



## American Studies Spring 2015 Course Offerings John Pettegrew, Director

### **AMST 402 Independent Study** 3 credits

Individually supervised course in the area of American Culture. Prerequisite: consent of the program director.

### **CANCELED AMST 425-10 Community Study through Documentary Film** CRN 17934 3 credits

A film production course concentrating on lighting, sound, shooting interviews (among other types of shots), and Final Cut Pro editing; matched with producing a team-made thirty-minute documentary film on a local historical or contemporary topic of critical interest **Professor Setton**  
*Department permission required. TR; 4:10 - 7:00 p.m.*

### **AMST 433-10 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 Pettegrew** *Department permission required. By arrangement.*

### **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.

### **ANTH, GS, ES, HMS 396-11 Anthropology of Health & the Environment** CRN 19456 4 credits

This course blends insights from medical anthropology and political ecology to offer a holistic understanding of relationships among health, illness, poverty, development and the environment. It examines all aspects of health, illness, and disease in human communities, populations, and ecosystems across the globe to consider ways to make human habitation on the planet more sustainable and perhaps improve environmental health for future populations. Class discussions and assignments will hone students' analytical, research and critical thinking skills.

**Staff** T,TR; 1:10 - 2:35 p.m.

### **WGSS, SSP 396-10 College Sexuality** CRN 18934 4 credits

This course will explore the sexuality of college students. We will examine several aspects of this intriguing topic including: historical and theoretical perspectives, sexual identity development, and sexual attitudes and behaviors. Students will have the opportunity to use the theoretical perspectives from class to investigate sexuality on Lehigh's campus. **Professor DeSipio** M,W; 2:35 - 3:50 p.m.

### **AAS, ENG, REL, WGSS 395-10 Black Queer Saints: Sex, Gender, Race, Class and the Quest for Liberation** CRN 18895 4 credits

This interdisciplinary seminar (drawing on fiction, biography, critical theory, film, essays, and memoirs) will explore how certain African American artists, activists, and religionists have resisted, represented, and reinterpreted sex, sexuality, and gender norms in the context of capitalist, white supremacist, male supremacist, and heteronormative cultures. Participants will examine the visions and lives of an exemplary cast, including but not limited to, Harriet Tubman, Langston Hughes, Alain Locke, James Baldwin, Bayard Rustin, Peter Gomes, Alice Walker, and bell hooks.

**Professor Wiley** T; 1:10 - 4:00 p.m.

### **AAS, GS 396-10 Global Media and Culture** CRN 17142 4 credits *Writing Intensive*

As an interdisciplinary field, Cultural Studies investigates dominant understandings, issues of identity and experience, and social institutions. Our class will take a Cultural Studies approach to understanding representations of difference in global media. Class assignments and discussions will center upon the role of media in shaping the contemporary dominant understandings of various groups in a globalized world; students will be introduced to philosophies and theories that function as fundamental texts on the relationship between media, social life and human behavior and the ways in which media socially construct reality. **Professor El-Burki** *Instructor permission required.* M, W; 11:10 - 12:25 p.m.

### **COM, AAS, WGSS 398-10 New Media, Race and Gender** 19445 4 credits

This class will take an exploratory approach to understanding the relationship between race, gender and new media. To this end, it will examine depictions of racial minorities and women online; how users access and use new media across race and gender (including a look at the digital divide); and differences in use of social media websites across race and gender. The goal of this course is for students to understand the ways in which existing racial and gender categorizations are/are not transmitted to the online community and do/do not become an extension of present social hierarchy. **Professor El-Burki** *Instructor permission required.*  
M,W; 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.

### **ENG 318-13 Topics in African-American Literature and Culture: Black British Literature** CRN 19262 3 credits

Immediately after World War II, Britain began receiving large numbers of legal immigrants from its former African, East and West Indian colonies. This influx of colonial immigrants made the tension between black cultural identities and British national ones seem more evident and pronounced in Britain. But this tension was, in fact, not new. A sustained black presence in British literature dates back to 400 years before this influx, and over

that time Britain's literature has been greatly informed by this tension in a myriad of ways. In this course, we will read novels, poetry and drama from the 16th to the 21st centuries that, together, trace the ways in which black presences established by canonical white writers (William Shakespeare, Aphra Behn) as well as those established by contemporary Asian, African and West Indian authors ((Hanif Kureishi, Diran Adebayo, Andrea Levy) give rise to a modern, comprehensive understanding and survey of black British literature as, at once, a cultural and a political genre dedicated to promoting the history of social justice for all people within British borders. **Professor Dominique** T,TR; 1:10 - 2:45 p.m.

**ENGL 377-11 American Romanticism CRN 19272** 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. **Professor Whitley** Department permission required. M, W; 8:45 - 10:00 a.m.

**ENGL 380-11 Recently Arrived: Contemporary Literature of Immigration CRN 19274** 3 credits

This course will cover the best in contemporary multicultural fiction about first generation Americans from many countries, including Africa, Ireland, Russia, Puerto Rico, and China. These writers explore identity, coming of age, nostalgia for the past, combined with a desire to fully immerse in the American present. We will be reading such acclaimed texts as Dinaw Mengestu's *All Our Names*, Chinamanda Ngosi Adichie's *Americanah*, Yelena Akhtiorskaya's *Panic in a Suitcase*, Achy Obejas's *Days of Awe*, Gish Jen's *Mona in the Promised Land*, and Matthew Thomas's *We are Not Ourselves*. **Professor Pfifer** M, W, F; 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.

**ENGL 478-10 "It's Alive!" Identity and the Nonhuman in the Horror Film CRN 18509** 3 credits

This course will examine the changing shape of the American horror film from its inception in Tod Browning's *Dracula* (1931) to the present. We will move from the classic horror of the 1930s, through fifties sci-fi horror (*The Thing from Another World* [1951], *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* [1956]) to the triad that inaugurated modern horror, *Psycho* (1960), *Night of the Living Dead* (1968), and *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* (1974). We will then move to the emergence of the slasher film in the late 70s and 80s (*Halloween*, *Friday the 13th*), the self-reflexive, ironic horror of the 90s (*Scream*), the faux-documentary horror at the end of the century (*Blair Witch Project*), and to what seems to be the virulent renaissance of the genre in our post 9/11 world, including so-called "torture porn" (the *Saw* cycle, *Hostel*) and the resurgence of the "possession" film—the return of the angry, malevolent dead (*The Ring*, *Paranormal Activity*). We will consider the major theoretical paradigms by which critics have read the horror film (psychoanalytic, socio/historical/political, cognitivist), focusing on the centrality of repression, monstrosity, and sexuality/gender. We will also consider the intersection of the horror film with posthumanist theory, considering how horror films confront us with the "nonhuman" that is, paradoxically, very much a part of the "human." These "nonhuman" forces, which are a staple of horror films, are both biological (vegetative, animal, visceral) and technological, and they continually challenge (and threaten) what we like to think of as our "self." The course will involve watching between two and four films each week as well as reading substantial amounts of film criticism and theory. **Professor Keetley** Department permission required. T,TR; 1:10 - 2:25 p.m.

**ENGL 481-10 Theories of Literature and Social Justice CRN 17111** 3 credits

This course introduces students to theories of literature and social justice. We will explore questions such as these: What is literature? What is social justice? How are literary forms (and literary criticism) distinctive in the ways in which they grapple with questions of social justice? How do literary works reinforce or challenge dominant ideologies? In what ways do literary works provide tools to map exploitative or oppressive social and economic formations? In what ways do they create practices for imagining human flourishing and more just ways of living? How do literary works produce varying emotions in readers that might serve to promote (or undermine) social justice? What role have literary works played in emancipatory and egalitarian political movements? We will consider a range of reading, writing and teaching strategies as practices of social justice. In pursuing this inquiry, we will focus on critical and theoretical readings as well as literary texts. **Professors Foltz and Whitley** Department permission required W; 1:10 - 4:00 p.m.

**HIST 401-10 Historical Research CRN 16669** 3 credits

Techniques of research in history: training in the critical handling of documentary materials, in measuring the value of evidence, and in formal presentation of the results of research. Students will write an original research paper using primary materials. Required of all graduate students in history. **Professor Bulman** W; 4:10 - 7:00 p.m.

**HIST 421-10 Readings in Topics in the Atlantic World CRN 18562** 3 credits

Study in small groups under the guidance of a faculty member on a particular topic in the history of the Atlantic World.

**Professor Zepeda Cortes** T; 4:10 - 7:00 p.m.

**HIST 438-10 Techniques 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. **Professor Carrell-Smith** Instructor permission required. By arrangement.

**HIST 440-10 Readings in Colonial American History CRN 18563** 3 credits

Study in small groups under the guidance of a faculty member of the literature of the 17 and 18th centuries. **Professor Najjar** M; 4:10 - 7:00 p.m.

**HIST 442-10 Readings in Twentieth Century American History CRN 18564** 3 credits

Study in small groups under the guidance of a faculty member of the literature of the 20th century. **Professor Pettegrew** TR; 4:10 - 7:00 p.m.

**POLS 395-10 Melville, Malcolm, and Morrison: Critiquing the American Dream CRN 19358** 4 credits

This course explores the literary and political critiques of American life of three powerful figures in American history: Herman Melville, Malcolm X, and Toni Morrison. By engaging the writings, speeches, and lives of these figures, the course seeks to illuminate the trials and tragedies within American political development over the past 150 years. **Professor Ambar** T,TR; 2:35 - 3:50 p.m.

**POLS 408-10 American Politics Core CRN 19359** 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 Davis** M; 4:10 - 7:00 p.m.

**POLS 430-10 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 p.m. and W; 1:10 - 3:00 p.m.

**POLS, HIST 448-10 Land Use, Growth Management, and the 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** T; 7:10 - 10:00 p.m.

**SSP 373-10 Seminar In Sociology : Academe, Athletics, and Alcohol CRN 18183** 4 credits

The multiple objectives for this eclectic course are for students to understand the changing and unchanging characteristics of college students and academic environments, to review the function of academia, to evaluate the role of athletics for the institution of higher learning and to become familiar with sociological analyses and understandings of alcohol use and abuse in campus cultures. From the material presented I hope that each student develops an understanding of your relationship to your knowledge! **Professor McIntosh** M, W; 11:10 - 12:25 p.m.

**SSP 496: Sociology of the Body CRN pending** 3 credits

This course examines the body not as a biological entity but as a product of complex social forces and historical processes. Many of us, for example, spend our lives trying to change the dimensions of our body based on social expectations. Throughout the semester we will study how our bodies are deeply connected to larger social structures, such as class, gender and race. In doing so, students will realize how bodies, our bodies, are simultaneously expressions of the self as well as powerful social factors. To explore these topics we will analyze the work of social thinkers such as Karl Marx, Norbert Elias, Erving Goffman, Michel Foucault, Pierre Bourdieu, Judith Butler, and critical race theory approaches. **Professor Ceron Anaya** W; 4:10 – 7:00pm