



American Studies

Fall 2015 Course Offerings

John Pettegrew, Director

***Please contact Director John Pettegrew to make special allowances before registering for these classes.**

AMST 396 4 credits/AMST 471 3 credits: Urban Wastelands Techniques in Digital History

How do particular areas of cities come to be deemed empty, unusable or forgotten? How can digital tools help us investigate the manifestations of social inequality in these urban sites? This course introduces students to central ideas in urban geography about the social and spatial production of "wastelands" in U.S. cities, and to Digital Humanities theory and methods. Students will learn key Digital Humanities techniques, including digital publishing and archive building, crowd-sourcing, and digital mapping. No prior technical expertise needed.

Dr. Alison Kanosky T, R 1:10-2:25 pm

AMST 400-10 AMST: Theory and Method 3 credits

An introduction to the theoretical orientations and methodological strategies of American Studies. Seminar involves extensive reading as well as application of theory and method to students' research.

Professor Pettegrew M; 4:10-7:00 p.m.

AMST 402 Independent Study 3 credits

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

AMST 433-10 Documentary Film Production 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 495-10 Hustle Hard: Hip Hop Culture and Entrepreneurship 3 credits

This course critically examines the interface of the cultural and entrepreneurial developments of Hip Hop Culture. In the last 40 years, Hip Hop culture's emergence (from being a relatively unknown and largely ignored inner city culture into a global phenomenon), has shaped a wide range of entrepreneurial strategies and approaches to culturally competent marketing. The foundational elements of Hip Hop Culture (DJ-ing, MC-ing, Breakdance, and Graffiti/Graf) are manifest in youth culture across the globe, including Japan, France, India, South Africa, Cuba, and the UK. Considering its humble beginnings in the South and West Bronx, the global development of Hip Hop is an amazing socio-cultural movement. Its current popularity suggests and reflects its culturally rich origins. Moreover, the presence of rap music and other elements of the culture in television, film, marketing and advertising signal American mainstream acceptance (or consumption) around the world. "Hustle Hard . . ." explores the entrepreneurial ethos in Hip Hop Culture and investigates the wide variety of cultural commodities that have been deployed in the corporate world from the streets of the inner city to the board rooms of America. Course texts include: Murray Forman and Mark Anthony Neal's That's the Joint: The Hip Hop Studies Reader, Steve Stout's The Tanning of America: How Hip Hop Created a Culture that Rewrote the Rules of the New Economy, and Dan Charnas' The Big Payback: The History of the Business of Hip Hop. Taken at the graduate level this course will require additional reading, in-class presentations, and a seminar research paper for the final project.

Professor Ehrig W; 4:10-10:00 p.m.

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 330-10 Food For Thought 4 credits**

Symbolic and cultural analyses of foods and cuisines. Examines what people eat, who prepares it, what it means, and the social and religious uses of foods historically and cross-culturally.

Professor Tannenbaum M,W,F; 10:10-11:00 a.m.

***AAS, GS, HIST 396-10 Global Africa: Aid, Volunteerism, NGO's and International Studies 4 credits (SS) CBE Global**

This course traces the origins of Aid to Africa, explores various volunteer activities, the role of NGOs, missionaries, philanthropist, medical practitioners, and global education in Africa. In what ways have cross-cultural interactions and exchanges between Africans and foreigners impacted African societies positively and negatively?

Professor Essien; T, R 1:10 - 2:25 p.m.

ENG 309-11 Critical Theory and Practice 3 credits

Our class will develop critical practices for reading literary texts by exploring a diverse range of theoretical approaches to literature. These approaches will help us to examine questions central to the discipline of English and the study of literature. We will begin the semester by considering foundational work on the legitimacy and efficacy of literature (e.g. the Sophists, Plato, Aristotle) and then develop a quick historical

narrative of the different ways in which critics and philosophers have discussed the importance of literary work. We will devote the majority of the semester to 20th – and 21st – century Critical Theory with specific attention to Russian Formalism, Marxism, Critical Race Theory, Structuralism, Feminist and Queer Theory, post-Structuralism, and post-Colonial thought. Specific readings will include texts by Raymond Williams, bell hooks, Gayatri Spivak, Toni Morrison, Edward Said, Gilles Deleuze, Michael Foucault, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Judith Butler, Giorgio Agamben, Slavoj Žižek, and Gloria Anzaldúa.

Professor Kramp T, R; 9:20-10:35 a.m.

ENGL 376-11 Early American Novels: Revolution and Nation 3 credits

American fiction flourished in the years after the American Revolution and into the early nineteenth century. This class will explore how these early American novels thought about the revolutionary ideas that had founded the nation. How do these novels think about liberty and freedom? How do they balance the claims of individuals and the claims of the community? How do they define the “people” or the “nation”? Readings will include novels by Hannah Foster, Susannah Rowson, Charles Brockdon Brown, Tabitha Tenney, Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper

Professor Gordon M, W; 8:45 - 10:00 a.m.

***ENGL 391-10 Close Encounters: Lure and Lore of the Alien** 4 credits

A selection of close encounters of the first, second, third, and fourth kind in all their seductive mystery: Sagan, the Fermi Paradox, von Daniken, Ancient Aliens, Roswell, *War of the Worlds*, crop circles, The Phoenix Lights, experiencers, abductees, *E.T.*, alien implants, hybrid races, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, cosmic Watergates, Heaven’s Gate, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. Surprisingly serious business. Writing projects aimed at publication on “The UFO Controversy,” our forthcoming History on Trial website: <http://digital.lib.lehigh.edu/trial/>. Writing Intensive. Department approval required.

Professor Gallagher T, R; 10:45 – 12:00

ENG 477-11 Travel and Adventure in Latin American Fiction 3 credits

Centering on a corpus of works presenting tales of travel and adventure, this class offers an overview of Latin American narrative genres (including “fantastic” narrative, magical realism, and postmodern fiction) from the mid 20th century to present day. Through close readings of works by Adolfo Bioy Casares and Roberto Bolaño, among others, and the analysis of filmic representations of travel in Latin America, we will examine differing modes of perceiving the region defined as Latin America.

Professor Bush; M, W 11:10 - 12:25 p.m.

ENGL 477-10 Harlem Renaissance 3 credits

This course will provide students with an overview of the Harlem Renaissance. We will explore the unparalleled explosion of African American literary, artistic and political life that took place in and around Harlem in the opening decades of the twentieth century. We will read fiction and poetry by writers such as Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Helene Johnson, James Weldon Johnson, Nella Larsen, Claude McKay, Anne Spencer and Jean Toomer. Although literary texts will provide the central focus of our attention, this seminar will also be an interdisciplinary exploration of the Renaissance as an ambitious and complex cultural phenomenon. We will read and discuss major political writings in this period by W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey and A. Phillip Randolph. We will also consider developments in the visual arts (including the paintings of Aaron Douglass and Archibald Motley, the photographs of James VanDer Zee and Richard S. Roberts, and the sculpture of Augusta Savage and Sargeant Claude Johnson) and in African-American music (Bessie Smith, Duke Ellington, James P. Johnson). We will consider these works in the contemporary scholarly debates about African American modernism and the problematics of diaspora. This seminar will also contribute to the department’s Literature and Social Justice curriculum, focusing attention on the ways in which the literature and expressive cultures of the Harlem Renaissance contributed distinctively to the African American freedom struggle, and to feminist and socialist movements in the early twentieth century. Students do not need prior experience in interdisciplinary methods, but they will be expected to explore the connections among varied forms of artistic and political expression.

Professor Moglen *Department permission required.* T; 4:10-7:00 p.m.

ENGL 481-10 Theory and Criticism: Love and Modernity 3 credits

This graduate seminar in Critical Theory will explore the efficacy of love and desire within modernity. We will begin the semester by reading influential statements on the organization of modern societies, including Michel Foucault’s lectures on biopolitics, Ann Laura Stoler’s *Race and the Education of Desire*, and Giorgio Agamben’s *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. We will then read more recent treatments of modernity and organizing principles, including Sara Ahmed’s *The Promise of Happiness*, Wendy Brown’s *Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism’s Stealth Revolution*, Slavoj Žižek’s *First As Tragedy, Then As Farce* and Alexander G. Weheliye’s *Habeas Viscus: Racializing Assemblages, Biopolitics, and the Black Feminist Theories of the Human*. We will frame the final section of the course by reading Toni Morrison’s *Love* and then turn to theorists who have attempted to explore the potential of love to engage with and respond to modernity. We will read thinkers such as Laurent Berlant, Alain Badiou, bell hooks, Luce Irigaray, Norman O. Brown, and Gilles Deleuze. We will hopefully end the semester by returning to Agamben to explore his prefatory work to *Homo Sacer, The Coming Community*, in which he outlines his vision for the necessary place of love in the future. Our central work in this seminar will be to create a Public Humanities blogging community in which we generate regular contributions addressing the challenges, possibilities, functions, and dangers of love within modernity. Each student will also create a portfolio of writings suitable for submission to public forums such as *Salon* or *The Huffington Post*.

Professor Kramp *Department permission required* T, R; 10:45-12:00

ENGL 493-10 Digital Humanities 3 credits

This course offers students an introduction to the concepts, tools, and techniques of digital humanities, as well as a broader engagement with the intersections between new technologies and society. In addition to exploring theoretical and methodological practices of the digital humanities, we will look at how these practices can help us interpret literary as well as other cultural texts. Students will become conversant with various concepts and methods in the digital humanities and will develop the critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate digital scholarship. We will consider both how to formulate questions suitable for digital solutions, and survey possible strategies for answering those questions, with an

awareness of the potential limitations and benefits of those strategies. Finally, we will consider the growing interest in digital humanities scholarship in questions of social justice and full inclusiveness for diverse constituencies, and engage the growing body of digital humanities scholarship on issues related to race, gender/sexuality, and global issues.

Professors Singh and Whitley *Department permission required* T, R; 1:10-2:25

HIST 305-11 Public History 3 credits

An examination of the public role of history in modern society, with focus on issues facing historians in museums, historical societies, archives, historic preservation, the federal government, and other organizations in the public sphere.

Professor Carrell-Smith M; 1:10-4:00 p.m.

HIST 315-11 American Environmental History 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 T, R; 1:10-2:25 p.m.

HIST 405-10 Readings in Industrial America 3 credits

Core readings in the history of technology and the larger framework of intellectual, social, economic, and political history. Includes comparative studies in the history of industrializing Europe and Japan.

Professor Simon T; 4:10-7:00 p.m.

HIST 438-10 Techniques in Public History 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 3 credits

Study in small groups under the guidance of a faculty member of the literature of the 17 and 18th centuries.

Professor LeMasterr R; 4:10 - 7:00 p.m.

***JOUR 325-10 Political Communication** 3 credits

A seminar focusing on contemporary issues and problems facing the mass media. Topics vary. Taken by seniors for 4 credits and graduate students for 3 credits. Must have completed nine hours in journalism or communication or have consent of the instructor.

Professor Lee M,W; 2:35-3:50p.m.

POLS 429-10 Propaganda, Media and American Politics 3 credits

Professor Morgan T; 1:10-2:25 p.m. and R; 1:10-4:00

POLS/ES 455-10 Environmental Justice and the Law 3 credits

This course is an in-depth exploration of the various ways in which environmental law and policy can have discriminatory effects. It examines the rise and evolution of the environmental justice movement, and the impact of environmental justice claims on administrative rulemaking at both the state and federal level. Reviewing the history of case law concerning environmental justice suits filed under the 1964 Civil Rights Act, it also examines the future of environmental justice in environmental law and policy.

Professor Holland T; 4:10 - 7:00 p.m.

POLS 468-10 Political Economy 3 credits

Relationship of democratic politics to government and market, and significance of economic power in the American polity. Economic rationale for the place of the market and economic institutions in polity. Emphasis on information in comparison of economic approaches to public policy and organization (public goods, market failure, and collective action) with traditional political science approaches (group mobilization and conflict, non-decisions and symbolic action).

Professor Wurth T, Th; 10:45-12:00

SOC 401-10 Classical Social Theory 3 credits

Explores influential sociological theory, the differences among classical theoretical traditions, the main strengths and weaknesses of such traditions. Emphasis is placed on understanding the uses of theory in research, and the implications of theoretical models when applied to contemporary research and problems.

Professor Krasas W; 4:10 - 7:00 p.m.

SOC 418-10 Gendered Experience of Globalization 3 credits

Women and men experience globalization differently and globalization affects women in different cultural and national contexts. Gender stratification has been intensified by the transnational flow of goods and people. Course provides students with a survey of new development in feminist theories on globalization and on gender stratification and development, and links these theoretical frameworks to empirical research about gender issues that have become more prominent with globalization.

Professor Zhang T, R; 10:45-12:00