

American Studies Spring 2013 Course Offerings



American Studies announces a new graduate certificate program in Documentary Film

AMST 391 Senior Thesis CRN 14896 (2 credits) Professor Whitley; Instructor Permission Required

AMST 392 Senior Thesis CRN 10836 (4 credits) Professor Whitley; Instructor Permission Required

AMST, AAS 396 Sites of Memory: Cultural Monuments and Urban Space CRN 18324 (3 credits)

In the course, "Sites of Memory, Monuments, and Urban Space", we will explore literary, cultural, and architectural approaches to historical memory and urban life. We will look to officially sanctioned monuments as well as countercultural or grassroots expressions of memory as sites to study cultures of urban space. We will focus primarily on the period between the modern Civil Rights movement and the present, considering the role of race, gender, sexuality, and class in debates about cultural memory, and we will delve into such ongoing matters of historical reflection: the end of legal segregation, the assassination of Martin Luther King, the Vietnam War, the War on Drugs, the MOVE bombing, the AIDS epidemic, 9/11, and Hurricane Katrina. Readings/media in the class includes works by figures such as Toni Morrison, Spike Lee, Audre Lorde, Essex Hemphill, Jay-Z, John Edgar Wideman, and others. Students will develop skills useful for urban spatial and historical analysis through readings of contemporary cultural productions, weekly reading responses, engaged online research, and a final research project. Professor Farber; M 1:10 - 4:00

AMST 402 Independent Study CRN 17933 (3 credits) Professor Whitley; Instructor Permission Required

AMST 425 Community Study through Documentary Film CRN 17934 (3 credits)

This course will explore the origins of the genre, current trends, and the ethical and legal challenges faced by documentary practitioners. The assigned readings, film screenings, and documentary journals will give students an understanding of the central issues in the field and enable them to employ production strategies for their own documentary production. Professor Maserjian; T 1:10 - 4:00

AMST 433 Documentary Film Production CRN 17935 (3 credits)

An independent study mode of course awarding credit for the production of a 30-minute documentary film that meets two standards: 1) high production value, and 2) scholarly content based on detailed research and driven by critical analysis. Professor Staff; Instructor Permission Required

AMST 490 Master's Thesis (1-6 credits)

Independent work, with a faculty member, on a single master's thesis or two thesis papers. Topic approved by individual faculty member. Typically taken in the last semester of course work. Instructor Permission Required

CRN 17938 Professor Whitley

CRN 17936 Professor Peterson

CRN 17937 Professor Gordon

CRN 13144 Staff

ENG 367 The Colonial Rise of the Novel CRN 17693 (3 credits)

American literature from settlement until the 1820s, emphasizing fiction, poetry, and non-fiction that helped form and contest American identities and national consciousness. May be repeated for credit as title varies. Professor Dominique; T/TH 10:45 - 12:00 Department permission required

ENG 377 American Romanticism CRN 17694 (3 credits)

Literature from the antebellum United States viewed through the literary practices of sentimentalism (an ethos that values sympathy, empathy, and human contact) and the sublime (an aesthetic that attempts to create within readers a sense of the awe-inspiring, otherworldly, and terrifying aspects of life), as well as social conflicts over race, class, and gender. May be repeated for credit as title varies. Professor Whitley; T/TH 9:20 - 10:35

ENG 382 ISO The Contemporary American Classic CRN 17696 (4 credits)

Professor Lotto; M/W 12:45 - 2:00 Department permission required

ENG 398 Race, Gender and the Graphic Novel CRN 17703 (3 credits)

This course is designed to cultivate and develop students' literacy in one of the most dynamic genres of literature, the graphic novel. The graphic novel is currently emerging as one of the most prominent and powerful genres of literature in the 21st century. As more and more scholars begin to engage the genre and as various artists including filmmakers and musicians turn toward the graphic novel for inspiration, this emergent form continues to enjoy popular success and critical attention. Aside from cultivating a literary appreciation for the graphic novel the course also deliberately explores the construction of sexual, racial, cultural, and social identity in the texts with a deliberate investigation of the social justice themes that emerge from the texts. Graphic novels are extended narratives depicted through a combination of sequential visual art, prose, and dialogue. The

term, 'graphic novel' is a deliberately more formal name for comics and/or comic books. Although the current popularity of the graphic novel is in many ways attributable to the bankable cache of the superhero genre of the comic book, the texts in this course are largely autobiographical, historical, studies in graphic realism and/or some combination of these and other literary genres. Professor Peterson; TH 1:10 - 4:00

ENG 481 Theories of Literature and Social Justice CRN 17111 (3 credits)

Professor Crassons; W 1:00 – 4:00 Department permission required

ENG 496 American Gothic: 19th- and 21st- Century Incarnations CRN 12607 (3 credits)

This course will explore the various manifestations of the Gothic in antebellum American literature, specifically Charles Brockden Brown's Edgar Huntly and Arthur Mervyn, Robert Montgomery Bird's Nick of the Woods, George Lippard's Quaker City, Poe's Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym and his short fiction, Hawthorne's The Blithedale Romance and his short fiction, Hannah Crafts' The Bondswoman's Narrative, Harriet Jacobs' Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, and the thrillers of Louisa May Alcott. We will also read both those essays by Freud that have traditionally been used to illuminate the Gothic ("The Uncanny," "Mourning and Melancholia," parts of Totem and Taboo and Civilization and its Discontents), as well as those works that posit an alternative theoretical grounding for the Gothic, one driven by suggestion, mimesis, and contagion (beginning with Pierre Janet's studies of hysteria and Gustave Le Bon's The Crowd, through Roberto Esposito's recent Third Person: Politics of Life and Philosophy of the Impersonal). We will explore a Gothic tradition, in other words, that replaces an attention to depth, interiority, personality, and the mind with an attention to surface, externality, impersonality and the body. Professor Keetly; T 12:00 - 3:00 Department permission.

ENG 471 Life Writ Colonial & Revolutionary America: What the Archives Hold CRN 17706 (3 credits)

This course will focus on manuscript memoirs by African and Native American men and women who lived in Moravian communities along America's eastern seaboard and in the Ohio country during the eighteenth- and early nineteenth-centuries. The course project will be to edit and annotate these short, unpublished texts for publication. Our readings will involve texts that further that aim: other autobiographies or spiritual memoirs, including those by Benjamin Franklin, Olaudah Equiano, and Samson Occom; texts related to the history of slavery and to relations with native peoples; and accounts of Moravian piety and practices, in particular their missionary enterprises. Professor Gordon; M/W 11:00 - 12:25 Department permission required

HIST 303 Civil War: Fact, Film or Fiction CRN 17333 (3 credits)

Professor Najjar; T/TH 2:35 – 3:50

HIST 315 American Environmental History CRN 16629 (3 credits)

Relationship between Americans and their natural environment from the colonial period to the present: impact of European settlement, attitudes toward wilderness, role of technological development, rise of preservation and conservation movements, establishment of national parks, recent environmental protection legislation. Professor Cutcliffe; W/F 11:10 – 12:25

HIST 319 Colonial America CRN 17741 (3 credits)

Founding and growth of colonies in North America through 1763. Emphasis on motives for settlement, Native American-European relations, and the economic, social, and political development of the British West Indies and mainland provinces. Professor Soderlund; T/TH 1:10 – 2:35

HIST 351 Gangs of New York CRN 17750 (3 credits)

The course will use the Martin Scorsese film "The Gangs of New York" as a window to examine the social and economic transformations of New York City in the middle of the 19th century. Emphasis will be on immigration, slum conditions, nativism, workingclass culture, gangs and street violence, politics, the Draft Riot of 1863, and the Tweed Ring. A recurrent theme will be to compare the historical record with the film's depiction of those events. There will be a required evening showing the film. Professor Simon; M/W/F 10:10 - 11:00

HIST 397 Africans and the Atlantic World CRN 17752 (3 credits)

This course chronicles the history of Africans and the Atlantic world from the fifteenth century. It explores cross-cultural interactions and exchanges between Africans and Europeans and covers major themes including trade, religion, slavery, abolition, identity, colonialism, gender, the "Back-to-Africa" movements and impact of Africans on Atlantic world history. Professor Essien; M/W 12:45 – 2:00

HIST 404 Readings in the History of the Atlantic World 1500-1900 CRN 16671 (3 credits)

Core readings offering a comparative and integrative approach to studying the development of nations, economic systems and trade, colonization, and cultural encounters among the people of Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Professor Savage; T 4:10 – 7:00

HIST 438 Tech in Public History CRN 14324 (2-3 credits)

Designed to introduce students to a variety of public history techniques. Instructor will focus on one of the following topics each term: archives, documentary film, exhibit design, historical editing, material culture, oral history. May be repeated to a maximum of 8 credits. Professor Carrell-Smith; Department permission required

HIST 451 Black Rel & Pol History 1895-1965 CRN 17754 (3 credits)

This course surveys black American spiritual and secular thought from the Age of Jim Crow to the Civil Rights. A particular object of the course is to identify, trace, and explain the close intersection of religion and politics in modern black liberation ideology. Professor Scott; W 4:10 - 7:00

JOUR 325 Freedoms of Speech & Press CRN 16724 (3 credits)

This seminar focuses on aspects of the First Amendment relating to freedom of expression. Students will examine the U.S. Supreme Court's interpretations of the speech and press clauses as well as current controversies regarding government restrictions on expression. Topics may include free press/fair trial issues, hate speech, property rights in speech, and libel law. Professor Olson; T/TH 2:35 - 3:50 Instructor Permission Required

JOUR 323 Health and Environmental Controversies CRN 15797 (4 credits)

Exploration of health and environmental controversies from the perspectives of scientific uncertainty and mass media coverage. Examines genetic engineering, biotechnology, environmental health risks and nanotechnology. Includes discussion of ethical and social responsibilities and interactions with the public. Professor Friedman; T/TH 10:45 – 12:00

POLS 407 Politics of Mental Health Policy CRN 17800 (3 credits)

What is normal behavior, and how do we come to understand mental illness? How do the resulting policies, to address mental health, impact society? This course is designed to facilitate thoughtful discourse on the various ways in which society regulates access to opportunities, facilitates integration or alienation, and constructs the social world. Professor Ochs; M/W 12:45 – 2:00

POLS 408 American Politics Core CRN 15177 (3 credits)

A survey of American politics utilizing readings reflecting a variety of methodological approaches and theoretical perspectives. Readings include but are not limited to works widely regarded as "classics" in American political science. Professor Borick; TH 4:10 – 7:00

POLS 426 Organizing for Democracy CRN 17805 (4 credits)

Seminar on the theory and practice of community and political organizing and their relationship with democracy and power in the United States, complementing semester-long student field placements with community groups and local organizations. Student teams help enhance the political voice of under-resourced community groups through organization-building, outreach, and policy input at the local level. Prerequisite: consent of instructor. Professor Morgan; T 4:10 – 7:00

POLS 430 Social Movements & Legacies of 1960s CRN 17794 (3 credits)

The lessons and legacies of 1960s social and political movements. Students examine civil rights, black power movements, the New Left, campus protests, the Vietnam war and antiwar movement, the counterculture, women's and ecology movements and assess their connection to democracy, today's world, and their own lives. Professor Morgan; M 1:10 - 4:00 and W 1:10 - 3:10

POLS 448 Land Use, Growth Management and Politics of Sprawl CRN 14325 (3 credits)

An intro to the issues of Land Use Planning, Community, Growth Mgmt, & Sprawl. Will examine the history of urban development in America, from the earliest settlements to the auto suburbs. Also explore such planning & development factors as comprehensive plans, zoning, & the influence of infrastructure on development. Concludes with an assessment of the revival of city centers, alternatives to sprawl, & comparisons to development patterns in other countries. Professor Freeman; TH 7:10 – 10:00

SSP 379 Race and Class in America CRN 17913 (4 credits)

This course focuses on the ways in which race and class intersect in the social, economic, and political structures of American society. Through sociological literature, fiction, nonfiction, film, and other media we will explore the place of race and class in American society. We will examine how race and class operate on a personal, "micro" level, while at the same time operating on a large scale, "macro" level. Prerequisite: SSP 103, or consent of instructor. Professor Johnson; T/TH 10:45 – 12:00

SSP 461 Culture and the Individual CRN 13517 (3 credits)

Professor Gatewood; M/W/F 9:10 – 10:00