Roberts
Catalog details
AFR 299 / PSCI 233 / REL 261 SEM Rastafari: Dread, Politics, Agency
  Taught by: Neil Roberts
Catalog details
AFR 360 / LEAD 360 / PHIL 360 / PSCI 370 SEM The Political Thought of Frantz Fanon
  Taught by: Neil Roberts
Catalog details
AMST 209 SEM Introduction to Black, Brown, and Queer Theory
  Taught by: Eli Nelson
Catalog details
AMST 219 / WGSS 217 / RUSS 218 SEM Extreme Persuasions: The Far Right in the United States and Russia
  Taught by: Alexandar Mihailovic
Catalog details
AMST 243 / AFR 243 SEM Asian/American and Black Literary and Cultural Thought
  Taught by: Dorothy Wang
Catalog details
AMST 260 / WGSS 262 SEM Indigenous Feminisms
  Taught by: Margaux L Kristjansson
Catalog details
AMST 321 / STS 321 SEM Unsettled Futures: Time, Crisis, and Science Fiction from the Margins
  Taught by: Eli Nelson
Catalog details
AMST 325 / PSCI 333 / AFR 344 SEM Asian/African American Cultural and Political Theory
  Taught by: Dorothy Wang
Catalog details
AMST 345 / GBST 344 / AFR 353(F, S) SEM Capitalism and Racism in the American Context and Beyond: A Global Approach
  Taught by: Souhail Chichah
AMST 353 / STS 353 SEM Is Science Native to Turtle Island? The History of Native Science in North America
  Taught by: Eli Nelson

AMST 359 / AFR 351 SEM Spirits of Rebellion: The L.A. Rebellion Filmmakers
  Taught by: Anthony Kim

AMST 365 / ENGL 320 / AFR 365 / GBST 365(F) SEM Race and Psychoanalysis: Slavery and the Psyche
  Taught by: Selamawit Terrefe

AMST 382 / COMP 382 SEM Transnational Asian/American Film and Video
  Taught by: Anthony Kim

AMST 405 SEM Critical Indigenous Theory
  Taught by: Eli Nelson

ANSO 305(F) SEM Social Theory
  Taught by: Olga Shevchenko

ANTH 328 TUT Emotions and the Self
  Taught by: Peter Just

COMP 380 / ENGL 370 SEM Literary and Critical Theory in the Twentieth Century
  Taught by: Christopher Bolton

ENGL 113 / AMST 113 / WGSS 113(F) SEM The Feminist Poetry Movement
  Taught by: Bethany Hicok

ENGL 117 / COMP 117(F) SEM Introduction to Cultural Theory
  Taught by: Christian Thorne

ENGL 230 / COMP 240 SEM Introduction to Literary Theory
  Taught by: Christopher Pye

ENGL 302 / AMST 310 / WGSS 330(S) SEM "A language to hear myself": Advanced Studies in Feminist Poetry and Poetics
  Taught by: Bethany Hicok

ENGL 340 / AMST 340 / WGSS 340 / COMP 342 SEM Elizabeth Bishop in the Americas
  Taught by: Bethany Hicok

ENVI 348 / AMST 347 SEM Beyond Cli-Fi: Climate Change Histories & the Arts of Resilience
  Taught by: April Merleaux

INTR 320 / AMST 308 / LEAD 319 / PSCI 376 SEM Angela Davis: Political Theory, Activism, and Alliances
  Taught by: TBA

INTR 322 / PSCI 313 / AFR 322 / AMST 322 SEM Race, Culture, Incarceration
  Taught by: TBA

INTR 343 / AFR 343 / AMST 343 / WGSS 343 TUT Representations of Racial-Sexual Violence from Enslavement to Emancipation
  Taught by: TBA

PHIL 228 / STS 228 / WGSS 228 LEC Feminist Bioethics
  Taught by: Julie Pedroni

PHIL 379 / AMST 379 SEM American Pragmatism
  Taught by: Steven Gerrard

POEC 250 / PSCI 238 / ECON 299(F) SEM Economic Liberalism and Its Critics
  Taught by: William Gentry, James Mahon

PSCI 235 / ENVI 235 SEM Survival and Resistance: Environmental Political Theory
  Taught by: TBA

PSCI 273 / ENVI 273 / STS 273 SEM Politics without Humans?
  Taught by: Laura Ephraim
SPACE AND PLACE

This route focuses on the human landscape and the built environment. Courses listed below variously undertake the reading of geographical regions, patterns of habitation, imagined spaces, property relations and/or artifacts.

Elective Courses

AFR 211 / AMST 211 / ENVI 211 / SOC 211(S) LEC Race, Environment, and the Body
- Taught by: James Manigault-Bryant

AMST 200 SEM Ethnographic Directions in American Studies
- Taught by: TBA

AMST 335 / ARTH 335 SEM Uncovering Williams
- Taught by: Dorothy Wang

AMST 367(F) SEM Colonialism and the Environment
- Taught by: Stefan Aune

ARTH 264 / AMST 264 LEC American Art and Architecture, 1600 to Present
- Taught by: Michael Lewis

ARTH 405(F) SEM Seminar in Architectural Criticism
- Taught by: Michael Lewis

ARTH 462 / AMST 462 / LATS 462 / ARTH 562 SEM Art of California: Pacific Standard Time
- Taught by: C. Ondine Chavoya

ARTH 501 / LEAD 301 / ARTH 401(S) SEM Museums: History and Practice
- Taught by: Michael Conforti

ECON 383 LEC Cities, Regions and the Economy
- Taught by: Stephen Sheppard

ENGL 312 / ENVI 315 SEM Ecocriticism
- Taught by: Jessica Fisher

ENGL 378 / ENVI 378 SEM Nature/Writing
- Taught by: David Smith

ENVI 101(F, S) LEC Nature and Society: An Introduction to Environmental Studies
- Taught by: Brittany Meché, Laura Martin

ENVI 291 / REL 291 / SOC 291(S) TUT Religion and Ecology in America
- Taught by: Nicolas Howe

ENVI 307 / PSCI 317(F) LEC Environmental Law
- Taught by: David Cassuto

ENVI 402 / AMST 406(F) SEM Environmental Planning Workshop: Community-Based Project Experience
AMST 101 (F)(S) America: The Nation and Its Discontents (DPE)

This course introduces students to the capacious and extraordinarily varied interdisciplinary field of American Studies. First institutionalized in the mid-twentieth century, American Studies once bridged literature and history in an attempt to discover a singular American identity. Over 80 years later, many American Studies scholars reject this exceptionalizing rhetoric, working instead to understand how genocide, enslavement, colonization, and militarism/war are foundational to the formation of the U.S. nation-state, and how marginalized and minoritized peoples have survived through, rebelled against, and created new visions for collectivity, relationality, and community. In this course, students will be introduced to the dynamic ways American Studies work links to ethnic studies; women, gender, and sexuality studies; literary studies, political science; critical geography; critical media studies; disability studies; history; anthropology; sociology; art; and more. We will anchor this array of approaches by examining beliefs, practices, places, and migrations that have shaped and been shaped by the U.S., and we will pay particular attention to the people who labor for, have been racialized by, and who think critically about "America." Through close reading; discussions; and analyses of music, art, and film, we will collectively reckon with the questions of who and what makes "America" -- hemispherically, transnationally, globally. In the process, students will be encouraged to co-create a learning experience rooted in praxis, political consciousness, intersectionality, and mutual support.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on class participation, weekly reading questions or discussion posts, and series of written assignments (three 3-page papers; and one 5- to 7-page paper)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students

Expected Class Size: 20
AMST 113  (F)  The Feminist Poetry Movement  (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: ENGL 113  AMST 113  WGSS 113

Secondary Cross-listing

Feminist poetry and feminist politics were so integrated in the 1960s and 1970s in America that critical essays on poets, such as Adrienne Rich and Audre Lorde, appeared in the same handbook that listed such resources for women as rape crisis centers and health clinics. This course will map the crucial alliance between feminist politics (and its major cultural and political gains) and the feminist poetry movement that became a major "tool" for building, organizing, and theorizing second-wave feminism. In order to track this political and poetic revolution, we will take an interdisciplinary approach that brings together historical, critical, and literary documents (including archival ones) and visual products (through the Object Lab of the Williams College Art Museum) that recreate the rich context of the period and help us consider the important social nature of aesthetic production. At the center of the course will be writings of major poets of the period, as well as anthologies and feminist periodicals that published their work and created a significant forum and shared space for women to articulate the politics and poetics of change. These periodicals and anthologies will also help us track the diversity of the feminist poetry movement and its intersection with issues of race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality. Ultimately, we will want to consider how poetry serves as an important tool for thinking through questions of power and injustice and what role it plays in creating necessary imaginative space in the world for expression, critique, and change.

Class Format: discussion, some lecture, project work in archives and art gallery

Requirements/Evaluation: two-three short analysis papers, creative (1-2 pages), discussion posts, curated final project (archival exhibit and digital project), presentations

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first years

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 113 (D1) AMST 113 (D2) WGSS 113 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Writing skills taught through a series of assignments evenly spaced throughout the semester: weekly p/f discussion posts, three four-to-five-page graded papers, one creative assignment, and a final digital research project (10-page equivalent; peer reviewed). Students receive critical feedback on written assignments a week prior to due date through conferences and Google Docs and on final graded assignments within one week with sufficient time between assignments to improve the next assignment.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course examines the effects of class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality on both poetry and the movement and how women negotiated their differences within the movement, as well as in response to the dominant patriarchal culture. This course employs critical tools (feminist theory, archival research, poetics, close reading, comparative approaches) to help students question and articulate the social injustices that led to the poetry and poetics of the Women's Liberation Movement.

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives ENGL Criticism Courses EXPE Experiential Education Courses WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses  WGSS Theory Courses
AMST 114  (S) Of Caravans and Narcos: U.S. Media Narratives about Central and South America  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  AMST 114  LATS 114

Secondary Cross-listing

What do contemporary U.S. media discourses about Central and South America reveal about relationships of power in the Americas? How does the systematic analysis of visual, textual, and sonic media discourse enhance our comprehension of broader social dynamics? How do South and Central Americans in the diaspora actively counter dominant media narratives about their communities? And what does it mean to center the unique histories, cultures, and political contexts of diasporic Central and South Americans within Latina/o/x Studies? Drawing from a wide range of scholarly materials and media platforms, this interdisciplinary course assumes a transnational approach to these issues, with an emphasis on how to conduct effective discourse analysis of everyday media texts. Above all, we will highlight the ways in which ethno-racial identity, gender, sexuality, class, and nation intersect to inform mainstream U.S. media narratives and our understandings of past and present modes of representation.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation:  two short (5- to 7-page) essays; one class presentation; final take-home examination (5-7 pages)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences:  LATS concentrators by seniority; AMST majors by seniority

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading:  no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 114  (D2) LATS 114 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This courses encourages students to develop critical thinking skills regarding the intersection of categories of difference (including ethno-racial identity, gender, sexuality, class, and nation) employing a variety of scholarly materials and every day media texts. Students will be encouraged to consider past and current relationships of power across the Americas with an eye towards how attitudes towards Central and South Americans shape representations of these communities in the Global North.

Attributes:  LATS Core Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 125  (F) Introduction to Asian American Studies  (DPE)

Who or what constitutes “Asian American”? Centering this provocation, this course offers an introductory survey of the interdisciplinary field of Asian American Studies. Focusing on foundational texts and cultural production in the field--legal documents, scholarship, film, poetry, and visual and performance art--we will ask who has been included/excluded from this category and trace the shifting constructions of Asian American from the 19th century onward in tandem with other markers of difference, including gender, sexuality, religion, ability, class, and location. Each week, we will study how these constructions have been shaped by ongoing systems of migration, imperialism, settler colonialism, war, racial capitalism, housing, and affirmative action. We will also examine how this term has been fundamentally reimagined and remade. Over the course, we will approach this core question transnationally, hemispherically, and relationally alongside other racial formations.

Requirements/Evaluation:  weekly readings, class discussions, weekly discussion posts, in-class presentation, midterm paper, and a final paper or creative project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences:  If over enrolled: first-year students, AMST majors, or students with demonstrated interest in Asian American studies

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines “Asian” and Asian American” as categories of racial difference constructed through various structures of power. Students in the course are asked to unpack how constructions of this difference have changed over time and produced
uneven power relations and access to resources.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01    TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm     Kelly I. Chung

AMST 128  (S)  Reading Asian American Literature

Cross-listings: COMP 128  ENGL 128  AMST 128

Primary Cross-listing

Though the category and term "Asian American" came about as a result of political struggle in the 1960s, what we now call Asian American writing in English began in the nineteenth century and has played a significant role in every American literary "movement" from Modernism, realism, protest literature to various avant-gardes, the graphic novel, and digital poetries. This course closely reads a sampling of texts in a variety of genres and styles-produced by writers from various Asian American ethnic groups-from the late nineteenth century to the present and contextualizes them historically, both domestically and globally. We will examine the material, cultural, political, and psychic intersections of larger structural forces with individual writers and texts. Along the way, we will interrogate the notion of "Asian American"--its contradictions, heterogeneous nature, and our assumptions--and its relation to the idea of "American." Some questions we will ask: "Why have Asian Americans and Asian American writers and writing so often been viewed as 'foreign' or 'alien' to the American body politic and the English-language literary tradition?" "How might Asian American writing be linked to other English-language texts in the Asian diaspora?"

Requirements/Evaluation: six 2-3 pp. papers, participation (attendance, discussion, GLOW posts), and a final project (the final project is 7-9 pages: either a creative project or an analytical paper)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: prospective AMST or ENGL majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 128 (D2) ENGL 128 (D1) AMST 128 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 132  (S)  Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy

Cross-listings: AMST 132  PSCI 132  AFR 132

Secondary Cross-listing

This introductory seminar investigates the relationship between three major schools of thought in contemporary Africana social and political philosophy: the African, Afro-North American, and Afro-Caribbean intellectual traditions. We will discuss a range of thinkers including Dionne Brand, Aimé Césaire, Angela Davis, Édouard Glissant, Kwame Gyekye, Paget Henry, bell hooks, Katherine McKittrick, Charles Mills, Nkiru Nzegwu, Oyèrónke Oyewùmí, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Cornel West, and Sylvia Wynter. A primary goal of the course is to provide students with the intellectual resources to decipher problems central to philosophical discourse and to allow students an opportunity to apply what they learn to critical issues in current geopolitics.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, two 5- to 7-page essays, and one 10-page final paper

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
**AMST 135 (F) Queen Sugar and Black Study**

*Cross-listings:* AFR 135 AMST 135

*Secondary Cross-listing*

The critically acclaimed and award-winning television series, *Queen Sugar*, follows the Bordelon family through its struggles to sustain hold of its ancestral land. An adaptation of the eponymously named 2014 novel by Natalie Baszile, the series will soon enter its seventh and final season. This gateway course to Africana Studies will explore the historical, political, and economic contexts of the making of the series before considering its representations and dramatizations of key topics of Black study: the afterlives of enslavement, plantation regimes, global sugar production, land dispossession, the carceral state, gender and sexualities, kinship, activism, and African-diasporic spiritualities.

*Class Format:* Over the course of the semester, students will be required to watch the entirety of the television series.

*Requirements/Evaluation:* weekly journal entries on episodes (300-500 words); in-class writing reflections; class presentation; final project that expands on a course topic

*Prerequisites:* none

*Enrollment Limit:* 15

*Enrollment Preferences:* This seminar is designed for first-year students. Should the course be overenrolled, students will be selected after an interview with the instructor.

*Expected Class Size:* 15

*Grading:* no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 132 (D2) PSCI 132 (D2) AFR 132 (D2)

**Attributes:** AFR Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives JLST Interdepartmental Electives PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year
Prerequisites: permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors and Science and Technology Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 142 (D2) STS 142 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will underscore the ways in which structures like race, gender, sexuality, and colonialism are deeply imbedded in every form of cultural production, and will highlight how imagining the future otherwise has real impact and import in the lives and political existence colonized people.

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Not offered current academic year

AMST 146 (F)(S) Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies (DPE)

Consider just the last few years... during the 2016 presidential campaign then-candidate Donald Trump called Senator Elizabeth Warren "Pocahontas," a disparaging reference to Warren's claim to Native American heritage. In 2017, Los Angeles became the largest US city to rename "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous Peoples Day." Indigenous-led resistance to oil pipelines continues in multiple locations, and in 2022 Washington DC's professional football team abandoned their old name, a racial slur for Native Americans, rebranding as the Washington Commanders. Struggles in Indian Country over politics, natural resources, and representation have become increasingly visible. This course will prepare students to better understand contemporary indigenous issues. Course content will actively work against the myth that Native American history ended in 1890 with the end of militant Native resistance to US expansion. Instead, we will ask: Who are indigenous peoples? How is their status and identity determined? How do Indian nations sit within and in relation to state and federal governments? What are the pressing issues of the present moment? What are the histories that make sense of those issues? How do we explain that curious American urge to claim "Indian blood" and to create novels and films about Indians? Course topics will include colonialism, tribal sovereignty, Native American art, literature, and culture, activism and "Red Power," struggles over natural resources, gender and sexuality, representations of indigenous people in popular culture, and more. This course offers a broad introductory survey of these and other issues as it explores the development and current state of the interdisciplinary field known as Native and Indigenous Studies.

Requirements/Evaluation: Assignments will include weekly discussion, responses to assigned readings, short papers, and essay exams for the midterm and final.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors or first- and second-year students

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course focuses on race, indigeneity, and the ongoing forms of colonialism that infringe on the sovereignty of indigenous nations. Students in the course are asked to explore how difference, power, and inequality have shaped the history of the United States and other settler-colonies.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm Stefan B. Aune

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm Stefan B. Aune
AMST 157 (S) 1960s and U.S. History  (WS)

Cross-listings: HIST 157 AMST 157

Secondary Cross-listing
This 100-level seminar will introduce students to the craft of history through the study of the 1960s, an important decade in American history (indeed, the world). In the U.S., this decade was marked by the ongoing war in Vietnam, the struggle against racial inequality and racist oppression, changes in attitudes toward sex and sexuality, music, the role of youth culture, advances in technology, the rise of new expressions of American conservatism, and other tumultuous transformations in politics, culture, and the economy.

Requirements/Evaluation: two 3-- to 5-page papers based on readings; a 5-- to 7-page oral history project; research precis, annotated bibliography; final 10--page research paper; class participation

Prerequisites: first-years

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-years

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 157 (D2) AMST 157 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Precis and annotated bibliography will receive critical feedback from professor and peers, and dedicated time in class to discuss assignments and traits of effective history writing. On all papers students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Not offered current academic year

AMST 166 (F) Being Muslim, Being American: American Muslim Literature in the 21st century  (DPE)

Cross-listings: REL 166 AMST 166 COMP 166 ENGL 268

Secondary Cross-listing
Islam and Muslims in the United States are the subject of extensive public scrutiny and media coverage in broader public discourses. It is less common, however, to hear Muslims’ own voices speak about their lives, experiences, beliefs, and commitments. This course will take a literary approach to exploring American Muslims’ own narratives about themselves, which will serve as an introduction to religion in contemporary U.S. culture. We will address questions such as: How do American Muslims attempt to fashion their identity in the wake of 9/11? What are the pressures and demands of American national belonging and cultural citizenship that Muslims must navigate? How are race, gender, ethnic heritage, and immigration definitive of Muslim experiences and self-understandings? How are Muslims approaching the tensions between communal belonging and individuality? What are the competing claims and contestations about authentic expressions of Islam? We will be engaging such themes through an analysis of popular memoirs, autobiographies, novels, short stories, poetry, films, and comedy.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular reading responses, short midterm essays, and final paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: First-year students and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

REL 166 (D2) AMST 166 (D2) COMP 166 (D1) ENGL 268 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will explore the intersections of power in American Muslim life, such as: Muslims as a religious minority in the context of the War on Terror; racial and ethnic differences in Muslim communities; immigration and national belonging; competing claims to religious authenticity and authority; and conflicting gendered norms. Students will learn to identify these multiple layers and configurations in the texts, and how to analyze their workings in nuanced multidimensional ways.
AMST 167 (S) Let Freedom Ring? African Americans and Emancipation (WS)

Cross-listings: AFR 167 HIST 167 AMST 167

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will examine African Americans' transition from slavery to freedom. In the years that encompassed the Civil War and immediately after, most African Americans changed from being legal property, able to be bought, sold, mortgaged, rented out, and leveraged into U.S. citizens, with the Constitutional right to male suffrage. This course examines this transition. How did it come about? To what extent were African Americans able to exercise their rights that the constitution guaranteed? How did Emancipation shape African American family relations, culture and demography? This is a research seminar. We will examine work of historians and discuss the contradictions and nuances of emancipation. Readings will include monographs, scholarly articles and heavy dose of primary sources, as many as possible written by African Americans themselves. Assignments include an original research paper on an aspect of Emancipation. We will devote considerable time throughout the semester to finding primary and secondary sources and on the writing process.

Requirements/Evaluation: research paper, short writing assignments, class participation

Prerequisites: first-years and sophomores

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-years, and then sophomores who have not previously taken a 100-level seminar

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 167 (D2) HIST 167 (D2) AMST 167 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will work throughout the semester on research paper that concerns Emancipation in the US. Students will turn in segments of this paper in separate assignments. During the final weeks of the course students will stitch these components together. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.”

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada JLST Interdepartmental Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 200 (S) Ethnographic Directions in American Studies (DPE)

This course introduces students to the practice and politics of ethnography, broadly defined as the study and representation of people, culture, and society. Our approach will be post-positive and interpretive, with attention to the social stakes of ethnographic research and methodology writ large. We begin the semester by looking at the history of ethnographic methodologies in anthropology and sociology, and then examine efforts to decolonize ethnography. We then read several examples of decolonial, feminist, or otherwise critical ethnographic research related to marginalized or minoritized groups in the U.S. -- such as undocumented migrants from Latin America, formerly unhoused Black girls, Diné fighting resource extraction on the reservation, and Cambodian refugees in the Bronx -- along with articles that illuminate issues of power, observation, consent, and representation in ethnographic research. Through readings, discussion, and engagement in ethnographic exercises, students will gain familiarity with the different phases or components of conducting ethnographic research, while also considering different styles of ethnographic production, including creative work. While this course is designed to look specifically at ethnographic directions that intersect with the interdisciplinary field of American Studies, it is open to any student interested in the study of pressing social issues (such as the prison-industrial complex, refugee resettlement, and drug addiction) and creating communities of mutual care and solidarity for surviving, fighting, and quite possibly, solving them.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly: Average 75 pages of reading; participation in class discussions. Every 3-4 weeks: research assignments. Once per semester: group presentation. End of semester: one 5-page paper.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Enrollment preferences if over enrolled: AMST majors, students seeking methods courses
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course covers ethnographic approaches to understanding social relations and cultural processes, with particular attention to scholarship in which power relations; structural analysis; and race and gender are central.

Attributes: AMST Space and Place Electives
Not offered current academic year

AMST 201 (F) Cold War Intellectuals: Civil Rights, Writers and the CIA (DPE)
Cross-listings: AFR 224 PSCI 221 AMST 201 LEAD 220 INTR 220
Secondary Cross-listing

This weekly tutorial has alternating primary and secondary writers (5pages/2pages). In weekly one-hour sessions, students read their work aloud followed by dialogue and critique. Primary papers are due to respondent/professor 48hrs before the tutorial meets; response papers are emailed to the professor 2hours before the weekly tutorial meets. Readings include: We Charge Genocide; Williams J. Maxwell, F. B. Eyes: How J. Edgar Hoover's Ghostreaders Framed African American Literature; Chalmers Johnson, Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire; Hugh Wilford, The Mighty Wurlitzer: How the CIA Played America; "Part III Supervision and Control of the CIA," Rockefeller Commission Report; Malcolm X Speaks; Sam Greenlee, The Spook Who Sat By the Door; and, The Murder of Fred Hampton. The tutorial is open to all students.

Requirements/Evaluation: Attend all classes; submit completed papers 24hours before seminar meets.
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and Seniors.
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 224 (D2) PSCI 221 (D2) AMST 201 (D2) LEAD 220 (D2) INTR 220 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This tutorial examines the Cold War between the US and the USSR and attempts to use intellectuals to shape and promote the objectives of powerful state entities. The power struggle between the two "superpowers" impacted cultural production and authors. Some of those authors influenced or enlisted into the Cold War sought equity and equality for their communities and eventually fought against the very political powers that employed them.

Fall 2022
TUT Section: T1 TBA Joy A. James

AMST 202 (S) Introduction to Racial Capitalism (DPE) (WS)
Cross-listings: AMST 202 AFR 209
Primary Cross-listing

The historical relationship between race and capitalism is one of the most enduring debates in U.S. historiography, shaping modes of inquiry and analysis across history, law, economics, sociology, anthropology, and other fields. This course seeks to introduce students to the concept of "racial capitalism"--which rejects treatments of race (and racism) as external to the so-called real workings of capitalism--as a way to understand this relationship and as an activist hermeneutic through which to identify and respond to the conditions that American Studies must reckon with. Students will gain familiarity with the global history of racial capitalism and the power of the concept itself through secondary sources and a wide range of primary sources, and through engaged discussion and short essays. Throughout the course, we will pay special attention to the cultural politics, political geographies, and historical development of racial capitalism, thus attending to how the social relations of racial capitalism have been known, lived, and resisted across time and space. The course is organized around three key themes: the land question; race, capitalism, and nation; and the banalities of racial capitalism. Across these themes, the course will address such issues and topics as North American settler colonialism, circum-Caribbean plantation slave and "Coolie" labor, mass incarceration, the subprime mortgage crisis, and the War on Terror. The course will do so
through and against a history of racial capitalism that privileges the U.S. nation-state in particular. By the end of this course, students should be able to: detail and analyze the historical development of and resistance to racial capitalism, doing so in relation to the global itineraries of racial slavery, settler colonialism, imperialism, and white supremacy; trace the history of the concept of racial capitalism itself; and identify how the concept continues to shape the field of American Studies.


Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors, students specializing in Native American and Indigenous Studies, Africana majors, History majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 202 (D2) AFR 209 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Emphasis on writing process and revision: Three thesis papers at 5 pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor and peers); one keyword glossary where students develop rigorous definitions of course key terms; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Throughout, the course addresses the issues of difference, power, and equity amongst groups and the nature of the theoretical tools or perspectives used to understand these issues. It does so familiarizing students with "racial capitalism" as both a way of understanding the historical relationship between race and capitalism, and as an activist hermeneutic to respond to the conditions that American Studies and other fields must reckon with in the present.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora GBST Economic Development Studies Electives

AMST 205  (F)  Chicana/o/x Film and Video

Cross-listings: AMST 205 WGS 203 LATS 203 ARTH 203

Secondary Cross-listing

Hollywood cinema has long been fascinated with the border between the United States and Mexico. This course will examine representations of the U.S.-Mexico border, Mexican Americans, and Chicanxs in both Hollywood film and independent media. We will consider how positions on nationalism, race, gender, identity, migration, and history are represented and negotiated through film. We will begin by analyzing Hollywood "border" and gang films before approaching Chicana/o/x-produced features, independent narratives, and experimental work. This course will explore issues of film and ideology, genre and representation, nationalist resistance and feminist critiques, queer theory and the performative aspects of identity. Through a focus on Chicana/o/x representation, the course explores a wide spectrum of film history (from the silent era to the present) and considers numerous genres.

Class Format: Discussion-oriented lecture class. In addition to class meetings and readings, students will be expected to watch 3-5 hours of film per week on GLOW or in the library.

Requirements/Evaluation: one short paper, mid-term exam, final exam and take home essays

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: Art majors; LATS concentrators

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 205 (D2) WGS 203 (D2) LATS 203 (D2) ARTH 203 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora ARTH post-1800 Courses FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year
AMST 206 (S) Designer Genes (DPE)

Cross-listings: WGSS 208 STS 208 AMST 206 ENGL 208

Secondary Cross-listing

In this course, we explore cultural texts that attempt to come to terms with--or exploit--the revolution in contemporary genetics with a particular focus on gender, race, class, and sexuality. The mapping of the human genome in 2001 opened incredible opportunities for medicine, law, and society, but it also, as Alice Wexler has written, "opened a vast arena for contests of power over what it means to be human, who has the power to define what is normal, [and] who has access to what resources and when." Wexler was writing before the final sequencing of the human genome. Now we have CRISPR technology, ushering in a new, more pressing set of ethical concerns. We are currently in the midst of a "global race to genetically modify humans," as the anthropologist Eben Kirksey has documented in his new book The Mutant Project. How will we come to define the human? Who gets to decide? Our writers and filmmakers make clear that genetic medicine cannot be thought apart from a profit-driven American health care system or family and gender dynamics. Joanna Rudnick's documentary In the Family, for instance, explores the personal and political issues associated with hereditary breast cancer and the patenting of genes. Octavia Butler's Afro-futurist novel Dawn explores black female sexuality, reproduction, and the survival of the species in her character's encounter with a genetically enhanced alien species. The film Gattaca shows us a fully realized dystopian society where genetically modified humans are the norm--a society that now "has discrimination down to a science." The transgender artist Tamara Pertamina, on the other hand, "hopes to decolonize the science of genetic engineering," as Kirksey has written, with her performance artist projects. Our texts come from a number of different genres, including the memoir, science fiction, film, documentary, art, and non-fiction writing at the intersections of science, medicine, philosophy, anthropology, and law.

Requirements/Evaluation: Short analysis papers/projects (4-5 pages), discussion posts, longer final researched paper (7-9 pages).

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, American Studies, English majors

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 208 (D2) STS 208 (D2) AMST 206 (D2) ENGL 208 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course asks students to think deeply about questions of social justice in the context of the revolution in modern genetics. Race, class, gender, and sexuality all play a role in who has access to new life-saving technologies, and how these technologies are used. This course employs critical tools (feminist and queer theory, ethics' case studies, close reading) to help students question and articulate the social injustices at play in scientific research and bioengineering.

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives ENGL Criticism Courses ENGL Literary Histories C WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Bethany Hicok

AMST 208 (S) Time and Blackness

Cross-listings: AFR 208 AMST 208 REL 262

Secondary Cross-listing

The concept of time has been one of the most examined, yet least explicitly theorized, concepts in Africana Studies. While the field is saturated with historical studies and literary analyses that take up issues of cultural memory--which involves thinking about time--time itself has rarely the subject of sustained inquiry. This may be due to its abstractness as an idea, and the level of analysis its conceptualization demands, or because time in the
Black experience cannot be understood outside of the meaning of race, which itself is not completely tangible. In this tutorial, "Time and Blackness," we will explore how Black writers across a number of genres--spiritual autobiography, fiction, memoir, literary criticism, and cultural theory--understand time, and create paradigms of time to organize their work. The following questions will structure our investigation: What are the constituent elements of time in Black writings? How does race shape the ways Black writers conceive the experience of time? And, finally, to what can we attribute the recent surge in explicit, theoretical examinations of "time and blackness"?

**Requirements/Evaluation:** assignments will include six 2-page response papers; two 5-page writing assignments; and a final, 10-page review essay on how time is understood in a genre of writing

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** concentrators in Africana Studies, majors in Religious Studies, and majors in American Studies

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 208 (D2) AMST 208 (D2) REL 262 (D2)

**Attributes:** AFR Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Spring 2023

TUT Section: T1 TBA James A. Manigault-Bryant

**AMST 209 (F) Introduction to Black, Brown, and Queer Theory (DPE)**

Have you ever tried to relate your experiences, rooted in your own complex identities, history, and social networks, to those of others you perceive as different and perhaps allied, but found you lacked some fundamental vocabulary? This is a common problem, even for critical theorists who take as their object of study political, affective, and epistemological structures of difference and power. Critical race, postcolonial, Indigenous, and queer theories have often centered the relationship between the normative and non-normative, between straight and queer, colonizer and colonized, and white and black. Connections between the differently non-normative can sometimes be pushed to the periphery. But what if we were to center that periphery? What views of complex power structures and new avenues of thought and solidarity would arise if we took as our starting point the social and theoretical interconnectedness and overlap of black, brown, and queer folks? This course will serve as an introduction to critical race, postcolonial, Indigenous, and queer theories as conceptually and phenomenologically interlocking and allied fields. By reading with theorists in all these traditions and at their intersections, we will explore how blackness, indigeneity, and brownness are constructed and function in the context of colonialism and settler colonialism, how differently racialized bodies are sexed and sexualized, and how queerness as method can speak across these issues. No background in critical theory is required for this course. We will focus on how to read and discuss theory, and how to think holistically about the structures that work to keep us divided.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** attendance and class participation, two 4-page reflection papers, and a final creative project (TBD with instructor) or take-home exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** American Studies majors

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course introduces students to theories of difference and power, such as critical race, postcolonial, Indigenous, and queer theories. The aim of the course is to establish the skills and frameworks needed to think about how these categories and theories interact, overlap, and constitute one another.

**Attributes:** AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

**Not offered current academic year**
AMST 211 (S) Race, Environment, and the Body

Cross-listings: AMST 211 ENVI 211 AFR 211 SOC 211

Secondary Cross-listing

This course is organized around three distinct, but overlapping, concerns. The first concern is how polluting facilities like landfills, industrial sites, and sewage treatment plants are disproportionately located in communities of color. The second concern is the underlying, racist rationales for how corporations, in collaboration with state agencies, plot manufacturers of pollution. The final concern is how the environmental crises outlined in the first two sections of the course are experienced in the body. In reviewing a range of Black cultural productions—like literature, scholarship, music, and film—we will not only consider how environmental disparities physically affect human bodies, but also how embodiments of eco-crises tend to imaginaries of the relationship between the self and the natural world.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, 2-3 short papers (5-7 pages), and a self-scheduled final

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: preference given to AFR concentrators, ENVI concentrators and majors, and ANSO majors.

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 211 (D2) ENVI 211 (D2) AFR 211 (D2) SOC 211 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Space and Place Electives ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives PHLH Nutrition, Food Security + Environmental Health PHLH Social Determinants of Health

Spring 2023

LEC Section: 01 M 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm James A. Manigault-Bryant

AMST 212 (S) Moving While Black

Cross-listings: COMP 212 DANC 217 AMST 212 AFR 216

Secondary Cross-listing

Opening your apartment door, driving down the highway, taking a knee, raising a fist, sitting at the lunch counter then or sitting in a café now, these movements have historically and presently prompted fear at a minimum and in the most grave cases death for black people. Whether in the U.S. or globally, moving in the world as a black person often means being perceived as different, foreign and threatening. Crawling, dancing, running and boxing, these movements have countered fear and articulated the beauty, pride, creativity and political resistance of black people. In both cases, black movement matters and means much. While many consider movement to be just organized dance moves, this course expands students' definitions of black movement and teaches them to analyze multiple perceptions, uses, and reactions to it. "Moving while Black" offers examples of physical movement in improvised and practiced performance, quotidian movement, geographical movement across national borders and symbolic, politicized gestures. Students will investigate black movement via interdisciplinary sources that reflect various time periods and locations. Students may analyze such texts as Jacob Lawrence’s visual art in The Migration Series, the movement of the rumba dance form between Cuba and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s “Revelations,” William Pope.L’s choreographed crawls, the 1995 World Rugby Cup in South Africa, and the 2018 case of a Kansas resident arrested while moving into his own home. Additionally, this course features an important practice element, in which students experiment with in-class movement exercises and workshops, engage with dance archives at Jacob's Pillow, interview participants of Kusika, and create and perform their own choreographies. While no previous experience in performance is required, curiosity and openness to learning through one's own body movement is expected.

Class Format: classes will rotate throughout the semester between seminar discussions in the classroom and performance exercises in the studio

Requirements/Evaluation: multiple reading/viewing responses in a movement journal, an essay closely analyzing movement; a presentation, and multiple movement-based performances including a final project with outside research and a proposal

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 14
Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 212 (D1) DANC 217 (D2) AMST 212 (D2) AFR 216 (D2)
Attributes: AFR Core Electives

AMST 213 (S) Asian/American Identities in Motion (DPE)
Cross-listings: ASIA 216 GBST 214 ASST 214 THEA 216 AMST 213 ASIA 214 DANC 216
Secondary Cross-listing
The course aims to explore dance and movement-based performances as mediums through which identities in Asian and Asian-American (including South-Asian) communities are cultivated, expressed, and contested. It will orient students towards "reading" and analyzing live and mediated performances within historical, social, and political frameworks. Students will explore how socio-historical contexts influence the processes through which dance performances are invested with particular sets of meanings, and how artists use performance to reinforce or resist stereotypical representations. Core readings will be drawn from Dance, Performance, Asian, and Asian American Studies, and will engage with issues such as nation formation, race and ethnicity, appropriation, tradition and innovation among other topics. This is primarily a discussion-based seminar course, and might also include film screenings, discussion with guest artists and scholars, and opportunities for creative projects. No previous dance experience is required.
Requirements/Evaluation: reading responses, essays, in-class writing assignments, class participation, and group presentations.
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: first years and sophomores
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (DPE)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASIA 216 (D1) GBST 214 (D2) ASST 214 (D1) THEA 216 (D1) AMST 213 (D1) ASIA 214 (D1) DANC 216 (D1)
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course introduces students to the role of performance in nation formation in Asia and the history of Asian-Americans in the US through analysis of dance performances and practices. Student will explore how race was central to the formation of Asian and the American nation, and how social and legal discriminatory practices against minorities influenced popular culture. The assigned material provide examples of how artists address these inequalities and differences in social power.
Not offered current academic year

AMST 214 (F) Performance Ethnography (DPE)
Cross-listings: GBST 215 DANC 214 ANTH 215 AMST 214 THEA 215
Secondary Cross-listing
The course aims to explore the theory, practice, and ethics of ethnographic research with a focus on dance, movement, and performance. Traditionally considered to be a method of research in anthropology, ethnography is the descriptive and analytical study of a particular community through fieldwork, where the researcher immerses herself in the culture of the people that she researches. In this course students will be introduced to (i) critical theory that grounds ethnography as a research methodology, (ii) readings in ethnographic studies of dance and performance practices from different parts of the world, and (iii) field research in the local community for their own ethnographic projects. This is primarily a discussion-based seminar course and may include fieldwork, attendance at live performances, film screenings, workshop with guest artists etc. No previous dance or performance experience is assumed or required.
Class Format: community-based field work
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, reading responses, fieldwork and field notes, short papers, and final essay
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
GBST 215 (D2) DANC 214 (D1) ANTH 215 (D2) AMST 214 (D1) THEA 215 (D1)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course focuses on ethnographic research with an emphasis on the ethics of doing ethnography in field sites and making performances based on that research. In fieldwork and performance work, there is a difference in social, cultural, and political (broadly conceived) power between researcher and interlocutors. In the course, students' critical analytical skills are developed for them to be self-reflective about these power differentials and to address issues of social inequality.

Not offered current academic year

**AMST 217 (F) Women and Girls in (Inter)National Politics** (DPE)

**Cross-listings:** INTR 219 AFR 217 WGSS 219 AMST 217 LEAD 219

**Secondary Cross-listing**
This tutorial focuses on the writings and autobiographies of women who have shaped national politics through social justice movements in the 20th-21st centuries. Women and girls studied include: Fannie Lou Hamer, Shirley Chisholm, Safiya Bukhari, Erica Garner, Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai, Marielle Franco, Winnie Mandela.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Weekly 5-page primary analytical papers and 2-page response papers.

Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and seniors, sophomores.
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
INTR 219 (D2) AFR 217 (D2) WGSS 219 (D2) AMST 217 (D2) LEAD 219 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This tutorial examines how girls and women confront capitalism, imperialism, climate devastation, patriarchy and poverty. The national and international movements that they participated in or led were based on shifting the balance of powers towards the impoverished, colonized, and imprisoned.

Not offered current academic year

**AMST 219 (S) Extreme Persuasions: The Far Right in the United States and Russia** (DPE) (WS)

**Cross-listings:** RUSS 218 AMST 219 WGSS 217

**Primary Cross-listing**
The purpose of this course is to explore the unexpected recent confluence of the American and Russian far-right movements, among advocates for authoritarianism in both countries who have traditionally understood the ‘other’ superpower to be an implacable enemy. How have nationalist movements in the United States come to see the Russian Federation as a vanguard for ‘whiteness’ and traditional masculinity in European identity, overturning the perception of Russia as a racial Other that was prevalent among American conservatives during the Cold War? What are the affinities between the imperial and openly patriarchal aspirations of Putinism and the goals of American religious Reconstructionism, with its interpretation of the Confederacy as a God-given model for racial separatism and gender complementarianism? We will discuss repressive historical legacies and homophobia in both countries, devoting particular attention to debates about protest art and the removal of monuments, and to movements that situate themselves in opposition to neoliberal forms of ethno-nationalism.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** On average, there will be 100 pages of reading per week. Over the course of the semester, students will be required to view three films, which will be discussed in class. Class participation counts for 25% of the course grade; each of the first three response papers, 15%; the term paper, 25%; the in-class presentation of the term paper, 5%.
Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Majors and concentrators in AMST, Russian, and Women's and Gender Studies.

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
RUSS 218 (D2) AMST 219 (D2) WGSS 217 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: The written work is comprised of three response papers (5-7 pages each), a rough draft of the term paper (8-10 pages) that will be ungraded but extensively commented upon, and the term paper itself (10-15 pages). Each student to discuss their writing strategies prior to the deadlines for the essay assignments. For the essays, students may choose from among a range of prompts, or design a topic of their own.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Students will use the assigned readings as points of departure for analyzing and responding to traditionalist configurations of gender and ethno-nationalism in the United States and the Russian Federation. Particular attention will be devoted to the proliferation of different conceptions of power and privilege in both countries, and to ways in which a parsing of them may facilitate an engagement with the arguments of far right movements while retaining the concept of social justice.

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives
Not offered current academic year

AMST 220 (S) Introduction to African American Literature

Cross-listings: AMST 220 ENGL 220 AFR 220

Secondary Cross-listing

What does it mean, socially, culturally, historically, personally, and spiritually, to be African American? No single, simple answer suffices, but African American literature as a genre is defined by its ongoing engagement with this complex question. This course will examine a series of texts that in various ways epitomize the fraught literary grappling with the entailments of American blackness. Readings will include texts by Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Amiri Baraka, Toni Morrison, and Ishmael Reed.

Requirements/Evaluation: writing assignments for the course will total 20 pages, distributed over three papers

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: English majors

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 220 (D2) ENGL 220 (D1) AFR 220 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora ENGL Literary Histories C

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am David L. Smith

AMST 223 (F) Eating Empire: Asian/Pacific Islander/American Foodways and Culture (DPE)

"War is probably the single most powerful instrument of dietary change in human experience." --Sidney Mintz. Cans of spam, bars of chocolate, and bubbling pots of military stew. A motley mix of sucrose, sodium, monosodium glutamate, and spices; often overprocessed, constantly repackaged, sometimes illicitly exchanged, and daily consumed. In this course, we will take an interdisciplinary approach to exploring the historical processes, social practices, and cultural politics of food in the age of U.S. empire, mapping out reverse pathways from our palates, plates, counters, and kitchens towards the lands and seas that connect the Americas, the Pacific Islands, and Asia in the 20th and 21st centuries. We will examine food through a range of contexts and case studies, including but not limited to scholarship, (auto)ethnography, literature, film, television, advertising, social media,
and blogs. We will ask: how is food entangled within histories and patterns of war, imperialism, settler colonialism, capitalism, diaspora, and migration? What does food tell us about our attachments, investments, and (dis)taste for narratives around democracy and multiculturalism, authenticity and appropriation, gentrification and privilege, "tradition" and change? Finally, how can food help us reimagine the social and political dimensions of the places we live in and nourish pathways to decolonial futures and possibilities? This will be primarily a discussion-based seminar although a minimal amount of cooking may also be required.

Requirements/Evaluation: participation (attendance, discussion, posts), reading responses, short video, fieldwork, final analytical paper/project

Prerequisites: AMST 101

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Analyzes the dynamics of power and privilege in the U.S. from a national and transnational context, examines the perspectives of socially marginalized groups, and fosters an understanding of the beliefs, experiences, and cultures of these groups.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Not offered current academic year

AMST 224  (S) U.S. Latinx Religions

Cross-listings: AMST 224 REL 224 LATS 224

Secondary Cross-listing

In this course, we will engage aspects of Latinx religious experiences, practices, and expressions in the United States of America. Given the plurality of Latinx communities and religious lives in the U.S.A., we can only consider select contexts that help us understand the challenges of studying and defining the "religious" and "hybridity" in Latinx contexts. We will survey certain selected religious traditions and practices --such as popular Catholic devotions to Guadalupe, crypto-Judaism, curanderismo, Latinx Muslims, and Santería--by focusing on particular moments of religious expression as elucidated in specific historiographies, ethnographies, art, literature, and film.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, short writing exercises, a 3-page essay, a 5-page essay, and an 8-12-page final review essay/project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: LATS concentrators and AMST and REL majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 224 (D2) REL 224 (D2) LATS 224 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora LATS Core Electives

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm     Efrain Agosto

AMST 225    Black Outside the U.S.

This course explores multiple ways Black identity evolves, adapts and is experienced differently depending on location. Students analyze Black experience in the U.S., France and Senegal through a range of texts from books and social media to music and film. One key aspect of the course is a study abroad trip to Senegal, which increases cultural awareness through experiential learning. This combination of textual learning with experiential knowledge exemplifies how language, religion, gender, geography, and performance shape one's racial identity. In the first section of the course, students investigate Black experience in the U.S., focusing on such topics as the one-drop rule, racial profiling and where mixed people fit within
Black/White tensions. The second section highlights the politics of language in France. Students explore how words like "Black," "noir" and "race" have strong political connotations in France and spur both resistance to and alliance with Black American civil rights history. In the third part of the course, students visit Dakar, Senegal, and analyze Blackness through their own observations and encounters. Their trip insights jumpstart the final focus of the course on Senegal. Students investigate the influence of French colonialism on Black identity in Senegal, which makes the two geographical experiences of Blackness very different but still forever linked.

Class Format: seminar, the course includes a required spring break trip to Dakar, Senegal, which is no additional cost to students

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, short weekly reading responses, two 4-5 page papers, a presentation based on the spring break trip, and a final presentation including a short 2-page report

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 8

Enrollment Preferences: students who have taken other AFR courses, Francophone speakers and students

Expected Class Size: 8

Grading:

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives  GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 226  (S)  Gender and the Dancing Body  (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 226  WGSS 226  THEA 226  DANC 226

Secondary Cross-listing

This course posits that the dancing body is a particularly rich site for examining the history of gender and sexuality in America and beyond. The aim of the course is to explore ideas related to gender and sexuality as prescribed by dominant cultural, social, and religious institutions, and how dance has been used to challenge those normative ideologies. We will examine a wide range of dance genres, from stage performances to popular forms to dance on television, with particular attention to the intersections of race and class with gender. This is primarily a discussion-based seminar course and will also include film screenings, discussions with guest artists, and opportunities for creative projects. No previous dance experience required.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, reading responses, essays, in-class writing assignments, and group presentations

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: first years and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 10-15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 226 (D1)  WGSS 226 (D2)  THEA 226 (D1)  DANC 226 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: In the course, students will explore the concept of gender as a social construction and how the body's historical associations to markers of gender and sexuality lead to differences in socio-political power. The assigned texts and viewings provide examples of how bodies and their movements make meaning in a network of power relationships, and how artists use dance to address social inequalities such as sexism, racism, and transmisogyny, to imagine a more just world.

Not offered current academic year

AMST 232  Bewilderment: Contemporary U.S. Poetry and the Ethics of Unknowing  (DPE)  (WS)

"I perceive I have not really understood any thing, not a single object, and that no man ever can," wrote Walt Whitman in a great poem of 1860. "Tell all the truth, but tell it slant," answered Emily Dickinson a few years later, as if suggesting a strategy for how to write one's way into Whitman's radical uncertainty. These articulations of knowing and unknowing, of telling and untelling, continue to thread their way into U.S. poetry today. This course will explore bewilderment as both a poetic strategy and an ethical position. How do error, randomness, contradiction, obliquity, and dissociation serve the poem and the poet? How do such strategies counter ideas of literary mastery, heroism, virtuosity, privilege and celebrity? What are the political possibilities of such counter stances, especially as embodied and expressed by poets who speak from outside the stronghold of the white male
establishment? We will primarily read from recently published work in the U.S., but will also be interested to track the literary traditions that have shaped how contemporary poets think and write. Authors read may include: Wanda Coleman, Eileen Myles, Anne Carson, Layli Long Soldier, Vanessa Angelica Villarreal, Fanny Howe, Terrance Hayes, Jennifer Chang, Tiana Clark, Brenda Hillman, Jane Wong, Tommy Pico, Paisley Rekdahl, Brian Teare, Diana Khoi Nguyen, and C. D. Wright.

Requirements/Evaluation: Classroom participation in discussion, several papers of graduated lengths and complexity (for a total of 20 pages of writing).

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 19

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading:

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Gateway courses in English traditionally emphasize writing skills, and this course is no exception. Attention will paid to drafts and revisions of essays.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The vast majority of works read are authored by poets outside the white male straight cisgender establishment. More importantly, we will constantly engage the question of how poetry may serve the needs of equity and inclusion in the U.S. contemporary literary marketplace.

Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses

Not offered current academic year

AMST 233 (S) Memory and Forgetting (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 233 SOC 230

Secondary Cross-listing

On the surface, remembering generally confronts us as a deeply personal act. What is more private than nostalgic reverie or the secrets of a dark and painful past? Yet even "individual" memories take shape through social frameworks, and we also remember "collectively" through shared myths, narratives, traditions, and the like. This course will explore the social dimensions of memory and remembering as well as their inevitable counterpart--forgetting. How do social frameworks inform our individual understandings of the past and shape our sense of selfhood? How and why are figures from the past cast as heroes or villains? How do collectivities celebrate past glories, and how do they deal with shameful or embarrassing episodes? How do economic and political power relations shape struggles over the past? In an increasingly global society, can we speak of "cosmopolitan" or "transcultural" forms of memory? Topics will include autobiographical memory and self-identity; memorials, museums, and monuments; reputations, commemorations, and collective trauma; silence, denial, and forgetting; and transitional justice, official apologies, and reparations.

Requirements/Evaluation: thoughtful and consistent class participation; an autobiographical essay (4-5 pages); four response papers (2 pages each); and a research paper (8-10 pages) with class presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: if overenrolled, students will be asked to submit a short statement of interest

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 233 (D2) SOC 230 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course pays particular attention to how power and inequality shape narratives about the past. We will examine and compare several efforts to transform national memories, such as the Equal Justice Initiative memorial in the United States and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. In doing so, we will also consider the role of memory and memorialization in broader processes of social change.
**AMST 234 (F) Race, Land and Settler (Racial) Capitalism: Ongoing Topics in (Dis)/(Re)possession**

**Cross-listings:** AMST 234  ENVI 247  AFR 234  HIST 274

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This sequential studio course serves as an introduction to ongoing topics in colonialism, racial thinking, African Diaspora studies, Global, Caribbean, and local studies. We will examine how race, gender and class operate under racial capitalism and settler colonialism. The readings in this class will center the works of critical geographers, caribbeanist, scholars of the African Diaspora, Indigenous theorists, among other critical, anti-capitalist or decolonial scholars. Reading in this course will take up the question(s) of land and land-making; race, racialization, and racial thinking; alongside questions of space and place as they all relate to the various processes, projects and methods of (dis)/(re)possession. This course is the first part of a complementary course, which will be offered in the Spring, titled, "Race, Land, Space and (Dis)/(Re)possession: Critical Topics in Environmental Injustice and Subaltern Geographies," which tracks both the "historical breaks" and ongoing processes of (dis)/(re)possession to more contemporary materializations. Weekly in-class discussion will be combined with guest lectures in order to provide the opportunity for exploring how race, space and (dis)(re)possession can be understood geographically, and to also explain how a range of these territorializing processes operate in the transnational and local contexts. Those who take this studio course can expect to be actively engaged in directing their learning experience through research/final creative projects of their own selection. Sound, music and other audio engagements will also complement discussions in this course. Therefore, the capacity of deep listening, in-and-out of class, is mandatory. Sample topics covered in the course include the following: indigeneity and Blackness; dispossession and accumulation; environmental imperialism, war and colonial resistance. You are strongly encouraged to participate in both courses in this complementary sequence, but are not required to do so.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** The following requirements serve as the basis for course evaluation: Attendance and Participation 30%; Serve as Discussion Leader Once 20%; Weekly 300-500-word Critical Response Papers 20%; One Final Creative Project, which can take any number of forms, including the conventional research paper (8-12 double-spaced pages plus bibliography). More creative projects might include, a pamphlet or zine, a written play or theatrical performance, or an op-ed. We will discuss further possibilities in class. 30%

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** If the course is overenrolled, preference will be given to Africana studies concentrators.

**Expected Class Size:** 7

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

AMST 234 (D2) ENVI 247 (D2) AFR 234 (D2) HIST 274 (D2)

**Attributes:** HIST Group D Electives - Latin America + Caribbean  HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada  HIST Group G Electives - Global History  LATS Countries of Origin + Transnationalism Elect

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**AMST 235 (S) Race, Land, Dis/Re-possession: Critical Topics in Environmental Injustice and Subaltern Geographies**

**Cross-listings:** AFR 235  AMST 235  HIST 275  GBST 235  ENVI 253

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course is an introduction to ongoing and contemporary topics in colonialism, racial thinking, African Diaspora and, Global and Caribbean studies, studies of 'the environment,' and dispossession. We will examine how race, gender and class operate under racial capitalism and settler colonialism as ongoing, sometimes continuous and discontinuous processes. The readings will center the works of critical geographers, caribbeanist, scholars of the African Diaspora, and other critical, anti-capitalist or decolonial scholars. Readings, as in AFR 234, will take up the question(s) of land and land-making; race, racialization, and racial thinking; of space and place as they all relate to the various processes, projects and methods of (dis)(re)possession, both "past" and "contemporary." We will interrogate temporal binaries, settler time, notions of (the) "progress(ives)" and other bifurcated understandings of the world. This course is the second part of a complementary course, titled, "Race, Land and Settler (Racial) Capitalism,"
which focuses on the historical geography of processes of (dis)/(re)possession from a Black and Indigenous Atlantic perspective. In this iteration, weekly in-class discussion will be combined with guest lectures to provide the opportunity for exploring how race, space and (dis)(re)possession can be understood geographically, and to explain how a range of these territorializing processes operate. Sound, music and other audio will complement discussions. Therefore, the capacity of deep listening, in-and-out of class, is a grounding. Sample topics covered in the course include: indigeneity and Blackness; (dis)possession and accumulation; plantation geographies and economies; housing and houselessness; the problem of parks and conservation; prisons and carceral geographies; Black geographies; environmental racism and colonial resistance. You are strongly encouraged to participate in both courses in this sequence, but are not required to do so.

Requirements/Evaluation: The following requirements serve as the basis for course evaluation: Attendance and Participation 30%; Serve as Discussion Leader Once 20%; Weekly 300-500-word Critical Response Papers 20%; One Final Creative Project, which can take any number of forms, including the conventional research paper (8-12 double-spaced pages plus bibliography). More creative projects might include, a pamphlet or zine, a written play or theatrical performance, or an op-ed. We will discuss further possibilities in class. 30%

Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: If the course is overenrolled, preference will be given to Africana studies concentrators.
Expected Class Size: 7
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 235 (D2) AMST 235 (D2) HIST 275 (D2) GBST 235 (D2) ENVI 253 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group D Electives - Latin America + Caribbean HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada HIST Group G Electives - Global History LATS Countries of Origin + Transnationalism Elect

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Allison Guess

AMST 237 (S) Islam in the United States: Race, Religion, Politics (DPE)
Cross-listings: REL 237 AFR 237 AMST 237

Secondary Cross-listing
Malcolm X is one of the most iconic yet controversial figures in the black freedom struggle in the United States. He is also arguably the most prominent and influential Muslim in the history of the United States. His story and legacy powerfully illustrate the complex intersections of Muslim identity, political resistance, and national belonging. From the early period of "Black Muslim" movements represented by Malcolm X, to the current "War on Terror" era, American Muslims have faced a complex intersection of exclusions and marginalization, in relation to national belonging, race, and religion. Taking Malcolm X as our point of departure, this course examines how American Muslims have navigated these multiple layers of marginalization. We will therefore consider how the broader socio-political contexts that Muslims are a part of shape their visions of Islam, and how they contest these competing visions among themselves. In so doing, we will examine the complex relation between religion, race, and politics in the United States. Throughout the course, we will be engaging with historical and anthropological material, autobiographies, comics, documentaries, films, historical primary-source documents, and social media materials. The course fosters critical thinking about diversity by challenging assumptions of who Muslims are, what being American means, and what Islam is. It also focuses on the complex interaction of different dimensions of diversity, from religion to ideology, race, nationality, ethnicity, culture, gender, and language.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular reading responses, midterm essay, final exam/essay
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: Majors and concentrators in REL, AFR, and AMST
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course fosters critical thinking about diversity by challenging assumptions of who Muslims are, what being American means, and what Islam is. It also focuses on the complex interaction of different dimensions of diversity, from religion to ideology, race, nationality, ethnicity, culture, gender, and language.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Not offered current academic year

AMST 240 (S) Latina/o/x Language Politics: Hybrid Voices

Cross-listings: AMST 240 COMP 210 LATS 240

Secondary Cross-listing

In this course we will focus on issues of language and identity in the contemporary cultural production and lived experience of various Latina/o/x communities. How are cultural values and material conditions expressed through Latina/o/x language and literature? How does Latina/o/x identity challenge traditional notions of the relationship between language, culture, and nation? In what ways might Latina/o/x linguistic practices serve as tools for social change? Departing from an overview of common linguistic ideologies, we will examine code-switching, bilingual education, recent linguistic legislation, and the English Only movement. Throughout the course we will survey texts culled from a variety of literary genres as well, including autobiography, novels, and poetry. Both directly and/or indirectly, these texts address Latina/o/x language politics, as well as the broader themes of power, community, ethno-racial identity, gender, sexuality, class, and hybridity.

Requirements/Evaluation: participation, two essays, final written reflection

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators, American Studies majors, Comparative Literature majors by seniority

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 240 (D2) COMP 210 (D1) LATS 240 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora LATS Core Electives

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Maria Elena Cepeda

AMST 242 (S) Americans Abroad (DPE)

Cross-listings: ENGL 250 COMP 242 AMST 242

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will explore some of the many incarnations of American experiences abroad between the end of the 19th century and the present day. Materials will be drawn from novels, short stories, films, and nonfiction about Americans in Europe in times of war, peace, and pandemic. We will compare and contrast the experiences of novelists, soldiers, students, war correspondents, jazz musicians, and adventurers. What has drawn so many Americans to Europe? What is the difference between a tourist, an expat, and an émigré? What are the profound, and often comic, gaps between the traveler’s expectations and the reality of living in, say, Paris or a rural village in Spain? What are the misadventures and unexpected rewards of living, working, writing, or even falling in love in translation? How did recent lockdowns and border closings impact and/or interrupt these complex experiences? Authors may include: Edith Wharton, Henry James, Langston Hughes, Martha Gellhorn, Ernest Hemingway, Elaine Dundy, Richard Wright, and Ben Lerner. Additional reading will be drawn from historical and critical works. All readings will be in English. This comparative course is designed to highlight the challenges and benefits of cultural immersion abroad. It will focus on the linguistic, emotional, intellectual, and social adaptation skills that are required to understand others, and oneself, in new contexts. Many of the authors chose, or were forced to, leave oppressive situations in the United States where their futures were limited due to factors related to politics, gender, race or class (and combinations thereof). We will study their dislocation, and freedom, and struggles to reshape their (and our) concept of “home” into something that reflects individual identity, and not one imposed by any national culture--American or foreign.
Requirements/Evaluation: each student will give an in-class presentation and complete 3 writing assignments totaling 20 pages; one of these writing assignments will be a personal travel narrative based on the student's own experiences

Prerequisites: any literature course at Williams or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: Comparative Literature, English or American Studies majors, and/or students who have studied away or plan on doing so.

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 250 (D1) COMP 242 (D1) AMST 242 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: We will read and analyze primary materials and literature that reflect on Americans who chose, or were forced to, reinvent themselves abroad to escape oppressive situations in the United States related to gender, class, race, or political views. The socio-historical context of each writer will be crucial to understanding their situations. Students will write critical papers, and their own narrative in which they reflect on a situation of personal dislocation, either while traveling, or at home.

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives  GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01    MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm     Soledad Fox

AMST 243 (S) Asian/American and Black Literary and Cultural Thought

Cross-listings: AMST 243  AFR 243

Primary Cross-listing

One durable legacy of white settler colonialism has been to its divide-and-conquer management of minority populations--an amazingly effective strategy still widely practiced in a variety of forms today. While Asian Americans have been deemed "model minorities" in contrast to "unmodel" minorities--namely, African Americans--and racial minorities have been pitted against one another in the oppression Olympics and on the issue of affirmative action, there has, in fact, been a long history of political, literary, and cultural thought that have joined blacks and Asian/Asian Americans, from W.E.B. Du Bois to current ideas about digital possibilities (and constraints). In this course we will examine the theory, political writings, art, music and literature that sprang from and attended the early Marxist-Communist fight for universal brotherhood; movements against colonialism, capitalism, and the Vietnam War; Yellow Power and Black Power; and topics such as black and Asian diasporas, Afro-futurism, multiculturalism, "Afro- pessimism", racial melancholia, and digital futurities.

Requirements/Evaluation: one shorter paper (4-6 pages), midterm; final paper/project (10-12 pages), response papers and/or posts on GLOW; participation (class discussion and attendance)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors, sophomores

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 243 (D2) AFR 243 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 244 (S) What They Saw in America

Cross-listings: SOC 244  AMST 244  HIST 366

Secondary Cross-listing
This course traces the travels and writings of four important observers of the United States: Alexis de Tocqueville, Max Weber, G.K. Chesterton, and Sayyid Qutb. The course will consider their respective journeys: Where did they go? With whom did they talk? What did they see? The historical scope and varying national origins of the observers provide a unique and useful outsider's view of America--one that sheds light on persisting qualities of American national character and gives insight into the nature and substance of international attitudes toward the United States over time. The course will analyze the common themes found in the visitors’ respective writings about America and will pay particular attention to their insights on religion, democracy, agrarianism, capitalism, and race.

Requirements/Evaluation: A midterm examination, two short essays, and a final paper.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Priority given to Sociology, History, Anthropology, and American Studies majors.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

SOC 244 (D2) AMST 244 (D2) HIST 366 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Not offered current academic year

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This course considers the production and consumption of food as a locus of power over the last 300 years, and contextualizes current movements for food justice and sovereignty in light of those histories. Students will have opportunities to reflect on questions of power, privilege, and racism in contemporary food movements. Our final unit focuses on challenges to critical food studies from fat liberation and body positivity.

Requirements/Evaluation: two to three papers on assigned topics (4-6 pages); one longer final paper (8-10 pages); participation in discussion and online activities

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Environmental Studies majors and concentrators; American Studies majors; Public Health concentrators; history majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 265 (D2) ENVI 246 AMST 245

Secondary Cross-listing

Have you ever wondered why Spam is so popular in Hawaii and why Thai food is available all across the United States? Are you curious why black-eyed peas and collards are considered “soul food”? In this course, we will answer these questions by digging into the histories of global environmental transformation through colonialism, slavery, and international migration. We will consider the production and consumption of food as a locus of power over the last 300 years. Beginning with the rise of the Atlantic slave trade and continuing through the 20th century, we trace the global movement of plants, foods, flavors, workers, businesses, and agricultural knowledge. Major units include rice production by enslaved people in the Americas; Asian American food histories during the Cold War; and fat studies critiques of obesity discourse. We will discuss food justice, food sovereignty, and contemporary movements for food sustainability in the context of these histories and our contemporary world. Readings are interdisciplinary, but our emphasis will be on historical analyses of race, labor, environment, health, and gender.

Requirements/Evaluation: two to three papers on assigned topics (4-6 pages); one longer final paper (8-10 pages); participation in discussion and online activities

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Environmental Studies majors and concentrators; American Studies majors; Public Health concentrators; history majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 265 (D2) ENVI 246 AMST 245

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course considers the production and consumption of food as a locus of power over the last 300 years, and contextualizes current movements for food justice and sovereignty in light of those histories. Students will have opportunities to reflect on questions of power, privilege, and racism in contemporary food movements. Our final unit focuses on challenges to critical food studies from fat liberation and body positivity.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives EVST Culture/Humanities HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada PHLH Nutrition, Food Security + Environmental Health

Not offered current academic year
AMST 249 (F) Asian American Performance: Activism and Aesthetics (DPE)

Cross-listings: GBST 246 THEA 246 AMST 249

Secondary Cross-listing

This seminar will explore contemporary Asian American plays, stand-up comedy, performance art, and spoken word with an eye to how artists do politics through their cultural labor. We will begin with a brief survey of images from popular media to identify legacies of Orientalism. From here we will move towards examining the ways in which Asian American artists from various eras subvert stereotypes and pursue projects of social justice. In watching performances and reading scripts, essays, and interviews, we will attend to narratives, acting methods, theatrical design, spectatorship, and the political economy of cultural production that shapes how Asian American artists make and show work. In addition, we will explore how artists stake political claims in the public sphere through teaching and community organizing.

Requirements/Evaluation: two 5-page critical essays, reading responses, class presentations, and active discussion participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 246 (D1) THEA 246 (D1) AMST 249 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Course fosters critical engagement with artistic practices that seek to address the concerns of populations in the US who have historically had unequal access to resources and audiences for representing themselves and their political concerns. Students will ask questions about how Asian American artists address legacies of Orientalism, as well as how they facilitate community engagement and approach projects of social justice.

Not offered current academic year

AMST 252 (S) Im/mobilities (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: AMST 252 SOC 252

Secondary Cross-listing

We think of the freedom to move as a mark of privilege. In the United States, passing a driving test, owning a car, and getting a passport are milestones that signal modernity and freedom. Likewise, we think of restrictions on movement as the domain of the underprivileged, such as the current and formerly incarcerated. But as the Covid-19 pandemic reveals, there have always been two sides to immobility: privileged as well as involuntary immobility. There are correspondingly two sides to mobility: those who move because they want to and others because they have no choice. In this class, students will explore conceptions of mobility as adventurous, free, and modern (as with jet-setting international elites). They will compare and contrast when mobility can be threatening, exclusionary, and limited (as recognized by the Black Lives Matter movement). This class invites students to interpret their environment through the lens of mobility and inequality in the time of coronavirus. Drawing on sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, geography, and migration studies, this interdisciplinary course offers a beginning conversation on the causes and consequences of the freedom to move--or to stay still.

Requirements/Evaluation: Thoughtful and consistent class participation, several short reflection papers, two drafts of an opinion essay, class presentation

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Given to first-year students and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 252 (D2) SOC 252 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Emphasis on the processes of writing and revising, several short papers on which students will receive close feedback, and
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course explores a politics of im/mobilities: how we move through space through different bodies at the intersection of race, class, gender, ability, and citizenship. Students will use their own bodies as research sites for deepening their understanding of how we navigate the freedom to move or stay still.

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01    MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm     Phi H. Su

AMST 254 (F) Sovereignty, Resistance, and Resilience: Native American Histories to 1865 (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 254  HIST 254  LEAD 254

Secondary Cross-listing

This course surveys Native American/Indigenous North American histories from creation through the mid-nineteenth century, tracing the complex ways that tribal nations and communities have shaped North America. Equally important, it reckons with the ongoing effects of these pasts in the twenty-first century, and communities’ own forms of interpretation and critique. It also introduces foundational methodologies in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) and strategies for pursuing decolonizing scholarship and action. Beginning with the diverse Indigenous societies that have inhabited the Americas for millennia before Columbus’s arrival, it foregrounds the complexity of Native peoples, nations, and viewpoints situated in particular homelands, as well as accounts of beginnings and migrations. It addresses how Native peoples confronted grievous epidemics resulting from the "Columbian Exchange," and contended with Euro-colonial projects of "discovery" and colonization. Indigenous nations’ multifaceted efforts to maintain sovereignty and homelands through eras of pervasive violence and removal are addressed, as well as forms of relations and kinship with African-American and Afro-Indigenous people. It concludes with how different Native communities navigated the tumultuous era of the Civil War and created pathways for endurance and security in its aftermath. The course centers on Indigenous actors--intellectuals, diplomats, legal strategists, knowledge keepers, spiritual leaders, artists, and many others--and consistently connects historical events with present-day matters of land, historical memory, education, caretaking, and activism. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to engage with original materials in the Williams College Archives/Special Collections and Art Museum. While the scope of the course is continental and transoceanic, it devotes significant attention to the Native Northeast and the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican homelands in which Williams College is located.

Requirements/Evaluation: Attendance at lectures, active participation in class discussion, several short essays based on readings and discussion topics, museum/archives exercise, final essay/project.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: History majors, followed by first- and second-year students

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 254 (D2) HIST 254 (D2) LEAD 254 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course intensively explores Native American/Indigenous North American histories, experiences, and forms of critical and creative expression, as well as responses to and engagements with Euro-American settler colonialism. It guides students into methodologies central to Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS), and gives opportunities for oral and written reflections on NAIS approaches to historical themes and sources, as well as decolonizing methodologies more broadly.

Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada  HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

Fall 2022
LEC Section: 01    TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am     Christine DeLucia

AMST 260 (F) Indigenous Feminisms  (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 260  WGSS 262

Primary Cross-listing
Indigenous women, Two Spirit and trans people have always stood on the frontlines of decolonization struggles in the Americas, from treaty negotiations to self defense against settler invasion, to the Standing Rock Sioux struggle against the Dakota Access Pipeline, to creating independent databases and mutual support networks amongst the loved ones of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Trans and Two Spirit people. This course maps out some of the intellectual and political interventions of Indigenous feminists in analyzing and struggling against genocide, heteropatriarchy, conquest and racial capitalism in settler states like the US and Canada. This course will focus on how Indigenous women, Two Spirit and trans people have analyzed and struggled against the imposition of colonial constructs of gender and sexuality that mark Indigenous lives and lands as sites of extraction. It will examine how carceral regimes of control produced by the intertwined histories of conquest and Transatlantic slavery have been imposed upon Indigenous lives through the child protection system and the prison industrial complex. Students will be invited to consider how Indigenous feminist practices ‘make a future’ (Brant 1981) against and beyond the settler state. This course aims to familiarize students with historical and contemporary Indigenous feminist works, as well as provide an overview of Indigenous feminist political formations, poetry, fiction, and making practices. Pedagogically, this course will also facilitate the development and sharpening of skills in social analysis, writing and argumentation.

Class Format: Hybrid online/in-person

Requirements/Evaluation: Three one page reading responses, 30%; One two-page critical peer response 10%; One Final paper, 50%; Course participation and attendance 10%

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors or potential majors have first preference, WGSS majors have next priority.

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 260 (D2) WGSS 262 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course has as its core mission -- both in subject matter and in pedagogical approaches -- the exploration of difference, power and equity.

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 264  (F)  American Art and Architecture, 1600 to Present

Cross-listings: AMST 264  ARTH 264

Secondary Cross-listing

American art is often looked at as a provincial version of the real thing--i.e., European art--and found wanting. This course examines American architecture, painting, and sculpture on its own terms, in the light of the social, ideological and economic forces that shaped it. Special attention will be paid to such themes as the Puritan legacy and attitudes toward art; the making of art in a commercial society; and the tension between the ideal and the real in American works of art.

Requirements/Evaluation: 15-page research paper (divided into an annotated bibliography, first draft and revised draft); weekly study questions on the readings; final 15-minute oral exam

Enrollment Limit: 60

Expected Class Size: 60

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 264 (D1) ARTH 264 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Space and Place Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 265  (S)  Pop Art  (WS)
Cross-listings: AMST 265  ARTH 265

Secondary Cross-listing

The use of commercial and mass media imagery in art became recognized as an international phenomenon in the early 1960s. Items such as comic strips, advertising, movie stills, television programs, soup cans, "superstars," and a variety of other accessible and commonplace objects inspired the subject matter, form, and technique. This course will critically examine the history and legacy of Pop Art by focusing on its social and aesthetic contexts. An important component of the course involves developing skills in analyzing visual images, comparing them with other forms, and relating them to their historical context.

Requirements/Evaluation: one final research paper (15 pages) written in stages over the semester including revisions; bibliographic research, writing exercises, and oral presentations

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: Art majors

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 265 (D1) ARTH 265 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: There will be considerable focus on writing and peer-editing as a means of shaping critical thinking. We will treat writing as a process; revision is built into the syllabus. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives ARTH post-1800 Courses

Not offered current academic year

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AMST 267 (F) The Roaring Twenties and the Rough Thirties

Cross-listings: AMST 267  HIST 266

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will probe the domestic history of the U.S. from 1919 to 1939 and the cultural, economic, political, and social changes accompanying America's evolution into a modern society. Themes include: developments in work, leisure, and consumption; impact of depression on the organization of the public and private sectors; persistence of traditional values such as individualism and the success ethos in shaping responses to change; and the evolving diversity of America and the American experience.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will be graded on class participation and will have two take-home essay examinations (a midterm and a final, each 6-8 pages). In addition, students will write two short response papers and will complete an interpretative essay (5-7 pages) focused on art from the WPA Federal Art Project.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: HIST and AMST majors as well as students with demonstrated interest in the material

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 267 (D2) HIST 266 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Not offered current academic year

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AMST 272 (S) American Postmodern Fiction

Cross-listings: AMST 272  ENGL 272
American fiction took a turn at World War II; the simplest way to name the turn is from modernism to postmodernism. The most obvious mark of postmodern narration is its self-consciousness: postmodern books tend to be about themselves, even when they are most historical or realistic. Already a paradox emerges: why would World War II make narratives more self-reflexive? The first book in the course, and the best for approaching this paradox, is Heller's *Catch-22*. It also serves as a good introduction to the unlikely merging in American fiction of high European post-structuralist postmodernism and low American punk postmodernism. Subsequent books in the course will probably include Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot 49*, Morrison's *Beloved*, DeLillo's *White Noise*, Carver's *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*, Diaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life Of Oscar Wao*, and Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** three papers of increasing length and weight, contributions to class discussion

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** first-year students who have placed out of 100-level English and sophomores considering the major; then Junior and Senior English majors

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 272 (D2) ENGL 272 (D1)

**Attributes:** AMST Arts in Context Electives ENGL Literary Histories C

Not offered current academic year

**AMST 275 (S) American Drama: Hidden Knowledge (WS)**

The Buddha is said to have identified three things that cannot stay hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth. What's the secret? Who is lying? Who is breaking the rules? American drama abounds with hidden knowledge and false representations. (This is not surprising: theatre is always on some level a deceptive practice, a place where one person pretends to be another, and where what is spoken is always open to skeptical scrutiny. We might say theatre is always lying as much as lying is always theatre.) This tutorial course will examine what lies hidden in American plays from the late nineteenth century to the early twenty-first. Beginning with excerpted critical and historical writings on secrecy and lying (*The Adventures of Pinocchio*, Machiavelli's *The Prince*, Thomas Carlson's *Lying and Deception: Theory and Practice*, among others), we will proceed to a set of American plays from across a wide spectrum of playwrights, including Eugene O'Neill, Edward Albee, Sarah Ruhl, Arthur Miller, Amy Herzog, Susan Glaspell, Sophie Treadwell, Annie Baker, and others. Student papers will explore how hidden knowledge structures dramatic action, how different characters create and respond to untruths, and what can we learn in particular from American drama about a national relationship to honesty and its opposites.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** weekly papers/response papers; weekly meeting with instructor and tutorial partner

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** Theatre and English majors

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1) (WS)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Weekly papers will prompt extensive commentary. The amount of writing in the course will be substantial and well spaced, followed by timely evaluation and suggestions for improvement. The course requires multiple assignments, each returned with comments which address writing problems and strategies, as appropriate. Student will receive guidance on structure, style, argumentation, and other significant aspects of writing throughout the semester.

**Attributes:** AMST Arts in Context Electives

Not offered current academic year

**AMST 276 (S) Southern Literary Aesthetics (DPE) (WS)**

**Cross-listings:** ENGL 275 AFR 275 AMST 276
Secondary Cross-listing

Hip-Hop artists signify as “the dirty South” the distinct sounds, rhythms, landscapes, gestures, desires as well as frustrations of Black residents living in the southernmost regions of the U.S. American continent. In this course, students will examine what the South means to American concepts and how the South is used to make meaning in literature, music, art, digital archives, and film. We will give particular attention to how representations of the South are informed by region, gender, sexuality, and class. At the end of the course, students will be able to identify Black southern aesthetics across various genres and mediums with attention to historical and regional specificity despite the opacity of these categories. Potential artists include Jean Toomer, Alice Walker, Ernest Gaines, William Faulkner, Jesmyn Ward, Zora Neale Hurston, Natasha Trethewey, E. Patrick Johnson, Trudier Harris, Kiese Laymon, Julie Dash, Spike Lee, Askia Muhammad Touré, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Alison Janae Hamilton, Outkast, DJ Khalid, Beyoncé Knowles, and Solange Knowles.

Requirements/Evaluation: four or five writing assignments that total about 20 pages; discussion facilitation
Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: first-years and sophomores
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENGL 275 (D1) AFR 275 (D1) AMST 276 (D2)
Writing Skills Notes: Students will develop a writing practice through short in-class assignments that culminate in four or five formal submissions. Students will receive group as well as one-on-one feedback on useful writing principles. Feedback will focus on structure, style, argumentation, and audience.
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Students will analyze the “shaping of social differences, dynamics of unequal power, and processes of change” in the South. Students will discover how region impacts race, gender, sexuality, and class.
Attributes: ENGL 200-level Gateway Courses
Not offered current academic year

AMST 283  (F)  Black Queer Looks: Race, Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary African-American Film
Cross-listings:  WGSS 283  AMST 283  ENGL 286  AFR 283
Secondary Cross-listing

In this course we will foreground questions around visibility and memory. We will explore representations of Black queer bodies in experimental, documentary and narrative film. This course will engage foundational texts from Black Queer Studies. We will pair texts with film in order to examine the various relationships between art and scholarship. You will also be asked to think about yourself as a filmmaker. We will screen films such as Looking for Langston (Isaac Julien, 1989), The Watermelon Woman (Cheryl Dunye, 1996), U People (Olive Demetrius and Hanifah Walidah, 2009), Tongues Untied (Marlon Riggs, 1989) and Litany for Survival (Ada Gay Griffin and Michelle Parkerson, 1995). Throughout the course we will evaluate the different ways filmmakers represent Black queerness on screen. The goal is to think about the possibilities and limitations of representation and visibility. Each of you will be asked to facilitate a class discussion. You also will be required to do weekly critical response papers. In lieu of a final paper you will create a detailed proposal for a short film that “represents” some segment of Black queer living.

Requirements/Evaluation: facilitate class discussion; weekly critical response papers; in lieu of a final paper you will create a detailed proposal for a short film
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors, then Africana Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
WGSS 283 (D2) AMST 283 (D2) ENGL 286 (D1) AFR 283 (D2)
AMST 300 (F) Re/Generations I: Memory Against Forgetting and the Global American Empire (DPE)

Cross-listings: COMP 357 ENGL 300 AMST 300

Primary Cross-listing

This is a two-part junior seminar in which we take an expansive approach to memoir as a form, genre, and practice, with specific attention given to texts reckoning with the traumas, transgressions, and transformations of what we understand as "America" and its many discontents. In this first part, we focus on authors charting the lives and afterlives of chattel slavery, settler colonialism, genocide, war, and the expansion of the global American empire, from the 19th through 20th centuries. How do these authors remediate the critical (il)legibility of personhood and place, community and nation? What myths must be dispelled and/or rewritten? What structural elements are deployed to tackle the obstacles of hegemonic power and historical amnesia, and how do these authors re/generate "what remains of lost histories and histories of loss" (Eng and Kazanjian)? Texts to be considered may include: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave; Hawaii's Story by Hawaii's Queen (Lili'oukalani); Notes of a Native Son (James Baldwin); Borderlands/La Frontera (Gloria Anzaldúa); Dictée (Theresa Hak Kyung Cha).

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly reading responses, midtern and final papers

Prerequisites: American Studies 101 and/or 301, previous coursework in race, ethnicity, and diaspora, junior or senior standing, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 357 (D1) ENGL 300 (D2) AMST 300 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Analyzes the dynamics of power and privilege in the U.S. from a national and transnational context, examines the perspectives of socially marginalized groups, and fosters an understanding of the beliefs, experiences, and cultural productions of these groups.

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 301 (F) Theories and Methods in American Studies (Junior Seminar)

This seminar serves as an introduction to theories, methods, sources, and approaches for interdisciplinary research and creativity in and through the interdisciplinary field of American Studies. We will study diverse ways of "doing" American Studies work (including but not limited to visual studies, ethnography, literary studies, theory, or museum studies) and how this work speaks to various intellectual and political priorities within the field. Through readings, discussions, and unit assignments, students will not only deepen their knowledge of American Studies but will also have concrete opportunities to research, explore, experiment, construct arguments, and play. In the process, students will gain a working competence in all four tracks of the major (Space and Place; Comparative Studies in Race, Ethnicity, and Diaspora; Arts in Context; and Critical and Cultural Theory). Topics in the course may include environmental justice, racial formation, social movements, the prison industrial complex, infrastructure, or the aesthetics and form of minority literature.

Requirements/Evaluation: Class participation; four unit assignments (media projects, 7-10-min oral presentations, or 3-5 page papers); a final project building on an earlier assignment

Prerequisites: AMST 101/201 Intro to American Studies, junior or senior standing, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Unit Notes: Required of junior majors in American Studies

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01    MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm
Friday Org Mtg 11:00 am - 12:15 pm    Jan  Padios

AMST 303  (S) Feminist Disability Studies: Bodyminds in Place and Space  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  WGSS 309  AMST 303

Secondary Cross-listing
In this course we will engage anti-racist feminist theory, disability (or ‘crip’) theory, and human geography to think critically about disability. We will draw on critical geographies of disability to understand the built environment and institutional design; geographic scales of the body and the bodymind; spaces of the home and institutions; and im/mobility and spatial access. We will also consider how disability is shaped by (and shapes) practices of care and mutual aid; experiences of embodiment and impairment; and structures of vulnerability and agency. The course will trace, historically, how ableism has been produced through slavery, colonization, surveillance, and incarceration as well as through movements like eugenics and white liberal feminism. The course will also analyze disability’s construction through medicalized notions of wellness, illness, pathology, and cure.
Throughout the course, we will consider disability as intersecting with gender, race and ethnicity, queerness, trans*ness, fatness, class, nationality, and citizenship. Most centrally, we will ask: What is the spatiality of dis/ability, and how can space be occupied and reappropriated for radically inclusive uses? How can we understand both normality and deviance as socially constructed concepts that nonetheless have real, and uneven, implications for people's lives?

Class Format: This class will be taught online only.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Student participation; two short (2-pg) reflection papers; two longer (4-5-pg) papers; and a final (12-15 pg) research paper

Prerequisites:  None

Enrollment Limit:  15

Enrollment Preferences:  WGSS and AMST majors; permission of instructor

Expected Class Size:  15

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  no fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
WGSS 309  (D2) AMST 303  (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:  This course satisfies the DPE requirement because it examines the political, social, and ideological constructions and theorizations of difference, power, and equity. The course explores the ways in which disability is mutually constructed with other axes of identity and difference, and how different groups of people have defined (and redefined) disability to meet various political aims.

Attributes:  WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Not offered current academic year

AMST 305  (F) The Gay Menagerie: Gay Male Subcultures  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  WGSS 305  ANTH 305  AMST 305  THEA 304

Secondary Cross-listing
Bears. Cubs. Otters. Pups. Twinks. Radical Fairies. Leathermen. Mollies. Drag queens. Dandies. Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Gay men, including gay trans men, have organized themselves into various subcultures within their community for centuries. This seminar is devoted to exploring these subcultures in (a mostly US-context) in greater detail using ethnographic texts, anthropological studies, historical accounts (including oral histories), and media. Topics include cruising and flagging, the anthropological significance of gay bars, histories of bath house culture, rural vs urban queer experiences, the ball scene, drag, diva worship, the reclamation of "fabulousness and faggotry," the leadership roles of trans women and effeminate gay men in activist movements, gay gentrification, the growth of gay consumerism/ gay tourism/homonationalism, hierarchies of masculinity in the gay community (i.e., masc for masc culture), HIV/AIDS and the politics of PrEP, chemsex, the role of racialized dating "preferences," genealogies of BDSM and leather culture, sexual health and discourses of "risk," the politics of barebacking and other sexual practices, queering consent, and the effects of
hookup apps on gay culture. In addition to lectures, and discussions, there will also be some low-key performance-studies based exercises in queer praxis (e.g., drag workshops, mock debates, animal improvisation, role playing, etc.)

**Class Format:** There will be some minor performance elements such as workshops during class.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Quizzes, journaling assignment, short diva report, 10 page research paper on a gay subcultural group

**Prerequisites:** None; WGSS 202 (Foundations in Sexuality Studies) will be helpful but is not required

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** WGSS majors; in the event of over-enrollment there statements of interest will be solicited

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE)

*This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:*

WGSS 305 (D2) ANTH 305 (D2) AMST 305 (D2) THEA 304 (D1)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course examines the how marginalized communities respond to their oppression through creative forms. It takes as central to its curriculum the role of sexual diversity and the relationship of the gay community to power through the central idiom of "difference."

**Attributes:** WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

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**AMST 307 (F) Experimental African American Poetry**

**Cross-listings:** AMST 307 ENGL 327 AFR 301

**Primary Cross-listing**

Contemporary African American poets in various cities and towns across the nation--from New York City to Los Angeles, from Berkeley to Durham, N.C.--are currently producing a vibrant and thriving body of formally experimental work, yet this poetry is largely unknown to readers both within and outside the academy. This formally innovative poetry defamiliarizes what we normally expect of "black writing" and pushes us to question our assumptions and presumptions about black identity, "identity politics," the avant-garde (for example, is it implicitly raced?), formalism, socially "relevant" writing, the (false) dichotomy of form versus content, the black "community," digital poetics, and other issues of race and aesthetics. We will examine the writings of living poets, who range widely in age, and those of their avant-garde predecessors in the twentieth century. We will also be making links between this poetry and African American music and visual art.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two papers (6-8 pages and 8-10 pages), short response papers, oral presentation, and class participation

**Prerequisites:** none, though at least one previous literature course preferred

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** American Studies majors

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

*This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:*

AMST 307 (D2) ENGL 327 (D1) AFR 301 (D2)

**Attributes:** AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Not offered current academic year

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**AMST 308 (S) Angela Davis: Political Theory, Activism, and Alliances** (DPE) (WS)

**Cross-listings:** LEAD 319 PSCI 376 INTR 320 AMST 308

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This seminar examines the political thought, activism, and iconography of abolitionist Angela Davis. The seminar involves a critical engagement with
the philosopher, former political prisoner, and their relationship with other theorists, authors and activists. Readings include: *Angela Davis: An Autobiography; Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson; The Morning Breaks: The Trial of Angela Davis; Women, Race, and Class; If They Come in the Morning.*

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Requirements: students attend each seminar class and come prepared to discuss the readings. Papers are due by email 24 hours before the seminar begins.

**Prerequisites:** Preferences: Juniors and Seniors who have taken courses in Africana Studies, American Studies, Political Science, Philosophy.

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** Juniors and Seniors with previous courses taken in Africana Studies, American Studies, Political Science, Philosophy.

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:**  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

**Distributions:**  (D2)  (DPE)  (WS)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

LEAD 319 (D2)  PSCI 376 (D2)  INTR 320 (D2)  AMST 308 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Three thesis papers at five pages each will receive critical feedback from the professor; one of the three papers will be revised with critical feedback from professor and peers, accompanied by a one-page statement explaining student's revisions; one keyword glossary where students define their key terms used in the paper; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course examines political activism in the 1960s-1970s during the Cold War in which the civil rights, black power and student anti-war movements challenged traditional US domestic and foreign policies. Examining the differential powers of university Regents, governors, presidents, and police forces and prison administrations in relation to social justice movements led by people under the age of thirty, we examine the structures of institutional power and the agency of cadre theorists.

**Attributes:**  AFR Core Electives  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  PHIL Contemporary Value Theory Courses  PSCI Political Theory Courses

**Not offered current academic year**

**AMST 310  (S)** "A language to hear myself": Advanced Studies in Feminist Poetry and Poetics  (DPE)

**Cross-listings:**  ENGL 302  AMST 310  WGSS 330

**Secondary Cross-listing**

The title of this course comes from Adrienne Rich’s 1969 poem “Tear Gas,” grounding our study in 1960s, 70s, and 80s feminist activist poetry but also in our current moment to answer a fundamental question: what can poetry do for us? In this period, feminist activist poets were at the center of a revolutionary social justice movement that changed the world. Feminist presses published much of the new poetry. This course focuses on the theory and practice of feminist poetry and print culture during this period, and how feminist experiments in language changed how we understand American poetry. We focus on the theoretical writings and poetry chapbooks of a diverse group of poets who powered the movement, including Audre Lorde, Mitsuye Yamada, Nelly Wong, Robin Morgan, June Jordan, Joy Harjo, Gloria Anzaldúa, Sonia Sanchez, Adrienne Rich, Judy Grahn, and Pat Parker. We also read the work of some later feminist theorists, such as Judith Butler, as we analyze the kinds of performances that brought together feminist poetry and political activism. We spend some time in the archives, analyzing documents from the period, including original publications of poetry chapbooks often published by the period's many feminist presses and consider how such attention allows us to construct alternative narratives for feminism and American poetry. Writing at the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality, and of multiple social justice movements (Civil Rights, anti-Vietnam War, LGBTQ activism, and Black Power), these poets gave us a new language to "hear," not only ourselves, but the experience and pain of others, and, in so doing, they moved personal experience into public discourse around issues of inequality and human flourishing in a democratic society.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** short analysis papers (4-5 pages), creative (1-2 pages), discussion posts (5 pages), short presentation, longer final researched paper (10-12 pages)

**Prerequisites:** a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** English, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, American Studies majors

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Grading:**  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 302 (D1) AMST 310 (D2) WGSS 330 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** The course examines the effects of class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality on both poetry and the feminist movement and how women negotiated their differences within the movement, as well as in response to the dominant patriarchal culture. This course employs critical tools (feminist theory, archival research, poetics, close reading, comparative approaches) to help students question and articulate the social injustices that led to the poetry and poetics of the period.

**Attributes:** AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  ENGL Criticism Courses  ENGL Literary Histories  WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses  WGSS Theory Courses

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Bethany Hicok

**AMST 311 Four Poets: Gwendolyn Brooks, Frank O'Hara, Sylvia Plath, and Amiri Baraka**

The study of literature often relies on seemingly "objective" labels to sort and group writers. These four major American poets from the last century were often segregated into different categories: Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000) and Amiri Baraka (1934-2014) clumped together as black poets; Sylvia Plath (1932-1963) labelled a "Confessional Poet" and/or taught as a female poet but not a "white poet"; Frank O'Hara (1926-1966), designated a "New York School" poet but not a "white poet" or "male poet." In looking closely at the poetry of these four writers, whose work is usually not taught side by side, we will ask questions about the assumptions implicit in the concepts and categories of American (and English-language) poetics and how literary history usually gets written. For example, who is the presumed "universal" poetic speaker? Who is the assumed reader? Do our attitudes about raced and gendered bodies influence how we read raced and gendered poets? Is a queer poet read with the same particularity as a black poet?

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Two short papers (4-5 pp.) = 25%; One final paper (8-10 pp.) = 50%; Two short response papers = 15%; Participation = 10%

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:**

Not offered current academic year

**AMST 313 (S) Gender, Race, and the Power of Personal Aesthetics**

**Cross-listings:** WGSS 313  AFR 326  AMST 313  LATS 313

This course focuses on the politics of personal style among women and femmes of color in an era of viral video clips, the 24-hour news cycle, and e-commerce sites dedicated to the dermatological concerns of "minority" females. With a comparative, transnational emphasis on the ways in which gender, sexuality, ethno-racial identity, neoliberal capitalism and class inform standards of beauty and ideas about the body, we will examine a variety of materials including commercial websites, podcasts, histories, personal narratives, ethnographies, sociological case studies, and feminist theory. Departing from the assumption that personal aesthetics are intimately tied to issues of power and privilege, we will engage the following questions: What are the everyday functions of personal style among women and femmes of color? Is it feasible to assert that an easily identifiable "African American," "Latina/x," "Arab American" or "Asian American" female aesthetic exists? What role do transnational media play in the development and circulation of popular aesthetic forms? How might the belief in personal style as activist strategy complicate traditional understandings of feminist political activity?

**Requirements/Evaluation:** participation, one student-led discussion period, two written essays of 5-7 pages, final written reflection.

**Prerequisites:** LATS 105, AMST 201, AFR 200, WGSS 101 or permission of instructor; first year students are not permitted to take this course.

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** Latina/o Studies concentrators, American Studies majors, Africana Studies majors, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality
AMST 320 (S) Dangerous Bodies: Black Womanhood, Sexuality & Popular Culture

Cross-listings:  WGSS 320  AMST 320  AFR 320

Secondary Cross-listing

Whether presented as maternal saints, divas, video vixens, or bitches, black female celebrities navigate a tumultuous terrain in popular culture. This course considers the ways that black female celebrities such as Oprah, Rihanna, Nicki Minaj, Beyoncé, Janet Jackson, and Michelle Obama negotiate womanhood and sexuality, and the popular landscapes through which we witness that negotiation. It also engages contemporary black feminist scholarship, which most frequently presents the presentation of black female bodies in popular media forms as exploitive. We will review historical stereotypes of black women in popular media forms, discuss the history of the "politics of respectability" within black culture, engage black feminist responses to these types, and examine theoretical approaches to assess social constructions of womanhood and sexuality. We will also consider provocative questions relevant to discussions of contemporary black sexual politics: Should we view these women as feminists? Are they merely representatives of cultural commodification and control of black women's bodies? Do these women best exemplify the reiteration of problematic characterizations? Are they positive models for demonstrating female empowerment, agency, or "fierceness?" This course explores the histories of representation of black female figures in popular culture, and in so doing, troubles contemporary considerations of black womanhood and sexuality.

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on attendance/participation, short response papers, and a midterm and final portfolio

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies majors and Africana Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 320 (D2) AMST 320 (D2) AFR 320 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01  W 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm  Rhon S. Manigault-Bryant

AMST 321 (F) Unsettled Futures: Time, Crisis, and Science Fiction from the Margins (DPE)

Cross-listings: STS 321 AMST 321

Primary Cross-listing

Societies around the globe are now confronting a triple crisis that threatens not only political orders but also the very existence of certain forms of life: (1) financial collapse(s) that have increased the awareness and severity of mass inequality, (2) climate change and mass extinctions, and (3) the rise of white supremacy and ethno-nationalisms that threaten BIPOC lives and representative democracies. These material and political challenges have depleted many of the cultural resources that enable imagining non-apocalyptic futures. Yet, these crises are not novel. Many groups in the
periphery—geographic, economic, and cultural—were and are already living through the uneven distribution of the apocalypse. Science fiction (SF) has emerged as a privileged symbolic field for the expression of hopes and anxieties that drive both culture and tech industries. Whether seen as a form of productive pessimism or liberatory theory, SF from the margins is deployed as a political tool for enacting change in the present. In this course, we will survey the history of SF as a variable and theoretical orientation constituted through the unfolding of uneven global encounters. We will analyze SF in the Cold War, Anthropocene, decolonization movements, and postcolonial and Indigenous landscapes, reading major works in SF and science and technology studies (STS) that address the politics of crisis, apocalypse, and global futures. In addition to novels and short stories, this course will incorporate film, graphic novels, music videos, video games, and other science fiction subgenres.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Class discussion, approximately 10 pages of creative writing, 5 page analysis paper of your classmate's creative writing, final paper or project (5-8 page paper or equivalent)

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Students who have taken American Studies 101 and/or Science and Technology Studies 101

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

STS 321 (D2) AMST 321 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the racial, ethnic, gendered, and sexed dimensions of science fiction and traces how marginalized people have imagined the future amidst an atemporal and unfolding apocalypse. Students will work with postcolonial, Indigenous, queer, and critical race media concerning the future, and will gain the skills needed to read political orders and crises through the lens of the margin.

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 322 (S) Race, Culture, Incarceration

Cross-listings: AMST 322 INTR 322 AFR 322 PSCI 313

Secondary Cross-listing

This course explores racially-fashioned policing and incarceration from the Reconstruction era convict prison lease system to contemporary mass incarceration and "stop and frisk" policies of urban areas in the United States. Also explored will be political imprisonment in the United States.

Requirements/Evaluation: brief analytical papers and group presentations.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 322 (D2) INTR 322 (D2) AFR 322 (D2) PSCI 313 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives AMST Space and Place Electives JLST Interdepartmental Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 323 (S) Comic Lives: Graphic Novels & Dangerous Histories of the African Diaspora

Cross-listings: COMP 322 ENGL 356 AFR 323 AMST 323 ARTH 223

Secondary Cross-listing

This course explores how the graphic novel has been an effective, provocative and at times controversial medium for representing racialized histories. Drawing on graphic novels such as the late Congressman John Lewis’ *March* and Ebony Flowers’ *Hot Comb*, this course illustrates and critiques multiple ways the graphic novel comingles word and image to create more sensorial access into ethnic traumas, challenges and interventions in critical moments of resistance throughout history. Students will practice analyzing graphic novels with the help of critical essays, reviews and film; the chosen texts will center on Africana cultures, prompting students to consider how the graphic novel may act as a useful alternate history for
marginalized peoples. During the course, students will build comic creation and analysis skills through short exercises, eventually building up to the final project of a graphic short story that illustrates historical and/or autobiographical narratives. No art experience is required, only an openness to expanding one's visual awareness and composition skills. This course is often taught in collaboration with the Williams College Museum of Art's Object Lab program, which allows the class to have its own space and art objects that are directly related to the course topic. This class may feature Object Lab participation, film screenings, and collaborations with guest speakers.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, written responses, student-led facilitation, one 3-page graphic analysis, one 6- to 8-page essay, and a final project (producing a graphic short story)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: If the enrollment limit is exceeded, preference will be given to Africana Studies concentrators or students who have taken AFR 200, the department's introductory course.

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: this course is part of the Gaudino Danger Initiative

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 322 (D2) ENGL 356 (D1) AFR 323 (D2) AMST 323 (D2) ARTH 223 (D1)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 325 (F) Asian/African American Cultural and Political Theory

Cross-listings: PSCI 333 AFR 344 AMST 325

Primary Cross-listing

Contrasted as "model minorities" or "incorrigible minorities" Asian Americans and African Americans have been pitted against one another in social standing and political objectives. However, throughout the twentieth century, African/Asian solidarity and alliances existed in political movements and literary and cultural productions. From Ho Chi Minh's anti-lynching writing, the founding conference of the WIDF (Women's International Democratic Federation) in China in 1945, through the Bandung Conference, coalitions against U.S. wars in Southeast Asia, and alignments with Chinese anti-imperialist endeavors, black and Asian peoples have joined in international political formations. Contributions to theory include the writings and activism of Langston Hughes, W.E.B. Du Bois, Richard Wright, Robert Williams, Yuri Kochiyama, Grace Lee and Jimmy Boggs, Ishmael Reed, and Amiri Baraka; films of Bruce Lee; music of Fred Ho; revolutionary praxis of Mao Tse Tung's Little Red Book and his writings on art and society; the Marxism of the Black Panther Party; the Afro-futurism of Sun Ra and Samuel Delany; and contemporary "Afro-pessimism." Such cultural works depict futurities and possibilities for Black and Asian diasporas. This seminar examines theory, politics, literature, film, and music produced from and linked to twentieth-century movements against capitalism, racism, colonialism, and imperial wars to think through how Black and Yellow Power have shaped solidarity to challenge white supremacy and racial capitalism. Requirements: One midterm paper (5-6 pp.) = 30%; final paper/project (10-12 pp.) with a creative option = 50%; short response paper and GLOW posts = 10%; participation (attendance and class discussion) = 10% Course cap: 19 Priority given to AMST majors, Africana concentrators

Requirements/Evaluation: One midterm paper (5-6 pp.) = 30%; Final paper/project (10-12 pp.) with a creative option = 50%; Short response paper and GLOW posts = 10%; Participation (attendance and class discussion) = 10%

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: AMST majors, Africana concentrators

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 333 (D2) AFR 344 (D2) AMST 325 (D2)
AMST 327  (S)  Racial and Religious Mixture  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  REL 314  LATS 327  AFR 357  AMST 327

Secondary Cross-listing

The very term "mixture" implies that two or more distinct substances have been brought together. Distinctions of race and religion are social fictions; yet, the lived ramifications of these social fictions involve tense struggles over the boundaries of racial and religious communities. These boundaries are not just ideas but also practices. In the history of the Americas, mixed racial and religious identities and experiences have more often been the result of violent clashes than romantic encounters. Still, the romanticization of the New World as a geography that makes such mixtures possible reaches back to the earliest days of Spanish conquest in the Americas. This course critically reconsiders varying ways that racial and religious mixtures have been imagined, defined, challenged, negotiated, and survived under imaginative and legal rubrics of mestizaje, creolization, transculturation, passing, syncretism, religious hybridity, and mixed race studies.

Class Format: mostly discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: participation, short writing exercises, a 3-page first essay, a 5- to 8-page second essay, and a 10- to 14-page final paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: seniors, concentrators, majors, those with prior relevant coursework

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

REL 314  (D2) LATS 327  (D2) AFR 357  (D2) AMST 327  (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Focusing on how different peoples have critically theorized and made meaning about and out of racial and religious differences and interconnections, this Difference, Power, and Equity course investigates the ways that knowledge about mixture and difference—and their roles in hierarchical distributions of social and political power—have been critically constructed and transformed.

Attributes:  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  GBST Latin American Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 330  (Anti-)Imperialism, Race, and the Archive  (DPE) (WS)

What is U.S. imperialism? How are the social relations of racial capitalism important to U.S. imperialism? How have anti-imperial, anti-racist, and anti-capitalist struggles taken shape within, against, and beyond the U.S. nation-state, and how have these struggles shaped the U.S. nation-state itself? Finally, what kind of anti-imperial activist hermeneutics does American Studies offer and how can they be strengthened to reckon with the specific conditions of the U.S. imperial present? Anchored in these questions, this course seeks to introduce students to the history of U.S. imperialism. It does so beyond the traditional understanding of empire as a one-way agglomerating imposition of power in distant areas, and instead accounts for the co-constitution of reigning state-capitalist orders and global processes of spatial and social differentiation. Following such an approach to the history of U.S. imperialism, this course is organized around four time periods: 1770s to 1890s; 1890s to 1930s; 1930s to 1980s; and 1980s to the present. Across each period, we will attend to processes of U.S. imperial expansion, capital accumulation, and racial domination, and resistance to these processes. We will do so using secondary sources and a wide range of primary sources, including published fiction, legal documents, newspaper articles, speeches, films, and photos. By the end of this course, students should be able to detail a genealogy of the U.S. imperial present that accounts for: the significance of imperial and inter-imperial relations in the formation of U.S. national culture, institutions, and public areas such as law and public policy; how U.S. territorial colonization has underpinned the development of U.S. imperial infrastructure, the imperial state form, and imperial culture; and how U.S. territorial and extraterritorial sovereignty exist in perpetual reaction to the primary claims of Indigenous peoples and other threats to reigning state-capitalist orders.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on the following assessments: Class Participation: 25%; Weekly Response (350-500 words): 25%; Essay 1--First submission (5 pgs.): 10%; Essay 1--Revision (5 pgs.): 10%; Essay 2 (5 pgs.): 15%; Essay 3 (5 pgs.): 15%

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors, students specializing in Native American and Indigenous Studies, Africana majors, History majors,

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading:

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Emphasis on writing process and revision: Three thesis papers at 5 pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor and peers); one keyword glossary where students develop rigorous definitions of course key terms; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Throughout, the course addresses the issues of difference, power, and equity amongst groups and the nature of the theoretical tools or perspectives used to understand these issues. It does so familiarizing students with "racial capitalism" as both a way of understanding the historical relationship between race and capitalism, and as an activist hermeneutic to respond to the conditions that American Studies and other fields must reckon with in the present.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Not offered current academic year

AMST 331 (S) New Orleans as Muse: Literature, Music, Art, Film and Theatre in the City

Cross-listings: AMST 331 COMP 330 THEA 330

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will look at the representation of a city and how it has influenced artists. Students will read, listen to, and view a selection of the literature, music, film and art that represent the city from both pre-flooding and current re-building. Reading selections will include examples such as Harper's Weekly (Lafrcadio Hearn), The Awakening (Kate Chopin), A Streetcar Named Desire (Tennessee Williams), The Moviegoer (Walker Percy), Why New Orleans Matters (Tom Piazza), A Confederacy of Dunces (John Kennedy O'Toole), New Orleans Sketches (William Faulkner), One Dead in the Attic (Chris Rose). Film examples such as A Streetcar Named Desire, An Interview with a Vampire, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, When the Levees Broke, Treme, Waiting for Godot (in the 9th Ward). Music selections from examples such as Louis Moreau Gottschalk, Jelly Roll Morton, Louis Armstrong, Fats Domino, The Meters, Kermit Ruffins and the Rebirth Brass Band. Art selections will come from a variety of sources such as THE OGDEN Museum of Southern Art and Prospect 1, 2, & 3.

Requirements/Evaluation: will be on active participation, weekly response essays on film viewings, 2 short essays on class topics, a final paper and a contemporary creative project/performance

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 331 (D1) COMP 330 (D1) THEA 330 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Space and Place Electives EXPE Experiential Education Courses FMST Related Courses

Not offered current academic year

AMST 332 (F) (De)colonial Ecologies (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: AFR 347 AMST 332 ENVI 332

Primary Cross-listing

What is the relationship between race, colonialism, and capitalism? How do such structures organize nature, including human nature? How do ideas of "nature" and "the human" come to structure race, colonialism, and capitalism? From the "discovery" and plunder of the "New World," to 18th-century claims that climate determined racial character, to the 21st-century proliferation of DNA tests underwriting claims to Indigenous ancestry, it is clear that race, colonialism, capitalism constitute asymmetric world ecologies, and give rise to interconnected liberation struggles. Anchored in the contexts of U.S. colonialism and racial capitalism, and drawing on environmentalist, Black Marxist, and feminist works, this course aims to expose students to a world history of colonial and decolonial ecologies. By the end of this course, students should be able to describe the historical foundations of dominant
ideas, attitudes, and practices toward human and non-human natures. Students should also be able to analyze how such orientations toward human and non-human natures mediate the ways in which colonial, racial, gender, and sexual categories and structures inform and are (re)produced by U.S. institutions and in public areas such as the law, public policy, and property. Finally, students should be able to interpret how racialized and colonized peoples’ visions, representations, and practices of liberation constitute decolonial ecologies that contend with, and exceed normative political, economic, and social categories of governance and systems of dispossession and exploitation.


Prerequisites: AMST 101, AFR 200, and/or ENVI 101

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: AMST, AFR, ENVI

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 347 (D2) AMST 332 (D2) ENVI 332 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: One thesis paper at 15 pages. The writing process is staggered, with each part graded, and with critical feedback from professor and peers. Specifically, one research proposal (including thesis outline and annotated bibliography of primary texts) with feedback from professor; one thesis paper draft with feedback from peers; one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process; one final draft with critical feedback from professor; and student presentation and discussion.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course addresses issues of difference, power, and equity, and offers theoretical tools and perspectives to understand these issues. Specifically, students learn how to interpret how racialized and colonized peoples’ visions, representations, and practices of liberation with regard to relations with non-human natures and the materiality of land precede, contend with, and exceed normative political, economic, and social categories of governance and systems of dispossession and exploitation.

Attributes: ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 333  (S)  An American Family and "Reality" Television  (WS)

Cross-listings: ARTH 310  WGSS 312  AMST 333

Secondary Cross-listing

An American Family was a popular documentary series that featured the Loud family from Santa Barbara, California, whose everyday lives were broadcast on national television. The series generated an enormous amount of media attention, commentary, and controversy when it premiered on PBS in 1973. Today, it is regarded as the origin of so-called "Reality TV." In addition to challenging standard rules for television programming, the show challenged social conventions and asked viewers to think seriously about family relations, sexuality, domesticity, and the "American dream.” Documenting the family's life over the course of eight months, the series chronicled the dissolution of the Lounds’ marriage and broadcast the "coming out" of eldest son Lance Loud, the first star of reality television. In this class, we will view the An American Family series in its entirety, research the program's historical reception, and analyze its influence on broadcast and film media, particularly on "reality" television. A final 14- to 18-page research paper will be prepared in stages, including a 6- to 8-page midterm essay that will be revised and expanded over the course of the semester.

Requirements/Evaluation: class presentations, research assignments and annotated bibliographies, and final 14- to 18-page research paper.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: junior Art majors, followed by senior majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ARTH 310 (D1) WGSS 312 (D2) AMST 333 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: There will be considerable focus on writing and peer-editing as a means of shaping critical thinking. We will treat writing as a
process; revision is built into the syllabus. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

**Attributes:** AMST Arts in Context Electives  ARTH post-1800 Courses  FMST Core Courses

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01  Cancelled

**AMST 334 (F) Sexual Economies** (DPE)

**Cross-listings:** ANTH 301  WGSS 301  AMST 334

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course examines various forms of sexual labor around the world in order to better understand how gendered and sexual performances are used in a variety of cultures and contexts for material benefit. Our topics include "traditional" forms of sex work such as street prostitution, pornography, and escorting as well as other forms of sexualized performances for benefit such as stripping or camming. We also discuss current issues and debates about discourses of "sex trafficking." Course readings come from a range of fields, but focus most heavily on anthropology, sociology, American studies, and gender studies. The readings for this class will frequently foreground the lived experiences of sex workers from a variety of nations, races, classes, religions, and backgrounds in order to explore the broader social implications of our subject matter. The format is largely discussion-based, with short lectures supplementing the reading with summaries of current scholarly and activist debates. We have a variety of guest speakers to share their diverse lived experiences related to this topic.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** midterm essay exam, short quizzes, participation, Marco Polo video chat posts

**Prerequisites:** none, though WGSS 101 and/or 202 may be helpful, but not required

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** based on statement of interest

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ANTH 301 (D2)  WGSS 301 (D2)  AMST 334 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** We pay particular attention to the intersecting questions of race, sexuality, gender, and class as we explore the political economy of commercial sex. The course teaches students to examine the underlying political and economic structures that create systems of privilege and power, thereby complicating questions and assumptions about sexual consent, coercion, agency, and empowerment with particular attention to race and gender in comparative transnational contexts.

**Attributes:** WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01  MW 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm  Thursday Org Mtg 7:00 pm - 7:25 pm  Gregory C. Mitchell

**AMST 335 (S) Uncovering Williams**

**Cross-listings:** AMST 335  ARTH 335

**Primary Cross-listing**

Sparked by current controversies around visual representations at Williams, this course--a joint effort of the Williams College Museum of Art and the American Studies Program--interrogates the history of the college and its relationship to land, people, architecture, and artifacts. Students in this course will examine the visual and material culture of Williams and the land it occupies to uncover how the long and complex history of the college reverberates in the spaces and places students, faculty, and staff traverse daily. We take seriously that objects and environments are not neutral nor are the atmospheres that they reflect and produce. Our interdisciplinary approach draws from the methods and theories of American studies, art history, material culture studies, critical race theory, gender studies, and eco-criticism. Topics of discussion may include: the foundation of the college and displacement of native populations; buildings, objects, and monuments linked to Williams’ evangelical history and the role of missionaries in American imperialism; the symbolic meaning of the varied architectural styles at the college; and the visibility/invisibility of the college's relationship to
slavery and Abolitionism.

Requirements/Evaluation: participation (discussion, GLOW posts), 2-3 short papers, one 5- to 6-page midterm paper, and a 10- to 12-page final project (either a research paper or a substantial arts-type project) and bibliography

Prerequisites: sophomore standing or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: AMST majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 335 (D2) ARTH 335 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Space and Place Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 337 (S) Queer in the City (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 337 AFR 337 WGSS 346

Secondary Cross-listing

In this course we will examine the various ways scholars and filmmakers have used ethnography as a critical tool for understanding the intersections of race, place, space, gender and sexuality. We will foreground studies that examine unfamiliar sites of Black struggle, resistance, and survival. We will examine Black gender variant and sexual minorities and how they produce, reproduce and struggle for spaces and places of desire, community, pleasure, love, and loss. We will explore these stories through primarily ethnographic modalities. We will discuss the political and ethical ramifications of these ethnographic narratives paying particular attention to the usefulness and limitations of both 'Thin' and 'Thick' descriptions. We will use ethnography to center debates regarding the politics of representation of racialized queer space, place, and people through both filmic and written accounts. All students will be asked to discover and develop their ethnographic voices through various critical, creative, experimental and performative assignments.

Requirements/Evaluation: facilitated class discussion; weekly critical response papers; creative projects

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: WGSS majors; students may be asked to write a short statement of interest in the event of over-enrollment

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 337 (D2) AFR 337 (D2) WGSS 346 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Course directly discusses structural oppression, forms of inequality, and social redress through the intersecting matrices of race, gender, sexuality and other ontological forms.

Attributes: FMST Core Courses WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Not offered current academic year

AMST 338 (S) Literature of the American Renaissance

Cross-listings: AMST 338 ENGL 338

Secondary Cross-listing

The term "American Renaissance" refers to a period of US writing, primarily a couple of decades before the Civil War but extending after it: the time of Poe, Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, Dickinson, Whitman, Jacobs, and Douglass. At stake throughout was the soul of the nation in a time of exuberant political expansion, spiritual optimism, social experimentation, deadening social conventionality, spiritual constriction, labor exploitation, and slavery. The question repeatedly asked was what it means to be free. The question is personal, political, social, and spiritual, and always, for writers,
literary: what are the limits or possibilities of writing freely?

Requirements/Evaluation: Three papers: 4 pp., 5 pp., 6-8 pp. Active class participation is expected and rewarded.

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam, or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: English majors; prospective English majors; American Studies majors; Comparative Literature majors

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 338 (D2) ENGL 338 (D1)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives ENGL Literary Histories B

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm John K. Limon

AMST 340 (S) Elizabeth Bishop in the Americas (DPE)

Cross-listings: ENGL 340 AMST 340 WGSS 340 COMP 342

Secondary Cross-listing

Elizabeth Bishop has emerged as one of the most important poets of the 20th century. She is admired not only for her dazzling mastery of the craft but also her adventurous life as a world traveler. Her more than two decades living in Brazil and translating the culture and literature of that country for a North American audience, for instance, make her life and work a rich focal point for cross-cultural study. At the center of the course will be Bishop's stunning meditations on childhood, memory, travel, lesbian sexuality, gender identity, ecology, and race and class in the U.S. and Brazil. We will look at how Bishop intertwines personal and global historical encounters in order to raise serious ethical questions about our shared history of conquest and sense of place in the Americas from the 16th century to the Cold War period of the twentieth. What is ultimately at stake in our claiming of a "home"? We also read a number of the writers in North and South America who were closely connected to Bishop, from Robert Lowell and Ernest Hemingway in North America, to Pablo Neruda and Clarice Lispector in South America. Ultimately, we study how craft, poetic process, and an ethical eye on the world can open up the study of poetry and poetics in the 21st century.

Class Format: three hours per week, in addition to small group discussion and archival research

Requirements/Evaluation: two short papers of 4-5 pages, one longer critical research paper of 10-12 pages, three to four discussion posts (300-500 words)

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: English, Comparative Literature, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, American Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 340 (D1) AMST 340 (D2) WGSS 340 (D2) COMP 342 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course employs critical tools (case studies, translation theory, archival research, poetics, close reading, comparative approaches, postcolonial theory) to help students question and articulate the way that social injustice, such as racial inequality, poverty, and colonial conquest, shapes national and individual identities. Students will learn how to articulate how our aesthetic and cultural products also serve to shape these identities but also can challenge the dominant power structures.

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives ENGL Criticism Courses ENGL Literary Histories C GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives GBST Latin American Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year
What does it mean to "settle" land? What racial encounters and acts of survival took place around the plantation? How have farmworkers and landowners faced off against government policies and "agribusiness" corporations? What was the "Green Revolution" and why did it happen?

Agriculture as a relation to land based on domestication, enclosure, and commerce has long been a means of and justification for racial and colonial dispossession and exploitation across the Americas, including what is now the United States. At the same time, an array of embodied practices in relation to the land and one another complicate and contest these histories of racial and colonial dispossession. Broadly, this course aims to familiarize students with the historical and present-day entwining of colonial and racial dispossession, exploitation, and resistance at the heart of U.S. economies of agriculture. By the end of this course, students should be able to analyze how the historical foundations of U.S. agriculture have entailed and intertwined the taking of lands and removal of Indigenous peoples, the enslavement of African peoples, mass migration, and various forms of exploitative labor. Students should also be able to assess how these historical foundations continued to serve as the material conditions reproduced throughout the course of the 19th and 20th centuries under discriminatory government policies and powerful "agribusiness" corporations, as well as the possibilities and limits of redress and reform through state and corporate action. Finally, students should be able to interpret how embodied practices in relation to the land and one another precede, exceed, and push against the logics and histories of racial and colonial dispossession. The course is organized around three units that interrogate economies of agriculture within and beyond the U.S. nation-state. Each unit interrogates a key period of time from the founding of the United States, through 20th-century Pax Americana, and on into the present. Finally, each unit does so while attending to the emergence and enactment of "food sovereignty" movements–efforts to foster a new international trade regime, agrarian reform, a shift to agroecological production practices, attention to gender relations and equity, and the protection of intellectual and indigenous property rights.


Prerequisites: AMST 101, AFR 200, and/or ENVI 101

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: AMST, AFR, ENVI

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 349 (D2) ENVI 349 (D2) AMST 342 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: One thesis paper at 15 pages. The writing process is staggered, with each part graded, and with critical feedback from professor and peers. Specifically, one research proposal (including thesis outline and annotated bibliography of primary texts) with feedback from professor; one thesis paper draft with feedback from peers; one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process; one final draft with critical feedback from professor; and student presentation and discussion.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course addresses issues of difference, power, and equity, and offers theoretical tools and perspectives to understand these issues. Specifically, students learn how to interpret how racialized and colonized peoples' visions, representations, and practices of liberation with regard to relations with non-human natures and the materiality of land precede, contend with, and exceed normative political, economic, and social categories of governance and systems of dispossession and exploitation.

Not offered current academic year

AMST 343 (S) Representations of Racial-Sexual Violence from Enslavement to Emancipation

Cross-listings: INTR 343 AFR 343 AMST 343 WGSS 343

Secondary Cross-listing

This tutorial examines representations of and resistance to racial-sexual violence in American society, from colonial America to contemporary US culture. Interdisciplinary texts cover history, politics, literature, film, feminist studies, American studies, lgbtq and ethnic/black studies. Books include Southern Horrors; Intimate Matters; Scenes of Subjection; Trauma and Recovery; The Delectable Negro: At the Dark End of the Street; films include Birth of a Nation; Bush Mama; To Kill a Mockingbird. The primary focus is on racial and sexual vulnerability to violence and mobilization for freedom from the 18th-21st centuries.

Class Format: students provide primary and response papers and discuss their analyses and theories of social and interpersonal violence
AMST 344 (F) Pacific-New England Material Histories (DPE)

Cross-listings: ARTH 344 AMST 344

Secondary Cross-listing
This course looks at the indigenous, colonial, maritime, and missionary histories that connect New England to island nations in the Pacific in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Rather than thinking of Hawai‘i and Massachusetts merely as opposite ends of United States colonial expansion, we will focus on the heterogenous cast of historical actors—from queens to whalers—who interacted in these places and generated new forms in architecture, painting, printmaking, the decorative arts, textiles, and publishing. Particular attention will be paid to the politics of Hawaiian visual culture and the histories of Williams alumni in Hawai‘i, but the readings, discussions, and student papers will not be limited exclusively to those subjects. Our time together will be split between lecture and class discussion, with some meetings devoted to archival research and object-based case studies in collections on campus. As a group, we will establish a corpus of objects and conceptual frameworks for analyzing what “Pacific-New England” means and how that might challenge our existing assumptions about regional art histories. Finally, we will experiment as a class with the best ways to convey what we’ve learned through our collective inquiry—whether in different forms of writing or by workshop more creative approaches.

Requirements/Evaluation: participation in discussion, two short papers, final research project, and presentation; note: one required field trip, scheduled in consultation with the students

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Expected Class Size: 8

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ARTH 344 (D1) AMST 344 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course traces the ways that systemic biases regarding race, religion, gender, and class impacted and continue to affect relations of power, wealth, and ultimately sovereignty in the United States and in Hawai‘i.

Not offered current academic year

AMST 345 (F)(S) Capitalism and Racism in the American Context and Beyond: A Global Approach (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 345 GBST 344 AFR 353

Primary Cross-listing
American Studies emerged with the idea that transdisciplinarity is crucial for comprehending the concept of America. Building on this framework, this course foregrounds transepistemology as an equally important method for understanding the dynamics of America, both locally and globally, at the level of the world-system. In addition to tracing the consubstantial genealogy of racism and capitalism, we will examine their local manifestations, mainly in Asia, Europe, Africa and America, as well as their current geopolitical, social and economic outcomes, especially the reproduction of systemic inequalities and domination. Through an interdisciplinary approach and engagement with a variety of resources from economics, anthropology, sociology, critical race theory, comparative ethnic studies and decolonial thinking, this course will address the following: i) review the different forms of economic organization of human societies throughout history (with special focus on the work of Karl Polanyi); ii) trace the
epistemological origins of capitalism and investigate what makes capitalism and its crises unique; iii) trace the genealogy of the concepts of race, racism and discrimination; iv) interrogate the intersection of racism and capitalism in different traditions of thought and epistemologies in Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. For example, we will read key texts from "French theory", (Deleuze, Foucault, etc.), US Black tradition, (W. E. B. Du Bois and Cedric Robison, etc.), Chinese social sciences (Li Shenming, Cheng Enfu, etc.) and African economy and anthropology (Mahdi Elmandjra, Cheikh Anta Diop, etc.) and Latin American decolonial philosophy (Quijano, Dussel, Mignolo, etc.) By doing this, we will situate the rupture that capitalism and racism introduced at the level of global history, which is the first step to conceptualizing racism and capitalism. After showing that the development of capitalism and racism are historically linked, we will proceed to examine the manifestations of their interaction at local and global levels. Locally, we will focus on the effects of racism on the labor market: discrimination in hiring, wage discrimination, segregation, duality and stratification of the labor market, etc. We will also analyze how sexism and racism play out in the labor market in racialized communities. We will also reflect on the links between racism and politics and their effects on economic policies. From a more global perspective, we will analyze the roots of the global economic crisis and the resulting geopolitical issues at the international level and the racist dynamics they generate. Overall, as we will move through readings, we will situate the United States in a cross-regional perspective that would enable us to develop critical insights concerning links and convergences between capitalism and racism.

Requirements/Evaluation: Requirements: An active participation is required of students in terms of engaging in the in-class debates and weekly response paper as a feedback on the lectures as well as a final paper. Evaluation: Participation 25%; Weekly Response (350-500 words) 30%; Final Research Paper (12-15 pages) 45%

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors and seniors

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 345 (D2) GBST 344 (D2) AFR 353 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course addresses questions of difference, power, and equity through its examination of domination, racialization, the economics of discrimination, geopolitical and epistemological inequalities at the world-system level. Students will learn how racism and capitalism produce social categories, such as race, ethnicity, and class; how they interact with issues of gender; and how they perpetuate difference, power dynamics, and inequalities across these categories.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  AMST pre-1900 Requirement

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01  W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Thursday Org Mtg 7:30 pm - 7:55 pm  Souhail Chichah

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01  W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm  Souhail Chichah

AMST 346  (F) Latinas/os and the Media: From Production to Consumption

Cross-listings: LATS 346 AMST 346

Secondary Cross-listing

This interdisciplinary course focuses on the areas of Latina/o media production, policy, content, and consumption in an attempt to answer the following questions, among others: How do Latinas/os construct identity (and have their identities constructed for them) through the media? How can we best understand the complex relationship between consumer, producer, and media text? How are Latina/o stereotypes constructed and circulated in mass media? Where do issues of Latina/o consumer agency come into play? In what ways does popular media impact our understanding of ethno-racial identities, gender, sexuality, class, language, and nation?

Requirements/Evaluation: student participation, one 2- to 3-page close reading exercise, and an original 10- to 12 page research paper conducted in stages

Prerequisites: LATS 105 or permission of the instructor; no first-year students are permitted to take this course

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators or American Studies majors by seniority
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
LATS 346 (D2) AMST 346 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora FMST Core Courses FMST Related Courses LATS Core Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 347 (S) Beyond Cli-Fi: Climate Change Histories & the Arts of Resilience (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 347 ENVI 348
Secondary Cross-listing

This interdisciplinary environmental humanities seminar begins with the premise that our present climate crisis is a political project of globalization propelled by capitalism and its cultural logic. Causes and consequences of climate change can only be understood by examining the historical trajectories of carbon-based economic, political, and cultural systems since the 19th century. We trace the intellectual genealogy of modern climate science, consider the politics of indigenous knowledge as related to extractivism, and examine literary and artistic engagements with the natural world. We pay particular attention to the narrative strategies that scientists and policymakers use to talk about climate, and we develop creative critiques of the dominant discourses. We use historical and cultural analysis to study social movement strategy and tactics among advocates for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. We begin and end with creative responses to climate crisis, always asking: How can we move beyond dystopia and defeatism? How might history inform social movements for climate resilience? How can the arts, theater, and literary production articulate a new politics of survival? What narrative forms enable and inspire climate action?

Requirements/Evaluation: one short creative writing assignment; several short critical papers (3-4 pages); final essay (10-15 pages)
Prerequisites: ENVI 101 or instructor permission
Enrollment Limit: none
Enrollment Preferences: ENVI or AMST majors or concentrators; people with demonstrated interest in the course topics
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 347 (D2) ENVI 348 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course considers the historical differences in economic, political, and cultural power which have shaped our present climate crisis. We consider both who drives environmental change and who experiences it first hand. We consider in particular how differences of class, race, and gender shape capacities for resilience and resistance and we examine social movement strategy, with particular attention to Indigenous and POC social movement thinkers and leaders.
Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 348 (S) Drawing Democracy: Graphic Narratives as Democratic Ideals

Cross-listings: COMP 348 AMST 348 LATS 348
Secondary Cross-listing

This course examines the graphic narrative in terms of how each author/illustrator employs narrative elements (plotting, structure, characterization, text, and visuals) to express social realities within the context of democratic ideals. Regular assignments and in-class exercises throughout the course offer students the opportunity to create their own graphic narratives.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and class participation, short writing exercises, 4-5 page midterm paper (close-reading a text), 10-15 page final creative paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
AMST 349  (F)  The Politics of Algorithms
Cross-listings:  STS 349  AMST 349  PSCI 331
Secondary Cross-listing

Every day, you interact with or through computer algorithms. In ways often obscure to users, they structure communication or conduct in social media, education, healthcare, shopping, entertainment, dating, urban planning, policing, criminal sentencing, political campaigns, government regulation, and war. Moving from the emergence of cybernetics during World War II through such contemporary examples as facial recognition software, this seminar approaches algorithms as complex technological artifacts that have social histories and political effects. Asking how algorithms are political and what that tells us about politics today (particularly in the U.S.), we will consider how their design expresses forms of power and their deployment shapes ways of living. What behaviors do different algorithms solicit, reward, discourage, or stigmatize? What kinds of selfhood and relationships do they promote or thwart? How do various algorithms influence political partisanship and beliefs and intersect with existing hierarchies of race, class, gender, and sexuality? When inequities are built into a design, can that be addressed by rooting out "bias," or do such efforts miss something more inherent in the kinds of artifacts algorithms are or what they can be in a capitalist economy? Might developments in artificial intelligence transform our sense of the human or even threaten the species? Many of the seminar’s themes, including democracy, power, inequality, judgment, deliberation, publicity, subjectivity, and agency, are central to political theory, but readings and course materials will also be drawn from such fields as media theory, surveillance studies, sociology, American studies, critical data science, film, and contemporary art. The course neither requires nor teaches any computer science skills.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Class attendance and participation, regular short posts or exercises, and either three eight-page essays or one 8-page essay and one longer final paper.

Prerequisites:  At least one course in political, cultural, or social theory or the critical study of science and technology, or permission of the instructor. Not open to first-year students.

Enrollment Limit:  15
Enrollment Preferences:  Political Science and American Studies majors and STS concentrators; then qualified students from all other majors welcome, space permitting.

Expected Class Size:  15
Grading:  no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

Attributes:  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

AMST 350  (F)  Black Masculinities  (DPE)
Cross-listings:  AMST 350  ENGL 375  AFR 331  WGSS 318
Secondary Cross-listing

In this seminar, we will study the evolution of Black masculinities through cultural, social, and political movements from 20th century to the present. This course engages Black feminist thought, Black masculinities studies, queer theory and performance studies. We will examine the relationship and constitutive nature of masculinity and femininity. By examining representations and presentations of Black masculinities, we will pursue questions such as: How is blackness always already gendered? How is gender always already racialized? What are the effects of these gendering and racializing
practices on Black bodies, spaces, and places? How has dominant society attempted to define Black masculinity? In what ways have Black people undermined these narratives and redefined themselves? How do racial stereotypes about Black men's sexuality inform representations of Black masculinities? What is the future of Black Gender? We will trouble the relationship between manhood and masculinity by examining the ways in which masculinity can move across various kinds of bodies. In addition to reading critical and creative texts, we will view films and engage other kinds of media. Students will be responsible for 2 short papers and a final project.

Requirements/Evaluation: students will be responsible for 2 short papers and a final project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: WGSS Majors will get preference, then Juniors and Seniors

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 350 (D2) ENGL 375 (D1) AFR 331 (D2) WGSS 318 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course engages content and materials that explore various forms of difference, power, and equity, along with facilitating the development of skills that will help students address the implications of said forms. This course considers current examples and historical examples of Black masculinity. This course fosters difficult conversations about how difference works and has worked, how identities and power relationships have been grounded in lived experience.

Attributes: WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses WGSS Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

AMST 351  (F)  Queer Tongues & Lavender Linguistics  (DPE)

Cross-listings: ANTH 350  AMST 351  WGSS 350

Secondary Cross-listing

This course in linguistics provides an introduction to linguistic anthropology, sociolinguistics, and folklore studies using topics and approaches related to gender and sexuality. It is a methods course based in empirical research principles, but a basic familiarity with the broad strokes of queer/feminist theory may be helpful. One goal of the class will be learning to read and write in IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) and how to construct and use IPA "change charts." We then build on this as we turn to sociolinguistics as students will learn how to do Discourse Analysis and Conversation Analysis, using WGSS-oriented topics (e.g., upspeak, vocal fry, so-called "gay voice," the gendered nature of turn-taking and interrupting.) We then turn to an extended unit on queer folklore and folklife, learning how anthropologists and folklorists use motif type indexes (e.g., Propp Functions, Thompson Type Index, etc) to study oral narratives and how feminist/queer theorists can use these to analyze gender in folk/fairytale stories. We also read several linguistic anthropologists' ethnographies of queer communities' language practices in global context. The semester concludes with a unit on LGBT slang, argots, and profanity.

Requirements/Evaluation: IPA Quizzes (reading/writing), Conversation Analysis/Turntaking Transcription Assignment, Urban Legends Tale Type Analysis, Short Analytical Paper on Feminist/Queer Folk Figures

Prerequisites: None; prior coursework in WGSS may be helpful, but is not required

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: WGSS majors; short statements of interest will be solicited in the event of overenrollment

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ANTH 350 (D2) AMST 351 (D2) WGSS 350 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the centrality of power in communication as broken down along axes such as sex, gender, and sexuality. It deliberately takes a canonical field (i.e., linguistic anthropology) that often neglected the gendered nature of communication and puts these questions at the center of the curriculum. Assignments are structured in such a way as to build awareness of the role of gender and sexuality within human interactions and how sociolinguistics reveal power imbalances.
AMST 352  (S) Global Health in the Transpacific  (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 352  STS 311  ASIA 352

Secondary Cross-listing

East is East, and West is West, Rudyard Kipling famously wrote in 1889, but never has this been true. Just as war, imperialism, and transnational flows of capital move people, cultures, and ideas across the Pacific, similar patterns of migration and mobility shape the transmission of illness and disease as well. This course explores global health and disease control as sites of domination and resistance in the Pacific Rim. Articulating the linkages between Asia/America, we will look at the racialization of people and pestilence during the third plague pandemic in Hong Kong and San Francisco, malaria control projects in colonial Southeast Asia, and the rise of modern genomics out of the ashes of Hiroshima and concern over radiation risk, and other cases, to understand how disregard for Asian bodies has shaped the development of modern medicine and public health. At the same time, Indonesia’s claim of “viral sovereignty” to protect their biological specimens from Western intellectual property regimes and Hmong refugees’ resistance to biomedical intervention in their struggles with mental illness offer counterpoints to Western hegemony. This course provides a critical examination of biosecurity as modern geopolitical struggle and puts Asia-Pacific and the Pacific Rim at the center of our exploration of global health.

Requirements/Evaluation: Reading responses, two short review essays, and one seminar paper

Prerequisites: Previous coursework in anthropology and sociology, some knowledge of the Asia-Pacific region.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and Seniors, STS concentrators. If overenrolled, students will submit a short paragraph explaining their interest in the course.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)  

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 352 (D2) STS 311 (D2) ASIA 352 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the inequalities that shape global health interventions.

Attributes: PHLH Bioethics + Interpretations of Health

Not offered current academic year

AMST 353  (S) Is Science Native to Turtle Island? The History of Native Science in North America  (DPE)

Cross-listings: STS 353  AMST 353

Primary Cross-listing

Settler sciences and technologies deployed by Europeans colonizing Turtle Island (what settlers called North America) were introduced as weapons of Indigenous termination. From medical violation, to anthropological theft, and industrial pollution, settler technoscience objectified and appropriated Indigenous people and lands, and attempted to displace Indigenous knowledge in the pursuit of settler supremacy. Indigenous bodies were cast as victims, objects and sometimes the tools of this project. And yet, as tools and objects, Indigenous peoples took up settler technoscience in a multitude of ways that failed (both purposefully and not) to adhere to the colonizing mission, incorporating Indigenous knowledges and orientations, subverting settler science as a source of authority, and positioning science as a site of Indigenous sovereignty. The practice of taking up science as a tool of decolonization has become explicit in recent decades as expressly Native sciences now shape tribal funding, college education, and negotiations with international governing bodies. This course will trace the history of Native science across different nations and disciplines from the antebellum period when settler sciences were taking shape in civilian institutions to the present when Native science is professionalizing and being codified. We will read primary sources and scientific treatises by Indigenous leaders, activists, and scientists alongside secondary sources in Indigenous science and technology studies (STS), history, and postcolonial and queer theory.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and class participation, two 4-page research papers, and a final creative project (TBD with instructor) or 8- to 10-page paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors and Science and Technology Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 13

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

STS 353 (D2) AMST 353 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will explore how settler sciences have been used as a technology of difference making, dispossession, and genocide in United States history. It will also provide students a theoretical toolkit and historical perspective by which they can grapple with the fact that power structures like settler technoscience can be a source of both colonization and liberation.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 356 (S) Settler Colonialism, Care, Kinship and Social Reproduction (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: AFR 359 AMST 356

Primary Cross-listing

AMST 356 Settler Colonialism, Care, Kinship and Social Reproduction Contemporary understandings of family, kinship and care were shaped through the invasion of the Indigenous Americas and Transatlantic slavery. Indigenous nations came to be understood by anthropologists and settler states as governed by a logic of kinship, and this understanding was weaponized by the US and Canada to target Indigenous governance for elimination. At the same time, dominant kinship narratives were defined by the property claims made upon Black lives under settler law and by the state-enforced maternal inheritance of racialized bondage. This course will analyze kinship and care as both mechanisms of state control of Indigenous and Black lives and lands, and as sites of insurgency against colonial states. We will analyze how Canada and the U.S. have deployed Child Protective Services, reproductive regulation, Boarding Schools, plantation economies, land dispossession, and the prison industrial complex to target Indigenous, Black, Brown, working class and trans/queer support systems. Applying methodologies and theoretical interventions in Indigenous studies, Black studies and critical political economy to primary texts to US and Canadian law, autobiography, and anthropology, our focus will move from 17th and 18th century British colonial law to autobiographical accounts of slavery and emancipation, to Canada’s 19th century Indian Act, to mid-20th century social scientific debates on Black and Indigenous families. We will end by thinking about insurgent practices of organizing care and kinship outside and against the confines of whiteness, capital and the state. The pedagogical aims of the course are to illustrate how kinship narratives anchor settler colonial nationhood and property regimes, and to facilitate the development of skills in writing and independent research, primary source analysis, and critical analysis of law, anthropology, and policy.

Requirements/Evaluation: Class Participation and three critical response papers at three to five pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor); one response paper revision with critical feedback from professor and peers, including one letter of revision explaining the student’s revision process. One final paper (15-20 pages) and one roundtable presentation based on the final paper.

Prerequisites: Prerequisites: one or more of the following courses: AMST 146, Introduction to Indigenous Studies or AFR 200, Introduction to Africana Studies; HIST 254 / AMST 254(F), Sovereignty, Resistance, and Resilience: Native American Histories to 1865 or AMST 204:

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: AMST majors have first priority, AFRICANA majors have second priority.

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: This course satisfies EITHER the Space and Place elective OR the Comparative Studies in Race, Ethnicity and Diaspora elective

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 359 (D2) AMST 356 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Explanation: Three critical response papers at three to five pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor); one response paper revision with critical feedback from professor and peers, including one letter of revision explaining the student’s revision process. One final paper (15-20 pages) and one roundtable presentation based on the final paper.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course focuses upon the operations of difference, power and equity in settler colonial governance in the Americas, particularly in terms of how the legal and extralegal regulation of family, kinship and care are sites where racial, colonial, ethnic, gender and sexual difference are produced and reproduced. It aims to provide students with critical tools to become responsible agents of change, by informing
AMST 357  (S)  Re/Generations II: Contemporary Experiments in Memory, Trauma, and Self  (DPE)

This is a two-part junior seminar in which we take an expansive approach to memoir as a form, genre, and practice, with specific attention given to texts reckoning with the traumas, transgressions, and transformations of what we understand as "America" and its many discontents. In this second part, we convene on a selection from our historical present and explore how categories of identity and experience, memory and history are being constructed and deconstructed, reimagined and remade anew. We will ask: how do these authors narrate the overlapping cycles of loss, pain, grief, survival, resilience, and resistance in the face of historical violence? What possibilities for (individual and collective) healing can exist in and beyond the world as we know it? What does it even mean to have or to not have, to find, to lose, to have stolen, to dissolve, and/or to recover a self in a besieged American present-future tense? Texts to be considered may include: How to Write an Autobiographical Novel (Alexander Chee); When They Call You A Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir (Patrisse Khan-Cullors and asha bandele); Heart Berries (Terese Marie Mailhot); Know My Name (Chanel Miller); On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous (Ocean Vuong).

Requirements/Evaluation:  weekly reading responses, midterm and final papers

Prerequisites:  American Studies 101 and/or 301, previous coursework in race, ethnicity, and diaspora, junior or senior standing, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit:  12

Enrollment Preferences:  American Studies Majors

Expected Class Size:  12

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  no fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:  Analyzes the dynamics of power and privilege in the U.S. from a national and transnational context, examines the perspectives of socially marginalized groups, and fosters an understanding of the beliefs, experiences, and cultural productions of these groups.

Attributes:  AMST Arts in Context Electives  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Not offered current academic year

AMST 358  (S)  Performing Masculinity in Global Popular Culture  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  AMST 358  LATS 341  THEA 341  SOC 340  WGSS 347

Secondary Cross-listing

This course examines popular cultural contexts, asking what it means to be a man in contemporary societies. We focus on the manufacture and marketing of masculinity in advertising, fashion, TV/film, theater, popular music, and the shifting contours of masculinity in everyday life, asking: how does political economy change the ideal shape, appearance, and performance of men? How have products - ranging from beer to deodorant to cigarettes - had their use value articulated in gendered ways? Why must masculinity be the purview of "males" at all; how can we change discourses to better include performances of female masculinities, butch-identified women, and trans men? We will pay particular attention to racialized, queer, and subaltern masculinities. Some of our case studies include: the short half-life of the boy band in the US and in Asia (e.g., K-Pop), hip hop masculinities, and the curious blend of chastity and homoeroticism that constitutes masculinity in the contemporary vampire genre. Through these and other examples, we learn to recognize masculinity as a performance shaped by the political economy of a given culture.

Requirements/Evaluation:  masculinity reflections, mid-term essay exam (or quizzes), visual rhetorical analyses of pop culture images

Prerequisites:  none

Enrollment Limit:  20

Enrollment Preferences:  a short statement of interest will be solicited

Expected Class Size:  20

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 358  (D2) LATS 341  (D2) THEA 341  (D1) SOC 340  (D2) WGSS 347  (D2)
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the construction of masculinity as it relates to intersecting identities such as race, sexuality, class, and global political economic considerations. Key to understanding masculinity are questions about the diversity of experiences of masculinity, cultural variations of gender norms, privilege, agency, patriarchy, heteronormativity, and interlocking systems of oppression.

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses FMST Related Courses LATS Comparative Race + Ethnic Studies Electives

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01 W 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm Gregory C. Mitchell

AMST 359 (S) Spirits of Rebellion: The L.A. Rebellion Filmmakers (DPE)

Cross-listings: ENGL 357 AFR 351 AMST 359

Primary Cross-listing

When Beyoncé unveiled the Lemonade visual album in 2016, her production captured the artistic spirit and gave new life to an earlier work: Julie Dash's Daughters of the Dust (1991), a luminous film about three generations of the Gullah people and the first motion picture by a Black woman to obtain wide theatrical release in the United States. Many, however, are unaware of the decades-long cinematic movement to which Dash belongs. In this course, we will devote our critical inquiry to the creative output of the L.A. Rebellion, a group of Black cinematic artists trained at the UCLA Film and Television School between the 1960s and 1990s. Our visual journey will take us through a diverse set of filmmakers like Charles Burnett, Ben Caldwell, Barbara McCullough, Julie Dash, Zeinabu irene Davis, Haile Gerima, Allie Sharon Larkin, Billy Woodberry, among many, many others, and how they sought to not only redefine the Black image on-screen but also reimagine the infinite possibilities of Blackness. We will pay close attention to the heterogeneity of genres, styles, and techniques that they put into practice from narrative to neorealism to documentary to avant-garde/experimental to African and African American musical and storytelling traditions. We will explore the various social and political issues that were represented by their films including: racial and class oppression, Black feminisms, Black Power, Afrocentrism, anti-colonialism and decolonization, police brutality and mass incarceration, radical social movements and coalition building, and the importance of community-based art and film practices. Finally, we will touch upon some of the recent works that have been inspired by the L.A. Rebellion, including the aforementioned Lemonade and Barry Jenkins' Moonlight (2016). Our viewership will be supplemented with readings in Black social and cultural criticism.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly online journal responses (1-2 pages); midterm essay (5-7 pages); final project

Prerequisites: AMST 101 and/or 301, critical studies in race and ethnicity or cultural studies, or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 357 (D1) AFR 351 (D2) AMST 359 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course contributes to the Difference, Power, and Equity designation by examining the social, political, cultural, and historical forces that contribute to Black cinematic representation.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 360 (F) The Atlantic World: Connections, Crossings, and Confluences (DPE)

Cross-listings: HIST 361 AMST 360

Secondary Cross-listing

Early Americans inhabited an interconnected world through which people, beliefs, and objects circulated. This course explores the "Atlantic World" as both a place and a concept: an ocean surrounded by diverse communities and empires, and an imagined space of shared or competing affiliations. Moving from the tenth century to the nineteenth, it examines ecological, cultural, political, economic, intellectual, and religious exchanges among Native Americans, Europeans and colonizers, and Africans and African Americans. It introduces both conceptual dimensions of this Atlantic paradigm and case studies that investigate its human subtleties, with the goal of examining early American history through a transnational lens. The course will take up the stories of Wabanaki mariners and Norse/Viking expansionists; Pocahontas, a trio of Inuit people, and myriad other Indigenous travelers to Europe; West African survivors of the Middle Passage and their enslaved descendants who pushed for survival and recognition of their humanity.
overseas; New England religious dissidents, intellectuals, and profiteers from Caribbean slavery; Touissant L'Ouverture and the reverberations of the Haitian Revolution; and whaling ship crews who pursued cetaceans ever farther out at sea, among other topics. The course also delves into new methodologies for telling histories that have been unevenly presented or seemingly silenced in traditional documentary archives, probing ways that oral traditions, songs, archaeology, material culture, and other forms of expression and representation can help recast the nature and meanings of these connected spaces and histories. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to engage with original materials pertaining to Atlantic World histories in the Williams College Archives/Special Collections and Art Museum.

Class Format: will alternate with seminar-type discussion of readings

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in class discussion, several short essays based on readings and discussion topics, museum/archives exercise, final essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: sophomore, junior, and senior History majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 361 (D2) AMST 360 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the formation, expression, and articulation of racial, ethnic, cultural, and other forms of difference in the historical Atlantic World, and the ways that peoples of Indigenous and African descent engaged with and challenged European colonization. It devotes substantial time to critical methodologies that re-center voices oftentimes treated as "silenced" or "absent" in older literatures, and helps students build fluencies in recovering and analyzing these lives.

Attributes: GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives  HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada  HIST Group G Electives - Global History  HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

Not offered current academic year

AMST 361  (F)  Marking Presence: Reading Disability in/to Latina/o/x Media  (DPE)

Cross-listings: LATS 344  WGSS 361  AMST 361

Secondary Cross-listing

This course spans Divisions I, II, and III in its exploration of the representation of disability and Latina/o/x identity in the contemporary US context. Employing Angharad Valdivia's (2020) notion of "marking presence" to describe the intentional ways in which Latina/o/x subjects gain and hold on to mainstream media space, the class places the fields of Disability Studies, Latina/o/x Studies, Gender Studies and Media Studies into conversation. We address the following questions and others: What does media reveal to us about the place of disability and Latinidad in contemporary US life, particularly as these categories intersect with questions of gender, sexuality, national identity and citizenship? How might we read Latinidad and disability into media texts in which they are not otherwise centered? What are the advantages of deploying mainstream media presence as a claim to power for disabled Latina/o/x individuals, particularly those who are multiply marginalized? What are the limitations of such an approach? We will focus on these questions, as well as deploy various media examples (podcasts, social media, film, television and music) alongside scholarly texts to explore topics impacting the Latina/o/x communities such as the relationship between migration and trauma, the gendered archetype of the Latina "Loca," disability in academia, temporality and disability ("Crip Time"), the politics of self-care amongst Latinas/xs in the neoliberal context, and the very legal, cultural, and social category of "disabled" itself within dominant society as well as Latina/o/x communities.

Requirements/Evaluation: Two short (5-6 page) essays; One media analysis exercise; One final reflection letter.

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Preference given to LATS concentrators, AMST majors and WGSS majors by seniority.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: At its core, this course is about understanding difference and relationships of power through an intersectional lens and via the prism of everyday media. In each class we will be discussing issues directly revolving around questions of race, ethnicity, ability/disability, gender, sexuality, and nation. Students will be expected to incorporate an analysis of these issues in their written and oral work for the course.

Attributes: LATS Core Electives

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01     MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm     Maria Elena Cepeda

AMST 362  (S)  "'Rebel Ecologies': Black and Indigenous Struggles for Land and Life"

Cross-listings:  WGSS 362  AFR 300  AMST 362  ENVI 300

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will ask, what other socioecological models exist? We will weave together a study of differing, yet often converging or synergistic traditions of Black/Womanist eco-feminism that often confronts the social constructions of race, gender, class and sexuality, dominant religion as a means of social control, imperialism, capitalism, and colonialism; Ecoshialism which often frames ecology in terms of a mode of production beyond or outside of capitalism; and Indigenous perspectives on resistance to capitalist extraction, imperialism, and colonialism. Given ongoing struggles against the extraction of land and labor, the urgent calls raised in the present-day "climate strike," the COVID-19 Pandemic, Black-led pandemic rebellions, along with long(er) histories of land-based peoples around the planet opposing racial capitalism, settler colonialism, and imperialism, this class will explore not only what those in opposition to both extractivism and expropriation resist, but also what we want. We will critique binaries, settler notions of time and explore theories of change. Additionally, this class will look to an array of literature, film, sound, and other forms of cultural production in order to not just "locate," but describe and reveal rebel ecological visions emerging "from below." Ultimately this class will consider how the above ecological praxis can work simultaneously and within a sense of plurality, examining what we can learn from the work of activists, intellectuals, and defenders on the frontline. This course is an extension of Dr. Guess' concept of a "rebel ecology."

Requirements/Evaluation: The following requirements serve as the basis for course evaluation: Attendance and Participation 30%; Serve as Discussion Leader at least twice 20%; Weekly 500-word Literature Review 20%; One Final Project, which can take any number of forms, including the conventional research paper (8-12 double-spaced pages plus bibliography). More projects might include, an annotated bibliography of 7 texts, film analysis, syllabus, book review, a written play, an op-ed, etc. We will discuss further possibilities in class.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: If the course is overenrolled, preference will be given to Africana studies concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 7

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 362 (D2) AFR 300 (D2) AMST 362 (D2) ENVI 300 (D2)

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01     MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm     Allison Guess

AMST 363  (F)(S)  Mathematical and Computational Approaches to Social Justice  (DPE) (QFR)

Cross-listings: STS 363  WGSS 363  AMST 363  MATH 308

Secondary Cross-listing

Civil rights activist, educator, and investigative journalist Ida B. Wells said that "the way to right wrongs is to shine the light of truth upon them." In this research-based tutorial, students will bring the vanguard of quantitative approaches to bear on issues of social justice. Each tutorial group will carry out a substantial project in an area such as criminal justice, education equity, environmental justice, health care equity, economic justice, or inclusion in arts/media. All students should expect to invest substantial effort in reading social justice literature and in acquiring new skills in data science.
Class Format: This is a research-based tutorial.

Requirements/Evaluation: To move towards a non-hierarchical, transparent, and egalitarian grading system, the instructor follows an "ungrading" methodology.

Prerequisites: Across each 3 - 5 person tutorial group: multivariable calculus (e.g., Math 150/151), linear algebra (e.g., Math 250), statistics (e.g., Stat 161/201), computer programming (e.g., Comp 134), some working knowledge of or interest in social justice issues.

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Students will be admitted in groups of 3 - 5 based on a proposal submitted prior to registration. The instructor is happy to facilitate formation of groups and to give feedback on draft proposals. Contact the instructor early, prior to preregistration.

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (QFR)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

STTS 363 (D2) WGSS 363 (D2) AMST 363 (D2) MATH 308 (D3)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Students study issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion in areas such as criminal justice, arts/media, environmental justice, education, and health care, and along identity axes such as gender, race/ethnicity, disability status, and sexual orientation.

Quantative/Formal Reasoning Notes: Students use multiple mathematical, statistical, and computational frameworks to acquire, model, and analyze real-world data.

Fall 2022
TUT Section: T1 TBA Chad M. Topaz

Spring 2023
TUT Section: T1 TBA Chad M. Topaz

AMST 364  (F)  Trans Film and Media  (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 364 WGSS 311

Secondary Cross-listing
This course provides an introduction to contemporary trans culture and politics via the lens of film and other (mostly visual) media. We'll focus mainly on media production in the U.S. since the early 1990s, as this moment is usually understood as inaugurating contemporary "transgender" politics; additionally, the 90s saw a profusion of diversity in popular representation generally. This class has two main priorities: first, to use visual media as a lens for surveying major developments in trans studies, politics, and representation over the last few decades; second, to develop a critical repertoire for thinking about our current conjuncture of "trans visibility" in particular. By tracking a longer history of both popular and alternative trans media production, this course will question the vanguardism and celebratory progress narratives associated with "trans tipping point" visibility conditions. Drawing from perspectives in WGSS, American studies, and ethnic studies, we will especially situate trans representation in relation to the institutionalization of minority difference under neoliberal capitalism. In line with scholarship, we'll approach trans representation as interlocking with structures like race, heteropatriarchy, dis/ability, immigration, and nationality and empire.

Class Format: There will also be some lecturing.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will have ongoing short discussion post assignments, one midterm essay of 5-6 pages, and a final group media-making project with min. 6 pages of analytic writing to accompany their creative work.

Prerequisites: WGSS 101 or 202 would be helpful but are not required. Other background in WGSS or the humanities is also helpful.

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Enrollment preference can go to WGSS majors and 3rd & 4th years. Statements of interest are welcome.

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Materials/Lab Fee: For some proprietary media content, students will need subscriptions to popular streaming services (eg Netflix, Amazon, HBO Max). See WGSS chair about financial aid waivers and alternatives if this feels cost prohibitive.

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 364 (D2) WGSS 311 (D2)

 Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course provides a survey of issues facing marginalized trans communities via the lens of visual media, with an emphasis on how structures of power shaping trans experience intersect with the politics of race, capital, disability, migration, and other axes of social difference.

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Thursday Org Mtg 7:30 pm - 7:55 pm Abram J. Lewis

AMST 365 (F) Race and Psychoanalysis: Slavery and the Psyche (DPE)

Cross-listings: AFR 365 ENGL 320 GBST 365 AMST 365

Primary Cross-listing

This course explores slavery and the psyche through a constellation of Black diasporic literary, visual, and theoretical texts from the US, Caribbean, and Africa. Unwieldy and generative, the opacity of race within the field (and practice) of psychoanalysis shares a fraught intimacy with the co-constitutive terrains of violence and race that form the unconscious. Querying what escapes the hermeneutics of psychoanalysis and aesthetics in the fantasies race engenders, we will examine modernity's articulation of racialization through conceptualizations--both fantasmatic and real--of self, world, knowledge, and possibility. Course texts may include: Edwidge Danticat's The Farming of Bones, Adrienne Kennedy's Funnyhouse of a Negro, Bessie Head's A Question of Power, Arthur Jafa's APEX and Love is the Message and the Message is Death, Conceição Evaristo's Poncià Vicêncio, Lars von Trier's Manderlay, Charles Burnett's Killer of Sheep, Derek Walcott's "Laventille"; and, selections from Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, David Marriott, Kathleen Pogue White, Franz Fanon, Hortense Spillers, Nathan Gorelick, Jaqueline Rose, Jared Sexton, Melanie Klein, Jacques-Alain Miller, Melanie Suchet, and Jean Laplanche. Note: This course will reflect the Continental tradition in philosophy. Student should be familiar with the basic interventions of psychoanalysis.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly discussion posts and questions, 2 Papers, 10-12 pages, Research presentation

Prerequisites: One Writing Skills or writing intensive course; one intro course in one of following: American Studies, Africana Studies, Comparative Literature, English, Global Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Juniors or Seniors with majors or concentrations in any of the areas: American Studies, Africana Studies, Comparative Literature, English, Global Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 365 (D2) ENGL 320 (D1) GBST 365 (D2) AMST 365 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines racialization as it relates to the racial violence of slavery on the psyche. Racialization as a process will be connected to concepts of self, world, and knowledge. Black diasporic literary, visual, and theoretical texts from the US, Caribbean, and Africa will be at the forefront of the course.

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01 W 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm Thursday Org Mtg 6:30 pm - 6:55 pm Selamawit D. Terrefe

AMST 366 (F) Music in Asian American History (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: MUS 316 AMST 366

Secondary Cross-listing

Is "Asian American music" all music made by Asian Americans, music by Asian Americans specifically drawing on Asian heritage, or music engaging with Asian American issues? This course embraces all three definitions and the full diversity of Asian American musical experience. We will study the historical soundscapes of immigrant communities (Chinese opera in North America; Southeast Asian war refugees) and how specific traumatic political
events shaped musical life (Japanese American internment camps). We will encounter works by major classical composers (Chou Wen-Chung; Chen Yi; Tan Dun; Bright Sheng) and will investigate the careers and reception of prominent classical musicians (Midori; Seiji Ozawa; Yo-Yo Ma). Afro-Asian fusions, inspired by civil rights protest movements, manifested in jazz (Jon Jang; Fred Ho; Anthony Brown; Hiroshima; Vijay Iyer) and hip hop (MC Jin; Awkwafina; Desi rappers). Asian Americans have been active in popular music at home and abroad (Don Ho; Yoko Ono; Wang Leehom; Mitski).

Finally, we will investigate communal forms of Asian American music making that have crossed racialized and gendered boundaries (taiko drumming; Indonesian gamelan; belly dance; Suzuki method). This seminar is designed to develop research skills, as we pursue original fieldwork, archival research, and oral history interviews.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Active class participation; two short papers (5-6 pp.) and a research term paper (12-15 pp.).

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** Students with curricular experience in Asian American history or music studies.

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

MUS 316 (D1) AMST 366 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Students will write three papers during the semester: two 5-6 page papers and a 12-15 page research paper, written in stages. Students will receive detailed comments on each paper and at each stage of the research paper process, allowing them to build upon those comments in subsequent writing assignments.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** Political and cultural forces of exclusion not only determined Asian American musical participation in American music history but have shaped Asian American styles of music. We will study the history of Asian American political struggles as they have intersected with music and how Asian Americans have at certain points sought allegiance through music with other marginalized groups. We will explore as well popular media representations of Asian American musicians revealing race-based assumptions.

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01  W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Thursday Org Mtg 7:30 pm - 7:55 pm  W. Anthony Sheppard

**AMST 367 (F) Colonialism and the Environment (DPE)**

In this course students will explore the intersections of environmental history and the history of colonialism in the United States. We will examine how scholars have crafted narratives that focus on “nature”-both as a cultural concept and as a set of biological processes and systems. Readings and assignments will analyze the ways in which these different “natures” have acted as both agents and objects of historical change. We will pay particular attention to how different environments were impacted by the Euro-American conquest of indigenous homelands. Course topics will include (but are not limited to) European settlement in New England, the North American fur trade, US continental expansion and the destruction of the bison, the transcontinental railroad, the creation of the National Park system, Native American environmental activism, and paramilitary responses to struggles over natural resources (such as the Dakota Access Pipeline protests).

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Assignments will include participatory discussion, weekly responses to assigned readings, short papers, and a semester-long research project.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** preference for upper-level (Junior/Senior) students

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course focuses on race, colonialism, and the inequalities that can result from ecological changes that impact how communities live and interact with the natural world. Students in the course are asked to explore how difference, power, and inequality have shaped the environmental history of the United States.

**Attributes:** AMST Space and Place Electives
AMST 368 (F) Framing American Slavery (DPE)

**Cross-listings:** AMST 368  HIST 368

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Readings in American Slavery  This course will delve into how and what historians have written about US slavery for the last century or so. Rather than marching through time, like we might in a survey course, we'll explore the nooks and crannies of slavery’s history. We'll consider gender and sexuality, labor and capitalism, regional difference, maritime culture, and every day life. We'll compare histories produced well before the Civil Rights Movement to books written afterward. We'll consider the obstacles and challenges Black scholars faced in the academy and consider the significance of their work. Finally, we'll examine slavery’s role in today's world, beginning with the institution's relationship with American universities and continuing on to the recent protests against monuments and statues.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Four written essays/reviews, final paper. Students must also complete reading and contribute to class discussions.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** Priority given to History, American Studies, and Africana Studies concentrators/ majors.

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 363 (D2) AMST 368 (D2) HIST 368 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course will explicitly examine how power worked and changed during the centuries of legal slavery in the United States. Since lawmakers joined power and violence to definitions of whiteness and blackness, we will study how these definitions emerged and changed over time. Students will address issues of violence, legal and extra legal means of continuing slavery through changing political and economic conditions. Additionally, the course will consider the racial barriers in the academy.

**Attributes:** HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Not offered current academic year

AMST 369 (S) Gender, Sexuality & Disability (DPE)

**Cross-listings:** AMST 369  WGSS 332

**Secondary Cross-listing**

From classical mythology to reality TV, bodies and minds that depart from the ordinary have long been sources of popular fascination. In recent history, people marked as "disabled" have been subject to medical scrutiny, labeled deficient or defective, and often barred from full participation in society. And yet, what counts as "disability"--and who counts as disabled--varies greatly depending on cultural and historical context. Arguably, disability has more to do with social conditions than with any innate characteristics of disabled people themselves. This class introduces disability studies, situating disability within its historical, political, and cultural contexts. As a GWSS course, we'll center queer and feminist perspectives; this class also emphasizes recent work. Echoing arguments in gender and sexuality studies, scholars have insisted that disability is not a natural or biological fact, but a socially constructed category. As such, scholars and activists have challenged medical models that conceptualize disability as an individual defect in need of elimination. They have also questioned the idea that disability is simply a minority identity -- to the contrary, disability is a condition that most humans will experience at some point in our lives. This class frames "disability" broadly--encompassing not just conditions of physical impairment, but a wide range of bodily, sensory, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral differences and capacities. This class also centers how disability is produced intersectionally through regimes like race, capitalism, and empire. Topics include: theories of embodiment, eugenics, institutionalization and incarceration, neurodivergence, mad studies, the politics of health, storytelling and narrative, disability justice activism, neoliberalism, biopolitics, and crip theory. Along with scholarly writings, we'll consider activist texts, popular press, fiction, memoir, and a variety of other media.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Students will submit three short reading response papers (2-3 pgs), ongoing brief/informal forum posts, and a longer final research paper (10-12 pgs); students will also work in small groups to facilitate a section of class twice per term.

**Prerequisites:** WGSS 101-level familiarity would be very helpful, but is not required.
Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Preference to majors, 3rd and 4th year students.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 369 (D2) WGSS 332 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This class surveys the politics of disability in recent U.S. history, illustrating axes of difference and privilege based on ability as it intersects with various racial, gender, and other identities.

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Abram J. Lewis

AMST 376 (F) Landscapes in American Literature

Cross-listings: ENGL 376 STS 377 AMST 376

Secondary Cross-listing

This course examines representations of American landscapes in selected texts from the British colonial era to the present. Critical approaches will include narrative theory, formalism, eco-criticism, and science and technology studies. The central questions are: (1) How do authors adapt narrative and poetic forms to the representation of particular landscapes? (2) How do literary landscape representations change when new technologies arise for traversing and transforming them? (3) What effects can literary landscapes have on the landscapes we live in? Landscapes include settlements, cities, wildernesses, "frontiers," suburbia, and infrastructural scenes. Relevant technologies include the postal service, the railroad, the telegraph and telephone, the automobile, commercial aviation, and Skype. Texts may include: letters of Columbus, American Indian creation stories, early American religious texts, captivity narratives, slave narratives, and poems, short stories, and novels from the 17th to the 21st centuries, as different from one another as Dickinson's "Nature-sometimes sears a Sapling-" and Annie Proulx's *Brokeback Mountain*.

Requirements/Evaluation: discussion participation; five brief response papers (~2 pages); a mid-semester essay (~5 pages); a final essay (12- to 15-pages)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 376 (D1) STS 377 (D2) AMST 376 (D1)

Attributes: ENGL Criticism Courses

Not offered current academic year

AMST 379 (S) American Pragmatism

Cross-listings: PHIL 379 AMST 379

Secondary Cross-listing

Along with jazz, pragmatism stands as the greatest uniquely American contribution to world culture. As the music wails in the background, we will study the classic pragmatists: William James, C. S. Peirce, and John Dewey. We will continue with the contemporary inheritors of the tradition: Cornel West, Richard Rorty, and Hilary Putnam. Although it has influenced both analytic and continental philosophy, pragmatism is a powerful third philosophical movement. Always asking what practical difference would it make, our authors investigate the central questions and disputes of philosophy, from epistemology and metaphysics to ethics and religion. Rather than seeing philosophy as an esoteric discipline, the pragmatic philosophers (with the possible exception of Peirce) see philosophy as integral to our culture and see themselves as public intellectuals.

Requirements/Evaluation: final paper, several short assignments
Prerequisites: at least two PHIL courses

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Philosophy and American Studies majors, then seniors and juniors of any major

Expected Class Size: 12-15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PHIL 379 (D2) AMST 379 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives PHIL History Courses TEAC Related Courses

Not offered current academic year

AMST 380 (F) Freedom Dreams, Afro-Futures & Visionary Fictions

Cross-listings: AFR 380 WGSS 380 ENGL 381 AMST 380 STS 380

Secondary Cross-listing

In this course we will examine the various ways Black scholars, artists, & writers use science fiction and visionary fiction to imagine freedom and new world orders. We will focus on the role of history, particularly slavery, in the Black radical imagination. "Freedom" is the keyword throughout the course. We will grapple with the various and sometimes conflicting meanings and uses of freedom as it relates to blackness, gender, sexuality, class and ability. We will explore multiple forms of scholarship and cultural productions, including film, music, novels, short-stories, art, poetry, and other academic texts. All students will be asked to discover and develop their writerly voices through various critical, creative, experimental and performative assignments.

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation, completion of various short assignments, one 5-page paper and one 7- to 10-page final paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors, then Africana Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 380 (D2) WGSS 380 (D2) ENGL 381 (D1) AMST 380 (D2) STS 380 (D2)

Attributes: WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01 TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am Marshall Green

AMST 382 (S) Transnational Asian/American Film and Video

Cross-listings: AMST 382 COMP 382

Primary Cross-listing

In this course, we will examine transnational Asian/American film and video through the frameworks of film and visual studies, cultural studies, and critical media literacy. We will traverse communal, national, and transnational lines with a heterogeneity of forms and genres, including narrative, documentary, experimental, short film, music video, public access television, and YouTube. We will attend to multiple modes of critical analysis: (1) the conditions of power and visibility being mediated by sites of representation, (2) the networks and platforms helping to make these sites possible, and (3) the materials, meanings, and acts being generated by them. We will also interrogate: How are Asian, American, and/or Asian American representation being produced, performed, embodied, circulated, and consumed? What are the social, political, economic, and cultural forces at play in a given historical context? What artistic and political strategies are at play in the complex nexus of producers, directors, actors, distributors, and viewers? And what are the possibilities, limits, and stakes for different strategies of invention and intervention, activism and resistance? We will consider films from the United States as well as the inter-Asian context. Students will produce a creative media project at the end of the semester.
Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation; weekly online journal entries (1-2 pages); midterm paper (5-7 pages); final creative project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 382 (D2) COMP 382 (D1)
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives
Not offered current academic year

AMST 397 (F) Independent Study: American Studies
American Studies independent study
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2022
IND Section: 01 TBA Jan Padios

AMST 398 (S) Independent Study: American Studies
American Studies independent study
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2023
IND Section: 01 TBA Jan Padios

Cross-listings: AFR 372 AMST 400 GBST 400 PSCI 379 INTR 400
Secondary Cross-listing
This seminar focuses on the entwined histories of liberation movements against racism, enslavement, and imperialism in the US, Cuba and Africa. Readings include: Hugh Thomas, Cuba: A History; Che Guevara: The Motorcycle Diaries; Walter Rodney, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa; Laird Bergad, The Comparative Histories of Slavery in Brazil, Cuba, and the United States; Thomas Sankara, Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle; Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro, How Far We Slaves Have Come! Students will read and analyze texts, screen documentaries, collectively compile a comprehensive bibliography, and present group analyses. The seminar is open to all students; however, priority is given to seniors majoring in American Studies.
Requirements/Evaluation: Reading and analysis of texts, collective compilation of a comprehensive bibliography, presentation of group analyses; two brief papers due at midterm and the end of the semester
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Seniors majoring in American Studies
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AFR 372 (D2) AMST 400 (D2) GBST 400 (D2) PSCI 379 (D2) INTR 400 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course addresses international, anti-colonial solidarity between Blacks in the US, Cuba, Africa. It tracks the evolution of "racial capitalism," noting intersections between enslavers in the US and Cuba, and accumulation of wealth through the Atlantic slave trade. Students will analyze the powers of the enslaved, tracing history, political economies, culture, violence, and dispossession, to emphasize resistance to human bondage and successful and compromised revolutions in Cuba and the US.

Attributes: AMST 400-level Senior Seminars

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01    W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pmThursday Org Mtg 7:30 pm - 7:55 pm   Joy A. James

AMST 401  (S)  Policing Nations: Indigenous Nations and the Carceral State  (DPE)
This course examines the birth of the prison on Indigenous lands - how the settler carceral state emerged from the legal and political architectures of conquest as well as from Transatlantic slavery. It examines the continuities between the prison, the reservation, the barracks, the plantation, Boarding Schools and foster homes as modes of incarcerating Indigenous life and movements for liberation. To do so, we will be engaging with Indigenous legal theory, movements, and writings on the carceral state, including writings from incarcerated Indigenous intellectuals, Boarding School and foster care survivors, and feminists. Our approach will be rooted in the interdisciplinary practices of Native American and Indigenous Studies, American Studies, legal studies and political theory. This course strives to provide a history of the present through examining the relations, structuring presuppositions, discourses and material edifices of conquest and genocide on Turtle Island and for Indigenous nations in settler states across the globe. We will end by thinking with Indigenous feminist mappings of abolition and futures beyond the prison house of the settler state. The pedagogical aims of this course will be to illustrate the role of conquest, anti-Indigeneity and settler law in producing the contemporary prison system, and to introduce students to the broad canon of Indigenous legal theory and Indigenous legal traditions that do not proceed from carceral premises. It will aim to facilitate skills in primary source analysis, in proficiency with legal theory, in independent research, and critical analysis of different forms of the carceral state.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Final Paper: 40%; Weekly Reading Responses 30%; Participation 10%; Seminar Presentations: 20%
Prerequisites: At least one of the following: AFRI 234;  AMST/AFR 209; AFRI 210;  AFR 318;AMST 142: AMST 146; AMST 260; INTR 220/AMST 201; INTR 320/LEAD 319; AMST 356; PSCI 210; INTR/AFR 340

Enrollment Limit:  25
Enrollment Preferences:  AMST Majors;
Expected Class Size:  20
Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course centers upon the ways that the power is exercised through the prison industrial complex (PIC), education and child protective systems, particularly as it pertains to the way this power has impacted Native American communities, people and nations; it is concerned with understanding the roots of social difference and how Indigenous activists have confronted these institutions.

Attributes: AMST 400-level Senior Seminars JLST Interdepartmental Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 402  (S)  Marxist Feminisms: Race, Performance, and Labor  (DPE)
Cross-listings: THEA 402  AMST 402  WGSS 402  AFR 329

Primary Cross-listing
This course offers an overview of queer, women of color feminist, decolonial, and critical ethnic studies critiques of orthodox Marxism. Beginning with core texts from the tradition, we will explore a range of social positions and forms of labor that complicate Marx’s emphasis on the white male industrial factory worker. Each unit, we will study seminal texts that center reproduction, racial slavery, care and domestic work, indentured servitude, sex work, and migrant labor, in addition to an array of queer and feminist performances that respond and offer strategies to survive under racial capitalism. This course will equip students with critical understandings of the ways racial capitalism has centrally relied on the mass capture and recruitment of different racialized and gendered bodies in and beyond the U.S. and how, through performance, the capitalist system of value and life under these conditions can be reimagined.

Requirements/Evaluation: In-class discussion, short weekly reading posts, class presentation, final paper
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: WGSS majors and students with experience in American Studies or performance studies coursework
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
THEA 402 (D1) AMST 402 (D2) WGSS 402 (D2) AFR 329 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course satisfies the DPE requirement as it explores difference, power, and equity by asking how racial, gendered, sexual, and class differences are produced, whose voices are centered and whose are excluded, and what forms of labor is valued over other forms.
Attributes: WGSS Theory Courses

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01    W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm     Kelly I. Chung

AMST 403 (S) New Asian American, African American, Native American, and Latina/o Writing
Cross-listings: AMST 403 LATS 403 AFR 333

Primary Cross-listing
The most exciting and forward-thinking writing in the English language today is being done by formally experimental writers of color. Their texts push the boundaries of aesthetic form while simultaneously engaging questions of culture, politics, and history. This course argues not only for the centrality of minority experimental work to English literature but a fundamental rethinking of English literary studies so as to confront the field's imbedded assumptions about race, a legacy of British colonialism, and to make the idea of the aesthetic more open to ideas generated in critical race studies, diaspora studies, American studies, and those fields that grapple more directly with history and politics. In the critical realms of English, work by minority writers is often relegated to its own segregated spaces, categorized by ethnic identity, or tokenized as "add-ons" to more "central" or "fundamental" categories of literature (such as Modernism, poetics, the avant-garde). Recent work by Asian American, African American, Native American and Latino/a writers challenges our assumptions and preconceptions about ethnic literature, American literature, English literature, formal experimentation, genre categorization, and so on. This writing forces us to examine our received notions about literature, literary methodologies, and race. Close reading need not be opposed to critical analyses of ideologies. Formal experimentation need not be opposed to racial identity nor should it be divorced from history and politics, even, or especially, a radical politics.

Requirements/Evaluation: one shorter paper (7-8 pp.), one final paper or creative project (10-12 pp.), two short response papers, a presentation, and participation
Prerequisites: none but those with some previous experience with literature and/or literary analysis might be helpful
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 403 (D2) LATS 403 (D2) AFR 333 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST 400-level Senior Seminars LATS Comparative Race + Ethnic Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 404 (S) New Works in Asian American Studies (DPE)
In this seminar, we will consider recent and/or recently intensifying debates, conversations, and intellectual directions in Asian American Studies. Topics may include settler colonialism; indigeneity, the Pacific, and the transpacific; war and refugee experiences; media, including video games;
political participation, conservativism, and religion; affirmative action; sexual violence; mental health; and comparative and relational racialization e.g. scholarship at the intersection of Asian American, Latinx, Native American/Indigenous, and African American/Africana studies. We may also consider some new works of Asian American film and literature, and the criticism it generates. Course material will focus on scholarship that critically engage race, gender, sexuality, indigeneity, and/or disability as key terms. Students may be asked to develop a final project or paper based on one of the topics or books covered in the course; review a new work independently; or conduct an interview with an author. Students will gain an understanding of the field's recent concerns but also become familiar with the broader political, social, and cultural contexts from which they emerge.

Requirements/Evaluation: In-class participation, weekly response papers, in-class presentation of the reading, final paper or project

Prerequisites: AMST125 (Introduction to Asian American Studies) or equivalent from another unit e.g. WGSS

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Senior American Studies majors; juniors or seniors with demonstrated interest in Asian American Studies (especially previous coursework); seniors majoring in LATS, Africana, WGSS, or doing related independent/Honors coursework

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course centers Asian American scholarship that foregrounds modes of social difference, systems of power, and formations of identity, solidarity, and community. Students consider how Asian American experiences are shaped by uneven and often unjust social processes, and aspects of identity, such as race, indigeneity, gender/sexuality, class, and religion. Students will also consider Asian American intersections with Indigenous/Native American, Latinx, and African American experience.

Attributes: AMST 400-level Senior Seminars

Not offered current academic year

AMST 405 (F) Critical Indigenous Theory (DPE)

Intellectual decolonization is not a bounded project. On one hand, it demands a vocabulary of difference and refusal that rejects colonial theories and epistemologies. On the other, it demands that we interrogate our own intellectual and cultural traditions and trauma. Critical Indigenous theory is a tool in those projects, as it offers a corrective and an opening up of both dominant critical theory traditions that violently erase Indigenous bodies and political realities and of Indigenous theory that can essentialize difference and replicate oppressive dynamics in our communities. Critical Indigenous theory seeks to understand the structures and relations of power in settler colonialism, nested sovereignty, and culturally specific Indigenous philosophical traditions, like Indigenous studies more broadly, but also questions the key concepts that define Indigenous studies: tradition, sovereignty, authenticity, identity, race, gender, and sexuality. In this course, we will read major works in critical Indigenous theory that address indigeneity as it relates to race, postcolonial theory, feminist and two-spirit critique, alternative political engagement with the settler colonial state, and questions of "colonial unknowing." We will work on cultivating the reading practices needed to parse dense theoretical texts, and over the course of the semester you will develop a research project on a topic of your choosing that will allow you to take critical Indigenous theories and employ them as analytic tools and lenses.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, one discussion prospectus, and a 20-page research paper

Prerequisites: junior or senior status and some background in American Studies, Native American Studies, or Critical Theory or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Students will be invited to think deeply about the intersections of race, gender, colonialism, sexuality, and epistemology, and develop skills necessary to identify the theoretical basis of decolonial activism.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  AMST 400-level Senior Seminars

Not offered current academic year

AMST 406 (F) Environmental Planning Workshop: Community-Based Project Experience

Cross-listings: ENVI 402  AMST 406
In this class you apply your education and training to effect social and environmental change in the Berkshires. Students work in small collaborative groups to address pressing issues facing the region. Class teams partner with community organizations and local & regional governments to solve real world problems. In this class you learn while doing and give back to the community. The field of environmental planning encompasses the *built environment*, such as housing, zoning, transportation, renewable energy, waste management, neighborhood design; the *natural environment*, such as open space, farmland, habitat and species protection, natural resource protection, air and water pollution and climate change, and the *social environment*, such as racial zoning, environmental racism, food security, and healthy vs toxic communities. Skills taught include basic GIS mapping, developing and conducting surveys, interview techniques, project management, and presentations. The class culminates in project presentations to the client organizations. The hour conference section is time for team project work, client meetings and team meetings with the professor. Recent project topics: https://ces.williams.edu/environmental-planning-papers/

**Class Format:** The weekly conference session (1 hour) is dedicated time for team project work including client meetings and meetings with professor.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Response papers (three 1-page papers), in-class exercises, class discussion, small group work, public meeting attendance, project work, final report (due in segments during semester) and final presentation.

**Prerequisites:** ENVI 101 recommended; open to juniors and seniors.

**Enrollment Limit:** 16

**Enrollment Preferences:** Environmental Studies majors and concentrators, American Studies majors, Maritime Studies concentrators.

**Expected Class Size:** 16

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** Course fulfills senior seminar requirement for Environmental Studies Major and Environmental Studies Concentration and Maritime Studies Concentration. American Studies Space & Place elective. Course is an Environmental Studies Concentration elective (ENVI Policy and ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science) and Environmental Studies major elective.

**Distributions:** (D2)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

ENVI 402 (D2) AMST 406 (D2)

**Attributes:** AMST Space and Place Electives  ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives  ENVI Environmental Policy  ENVI Senior Seminar EVST Senior Seminar  EXPE Experiential Education Courses  MAST Senior Seminar

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French philosopher Michel Foucault argued that "racism first develops with colonization, or in other words, with colonizing genocide." Many prominent philosophers have developed intellectual tools that can help us better understand the ongoing colonialisms that impact our world. At the same time, many of these same theorists--Foucault included--are criticized for failing to pay adequate attention to the colonialism that shaped their historical moments. Taking this paradox as our jumping-off point, this course will examine prominent philosophical and theoretical texts and assess their utility for understanding processes of colonialism, imperialism, and militarism. We will also explore how the interventions of Postcolonial Theory and Critical Indigenous Theory highlight gaps in prominent theories of political-economy, ideology, biopower, race, gender, sexuality, and more. How do ideas like orientalism, settler-colonialism, sovereignty, or decolonization challenge the traditional "canon" of critical theory? How do intellectual ideas evolve over time, and how can we use these tools to make sense of a complex world too-often organized around fundamental inequalities? In our class meetings students will develop the reading and discussion practices necessary to parse dense theoretical texts, and practice deploying theoretical concepts to better understand complex philosophical, ethical, and political questions.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Assignments will include participatory discussion, weekly responses to assigned readings, a midterm essay exam, and a final paper.

**Prerequisites:** Introductory course in American Studies, History, Native and Indigenous Studies, English, or Philosophy; or some prior coursework on colonialism, postcolonial theory, or critical theory
Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: AMST senior major, but anyone with upper-level humanities training welcome

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course explores the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, class, and other social structures often organized around inequality. Students will develop tools to analyze how power shapes the differences produced by colonialism and similar historical processes.

Attributes: AMST 400-level Senior Seminars

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am Stefan B. Aune

AM 411 (F) Transnationalism and Difference: Comparative Perspectives

Cross-listings: WGSS 409 LATS 409 AMST 411

Secondary Cross-listing

In the age of digital communications and mobile applications such as WhatsApp and Skype, transnational living has rapidly emerged as the norm as opposed to the exception. However, what does it really mean to "be transnational"? How are the lived experiences of transnational individuals and communities shaped by categories of difference such as gender, ethno-racial identity, sexuality, and class? What impacts do the growing number of transnational citizens and residents in the U.S. have on our understanding of "American" identity in the local, national, and global contexts? In this interdisciplinary seminar we will analyze recent theories regarding the origins and impacts of transnationalism. Particular attention will be paid throughout the semester to the intersections of gender, ethno-racial identity, sexuality, and class in connection with everyday transnational dynamics. The broad range of case studies examined includes Central American, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, the Middle East, and Peru.

Class Format: This course will follow a discussion format.

Requirements/Evaluation: student participation, an original 12-15 page semester-long research paper conducted in stages, and student presentation

Prerequisites: LATS 105, WGSS 101 or AMST 201; junior or senior standing

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors, and American Studies majors by seniority. If the course is overenrolled students may be asked to submit a brief writing sample.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 409 (D2) LATS 409 (D2) AMST 411 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora ASAM Related Courses GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives LATS 400-level Seminars

Not offered current academic year

AM 418 (S) Modernisms and the Archive

Cross-listings: AMST 418 ENGL 418

Secondary Cross-listing

This course focuses on American Modernist writers who transformed American literature in the first half of the twentieth century. We explore how these writers—including W.E.B. DuBois, Sterling Brown, Gertrude Stein, José Garcia Villa, Marianne Moore, Nella Larsen, Zora Neale Hurston, Wallace Stevens, Langston Hughes, HD, and others—confronted the experience of modernity in new art that responded to dramatic, often cataclysmic change. We define key markers of the modernist aesthetic, including its formal experimentation and self-reflexivity; and study the sweeping political,
social, and cultural events and issues that influenced these writers, including two world wars, rapid industrialization, mass migrations, women's suffrage, Jim Crow racism, and a pandemic. We also look specifically at how the archives of Modernist writers--collected in institutions across the world--have shaped the discourse and narrative arc of literary history. Central to this archive-based discussion, students will have the opportunity to take a deep dive into the Sterling Brown archive here on the Williams College campus. Recently acquired by Williams College Library Special Collections, this significant archive documents the life, work, and poetic practice of African-American writer and educator Sterling Brown, whose poetry and prose spans nearly five decades of the twentieth century. Our class is timed for the opening of the Sterling Brown archive in 2022 and the events and speakers planned on campus for that year, exactly one hundred years after Brown graduated from Williams College in 1922.

Requirements/Evaluation: Short papers, writer's notebook, archival presentations, final paper (12-15 pages)
Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: English Majors, American Studies Majors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 418 (D2) ENGL 418 (D1)
Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives ENGL Criticism Courses ENGL Literary Histories C
Not offered current academic year

AMST 430 (S) Race, Identity, Nature (DPE) (WS)
Cross-listings: ENVI 430 AFR 390 AMST 430
Primary Cross-listing
From 18th-century claims that climate determined character to the 21st-century proliferation of DNA tests underwriting claims to Indigenous ancestry, race, colonialism, identity, and "nature" operate as interconnected terrains of power. Anchored in the contexts of U.S. colonialisms, racialization, and accumulation, this course aims to expose students to the cultural politics of "nature" as a way of "doing" American Studies. Specifically, this course investigates formations of and struggles against U.S. colonialisms, racialization, and accumulation via the many symbolic and material iterations, negotiations, and contestations of the contingent relations between and among human and non-human natures. Organized around a significant research paper and weekly written responses, this course ultimately aims to foster students' critical writing, reading, analytical thinking, and comparative inquiry skills across such contexts and sites of contestation, and across texts of different genres and media. We will work with a wide range of primary sources, including published fiction and poetry, legal documents, newspaper articles, speeches, recorded songs, and films, photos, paintings and other visual culture. By the end of this course, students should be able to describe the historical foundations of dominant ideas, attitudes, and practices toward non-human natures, as well as analyze how ideas of "nature" mediate the ways in which colonial, racial, gender, and sexual categories and structures inform and are (re)produced by U.S. institutions and in public areas such as the law, public policy, and property. Finally, students should be able to interpret how racialized and colonized peoples' visions, representations, and practices of liberation with regard to relations with non-human natures and the materiality of land precede, contend with, and exceed normative political, economic, and social categories of governance and systems of dispossession and exploitation.
Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based upon the following: Class Participation: 25%; Weekly Responses (350-500 words): 25%; Final Research Essay: 50%, broken down by Research Proposal (2-3 pgs, 10%), Peer Review and Feedback (2 pgs, 10%), Presentation (10%); Essay (15 pgs): 20%.
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: American Studies majors will be given preference; secondary preference given to students specializing in Native American and Indigenous Studies, as well as Africana and Environmental Studies majors.
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENVI 430 (D2) AFR 390 (D2) AMST 430 (D2)
Writing Skills Notes: Emphasis on revision and writing process includes: One thesis paper at 15 pages (receiving critical feedback from professor and peers); one thesis paper revision with critical feedback from professor and peers, including one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process; one research proposal (including thesis outline and annotated bibliography of primary texts) with critical feedback from professor; student presentations and roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: By the end of this course, students should be able to interpret how racialized and colonized peoples’ visions, representations, and practices of liberation with regard to relations with non-human natures and the materiality of land precede, contend with, and exceed normative political, economic, and social categories of governance and systems of dispossession and exploitation. In order to address such issues of difference, power, and equity, this course provides students with the necessary th

Attributes: AMST 400-level Senior Seminars ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

AMST 455 (S) The Afterlives of Objects: Telling American Histories through Material Culture and Museums  (DPE)

Cross-listings: HIST 455  AMST 455

Secondary Cross-listing

Material culture studies examine relationships between people and objects. Tangible artifacts like furniture, clothing, ceramics, tools, and buildings give insight into communities’ identities, aspirations, and struggles. This course approaches American histories through objects, and considers how interdisciplinary methodologies can reveal alternative understandings of the past. The course traces changing theories and practices of preservation, curation, and display; shifting conceptions of "heritage" among diverse peoples; and ethical challenges posed by Native American and African American items held in museums, particularly in relation to repatriation considerations. The course involves a staged set of class visits to work with collections at the Williams College Archives/Special Collections and Art Museum as well as local/regional repositories and historic sites. While the scope of the course is continental and at times transoceanic, it includes substantial focus on the Northeast/New England and the material assemblages and landscapes that shape western Massachusetts. Students will build familiarity with appropriate techniques for handling objects, cultivate skills for developing and carrying out an original research project, and explore diverse modes of analysis and expression for telling the stories of objects and their associated communities.

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in class discussion and museum visits, in-class presentation about one week’s readings, research project prospectus, research project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: junior and senior History and American Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 455 (D2) AMST 455 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines diverse historical experiences of North American peoples, including Native Americans and African Americans, in conjunction with responses to Euro-American settler colonialism. It introduces students to foundational methodologies in object studies including decolonizing approaches, and explores key debates about possession, interpretation, and repatriation of objects to descendant communities, such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

AMST 462 (F) Art of California: Pacific Standard Time  (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: ARTH 462  AMST 462  ARTH 562  LATS 462

Secondary Cross-listing

In this course, we will study the visual arts and culture of California after 1960 and consider the region's place in modern art history. We will focus on a series of recent exhibitions organized as part of a Getty initiative entitled Pacific Standard Time. Diverse in scope, these shows explored important developments in postwar art in California, including feminist art, African American assemblage, Chicano collectives, Modernist architecture, craft, and
In this seminar, we will pursue research projects directly related to the art exhibitions we study, and examine southern California conceptualism, photography, performance, painting, sculpture (including assemblage and installation), and video by artists both canonical and lesser known. Student projects will analyze the critical responses to the exhibitions, while also exploring the roles of archives, art criticism, and curatorial practice in contemporary art history.

Requirements/Evaluation: Several short writing and research assignments, oral presentations, class participation, and a final research paper of 16-20 pages written in stages over the course of the semester. The course will feature synchronous online class meetings with some small discussion groups. Student presentations will be recorded offline and posted to GLOW.

Prerequisites: ARTH 102 - Grad Art exempt from ARTH 102 prerequisite

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: senior Art major and senior Latina/o Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ARTH 462 (D1) AMST 462 (D2) ARTH 562 (D1) LATS 462 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: There will be considerable focus on writing and peer-editing as a means of shaping critical thinking. We will treat writing as a process; revision is built into the syllabus. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Course themes of art and activism, borders and diaspora, globalism and modernism in the visual arts and how they intersect with the exploration of difference, power, and equity and the various ways that artists have produced works and developed practices that critically probe this intersection. Through discussion, presentations, and writing assignments students will develop skills in analyzing artworks and exhibitions that respond to and/or document social inequality and social injustice.

Attributes: AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Space and Place Electives ARTH post-1800 Courses LATS Comparative Race + Ethnic Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

AMST 478 (S) Cold War Landscapes

Cross-listings: AMST 478 ENVI 478 HIST 478

Secondary Cross-listing

The Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union set in motion dramatic changes to the natural and built environments of many nations between 1945 and 1991. Nuclear test and missile launch sites, naval installations, military production operations, and border securitizations are just a few of the most obvious ways in which the stand-off between the two countries altered rural and urban landscapes around the world. But one can also see the Cold War as setting in motion less immediately direct but nonetheless profound changes to the way that many people saw and planned for the environments around them, as evidenced, for instance, by the rise of the American suburb, the reconstruction of postwar Europe, and agricultural and industrial initiatives in nations across the globe. We will begin this seminar by exploring several distinct “Cold War landscapes” in the United States and North America. We will then move on to examining others in Europe and the Soviet Union. Our approach to our topics will be interdisciplinary throughout the semester, with the additional goal of helping students frame their final projects. Students are encouraged to write their research papers on any geographical area of the world that interests them.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation and semi-weekly critical writing on the reading; students will also be expected to keep up through the stages of the research paper process, which will involve submitting a short research plan, annotated bibliography, outline, and a rough draft, as well as the final 20- to 25-page paper.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: History, ENVI, and AMST majors if over-enrolled

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 490  (S)  The Suburbs

Cross-listings: AMST 490  HIST 491  ENVI 491

Secondary Cross-listing

The suburbs transformed the United States. At the broadest level, they profoundly altered spatial residential geography (especially in terms of race), consumer expectations and behavior, governmental policies, cultural norms and assumptions, societal connections, and Americans’ relationship to nature. More specifically, the different waves of post-World War II suburban development have both reflected large-scale shifts in how power and money have operated in the American political economy; and set in motion deep-seated changes in electoral politics, in Americans’ understandings of how their income should be used, and in how the built landscape should be re-imagined. This tutorial will explore the rich historical literature that has emerged over the last twenty years to provide students with a history of the suburbs, to see the suburbs as more than simply collections of houses that drew individual homeowners who wanted to leave urban areas. We will focus most of our attention on the period from 1945 through the 1980s. Some of the questions we will consider will include: how did the first wave of suburban development bring together postwar racial and Cold War ideologies? Is it possible, as one historian has argued, that suburbs actually created the environmental movement of the 1960s? And how have historians understood the role that suburbs played in America’s conservative political turn, leading to the election of Ronald Reagan?

Class Format: Students will be assigned a tutorial partner, and tutorial pairs will meet with the professor for one hour each week at a regularly scheduled meeting time.

Requirements/Evaluation: typical tutorial format; every other week, students will write and present orally a 5- to 7-page essay on the assigned readings; on alternate weeks, students will write a 2-page critique. During two of the weeks of the semester (around the middle of the semester and at the end), all students will write papers that explore a common question or theme.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: History majors and students with previous coursework in History

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 490 (D2) HIST 491 (D2) ENVI 491 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Space and Place Electives  ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives  HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Spring 2023

TUT Section: T1  TBA  Karen R. Merrill

AMST 491  (F)  Senior Honors Project: American Studies

This seminar is the first half of a year-long seminar that is required of AMST seniors who have been approved to write an honors thesis (critical-analytical, research-focused, creative, performative, or hybrid). Students will share work, critique each other’s proposals and drafts, and support each other in the process of producing a thesis project. Although each student’s major work for the year will be focusing on a specific topic with an advisor, the instructor of the honors seminar will offer helpful guidance on more general concerns such as conceptual approaches, research methodologies, creative exploration, the honing of arguments, writing issues, and other theoretical and practical questions. Satisfactory completion of the course will be required for students to continue on in the honors program.

Requirements/Evaluation: Satisfactory completion of the course will be required for students to continue on in the honors program.

Prerequisites: AMST seniors who have been approved to write an honors thesis (critical-analytical, research-focused, creative, performative, or hybrid).

Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: AMST Seniors

Expected Class Size: 5

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2022

HON Section: 01   TBA   Jan Padios

AMST 492 (S) Senior Honors Project: American Studies

This seminar is the second half of a year-long seminar that is required of AMST seniors who have been approved to write an honors thesis (critical-analytical, research-focused, creative, performative, or hybrid). Students will share work, critique each other's proposals and drafts, and support each other in the process of producing a thesis project. Although each student's major work for the year will be focusing on a specific topic with an advisor, the instructor of the honors seminar will offer guidance on more general concerns such as conceptual approaches, research methodologies, creative exploration, the honing of arguments, writing issues, and other theoretical and practical questions. Guest speakers may also be invited to talk to the class.

Requirements/Evaluation: Attendance, participation, timely progress on the thesis project

Prerequisites: Senior AMST majors who have been approved to write an honors thesis

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: This course is limited to senior AMST majors who have been approved to write an honors thesis.

Expected Class Size: 5

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01   TBA   Jan Padios

AMST 11 (W) Remnants: The Social Life of Sewing

Weaver Ann Hamilton calls fabric our "second skin." As a baby, you may have been wrapped in a blanket that was stitched by a loved one. More likely, that piece was mass-produced in a distant place, by strangers who labor in conditions you may never know. What does it mean to surround ourselves with objects about which we have no knowledge and to which we have no organic connection? Recently, more and more people are taking up this question -- as makers, historians, entrepreneurs, and activists. In this course, we will become makers as well as students of the crafts we are practicing: quilting, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, cross-stitch, and sewing (by hand and by machine). Just as members of a quilting bee gathered around a frame to assemble fragments collectively, we will talk together as we sew. We will discuss slow fashion and farm-to-closet sustainability, reuse and upcycling, #blackmakersmatter and the intersection of social justice and ecological integrity. We will trade images by our favorite artist-activists, such as quilter Bisa Butler and textile artist Victoria Villasana. We will video conference with makers such as quilter Zak Foster, knitters Denise Bayron and Brandi Cheyenne Harper, recycled-denim artist Eliu Hernandez, and embroiderer Han Cao. We will invite local makers to join us in person. Above all, we will sew, stitch by stitch. Through mindful making, we will reconnect to the magic of objects and the power of community. Note: This class will be a safe space for students of all gender identities and expressions. Reading may include: This Long Thread: Women of Color on Craft, Community and Connection; Fibershed: Growing a Movement of Farmers, Fashion Activists and Makers; Worn: A People's History of Clothing; Threads of Life: A History of the World Through the Eye of A Needle; All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake; Vanishing Fleece; and Knitting for Radical Self Care.

Requirements/Evaluation: Final project or presentation. All members will take part in an end-of-term exhibit and slow-fashion show open to the community.

Prerequisites: No experience or equipment needed

Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Students will be selected based upon a one-paragraph expression of interest and statement of intention. Preference will be given to students who have little to no experience with needlecraft or making-by-hand. Craft instruction will be provided.

Expected Class Size: NA
Grading: pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee: $140
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses SLFX Winter Study Self-Expression STUX Winter Study Student Exploration WELL Winter Study Wellness

Winter 2023
LEC Section: 01 TBA Cassandra J. Cleghorn

AMST 14 (W) Hybrid Thinking: A Poetry Workshop
This course takes "hybrid" poetic works--twinned performance poems, prose poems, lyric essays, photos with poems as captions, poems written with two languages, truisms from visual art, films that thread together with poetry--as a point of departure for a poetry workshop. This is an intensive generative poetry workshop for writers of all levels intended to introduce the art of writing poetry and the skills needed for a regular writing practice. Participants will take inspiration from the likes of American writers and artists such as Kazim Ali, Duane Michals, Marlon T. Riggs, and Jenny Holzer for weekly writing exercises and workshops. The class will culminate in a final portfolio of one's work for the month.

Requirements/Evaluation: Daily Workshop Participation - 50% Final Portfolio - 50%
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Preference to students with previous creative writing experience, then seniority.
Expected Class Size: NA
Grading: pass/fail only
Unit Notes: Yanyi is the author of DREAM OF THE DIVIDED FIELD (One World Random House 2022) and THE YEAR OF BLUE WATER (Yale 2019), winner of the 2018 Yale Series of Younger Poets Prize, a finalist for the 2020 Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Poetry.
Attributes: SLFX Winter Study Self-Expression

Winter 2023
LEC Section: 01 TBA Yanyi

AMST 30 (W) Senior Honors: American Studies
To be taken by students registered for American Studies 491 or 492.
Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2023
HON Section: 01 TBA Jan Padios

AMST 99 (W) Independent Study: American Studies
Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.
Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only