American Studies

Wesleyan’s Department of American Studies provides a broad grounding in the study of the United States in a hemispheric and global context. American studies majors draw on the intellectual resources of a variety of departments including anthropology, English, history, religion, and sociology, as well as interdisciplinary programs such as Latin American studies, African American studies, and feminist, gender, and sexuality studies. Individually designed concentrations, which are the hallmark of the department, allow students to forge interdisciplinary approaches to the particular issues that interest them, from visual culture and aesthetics to racial politics and gender systems.

Alongside its interdisciplinary emphasis, American studies at Wesleyan stresses a comparative approach to the study of the United States. Such prominent features of U.S. cultural development as settler colonialism, franchise colonialism, slavery, immigration, imperialism, capitalism, mass culture, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, political culture, the importance of modern social and political identities, and state development are juxtaposed to similar processes and phenomena in a variety of nations in the Americas. By studying cultural phenomena across national boundaries, American studies majors develop a rich understanding of the complex histories that have resulted from the conflict and confluence of European, Indigenous, African, and Asian cultures throughout the Western Hemisphere and the Pacific.

Faculty

Megan H. Glick
BA, Northwestern University; MA, Yale University; MPHIL, Yale University; PHD, Yale University
Associate Professor of American Studies; Associate Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Associate Professor, Science in Society; Coordinator, Disability Studies

Laura Grappo
BA, Wesleyan University; MA, Yale University; MPHIL, Yale University; PHD, Yale University
Assistant Professor of American Studies; Assistant Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Indira Karamcheti
BA, University Calif Santa Bar; MA, University Calif Santa Bar; PHD, University Calif Santa Bar
Associate Professor of American Studies; Chair, American Studies

J. Kehaulani Kauanui
BA, University of California, Berkeley; PHD, University Calif Santa Crz
Professor of American Studies; Professor, Anthropology

Amy Cynthia Tang
BA, Harvard University; PHD, Stanford University
Associate Professor of American Studies; Associate Professor of English

Margot Weiss
BA, University of Chicago; MA, Duke University; PHD, Duke University
Associate Professor of Anthropology; Associate Professor of American Studies; Associate Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Coordinator, Queer Studies

Affiliated Faculty

Matthew Carl Garrett
BA, Bard College; MA, Stanford University; MPHIL, Cambridge University; PHD, Stanford University
Associate Professor of English; Associate Professor, American Studies; Coordinator, Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory

Claire Grace
BA, Brown University; MA, Middlebury College; PHD, Harvard University
Assistant Professor of Art History; Assistant Professor, American Studies

Elizabeth McAlister
BA, Vassar College; MA, Yale University; MA, Yale University; MPHIL, Yale University; PHD, Yale University
Professor of Religion; Chair, African American Studies; Professor, African American Studies; Professor, American Studies; Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Joel Pfister
BA, Columbia University; MA, University of Sussex; MA, University of London; PHD, Yale University
Olin Professor of English; Professor of English; Director, Center for the Americas; Professor, American Studies; Coordinator, Caribbean Studies

Emeriti

Patricia R. Hill
BA, College of Wooster; PHD, Harvard University
Professor of American Studies, Emerita

Patricia R. Hill
BA, College of Wooster; PHD, Harvard University
Professor of American Studies, Emerita

Departmental Advising Experts

Patricia Hill; J. Kehaulani Kauanui; Joel Pfister; Margot Weiss; Indira Karamcheti; Amy Tang; Laura Grappo; Matthew Garrett; Elizabeth McAlister; Megan Glick

AMST117F Social Norms and Social Power (FYS)

This FYS is an interdisciplinary exploration of the privileges and penalties associated with “the normal” in the United States. We will think through the intersections of queerness, race, ethnicity, class, disability, and gender in terms of social power, drawing on novels, ethnographies, memoirs, and films. Throughout, we will pay particular attention to the ways bodily difference and social identity interarticulate with “normalness” to locate individuals within hierarchical power structures, and we will think creatively about ways to challenge this.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: FGSS117F
Prereq: None
AMST119 Reading Difference
How do we make sense of literary texts that are "different"—whether in culture, language use, form, or subject matter? This course is an introduction to writing that challenges the reader to "make sense" of works that depart from the familiar, whether through racial, ethnic, or gendered difference; sexual orientation; linguistic/cultural use; or formal experimentation. Throughout the course, the emphasis will be on strategies of interpretation, including such topics as cultural expectation, "bad" English, realism and the avant garde, and tradition and modernity. We will look at a varied list of works, including Jiro Adachi’s THE ISLAND OF BICYCLE DANCERS, Christopher Abani’s GRACELAND, Susan Sontag’s NOTES ON "CAMP," and Guillermo Gómez-Peña’s NEW WORLD BORDER, among others.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST122 Sample, Remix, Reuse, and Replay: Approaches to Musical Adaptation in Audiovisual Culture
Many of the musics we listen to and encounter are palimpsests, collages, and assemblages. Texts are layered upon and juxtaposed against pre-existing texts, creating polyvocal dialogues and contrasting and complementary systems of meaning. This class introduces students to questions and controversies of adapted and remixed musical media in 20th and 21st century society, analyzing the ways music and other texts and materials (e.g., paintings, plays, places, novels, technologies, genres, historical events, preexisting music) are adapted through processes of revision, remix, remediation, sampling, restaging, and reinterpretation to create new layers of meaning. The course will consider the roles of film, television, video games, music video, digital audiovisual formats and technologies, and related audiovisual media. We will journey from the recycling of preexisting classical music in video games to the remediation and transmission of live operas to the movie theater screen in the MET Live in HD series, from compositions that translate the visibility of iconic paintings into sound to the practice of remix and sampling in hip hop culture, from the digital adaptation of operatic conventions in Final Fantasy VI to cover versions that complicate listeners’ expectations of gender performance, from the live performance of video game soundtracks by a symphony orchestra in Video Games Live and Pokénon: Symphonic Evolutions to the compilation mixtape scores of Hollywood video game soundtracks by a symphony orchestra in Video Games Live and from Tan Dun’s Internet Symphony for the YouTube Orchestra to the compilation tape mixes of Hollywood films, and from Jiro Adachi’s THE ISLAND OF BICYCLE DANCERS to Christopher Abani’s GRACELAND to Susan Sontag’s NOTES ON "CAMP," and Guillermo Gómez-Peña’s NEW WORLD BORDER, among others.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL175F, COL125F, AFAM152F, FGSS175F, THEA172F
Prereq: None

AMST150 Indigenous Middletown: Native Histories of the Wangunk Indian People
Students will be introduced to the new field of settler colonial studies, the rapidly transforming field of critical indigenous studies, along with Native American history and historiography addressing southern New England. Taking up a decolonizing methodological approach, the class will focus on the sparsely documented history of the Wangunk Indian Tribe, the indigenous people of the place we call "Middletown," also known as Mattabescet. The Wangunk people, part of the Algonquin cultural group, historically presided over both sides of the Connecticut River in present-day Middletown and Portland, while their traditional territory reached as far north as Wethersfield and Chatham. Although regarded as "extinct" by settlers in the aftermath of King Philip’s War, 1675-1678, the Wangunk continue to live into the 21st century.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: ANTH150
Prereq: None

AMST170 Postmodernism and the Long 1980s
This introductory immersion in the practice of art history offers an opportunity to gain expertise in visual analysis and historical interpretation through a guided investigation of art and critical theory in the United States during the 1980s. The central debates of this tumultuous decade—still very much with us today—brought the contested paradigm of postmodernism to a fever pitch. Two key exhibitions provide bookends: in "Pictures" (1977), techniques of appropriation diagnosed a new kind of slippage between reality and representation; in 1993’s "Whitney Biennial," the period’s sustained engagement with gender, sexuality, race, and the relationship between art and politics achieved decisive (and controversial) visibility. Between these poles, artists turned to the street, navigated the "ends" of painting, and invented new forms to confront an increasingly image-soaked media-public sphere. The course attends to the strategies of photocorporealism, painting, sculpture, video, and site-specificity by which artists intervened in a polarizing historical moment that saw the expansion of neoliberal economics and political conservatism, a sharpened divide between rich and poor, the AIDS crisis, and the geopolitical realignments of the late Cold War.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA170
Prereq: None

AMST172 Memory Image: Introduction to Art (as) History
One premise of art history is that works of art necessarily register or encode the time and place of their making. Some art practices, though, operate historically
in more than an artifactual sense, whether by revisiting the art historical past through citation, or by actively responding to the socioeconomic, technological, or cultural conditions of their present. Works that comprise the focus of this class engage directly in the project of historical representation and research, recasting these activities through painting, photography, installation, and performance (from experiments in abstraction to queered archives and restaged mass protests). Spanning a series of case studies from post-Holocaust New York School painting to post-Katrina site-specificity, this course provides an introduction to the practice of art history by way of recent works of art that have made the resources (and limitations) of historical methodologies a subject of investigation. What is the role of art as historical memory in an increasingly image-soaked world?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA172
Prereq: None

AMST174 Popular Culture and Social Justice: An Introduction to American Studies

This course explores the interlocking histories of popular culture and social justice in the 20th- and 21st-century United States, with particular focus from mid-century to the current moment. By focusing on the ways in which social justice movements and ideologies have utilized and been informed by trends in art, film, television, music, and commercialism, we will interrogate critical concepts in the field of American studies, such as citizenship, belonging, difference, and equality. Topics covered will include feminism(s), antilynching, civil rights, labor and poverty, pro-choice, disability rights, queer liberation, leftism and countercultures, environmentalism, and animal rights.

Questions addressed will include, How has popular culture both advanced and hindered the progress of social justice movements? How has the idea of “social justice” changed over time? Which groups are included? What aims are articulated? How has the media portrayed and influenced social and political problems, and how has the rise of new media (from radio to television to the Internet and beyond) created new spaces for debating power and inequality?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST175 Soundscapes and Aurality in American Culture: An Introduction to American Studies

This course is intended as an introduction to interdisciplinary thought, to American studies as a field, and to the hemispheric and transnational intellectual direction of the American Studies Program at Wesleyan. Its goal is to answer the question, What IS American studies? The focus for this semester is the emerging scholarship on sound and aurality that addresses, as a special issue of AMERICAN QUARTERLYY argued recently, the following questions: What role can sound play in analyzing contemporary debates around empire, immigration, and national culture? Where is sound in the cultural and political legacies of American culture and where is it in the long history of nation-building? What role have hearing and listening played in American formations of race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, and class, and how has the birth of recorded sound in the late 19th century informed those formations? How are new sound technologies and sonic media practices impacting American identities in the age of globalization? What are the political economies of sound? Does citizenship have a sound? Over the course of the semester, we will listen to archived sounds as well as sample new ways of interpreting the enculturated nature of sound, from the howling wilderness of the colonial era to the aural pluralism of digital media and music in the Internet era.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST176 Race, Indigeneity, and Citizenship: Introduction to American Studies

This course is intended as an introduction to the interdisciplinary field American studies. Turning to the entangled histories of settler colonialism, slavery, imperialism, immigration, racism, and disenfranchisement, the class will examine how different peoples become American and how differently situated people(s) negotiate state-structured systems of racial exclusion and assimilation in relation to democracy, equality, and self-determination. How has he field of American Studies taken up questions of indigeneity and race? How has the field of ethnic studies challenged American Studies? What are the current linkages between American Studies, Critical Indigenous Studies, and Critical Race Studies? How have nationality and citizenship in the United States been structured by white supremacy? What are the differences between indigeneity, race and ethnicity? What is “color-blind” ideology? What can we make of pervasive assertions that we are living in a “postracial” America? How can American Studies provide the necessary frameworks for understanding the Trump era with regard to race, indigeneity, and citizenship?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST177 American Movies as American Studies: An Introduction to American Studies

Our aim is to see how movies from the 1930s to the present can help us grow as critical (and self-critical) American studies thinkers (and have fun—even as we question the effects and implications of this fun—doing it). Talkies appeared as a complex mass-cultural form of American studies—exported all over the world—precisely when the academic field of American studies emerged in the early 1930s. From the get-go, movies involved in mass-disseminating America’s inventions of power have made available—in very entertaining ways—critical insight that can blow the whistle on how the reproduction of Americans and American ideologies are pulled off. Together we will explore the modern Americanization of power and focus our conversations on four intersecting concerns that movies are particularly good at illuminating: (1) how culture industries (including movies) shape consciousness, needs, desires, incentives, and sense of belonging and limit our sense of what constitutes problems and solutions; (2) how social critique (even movie critiques of movies) can be mass-popularized; (3) how America makes Americans, especially, into workers (even if they hate what they do and wonder about what and who they are working for) and weapons of various sorts (even if they are frightened and wonder about what and who they are fighting for and against); and (4) how and why America constructs difference (e.g., gender, race, individuality, national identity). This seminar is a thinking-intensive and imagination-intensive critical project designed to introduce students to compelling big-picture concerns—systemic matters—vital to American studies.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST178 Sites of the Self: Maps, Gardens, Houses: An Introduction to American Studies

We are where we are. We make ourselves out of the places we create and inhabit. This course examines three of the artifacts/sites central to culture: maps, gardens, and houses. Each attempts to reveal an immaterial ideal in a material form. Maps give a “god’s eye” view of the world’s totality; gardens
recreate lost paradises; and houses embody their inhabitants. Using literature, images, and film, we will discuss global maps—from medieval mappamundi to satellite imagery; visions of paradise, celestial and earthly; private and public gardens, emphasizing the central role of Frederick Law Olmstead; and ideas about houses, ranging from the 19th century designer and horticulturist Andrew Jackson Downing to the 20th century Buckminster Fuller, often credited as the originator of the geodesic dome, one example of which is Spaceship Earth at Epcot Center, in Walt Disney World. We will end with an examination of the recent proliferation of design shows on Home and Garden TV.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST179 Contemporary U.S. Politics: An Introduction to American Studies
This course will focus on contemporary politics in the United States. We will cover topics such as populism and the Trump presidency, current political narratives concerning immigration, the rise of the "alt-right," debates over free speech, race and civil rights, state violence and the prison system, sexual assault and the abuse of power, gay respectability politics vs. queer cultural politics, the workings of late capitalism, and the possibilities of environmental justice.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST200 Colonialism and Its Consequences in the Americas
Colonialism is one important foundation for a study of the Americas. This course examines the historical development of contact and settlement, including comparison of Spanish, French, and English colonialism. Exploitation of the new hemisphere entailed a competitive scramble among the European powers, with consequences for territorial acquisition and for the non-Europeans they encountered. We will examine different models of colonialism, as well as different forms of labor, such as slavery and indenture. Among the most important topics will be the discourses used to justify and explain the subordination of others as well as the acquisition of land, including the scientific development of racial and gender theories. Revolutions and independence movements such as the Haitian Revolution in their turn fashion justifying discourses. We will investigate culture itself as a major arena wherein colonialism and resistance to it operate.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: LAST200
Prereq: None

AMST201 Junior Colloquium: Critical Queer Studies
This junior colloquium will give you a solid theoretical foundation in the field of queer studies. Although "queer" is a contested term, it describes—at least potentially—sexualities and genders that fall outside normative constellations. However, as queer studies has been institutionalized in the academy, in popular culture, and in contemporary political movements, many argue that today, "queer" has lost its political charge. This course, a reading-intensive seminar, will give you the opportunity to explore this history and these debates. We will start with some of the foundational works in queer theory and then move to tensions and unlikely correspondences between queer theory and critical race theory, trans studies, queer anthropology, Marxism, feminist theory, and disability studies. Rather than understanding queer studies as a singular or bounded school of thought, we will continuously problematize queer studies as a field and a mode of analysis, asking, What kinds of bodies or desires does queer describe? What are the politics of queer? What are the promises of queer theory, and what are its perils? What is the future of queer?

This course is excellent preparation for a queer studies concentration in American studies. Students should expect to end the semester confident of their ability to read queer theory, critique it, and imagine the uses to which queer theory might be put.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: FGSS201
Prereq: None

AMST202 Junior Colloquium: Representing Race in American Culture
This junior colloquium offers an introduction to several key critical issues and debates concerning the representation of race in American culture. In addition to reading several accounts and critiques of how racial minorities have been represented by the dominant culture, we will also consider how racial subjects have theorized ways of representing themselves in response to the burden of such stereotyping and objectification. The course is organized around two case studies. The first of these will focus on one of American culture’s “primordial scenes” of racial representation: blackface minstrelsy. Considering a variety of critical, literary, and visual texts, we will examine how African American images and culture became a way for working-class and other whites to negotiate their own identities and how African American artists and intellectuals have responded to this troubling legacy. In the second half of the course, we will turn our attention to questions of cultural representation that originate from the racial context often deemed to be the opposite of the African American experience: that of Asian Americans. If African Americans have long been the target of overtly negative stereotypes, Asian Americans have been subjected to what one critic has called “racist love”—that is, a tradition of putatively positive stereotypes that have produced a different set of representational problems for Asian Americans. Together, these case studies will allow us to explore a wide range of models for thinking and writing about race in American culture.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST

AMST203 Junior Colloquium: Biopolitics, Animality, and Posthumanism
This course asks what it would mean for the field of cultural studies to begin to include the category of the “human” within investigations of more traditional categories of social difference (including race, gender, sexuality, and so on). Historically, the category of the human has been taken for granted, as a biological marker imbued with particular intellectual and physical capabilities. Relatedly, the discourse of the human is often invoked in movements for political equality, inclusion, and enfranchisement (i.e., the call to “human rights”). Yet recent literature within the field of American studies broadly, and, more specifically, within the area of critical animal studies, has called these assumptions into question. In this junior colloquium, we will explore these critical turns in the field by considering the boundaries between the animal, human, and technological realms.

Important concepts addressed will include the utilization of animals as research subjects, food, and labor; the “nonhuman personhood” movement; intersectionalities between ideas of social difference and the posthuman; concepts of disability, debility, and capacity; technological enhancements of the human body; and cybercultural identities. Students will have the opportunity to engage with a wide variety of materials, including writing from the areas of critical race studies, feminist theory, and postcolonial theory. (Note: Students need not have familiarity with biopolitical theory; rather, the course will provide a primer in this area during the beginning weeks of the semester.)
of power, complicity, and resistance as we consider what it means to be “visual trauma and memory, among others. Particular attention will be paid to issues of film and media, spectatorship and witnessing, museums and exhibitions, and the many cultural-theoretical payoffs of their movies include moving us beyond any checklist tendency simply to observe representations of gender, race, and class. They help us question why these categories were produced in particular ways and help us interrogate (intersectionally and dialectically) how they interact with, rely on, and sometimes mask one another. Our four independent filmmakers—in trying to be changemakers—dare us not only to take a hard look at what kind of an American we have had and now have, but prod us, at times seduce us, to imagine more expansively what kind of America we might want to create. We will also put their movies in dialogue with related movies by D. W. Griffith, Boots Riley, Robert Reich, and others. And to establish a longue durée historical perspective we will read Howard Zinn’s epic A PEOPLE’S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. In terms of fields, our colloquium integrates movie studies, cultural studies, premises studies, resistance studies, and social transformation studies.

AMST204 Junior Colloquium: New England and Empire
Using history and literature, this Junior Colloquium focuses on the role of New England in the transformation of the United States from colony to world power. Major forces effecting this metamorphosis have their roots in this area. Mercantile entrepreneurship and the drive of commerce and trade, such as the slave trade, the ivory trade, and the West and East Indies (China and India) trades, opened the larger world to merchants and consumers in New England. Discourses of race, religion, civilization, and science created universities, produced missionaries and merchants, explorers and colonizers, writers and artists who went to the far corners of the world—the Caribbean, Hawaii, China, and Japan—and brought the world back home. The vaunted mechanical and technological ingenuity of the Yankee peddler, seen in a grandiose version in the eponymous inventor of the famous Colt revolver, backed territorial expansion and insinuated New England culture in to those newly acquired territories. A developing sense of racial entitlement and racial confidence legitimated expansion—into Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines—and produced military and cultural imperialism. The domestic, woman-centered technological ingenuity of the Yankee peddler, seen in a grandiose version of American studies anti-hoodwinking potential of movies. Their movies have tried to sway elections, empower social movements, inspire protest, popularize national self-critique, study the tactics of top-down power (including scapegoating) and bottom-up resistance, and, perhaps, save America from itself. The many cultural-theoretical payoffs of their movies include moving us beyond any checklist tendency simply to observe representations of gender, race, and class. They help us question why these categories were produced in particular ways and help us interrogate (intersectionally and dialectically) how they interact with, rely on, and sometimes mask one another. Our four independent filmmakers—in trying to be changemakers—dare us not only to take a hard look at what kind of an American we have had and now have, but prod us, at times seduce us, to imagine more expansively what kind of America we might want to create. We will also put their movies in dialogue with related movies by D. W. Griffith, Boots Riley, Robert Reich, and others. And to establish a longue durée historical perspective we will read Howard Zinn’s epic A PEOPLE’S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. In terms of fields, our colloquium integrates movie studies, cultural studies, premises studies, resistance studies, and social transformation studies.

AMST206 Junior Colloquium: Saving America from Itself? Movie Interventions
(Moore, Lee, DuVernay, Kopple)
We will place four interventionist filmmakers—Michael Moore, Spike Lee, Ava DuVernay, Barbara Kopple—in a strategic dialogue to consider the American tendency simply to observe representations of gender, race, and class. They help us question why these categories were produced in particular ways and help us interrogate (intersectionally and dialectically) how they interact with, rely on, and sometimes mask one another. Our four independent filmmakers—in trying to be changemakers—dare us not only to take a hard look at what kind of an American we have had and now have, but prod us, at times seduce us, to imagine more expansively what kind of America we might want to create. We will also put their movies in dialogue with related movies by D. W. Griffith, Boots Riley, Robert Reich, and others. And to establish a longue durée historical perspective we will read Howard Zinn’s epic A PEOPLE’S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. In terms of fields, our colloquium integrates movie studies, cultural studies, premises studies, resistance studies, and social transformation studies.

AMST208 Junior Colloquium: Saving America from Itself? Movie Interventions
(Moore, Lee, DuVernay, Kopple)
We will place four interventionist filmmakers—Michael Moore, Spike Lee, Ava DuVernay, Barbara Kopple—in a strategic dialogue to consider the American politics of violence, focusing on the relationship between the production of visual culture(s) and acts of individual, collective, and state aggression. We will ask, How have images served to propagate climates of violence against marginalized persons? What are the ethics of looking at pain, torture, and exploitation? Do such images help us to work toward social change or create attitudes of indifference? How do images of war, prisons, pornography, death, crimes, famine, and disease shape our understandings of citizenship, nationality, and identity? Finally, how does the representation of difference—race, gender, sexuality, class, and disability—inform and/or transform conceptions of violence and its place in the visual field?

AMST209 Junior Colloquium: New England and Empire
Using history and literature, this Junior Colloquium focuses on the role of New England in the transformation of the United States from colony to world power. Major forces effecting this metamorphosis have their roots in this area. Mercantile entrepreneurship and the drive of commerce and trade, such as the slave trade, the ivory trade, and the West and East Indies (China and India) trades, opened the larger world to merchants and consumers in New England. Discourses of race, religion, civilization, and science created universities, produced missionaries and merchants, explorers and colonizers, writers and artists who went to the far corners of the world—the Caribbean, Hawaii, China, and Japan—and brought the world back home. The vaunted mechanical and technological ingenuity of the Yankee peddler, seen in a grandiose version in the eponymous inventor of the famous Colt revolver, backed territorial expansion and insinuated New England culture in to those newly acquired territories. A developing sense of racial entitlement and racial confidence legitimated expansion—into Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines—and produced military and cultural imperialism. The domestic, woman-centered “parlor” culture of New England both displayed the wealth of empire and hid its existence.

AMST210 America’s Lure: The Politics of the Transnational US University
Over the course of the last decade the number of international students traveling to the United States has more than doubled. As of 2016, over a million students travel annually to U.S. campuses. In popular culture, governmental rhetoric, and statements from university administrators, this movement has been ascribed to the "lure" of American institutions of higher education and the knowledge, prestige, and futures they are thought to provide access to while simultaneously providing evidence of the successful internationalization of the U.S. university. Students will engage queer, feminist, postcolonial, indigenous, and critical race studies as we historicize and theorize this phenomenon while grappling with the transnational dynamics of the U.S. university from its founding as a central institution of settler colonialism in the 17th century through to the current moment of the so-called global, neoliberal university.

AMST211 Global America: Gender, Empire & Internationalism Since 1890
This course explores the cultural history of America’s relationship to the world across the long 20th century with particular attention to the significance of gender and sexuality. We will locate U.S. culture and politics within an international dynamic, exposing the interrelatedness of domestic and foreign affairs. While exploring specific geopolitical events like the Spanish-American War, World War I and II, and the Global Cold War, this course emphasizes the political importance of culture and ideology rather than offering a formal overview of U.S. foreign policy. How have Americans across the 20th century drawn from ideas about gender to understand their country’s relationship to the
wider world? In what ways have gendered ideologies and gendered approaches to politics shaped America's performance on the world's stage? How have geopolitical events impacted the construction of race and gender on the home front? In the most general sense, this course is designed to encourage students to understand American cultural and gender history as the product of America's engagement with the world. In so doing, we will explore the rise of U.S. global power as an enterprise deeply related to conceptions of race, sexuality, and gender. While reading key American studies texts in the history of the United States and the World, we will also examine films, political speeches, visual culture, music, and popular culture.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS216
Prereq: None

AMST212 Edgar Allan Poe and Literary Culture
Edgar Allan Poe is best known for his grotesque characters and macabre plot-twists. But though Poe seems capable of offering readers only a very specific form of literary experience - dark, brooding, atmospheric - what's striking about his work when taken as a whole is its variety. Poe was a writer of short stories, a poet, a novelist, an essayist, and an editor. He invented the detective story, wrote science fiction, and published tales of romance, family discord, and horror. This course sets out to appreciate Poe's eclectic literary output in the context of the emergent nineteenth-century publishing industry, seeing Poe - whether playing the role of novelist, poet, or critic - most of all as a writer struggling to earn a living in the 1830's and 1840's.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL212
Prereq: None

AMST213 African American History, 1444-1877
This course examines the historical interactions between peoples on three continents—Africa, Europe, and the Americas—and the consequences of European colonization, trans-Atlantic slavery, and racial capitalism. Focusing on a period from the Antiquity to the late 19th centuries, we will explore how European notions concerning Africa its peoples evolved over millennia in response to shifting political, economic, and demographic circumstances. We will chart how Africans and their descendants in the Americas experienced enslavement and freedom, indigeneity and civilization, and pan-Africanism and national citizenship played out across the African Diaspora and in the United States.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM203
Prereq: None

AMST218 Introduction to Queer Studies
This course will examine major ideas in the field of queer studies. Relying upon theoretical, historical, and cultural studies texts, we will consider the representation and constructions of sexuality-based identities as they have been formed within the contemporary United States. We will explore the idea of sexuality as a category of social identity, probing the identities of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender to try to understand what they really mean in various cultural, social, legal, and political milieus. In doing so, we will ask, What does it mean to study queerness? What do we mean by "queer studies"? How do institutions--religious, legal, and scientific--shape our understandings of queer identities? In what ways do sexuality and gender interact, and how does this interaction inform the meanings of each of these identity categories? How do other social categories of identification—race, ethnicity, and class—affect the ways in which we understand expressions of queerness? Moreover, what does studying queerness tell us about the workings of contemporary political, cultural, and social life?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: FGSS218
Prereq: None

AMST219 Introduction to Native American Studies: (Mis)Representation
From Pocahontas to Chief Wahoo, Native Americans have been portrayed as noble savages, brave warriors, spiritual shamans, and Indian princesses, greatly shaping the collective imaginings of Native peoples. This course offers an introduction to the broad field of Native American studies with a focus on the themes of identity and (mis)representation. We will draw on work in anthropology, history, literature, art, film, politics, and current events to explore the complex relationship between historical and contemporary issues that indigenous peoples face in North America, with a focus on the United States. Keeping in mind popular culture and historical narrative, we will examine the foundations of Native (mis)representations, their constructions in-step with colonization, and their connections to critical issues facing Native communities, including legal and cultural identities, cultural revitalization, environmental racism, health inequities, gender and sexuality, and sovereignty. This class also pays special attention to resiliency in Native communities and the creative ways that Native peoples and communities engage with social media, art, design, film, activism, and more, to reclaim and reshape Native representations and Native imaginings.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST223 Technologies of the Self
Where does the idea of an authentic self come from? This desire to represent the authentic self informs the narrative genre of the confession and memoir and the visual one of the selfie alike. Yet both the memoir and the selfie "self" are mediated, first, via the technologies of print and screen, and second, via the conventions of particular genres that make these legible as a memoir and selfie, as opposed to, for example, an interview or a portrait. In this course, we will examine how different technologies not only represent but produce the self. These technologies include "writing" technologies: print and digital; genre and medium (autobiography, the slave narrative, memoir, self-portraits, and selfies); and technologies of the state, which produce citizens, subjects, and humans.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL250, AFAM237
Prereq: None

AMST224 History of American English
What is American English and how did it get to be what it is? This course will begin with the general history and development of the English language, looking at central issues such as sound (e.g., the Great Vowel Shift, Grimm's Sound Change laws), sense (e.g., grammar, vocabulary, usage), and standardization (e.g., orthography, dictionaries). What makes our particular kind of English "American"? We will learn about the role of different groups in its development: Native Americans, African Americans, and immigrant languages of various kinds, including Yiddish and Spanish. In addition, we will analyze the workings of class,
youth culture, and gender. Throughout, the class will examine questions at the heart of our language debates: a "national language," "Ebonics," and bilingual education. If English is today the international "lingua franca," is American English particularly the language of power? What are the different kinds of power exerted by, for instance, business English and slang?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST225 Latinidad: Introduction to Latina/o Studies
This course will introduce major themes within the field of Latina/o studies, using an interdisciplinary approach to analyze the experiences of Latinas/os within the United States and throughout the Americas. Employing a range of historical, theoretical, political, and cultural texts, this class will ask students to think about a number of issues central to the field of Latina/o studies, including migration, language, nationalism, indigeneity, education, labor, assimilation, and cultural imperialism. This course will also look at the ways in which intersectional identifications, including race, sexuality, and gender, operate within frameworks of Latinidad.

Methodologically, this course will draw from such diverse fields as ethnic studies, history, political science, border studies, gender theory, sexuality studies, critical race theory, and urban studies. As we utilize a broad range of texts and synthesize diverse perspectives and ideas, students will be asked to interrogate formative concepts, such as the border, America(s), and the nation. Central class queries will probe the boundaries of Latina/o identity, the working of intersectional identities, patterns of migration, and the ways in which institutional power shapes the contemporary Latina/o experience.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST226 20th-Century Franco-Caribbean Literature and the Search for Identity
This course investigates how 20th-century Francophone literature from the Caribbean defines Caribbean identity. Through a study of literary texts, films, and paintings from Guadeloupe, Martinique, Haiti, Guyana, and Louisiana, we will explore the evolution of Caribbean self-definition, focusing on the major concepts of Negritude, Antillanite, Creolite, and Louisianitude.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: COL225, AFAM223, FREN225, LAST220
Prereq: None

AMST227 English Language Learners and US Language Policy
This course explores how explicit and implicit language policies in institutions of power affect businesses, schools, and the legal system. More specifically, the course investigates how language choices, translations, and the policies regarding both affect ESL programs in K-12 education, bilingual businesses, immigration policies, and the U.S. legal system. We will also discuss the recommendations of scholars for increasing multilingualism in business and education, improving education for English-language learners, and efforts to improve non-native English speakers' ability to navigate the legal system. The course is recommended for non-native speakers of English and anyone considering working with English-language learners such as teachers, tutors, NGO personnel, and legal or business professionals.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST

Gen Ed Area: HA-WRCT
Identical With: WRTC205, EDST205
Prereq: None

AMST228 Sex, Money, and Power: Anthropology of Intimacy and Exchange
Sex and money—intimacy and economy—are often imagined to occupy distinct and separate spheres. Sex and intimacy are located in the private or domestic realm, in spaces of leisure, feelings, care, and personal connections. Money and economy, on the other hand, are purportedly public, located in the market and tied to labor, rationality, and impersonal (non)-relations. This course brings these spheres together, focusing on the links, exchanges, and circuits between the intimate and the economic in diverse cultural contexts across the Americas. Case studies will be drawn from sex work and tourism; marketing and pornography; reproduction, domestic labor, transnational adoption; marriage; class and sexual lifestyle; labor and carework; the global market in organs and body parts; outsourced surrogacy; sex stores and commodities; and sexual activism and identity politics. We will be centrally concerned with the relationship between economic, cultural, and political formations and with the differences race, ethnicity, nation, class, gender, and sexuality make. Throughout, we will ask, How do practices and bodies accrue value? When are intimacies—sexual and social—commodified? How have transnational flows complicated relationships between sex and money? How do these intersections constrain and/or empower people? And, finally, who benefits from such arrangements, and who does not?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ANTH203, FGSS223
Prereq: None

AMST229 Hymnody in the United States Before the Civil War
This course is a historical introduction to psalmody in the 17th century, lining out, Anglo-American 18th-century sacred music, the cultivated tradition in the early 19th century, and the various styles that contribute to the SACRED HARP and other shaped-note hymnals. Composers studied will include Thomas Ravenscroft, William Billings, Lowell Mason, and B. F. White. Collections examined will include The Bay Psalm Book, Tansur's ROYAL MELODY COMPLEAT, Lyon's URANIA, and Walker's SOUTHERN HARMONY.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-MUSC
Identical With: MUSC274
Prereq: None

AMST230 The United States Since 1901
"I am certain that history has equipped modern American liberalism with the ideas and the knowledge to construct a society where men will be both free and happy." - Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., January 1949

This course will explore the history of the United States from 1901 until recent times. The central focus will be on politics and society, although economics, foreign relations, war, intellectual trends, ethnic and racial relations, and other topics will also be discussed. The unifying theme will be the emergence of modern liberalism during the Progressive Era and its dominance in American politics and thought by the mid-20th century. Although intellectuals hostile to the New Deal and liberalism emerged in the 1930s and 1940s, as time passed, conservative ideas and organizations acquired increasing influence, ultimately conquering the Republican Party and changing the Democratic Party as well. Thus, political divisions that emerged in the 1890s continue to this day.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
This semester will feature a lecture/film series as part of our course, with visiting scholars Erin Durban-Albright (on postcolonial homophobia in Haiti), Martin Manalansan (on QTPOC Filipino lives), and filmmaker Harjant Gill (on gender/sexuality in India).

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: ANTH233, FGSS233
Prereq: None

AMST234 What Was the Public Sphere?
The democratic revolutions of the 18th century are often thought to have originated with the emergence of modern reading publics—groups of strangers who, through the alchemy of print, came to understand themselves as coherent entities capable of exercising political power against the state. The "public sphere" is central to American identity in particular, from the debates that raged in newspapers before the ratification of the Constitution to the calls for civility that have appeared more recently on Twitter and in New York Times op-eds. This course will explore the relationship between print culture and political action by reading 18th- and early-19th-century American literature. We will consider the material and social conditions that gave rise to the public sphere. We will examine the role of rational discourse in adjudicating political claims. We will ask whether the public sphere ever actually existed, and whether it does—or can—exist in our current historical moment.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL323
Prereq: None

AMST235 American Literature, 1865–1945
Together we will explore not only the complexities of American literature from the 1860s to the 1940s but how this literature excels as a usable critical resource that can advance our understanding of how America has "ticked" as a culture; a socioeconomic system that established and sought to maintain class, gender, and racial difference; and a political power structure. In our ongoing analyses of the relationship of literary form and social form, we will trace connections between historical developments such as the gothic genre and gender ideologies, domestic romance and the social reproduction of labor, realism and mass-urbanism, naturalism and immigration, and modernism and imperialism. The creative works of Emily Dickinson, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Fanny Fern, Mark Twain, Stephen Crane, Henry James, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Charles Chesnutt, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Langston Hughes, Meridel Le Sueur, Ernest Hemingway, Eugene O’Neill, Nathanael West, William Faulkner, Richard Wright, and Zora Neale Hurston will help equip us to be more imaginative readers of literature, ourselves, and America. This literature offers us expansive insights into what was at stake in America’s production of "the modern." We will experience the aesthetic pleasures and critical pleasures of reading great writing.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA246
Prereq: None

AMST233 Global Queer Studies
This course explores global experiences of LGBT/Q life, bringing an explicitly transnational lens to a field too often dominated by U.S.-centered perspectives.

Drawing on queer ethnography and film, we will explore the contours of queer and trans life around the globe, from the lives of gay men in Indonesia to Muslim yan daudu in Nigeria, gay tourism in post-Revolutionary Cuba, queer mati work among working-class Afro-Surinamese women, lesbian activism in India, LGBT asylum claims in Canada, the queer art of Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago, the everyday lives of lalas (lesbians) in China, and the transnational lives of Filipino gay men in New York. Our aim is to expand Western categories and concepts of sexuality, gender, identity, and desire (both hetero- and homo-normative), and to understand how sexual/gendered identities, cultures, and politics are shaped by colonialism, imperialism, racialization, migration, transnational media, and global capitalism.

This course will explore not only the complexities of American literature from the late 19th century to the present. We will consider ideologies of gender and sexuality as social, political, economic, and biomedical systems, as well as lived, material realities. Particular attention will be paid to intersectional politics, by interrogating how categories such as race, class, disability, and national identity operate in relation to gender and sexual politics. Topics covered will include:
the scientific “invention” of hetero- and homosexuality; anti-miscegenation law; gender-based immigration regulations; ideas of normative domesticity and kinship; labor patterns and gender-based disparities; gender- and sexuality-based rights’ movements, including first, second, and third wave femmisms and LGBTQIA liberation; and reproductive technologies and rights.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: FGSS237
Prereq: None

AMST238 Place, Belonging, and Sound in the 20th c. Latina/o/x, Black, & Caribbean Imaginations--NYC
Throughout the latter 20th century, various aesthetic renderings of New York City have positioned it as a site of voyeuristic allure and racialized excess and pleasure—simultaneously posh, unfriendly, tourist-trapped, “seedy,” “gritty,” and segregated. Through select literary, cinematic, and performance optics of Latina/o/x, black, and Caribbean writers and artists, especially queer and bisexual writers and artists, this course will focus on memory, representation, form, sound, and the imagination in the layered and shifting site of mid-20th- to 21st-century New York City—and even more specifically, of Harlem, the Bronx, the Lower East Side, Brooklyn, and Elizabeth, N.J. Fictionalizations, poetizations, and performances of first-person memories and reimagining of overheard stories from older generations about life in the U.S. South and life in the Caribbean will feature in the works that we will study in this course.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL215, FGSS225
Prereq: None

AMST239 Native Americans and Health: Community Empowerment and Wellness
Health disparities are well documented among indigenous populations in North America. Native Americans and Alaska Natives continue to suffer from morbidity and mortality rates higher than other Americans in many categories, including chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, diabetes and obesity, assault/homicide, intentional self-harm/suicide, and chronic lower respiratory diseases. This seminar provides a historical overview of topics in health and health care, emphasizing the impact of social history—colonial histories and their sequelae, to be exact—on the etiology and epidemiology of health disparities in Native North America. Throughout the course, we will interrogate the changing sources of morbidity and mortality among indigenous peoples in the U.S., including the policies and practices that have been implemented to limit disease and improve health. Organized thematically, we focus on significant diseases or health issues, such as diabetes or alcoholism, as well as public health and community responses, initiatives, and interventions. Much of the material will engage with indigenous voices, centering what indigenous peoples say, feel, and do about health disparities, with the goal of moving toward indigenous models and understandings of disease, health, and well-being.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST240 Hipsters
This course will focus on the contemporary hipster subculture after examining a critical genealogy and racial history of the origins of the concept. From black jazz artists and zoot-suitors in the 1940s who defined “hip” and “cool,” to the post-World War II burgeoning literary scene of the Beat Generation that codified the figure of the hipster as an American bohemian strangled by social conformity, there has been a cultural politics of being “in the know.” Derived from the term used to describe these earlier movements, the term “hipster” reappeared in the 1990s and became especially conspicuous in the 2000s to the present. Today’s hipsters are generally associated with whiteness, indie music, a vintage fashion sensibility, liberal political views, organic and artisanal foods, as well as racial gentrification in urban neighborhoods in Brooklyn and select cities such as Portland, OR and San Francisco. Perhaps curiously, members of this subculture typically disassociate themselves from this cultural category, as outsiders often use the term hipster as a pejorative. In an attempt to understand why hipsters differentiate their actions from the hipster stigma, students will study the contemporary discourse about hipsters, along with a historical analysis of the term and its use in popular culture to get a better understanding of race, class, gender, and the commodification of style. Other topics for exploration include stereotypes, authenticity debates, hipster racism, so-called “hipsters,” the death of irony, hipster chic, “hipster run-off,” the resentment of hipsters, and forecasts of “the end of the hipster.”

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: ANTH240
Prereq: None

AMST241 Childhood in America
Probably the first literature we fall in love with, children’s literature shapes individuals and cultures in profound ways, investing us with important mythologies and guiding our identities and behaviors. This course will examine fairy tales, some works from the “golden age” of children’s stories, and some contemporary works. We will enrich our reading of the fiction with some of the central theorists of this genre, including Bruno Bettelheim, Jack Zipes, and Maria Tatar.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL235
Prereq: None

AMST242 Mixed in America: Race, Religion, and Memoir
This course examines the history of mixed-race and interfaith identities in America. Using the genre of the memoir as a focusing lens, we will look at the various ways that Americans of mixed heritage have found a place, crafted an identity, and made meaning out of being considered “mixed.” How has being multiracial or bi-religious changed in the course of history in this country? What has occasioned these changes, and what patterns can we observe? We will explore questions of racial construction; religious boundary-making; rites of passage; gender, sexuality, and marriage; and some literary and media representations of mixed-heritage people.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI280, AFAM282
Prereq: None

AMST243 American Literature from the Colonial Period to the Civil War
This lecture course marks a path through American literature, moving from European fantasies and narratives of the conquest of the New World to representations of slavery, industrialization, and U.S. national expansion. We will begin by considering the role of “America” (both the idea and the real continents) in world history; the questions we raise will return often as we look closely at the literature. Whether sermon, imperial report to the metropole, memoir, poem, or novel, the forms of our texts differentiate them as much as their content sometimes unites them; therefore, we will examine the
consequences, both political and aesthetic, of literary conventions. We will pay special attention to the relationship between texts and images (illustration, painting, iconography).

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL203
Prereq: None

AMST243A American Literature on Fire: Conquest, Capitalism, Resistance: 1492-1865
We begin with a 1938 Langston Hughes poem, a north star shining light on American unexceptionalism and then move back in time: from Columbus’s disembemrent and enslavement of the Arawaks when demanding gold; to Cabeza de Vaca’s feel-good handbook for the conquest of indigenous peoples; to Puritan inventions of a “God” that pulls the trigger; to Franklin’s blowing the whistle on a mercantile capitalism he supercharged with a secular work ethic; to a Declaration of “Independence” in 1776 that provoked alternative declarations written by workers, women, and ex-slaves in the 19th century; to Poe’s readings of a Divided States of America (race, gender, domesticity) as gothic; to Douglass’s representations of the tactical artfulness of slave culture; to Hawthorne’s deconstruction of the Americanization of power; to Thoreau’s entwining of collective protest and what he hoped would be an individualized escape route; to Melville’s attacks on imperialism, racism, and class domination; to Elizabeth Stuart Phelps’s critique of domestic slavery; to Stowe’s socially transformative antislavery novel (whose sentimentalization recirculated stereotypes). During our literary-intellectual time travel, we will engage some of America’s most “on fire” writers who make possible insights into the ideological foundations of American cultures, identities, and hegemonies that provocatively illuminate America’s situation today (and offer some lessons for how to change it).

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL203A
Prereq: None

AMST244 Comparative Race and Ethnicity
This course is an introduction to the sociological study of race and ethnicity in comparative and historical perspective. This is not a course about the experiences of particular races or ethnic groups in any particular part of the world. Rather, this course explores how ideas about racial difference take hold in different parts of the world in different ways and with very different consequences. Through comparisons of Western and non-Western societies, we will investigate how race and ethnicity operate as markers of social exclusion in distinctive ways.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: SOC240
Prereq: SOC151

AMST245 Personalizing History
How much are we shaped by our historical times and places? How much power do we have to make our historical conditions respond to our needs and desires? These questions and others are at the foundation of this course, which includes both memoir writing and memoir reading. We will construct narratives about our times and selves in a series of writing workshops. There will be some exercises where you will be asked to research specific aspects of your times and places. For example, you might be asked to research and write about such questions as when and where were you born, what were the major cultural or political currents of that time, and how was your early childhood influenced by them?
Or you may be asked to bring in a photograph of someone important in your personal history and write about that person.

The memoir is a distinct genre, with topics/themes particular to it. Some of the most important are memory itself, childhood, place and displacement, language, loss/trauma/melancholia/nostalgia, self-invention or transformation, family, and generational differences. The class will engage with these topics in the analysis of the readings and also in the writing of memoirs. Specific techniques will be highlighted for writing practice: the catalog, diction, dialogue, metaphor, description, point of view, and narrative structure, including temporal organization, the doubled narrative, and the narrative frame.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: ENGL246
Prereq: None

AMST246 Social Movements
How, when, and why do social movements emerge? What motivates individuals to participate? What transforms problems into grievances and grievances to action? How should movements be organized, and what tactics should they use? What factors explain movement success and failure (and how should success and failure be defined)? What is a social movement, anyway? This course seeks to introduce some of the major ways scholars have approached such questions and, at the same time, to give a sense of both the high drama and the everyday details of social movement activism, using historical and sociological case studies. Course readings concentrate on U.S. movements, including racial justice, class, gender, and sexuality-based activism.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: SOC246, FGSS256
Prereq: SOC151

AMST247 Caribbean Writers in the U.S. Diaspora
The Caribbean cloaks a complex history in a Club Med exterior. While white sands and palm trees proclaim it the "antidote to civilization," Caribbean writers undertake to represent a fuller picture of the individual in a world shaped by colonialism, slavery, nationalism, and cultural striving. This course will examine selected literary texts as part of an ongoing dialogue among the region’s history, mythology, and aesthetics.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AFAM243, ENGL243, LAST247
Prereq: None

AMST249 Art After 1945
This course examines artistic production between 1945 and 1980 with a primary focus on the United States. The historical conflicts of that tumultuous period brought new challenges for artists as they attempted, in their work, to respond to the "caesura of civilization" brought about by the Holocaust and World War II, to contend with the consolidation of postwar consumer capitalism and mass culture, and to situate their work in relation to the far-reaching social upheavals of the 1960s and 70s. Practices linked to the early 20th-century avant-garde (such as abstraction, the ready-made, Dada, and surrealism) echoed in these years as attention shifted from the canvas and studio to greatly expanded contexts of reception and public experience. The boundaries of the art object transformed in turn as artists developed new forms and new models of spectatorship to confront a world that had placed enormous pressure on traditional concepts of humanist subjectivity. Topics include New York School
AMST251 Contemporary Puerto Rican Art and Literature
This course studies the works of contemporary Puerto Rican filmmakers, performance artists, poets, novelists, painters, conceptual artists, musicians and sound artists. Puerto Rico continues to be one of the U.S. military’s and its corporate guises’ favorite laboratories; its beauty and complexity are part of what filmmaker Beatriz Santiago Muñoz calls a “chimerical ecology.” In this course, we will think with this key phrase, “chimerical ecology,” and many aesthetic survival strategies generated by contemporary Puerto Rican literature and art. We will consider the many forms of camouflage set into play in this “chimerical ecology,” which reveal the multiple forms of destruction at work by the U.S. war machine, the debt crisis, tourism, and other forces, and the forms of resistance, transformation, and life that only art help us sense. How do you prepare to see what is camouflaged? How do you get ready for what you don’t know? Can we reshape our sensorium to feel out and make possibilities that capitalism and settler colonialism render impossible? We will study what appears to hide out in language and visual codes, along with the disidentifying discourses, counter-discourses, aesthetics, poetics, and live art forms that transform the sensorial experiences of space. Students who do not read and think in Caribbean Spanish are very welcome to take this course, but a minimally playfully bilingual attitude is encouraged.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA253
Prereq: None

AMST252 Histories of the Caribbean: New Questions, Methods, and Vantage Points
This course explores some of the most exciting new trends in historical scholarship on the Caribbean. We will consider how recent scholars of the Caribbean have turned a critical eye to existing methods and reimagined “archives” as they have crafted new stories about gender, sexuality, race, the environment, and the rise of modern capitalism. In this way, we will question how these new directions in Caribbean studies have reshaped the study of history more generally. We will use a wide geographic lens in order to gain an expansive vision of the circuits of the Greater Caribbean, stretching from Antigua, Guadeloupe, Barbados, Martinique, Jamaica, Trinidad, Guyana, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Haiti into the wider Atlantic world.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL231
Prereq: None

AMST255 Anarchy in America: From Haymarket to Black Lives Matter
Anarchism as a political philosophy and practice is an important but little-known aspect of American culture and society. This lecture/discussion course will introduce students to select aspects of anarchist political thought and praxis in the United States and the ways that anarchism has been represented positively, vilified, or dismissed. The class will have three parts: histories; philosophies and theories; and activism. In the history section, we will examine key events and periods from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, including the Haymarket affair; the plot to murder American industrialist Henry Clay Frick; the labor-organizing work of Lucy Parsons; the assassination of President William McKinley; the activism, incarceration, and eventual deportation of Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman; and the execution of Ferdinando Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti. In the philosophy and theory segment, we will examine anarchist theory as radical critique and review various political traditions including individualist anarchism, socialist anarchism, anarcha-feminism, black anarchism, queer anarchism, indigenous influences and critiques, and other schools of thought. In the activism section, we will examine the diverse ways, including violent and nonviolent means, by which people mobilize and organize for political change through direct social and political action.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST256 Race and Medicine in America
This course will trace ideas of race in American medical science and its cultural contexts, from the late 19th century to the present. We will explore how configurations of racial difference have changed over time and how medical knowledge about the body has both influenced and helped to shape social, political, and popular cultural forces. We will interrogate the idea of medical knowledge as a “naturalizing” discourse that produces racial classifications as essential, and biologically based.
We will treat medical sources as primary documents, imagining them as but one interpretation of the meaning of racial difference, alongside alternate sources that will include political tracts, advertisements, photographs, and newspaper articles. Key concepts explored will include slavery’s medical legacy, theories of racial hierarchy and evolution, the eugenics movement, “race-specific” medications and diseases, public health politics and movements, genetics and modern “roots” projects, immigration and new technologies of identification, and intersections of race and disability.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: SISP256
AMST257 Darwinian Fictions
This class tracks the discourse surrounding evolutionary science as it circulated through various spheres of American intellectual life in the decades after the Civil War. If the ideas proposed by Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer fundamentally changed the way scientists and politicians understood the natural world and human beings' relation to it, these ideas would also influence the way writers understood the function of literature. Best summed up by Emile Zola's suggestion that, through literature, we are capable of "possess[ing] knowledge of man, scientific knowledge of him, in both his individual and social relations," authors during this period began to explore the literary possibilities of evolutionary science. By reading works of literature alongside influential scientific treatises, this course encourages students to think about the kinds of knowledge literary experience gives us access to, and the relationship between literary knowledge and other disciplinary forms that emerged at the turn of the twentieth century.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL225, SISP225
Prereq: None

AMST259 Discovering the Person
This course surveys major developments in psychology and psychiatry from 1860 to 1980. Through readings and lectures, the course introduces the major schools, theories, and systems in the American "psy" sciences. We examine the kinds of persons who were "discovered," the techniques of discovery, the extensions of psychological ideas to institutions and policy formulations, and the consequences of these discoveries for public as well as private life. We examine psychological phenomena that were located, catalogued, and explained by these sciences, including irrationality, sexuality, cognitive powers, personality, emotional processes, neurotic behaviors, intelligence, addictive tendencies, and the will. Attention is also given to the scientific grounds for investigating persons, the empirical evidence sought in the century-long process of discovering and naming psychological kinds, and the modes of producing this knowledge (aggregate methods, case study, and theories). Readings include primary source documents, histories of the disciplines, and philosophical analyses.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC259, SISP259
Prereq: PSYC105

AMST261 Pirates, Puritans, and Pequots: Literatures of the Renaissance Atlantic
This course opens the traditional canon of Renaissance literature westward, examining the connections between English Renaissance authors and the slaves, indigenes, and colonists living in and around England's emerging colonies in the New World. What picture emerges when New World authors ranging from Puritans to pirates to Pequots are put in sustained dialogue with the points of view of investors, planners, and dreamers "at home" in England? We will answer this question by surveying a variety of texts and objects including travel narratives, pirate plays, utopian fictions, indigenous craftwork, maps, eccentric political tracts, diaries, colonial promotion materials, and early ethnographies produced by authors all around the Atlantic rim (some even in 17th-century Connecticut!). Together, we will think about the relationship between these objects and slavery, religious radicalism, indigenous-European relations, inter-European conflict, exploration, and trade.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00

AMST263 Artifacts of US Empire: Post-Cold War Narratives of Migration and Multiethnic Literature
This course tracks the discourse surrounding evolutionary science as it circulated through various spheres of American intellectual life in the decades after the Civil War. If the ideas proposed by Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer fundamentally changed the way scientists and politicians understood the natural world and human beings' relation to it, these ideas would also influence the way writers understood the function of literature. Best summed up by Emile Zola's suggestion that, through literature, we are capable of "possess[ing] knowledge of man, scientific knowledge of him, in both his individual and social relations," authors during this period began to explore the literary possibilities of evolutionary science. By reading works of literature alongside influential scientific treatises, this course encourages students to think about the kinds of knowledge literary experience gives us access to, and the relationship between literary knowledge and other disciplinary forms that emerged at the turn of the twentieth century.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL262, AFAM261
Prereq: None

AMST264 Introduction to Asian American Literature
This course introduces students to Asian American literature, literary criticism, and culture by surveying how meanings of "America" have long depended on "Asian America." Conventional understandings of this relationship in US literature and history tend to emphasize Chinese Americans in California, Asian exclusion laws, model minority myths, changing patterns in Asian immigration following relaxed restrictions between 1965-68, and the institutionalization of Asian American studies in higher education in the 1970s. We will pay attention to these contexts, but we will also focus on emergent trajectories, including representations of Asian Americans in the South, critical refugee studies, and how global cultures such as breakdancing stage Asian American self-representation. By examining a range of genres and the critical apparatuses that
these works have generated, we will explore how representing Asian America has shaped the making of American culture.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL230, CEAS231
Prereq: None

AMST265 American Labor History from 1776 to Recent Times
"By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread," the Lord enjoined in Genesis.

But who did the hard work in the United States? How did they live? How were they organized? To what ends? Why has their power declined in recent times? These questions are explored in this course, which will reach back to the 18th century but highlight the 20th century.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST266, FGSS265
Prereq: None

AMST266 Future Visions: Temporality and the Politics of Change
What is the time of political change? This course explores alternative temporal frameworks embraced by artists, writers, activists, and interdisciplinary scholars from diverse social and cultural locations. We ask, How do concepts of temporality help us understand, resist, contest, and transform prevailing social orders?

We will begin by assembling some conceptual tools for understanding the relationship of time to historical change and to racial, sexual, cultural, and national difference. Drawing on psychoanalysis, literary theory, history, trauma studies, anthropology, African American studies, queer theory, feminist studies, and postcolonial studies, we will explore the telos of modernity and narratives of liberal progress. We will then consider some of the critical and oppositional possibilities of being out of sync with dominant temporal frameworks, asking, Are there other, perhaps more livable, temporalities? Next, we will consider the possibilities for memory and memorialization to work against historical forgetting and cultural amnesia--alongside the ways historical pasts might be appropriated to serve nationalist ends. Finally, we will turn to the question of the future as found in meditations on utopias and dystopias; in political, cultural, and ecological justice movements; in ideologies of newness; and in rhetorics of apocalypse.

Our readings include three texts that highlight the form and futures of political change: Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's Dictee, an avant-garde text that uses multiple genres (poetry, autobiography, history, photography, etc.) juxtaposing historical trauma and aesthetic experimentation; Kim Fortun's Advocacy After Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders, an experimental ethnography of environmental disaster and its aftermath; and Octavia E. Butler's Kindred, a speculative fiction about time travel and the memory of slavery. As we consider social change, revolutions, and new "ends" and beginnings, students are invited to explore current social justice movements.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: ANTH205, FGSS266
Prereq: None

AMST267 Music and Downtown New York
This course will explore the history and simultaneous flourishing of four distinct music communities that inhabited and shaped downtown New York City during two especially rich decades (the 1950s and 60s): urban blues and folk revivalists; an African American jazz-based avant-garde; Euro-American experimentalists; and Lower East Side rock groups. These four vanguard musical movements—at the heart of dramatic cultural shifts at the time, with reverberations and legacies that remain relevant up to the present day—are an essential part of American history. Much of the course will be devoted to discovering their points of convergence and divergence, especially in conversation with broader contemporaneous currents, including the Civil Rights Movement and related notions of freedom, shifting youth cultures, music and politics, and avant-garde aesthetics.

Drawing from primary sources, we will read about and listen to recordings of a wide variety of musicians, view a broad cross-section of film from the era, identify aesthetic and cultural trends, and study the local industry that supported them, including record labels, coffee houses, clubs, and concert spaces. Projects throughout the semester include written papers, individual and group presentations, and adding content to an interactive collaborative Google map of the neighborhood.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-MUSC
Identical With: MUSC275, AFAM265
Prereq: None

AMST268 Race, Incarceration, and Citizenship: The New Haven Model
This course will explore the elements of local responses to contemporary criminal justice issues, drawing on current research projects in New Haven, Connecticut. The course will explore a variety of promising practices, which emphasize community engagement and individual citizenship over incarceration and punishment. Topics will include evidence-based practices to reduce criminal recidivism, mental health issues in the criminal justice system, treatment engagement, and the creation of valued roles in the community. Students will have the opportunity to participate in federal research studies.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM269, ANTH269, CSPL269
Prereq: None

AMST269 New World Poetics
God and money, love and beauty, slavery and freedom, war and death, nation and empire: The themes of early American poetry will carry us from London coffeehouses to Quaker meetinghouses, from Massachusetts drawing rooms to Jamaican slave-whipping rooms. Our texts will range from pristine salon couplets to mud-bespattered street ballads, from sweetest love poems to bitterest satire. Digging deeply into the English-language poetry written, read, and circulated after the first English settlement in North America, we will trace the sometimes secret connections between history and poetic form, and we will listen to what these links can tell us about poetry and politics, life and literature in our own time. Our poets ignored false divisions between art and society, and so will we.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL258
Prereq: None

AMST270 Abolitionist University Studies
This course explores historical materialist theorizations of the practices and future possibilities of the U.S. university as a tool of social reproduction and space of potentially revolutionary thought. In so doing, the readings, assignments, and discussion will be inspired by Stefano Harney and Fred Moten's
AMST271 The 1850s
The 1850s was a period of tremendous social unrest in the United States. And yet, for all of its upheavals, the decade that immediately preceded the Civil War also witnessed the publication of some of the country’s most iconic works of literature, what a later generation of scholars would call the “American Renaissance.” This course sets out to explore the relationship between literature and its historical context(s). What were the material, political, and economic conditions that led to the production of so many great works of American literature? How does a literary text overcome its own embeddedness in history to become a “classic,” a work of universal, timeless value? Keeping our own historical moment in mind, this class will examine the 1850s to determine whether periods of political turmoil produce better literature. (Let’s hope that they do)
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL267
Prereq: None

AMST272 Cultural Studies of Health
Nothing is more fundamental to the human condition than our most basic right—the right to healthy life. Tragically, this right is inequitably distributed across human bodies and populations, especially along axes of race, gender, class, age, and nationality. In fact, persons residing in the U.S. do not have a right to healthy life. Issues of health and illness are, quite literally, matters of life and death that are shaped by broader political and economic institutions in human societies. In neoliberal nation states like the U.S., the guardian of the right to live a healthy life is a highly bureaucratic and technological form of corporate medicine. Medicine comprises a network of social institutions and technoscientific practices that people have created and use to diagnose and heal our bodily and psychic ills. While the practice of medicine has produced dramatic improvements in life expectancy and quality of life for billions of people, most people on the planet do not have access to basic medical care. Who thrives, who gets sick, who dies, and why constitute core questions for social justice.

This course investigates the complex embroidery of biosocial and cultural processes that shape the unequal experiences and meanings of health. Cultural studies of health document the role of medicine as a great instrument of power that both generates and alleviates suffering. As more and more areas of social life and parts of bodies are falling under the control of medicine (a process called medicalization), we must ask, What are the dynamics and implications of medicalization for human societies and cultures? Drawing on provocative readings and media from diverse fields in sociology and cultural studies of science, technology, and medicine, this course will investigate these questions and more with an emphasis on the answers to them might contribute to social justice and improve the conditions necessary for human thriving.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: SISP262, SOC259
Prereq: None

AMST273 Diasporic South Asian Writing and American Studies
The South Asian diaspora spans the world; communities are located in Africa, the Middle East, England, North and South America, the Caribbean, as well as Southeast Asia. Using novels, poems, short stories, and film, as well as scholarship on history, this course will focus upon the literary and cultural production of the South Asian diaspora in the United States. We will examine the conditions of historical arrival and identity-making under shifting regimes of politics, economics, and culture. What does being in the United States mean for the claiming of “Indian” and “American” identities, and how is this inflected by relationships with other ethnic or racial communities? The relationship with an often romanticized “India” is a central question, expressed through the concepts of diaspora, exile, and transnationalism. Consequently, what are the conditions of "authenticity," and of cultural authority? What aesthetic forms, questions, and issues express or preoccupy the artists of the South Asian American community?
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AMST
Identical With: ENGL276
Prereq: None

AMST274 Economics of Wealth and Poverty
Who are the very wealthy and how do they acquire their wealth? Why is poverty still with us after almost 50 years of antipoverty programs? What explains rising inequality in the distribution of income and wealth? These are just a few of the questions that we address in this course. The problem of scarcity and the question of production for whom are basic to the study of economics. Virtually all courses in economics give some attention to this topic, yet few study the distribution of income in depth. This course takes a close look at evidence on the existing distribution of income and examines the market and nonmarket forces behind the allocation process. Our investigation makes use of U.S. economic history, cross-country comparisons, and fundamental tools of economic analysis. Topics include normative debates surrounding the notions of equality and inequality, analytic tools for measuring and explaining income inequality, determinants of wage income and property income, the importance of inheritance, the feminization of poverty, and the economic analysis of racial discrimination. A central subject throughout the course is the role of policy in altering the level of poverty and inequality.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ECON
Identical With: ECON213
Prereq: ECON101 OR ECON110

AMST275 Introduction to African American Literature
This course is a survey of the history and traditions of African American literature from its earliest origins to its most modern manifestations. We will examine, in particular, the poetry, essays, and fiction produced by people of African descent from the 18th to the 21st centuries. The courses will focus on the ways African Americans used literature to document their New World experiences, bear witness to enduring traditions, and shape American society. We will work with
poetry, drama, short fiction, essays, and novels, alongside music and visual culture, as we explore African American literary and cultural aesthetics, African American literary history, and issues of class, gender, and place.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM202, ENGL240
Prereq: None

AMST276 Revolution Girl-Style Now: Queer and Feminist Performance Strategies
Looking to the rich cultural history of queer and feminist performance in the U.S., this course examines performances of gender, sexuality, obscenity, and refusal. In this class, we will ask how the terms "feminist" and "queer" come to determine a specific piece of theater or performance art. Is it the author's own political affiliation that establishes the work as feminist? Is it the audience's reading that gathers a work of art under a queer rubric? Furthermore, where does feminist performance meet queer performance? Topics will include feminist body art, AIDS activism, queer nightlife, installation and performance art, video art, and memoir. Focusing in on strategies for engaging the many meanings of the words "queer" and "feminist," we will pair theoretical readings with theatrical sites. Authors and artists to be discussed will include Judith Butler, Paula Vogel, Holly Hughes, Beth Henley, Karen Finley, Samuel Delany, Nao Bustamante, Rebecca Schneider, Anna Deavere Smith, José Muñoz, Jill Dolan, Sylvia Rivera, Sharon Hayes, Sharon P. Holland, Bikini Kill, boychild, Lucy Lippard, Laurie Weeks, and Dean Spade.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA267, FGSS267
Prereq: None

AMST277 Literary Perversions: Revolution, Democracy, Identity
The Federalist Papers wrote under the strong impression that the American Revolution was imperiled by an overwhelming debt and the lack of a national authority and identity to bind the States together. Public fear of moral degeneration via the replacement of the "Old World" symbolic order with a "New World" order under the aegis of "representative democracy" loomed over the republic.

Taking these concerns and the dissemination of The Federalist Papers as our point of departure, this course will examine how representations of "non-normative" identities in several major 19th-century works relate to the problems of representing democracy in the aftermath of the American Revolution. Many of the most famous canonical literary texts in the United States during the 19th century write about "non-normative" topics such as maternity, slavery, bestiality, and gender inequality in the context of narratives that attempt to rewrite the legacy of the American Revolution. By focusing on the literary treatment of these "perverse" topics, we shall attempt to understand whether the authors we will undertake close readings of in this course were successful in their endeavors to not only amend the shortcomings of the Revolution, but also to think more rigorously about the history of slavery and gender inequality.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM288, ENGL284
Prereq: None

AMST278 Literature of the Gilded Age
The decades after the Civil War witnessed a dramatic upheaval in American social experience. This was the period of big business and class conflict; mass urbanization and transportation; race-based segregation and non-Anglo immigration; globalization, imperialism, and the closing of the West; the increased agitation for women's rights; the growth of tourism both at home and abroad; and the rise of professional institutions and institutionalized social reform. This course will examine writers who creatively responded to these massive social changes.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL257
Prereq: None

AMST279 Crossing the Color Line: Racial Passing in American Literature
Narratives of racial passing have long captivated readers and critics alike for the way in which they provocatively raise questions about the construction, reinforcement, and subversion of racial categories. This course will consider several examples of the "literature of passing" as it has been established as a category within African American literature alongside more ambiguously classified 20th-century narratives of ethnic masquerade and cultural assimilation as a way of exploring how literary and filmic texts invoke, interrogate, and otherwise explore categories of race, gender, class, and sexual identity.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AMST
Identical With: ENGL319
Prereq: None

AMST280 Frank Lloyd Wright: Myth and Fact
This course considers the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright in the context of his own life and development as an artist and in the context of the broader history of modern architecture, of which Wright's work was a part and to which it contributed. The seminar also considers the relationship of Wright's achievements to the social, economic, technical, and ideological history of the United States from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries. A major theme will be critical reading of Wright's own statements about his life and work in relation to other sources, later accounts, and his buildings and projects themselves. Both Wright's residential and public architecture will be considered in conjunction with his designs for landscapes and urbanism. Architectural drawings will also be examined as a medium in themselves, along with textual and physical evidence, as a means of generating maximal insight into Wright's built and unbuilt works.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

AMST281 Ethics of Embodiment (FGSS Gateway)
Why is the human body such a contested site of ethical concern? Why are bodies thought to be so in need of description and regulation? Sexual practices, gendered presentations, bodily sizes, physical aptitudes, colors of skin, styles of hair—all are both intimately felt and socially inscribed. Bodies exist at the intersection of the most private and the most public and are lived in relation to powerful social norms. In this course, we turn to the critical work of feminist and queer scholars committed to analyzing how bodies matter.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS210, ENGL211
Prereq: None
AMST282 When Harlem Was in Vogue
This course will examine the aesthetics and politics of the first Modern African American cultural movement, known today as the Harlem Renaissance. In our readings of key literary texts by authors such as Alain Locke, Jessie Fauset, Zora Neale Hurston, Eric Walrond, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Nella Larsen, and Jean Toomer, we will discuss both the national and global contexts of so-called "New Negro Writing" and focus on debates surrounding representation, "respectability," and racial authenticity. During this course students will read canonical and popular literary works by early 20th-century African American authors in tandem with the vibrant body of literary criticism that emerged from this cultural moment in order to arrive at a richer understanding of how the early 20th-century African American canon was curated and proliferated. To this end, we will pay special attention to the role of anthologies and literary magazines (such as "The Crisis," "Opportunity," and "Fire!!") in collating an emergent modern African American literary tradition. At the end of this course, students will not only be familiar with the key authors and works of the Harlem Renaissance, but also with the central debates about the direction and uses of African American art.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL286, AFAM286
Prereq: None

AMST284 Making New Worlds: Encounters in Early North America
From the arrival of the earliest fishing ships off the coast of Newfoundland to the fall of New France at the close of the Seven Years' War, North America was the site of entangled encounters. Overlapping imperial claims and the construction of new societies took place on a continent long inhabited by powerful Indigenous groups. This course will examine North America as a contested and negotiated territory in which imperial plans were subjected to local contexts and contingencies. Using primary and secondary sources, we will examine major events (explorations, encounters, and wars), the rise and fall of imperial powers (French, British, Dutch, and Spanish), and the daily realities that shaped experiences in North America (trade, religion, sex, forced migrations, and disease).
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST237, RL&L237
Prereq: None

AMST285 Food, Culture, and Society: A Focus on Native North America
This course approaches food from the various perspectives of social sciences, focusing on historically and culturally variable forms of food production, exchange, preparation, and consumption as the means through which both individual and social bodies are constructed and reproduced. We begin with a brief overview of evolution, adaptation, and subsistence strategies, followed by an examination of why we eat what we eat (and what it means). We then examine food and the environment; food and colonialism, the globalization of food and food production; food and identities, food and bodies (cultures of thinness and fatness). We examine concepts of food security, food apartheid, and food sovereignty, and end with an examination of food justice movements and food-related social movements, with a focus on Native American communities.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Prereq: None

AMST286 Queer Activism and Radical Scholarship: Beyond Theory vs. Practice
This course explores the relationship between scholarship and activism, with a focus on intersectional radical queer scholarship and activism—queer left, black radical, trans, immigration, prison abolition, and sex work—in the United States. We will aim to connect the too-often bifurcated realms of academia and activism, theory and practice, research and action, so that we might think through the political stakes of knowledge-making in and outside the so-called "ivory tower," explore interdisciplinary methodologies we might use to study and learn from (and with) activists (including ethnography, oral history, and community archive), and gain insight into the histories and current realities of social justice movements, campus activism, the work of a radical imagination, art and activism, and the impasse of the political present. To put their theory into practice, students will undertake a semester-long radical research project on a queer issue or activist organization—past or present—of their choice.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: FGSS286, ANTH286
Prereq: None

AMST287 Contemporary Art Since 1980
This historically rooted introduction to contemporary art sets an anchor around 1980 and moves through the major debates of the last 35 years. This period gave rise to a remarkable range of historical transformations: a postcommunist Europe; an economically prominent China; queer and antiracist activism; increasingly molecular degrees of technological mediation in everyday life; the consolidation of a globalized network of travel, communication, and capital; climate change; and a state of seemingly perpetual war, to name only a few. This course attends to the changing vocabulary of approaches by which artists intervened in these conditions while positioning their work in relation to a longer view of the history of art. Far from a comprehensive survey, the course acknowledges the inherently recursive and unstable condition of contemporary art history, a field of research and inquiry defined as a work-in-progress. The course is nonetheless structured in a loosely chronological fashion sequenced according to formal techniques that emerged as timely responses to specific historical moments (appropriation, moving image projection, social practice, web-based art, etc.). Our work throughout will attend to theoretical frameworks that have remained influential in recent practice (postcolonial, feminist, poststructural, etc.). Our work throughout will attend to theoretical frameworks that have remained influential in recent practice (postcolonial, feminist, poststructural, etc.).
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA252
Prereq: None

AMST288 African American Urban Politics, Economy, and Policy
This course provides an introduction to the political experience and public policies that have significantly shaped, and continue to shape, the social and political life of African Americans and the urban environment. Although the course will explore historical themes, it will be mostly contemporary in its temporal focus. Topics will include African American political thought, leadership, and black political economy as well as voting, participation, party politics, and elected office (i.e., legislative and executive). Additional topics include housing and labor markets, healthcare reform, and issues of gender, class, age, and sexual identity at the intersections of black politics. Finally, the class will explore the role of race and police relations.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AFAM
Identical With: AFAM219
AMST289 All the Feels: Affect Theory and Cultural Studies
Butterflies in your chest. Perspiration on your upper lip. A racing heart. Every day we manage sensorial and embodied experiences; quite often these negotiations illuminate the ways in which powerful norms and institutions shape our daily lives. This course explores the relationship between the individualized experience of feeling and power by introducing students to the vibrant field of affect studies. A recent "turn" in critical theory, affect theory is interested in embodiment, the senses, and sensorial experience, questioning the dominance of rationality and cognition by exploring the role emotions and feelings play in our social worlds. This course will focus predominantly on affect theory as it emerged from queer, feminist, and racialized minoritarian discourses in order to, ultimately, contemplate the ways theories of affect, feeling, sensation, embodiment, and emotion open up literary and cultural texts.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-WRCT
Identical With: WRCT302, ENGL308, FGSS314
Prereq: None

AMST290 Style and Identity in Youth Cultures
This course focuses on young people's engagements with commercially provided culture and their implications for identity formation. We begin in the postwar United States, when producers of symbolic goods, such as movies, music, and clothes, began aggressively tailoring products for young people; over the rest of the 20th century and into the 21st, new youth-oriented cultural Commodities and sites of consumption have been used by young people in diverse ways to define themselves in relationships to adult society and to other young people. We will examine young people's intensifying involvement with the cultural market, with attention to both the diversity of youth-cultural formations that have emerged within the United States and to the global circulation of Euro-American youth culture. Using case studies, we will consider the ways in which young people's consumption practices have both reinforced and transgressed intersecting boundaries of class, race, gender, and nationality. An overarching concern in the course will be to assess whether or to what extent particular cultural practices may help prepare young people for positions of privilege, reconcile them to structural disadvantages, or provide them with resources to challenge the dominant society.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ANTH290
Prereq: None

AMST291 Afro-Asian Intersections in the Americas
This course explores a range of historical, cultural, and political intersections between African and Asian diasporic people in the Americas from the late 19th century to the present. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, we will examine key moments in the history of Afro-Asian encounters in the Americas, including the importation of slave and coolie labor in the 19th century, the formation of anticolonial and antiracist "Third World" movements in the United States and abroad, and the 1992 Los Angeles uprising. We will also study forms of cultural interraciaлизm, from African Americans' mania for kung fu in the 1970s, to interracial buddy films like Rush Hour (1998), to the contemporary fiction of writers such as Patricia Powell and Charles Johnson.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AFAM291
Prereq: None

AMST292 American Jewish Humor
This course is a look at American Jewish history through one particular lens--that of the peculiar phenomenon of Jewish humor. There is a long history of Jews and humor that has nothing to do with the immigrant experience in America, but the immigrant experience in America nonetheless has a great deal to do with the humor that has been produced by Jews in this country, particularly in the 20th century. We will read some historical background on American Jews and some humor theory as our foundation for our understanding of film viewings, short stories, stand-up comedy performances, and musical recordings. By looking at the way Jewish humor changed throughout the 20th century, we should, in the end, be able to chart the way the lives of American Jews were changing and have a deeper understanding of the American Jewish experience.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: RELI278, CJST278
Prereq: None

AMST294 Mapping Culture
What is a culture? How can it be intimately wrapped up in a location and how can that be mapped out to better understand its inner workings? In the face of globalization and pervasive online communities, what can conventional wisdom--"location, location, location" and "all politics is local"--tell us about the importance of actual places in cultural formations? We will first orient ourselves with a wide range of music-mapping projects, as well as projects that directly address the significance of a location (Nile Project, Playing for Change). From a base in the interdisciplinary field of ethnomusicology, we will then examine how scenes and subcultures can congeal in particular places and times, mapping them in New York City's Lower East Side (punk), Greenwich Village (urban folk revival), and South Bronx (early hip hop). Deploying a broad conception of culture, we will cover other art forms (e.g., graffiti and other street art) and social formations. Haight-Ashbury (SF) 1960s counterculture, Laurel Canyon (L.A.) 1970s singer-songwriters, Chicago 1980s post-disco house, and London 1980s post-punk goth will provide complementary case studies. These examples will provide models before students embark on their own to map out a culture of their choice as their final project, using either Google Maps or Story Maps. Readings on theories of place and of subcultures will provide blueprints for issues to be explored, including how group identity and a sense of community can be locally constructed and the significance of physical in-person contact in a world of increasingly virtual relationships.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-MUSC
Identical With: MUSC293
Prereq: None

AMST295 On The Border: Chicana/o, American, and Mexican Literatures and Cinemas
The U.S.-Mexico border as spectacle of trespass, as militarized zone. The border as desert wasteland; as ground for legalized lawless detention and incarceration; as burial ground; as site of smuggled pleasures, of fugitive joy, and feelings of desire for that which threatens dominance. This course will engage brown, black, Afro-Latinx, and indigenous literary, aesthetic, and cinematic imaginings of the geographies of desire that play out across the border as a shifting site, and their critiques of imperial, colonial, capitalist, anti-indigenous, and anti-black histories of racialized citizenship.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None
AMST299 From Seduction to Civil War: The Early U.S. Novel

This course examines the relationship between nation and narrative: the collective fantasies that incited reading and writing into the 19th century. We will study the novel as a field of literary production both in dialogue with European models and expressive of changes in national culture, a form that both undermined and reinforced dominant ideologies of racial, gender, and class inequality during this turbulent period of national formation and imperial expansion. We will consider the ways the pleasure of novel-reading depends upon, even as it often disavows, the world outside the story. Throughout our reading, we will trace the ways these novels both reflect and participate in the historical development of the United States during a period that spans national founding, the consolidation of northern capitalism and an exacerbated North/South division, expansion into Mexico and the Pacific, and civil war. Through close attention to literary form, we will continually pose the question, What is the relationship between literary culture and historical change? We will examine who was writing, for whom they wrote, and the situation--political, commercial--in which the American novel was produced and consumed. We will begin with the novel of sentiment and seduction and conclude with reflections on slavery and racial revolution on the eve of the Civil War, all the time asking about the ways the novel might seduce us into either tolerating or resisting the way of the world.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL209
Prereq: None

AMST299 Labor and Religion in American History

This seminar will explore how religious faith, ideas, and organizations influenced labor over the course of American history since the Industrial Revolution. It will begin with Old and New Testaments, Marx and Engels, and some of the path-breaking work on religion in the English working-class, then focus on America including the social gospel, Christian socialism, the Catholic Church and labor unions, black churches, immigrant churches, militant secularism (itself a kind of faith), the influence of faith of employers and mediators, and other aspects of the subject.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST380
Prereq: None

AMST302 Lyric Poetry and Music: The Color and Politics of Cry, Sound, and Voice

Lyric poetry may be the most musical of literary forms. In one of its basic definitions, the lyric poem begins after the overhearing of a sound. This sound may be familiar and pleasant, like the timbre and cadence of a lover’s voice. Or it may be recognizable and terrifying. It may be imbricated with other senses and feelings, provoking a memory that stimulates a sense of touch or smell. Or it may stimulate a sense of horror at the inevitability of death. In any of these cases, sound is thought to reveal an attachment, a memory, and to give rise to composition in the poet’s effort to reshape memory and feeling in lyric form. But such articulations do not always come out as evenly as this description may imply. Indeed, moans, screams, stutters, cries, and the madness of possession by the Muses are part of lyric’s history and practice. In this course, we will read from African American, African diasporic, Caribbean, Latina/o/x, and Indigenous poetics, and we will consider their relation to myth and musical forms, such as the blues, son, bomba, biguine, jazz, reggae, hip-hop, salsa, among others. The dynamics between lyric speakers and musicians, sound and story, seen and voiced language will play out.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL304, AFAM305
Prereq: None

AMST304 The Senses and the Subject in Cinema and Poetry

In this course, we will study a mixture of emotionally stimulating and structurally difficult cinema and lyric poetry to intensify our capacity to articulate a notion of the senses. Do the senses presume the subject? How do poetry and cinema imagine, racialize, gender, and play with the relation of the senses to the subject? While these two art forms might seem like strange neighbors, this course specifically imagines cinema and lyric poetry as “repositor[ies] of synesthesia” wherein feelings move fugitively, where one sense dubs into and disturbs the imagined discrete domain of the other in measured intervals of time that are generative of sounds, images, and of that which overflows the visual.

The films and poetry selected may carry students into cuts of the Caribbean, the black Atlantic, France, Sweden, Mexico, the U.S., Senegal, Mali, and Spain at distinctly urgent moments in the mid-20th to early 21st century. The threads that will sew the course’s images together and bind them to the human subject and senses are the celestial and terrestrial, creation, decomposition, displacement, migration, fascism, colonialism, globalization, and love.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL320, FGSS310
Prereq: None

AMST307 Indigenous Politics

This seminar will feature select historical moments, geographical sites, and case studies to explore the complexities of life for indigenous peoples in the Pacific Islands and North America subject to the authority of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The course will examine indigenous peoples’ varied political status in relation to questions of sovereignty and self-determination, structures of domination and resistance, and myriad forms of indigenous agency. Readings will focus on the recognition and assertion of collective rights, treaty rights and land claims, and self-governance under independent states’ and international law. Films and guest lectures will complement the required texts.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: ANTH307
Prereq: None

AMST313 After Orientalism: Asian American Literature and Theory After 2000

From early articulations of cultural nationalist pride to today’s transnational, intersectional, deconstructive, feminist, and queer critiques, Asian American studies is a field that has radically expanded and transformed since its original emergence out of the Third World and student strikes of the late 1960s. This course seeks to take the temperature of Asian America today by exploring a range of contemporary works published after the millennium, more than 30 years after the field’s inception. Alongside a selection of novels, poetry, short stories, and graphic novels by some of the most acclaimed contemporary writers in America, we will also consider critical and theoretical texts that offer different perspectives on our contemporary historical moment, exploring frameworks of modernity, postmodernity, neoliberalism, and the university as ways of situating contemporary Asian America’s aesthetic innovations.
Though not required, it is strongly recommended that students have taken ENGL30 Introduction to Asian American Literature or a comparable substitute prior to enrolling.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL361, CEAS361
Prereq: None

AMST315 Entertaining Social Change

“Our problem,” Tom Frank writes, “is that we have a fixed idea of what power is, of how power works, and of how power is to be resisted.” This is especially true of “entertainment” as a transformative power. Our aim will be to advance critical entertainment studies. A thread that connects all of our texts will be: how has the systemic critique of social contradictions been popularized as fascinating in modern times? We will consider the diverse strategies that progressive songwriters/performers, radical historians (working with cartoonists), and main moviemakers have developed to entertain Americans—to teach, persuade, provoke, seduce, and move them through laughter, tears, and not least of all of ideas—so that Americans will be more inclined to entertain social critique that inspires social change. We will explore the popularizing (and sometimes the selling) of social critique in several genres: graphic history (Howard Zinn, Paul Buhle); songs/song lyrics of folk-protest singers (such as Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and Phil Ochs), of folk-rock stars (such as Jackson Browne, Ani DiFranco, and Father John Misty), and of the developers of hip-hop (such as Gil Scott-Heron, Public Enemy, and NWA); and politically edgy comedy (Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert). We will devote most of our attention to movies (STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON, THE PEOPLE SPEAK, MALCOLM X, MEDIUM COOL, NETWORK, EL NORTE, SMOKE SIGNALS, BEFORE THE FLOOD, THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION, SALT OF THE EARTH, MATEWAN, 99 HOMES, THE WOLF OF WALL STREET, THE BIG SHORT). And we will place special emphasis on self-reflexive movies about entertainment and about labor/social movement organizing.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: ENGL309, FGSS315
Prereq: None

AMST316 Television Storytelling: The Conditions of Narrative Complexity

This course examines the industrial and cultural conditions for the development of relatively complex forms of storytelling in commercial U.S. television. Narrative complexity is a cross-generic phenomenon that emerged over the 1980s and has proliferated within an increasingly fragmented media environment. In class discussions and individual research projects, students will analyze particular programs in-depth, with attention to their industrial and social conditions of production, their aesthetic and ideological appeals, and the cultural tastes and viewing practices they reflect and promote. We will also consider how television studies has responded and contributed to the increased prestige of certain types of programs.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ANTH308, FILM319
Prereq: None

AMST319 Anarchist Anthropology and Militant Ethnography

Today, anthropology is better known as a discipline that still grapples with its colonial past more than as a discipline that has an affinity with anarchy. In Fragments of an Anarchist Anthropology, David Graeber suggests that anthropology shares a particular affinity with anarchist theory because of its history of with working within “stateless” societies and how it accounts for the range of human possibilities in terms of social organization, power, and authority. Thus, he calls for the need to create a body of social theory gravitating around anarchism. This includes developing methods for radical critical engagement with and understanding of social processes. Anarchist thought and practice has left its mark on a series of high-profile social movements over the past few years, such as the uprisings in the Arab world, indigenous autonomous zones in Latin America, Occupy Wall Street, and Black Lives Matter. In turn, some anthropologists have taken up militant ethnography, a burgeoning approach to qualitative research that is consciously politicized, enabling activist-researchers to engage directly with radical social movement(s). We will explore: anthropological theories and practices of democracy; the power of the state; social movements; and the anthropology of politics, culture and power. Topics include: collectivism, autonomy, solidarity, anarcho-primitivism, anarchist ecology (including non-hierarchical connections with the natural world), non-market productions, relationships, ethics, political insurrections and revolutionary movements, experimental societies and utopian communities, power structures, democracy and horizontal power. As the study of domination is informed by the legacy of slavery and the enduring structures of settler colonialism, the case studies for this course will be drawn primarily (though not exclusively) from the Americas.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ANTH315
Prereq: None

AMST327 Brown, Black, and Queer Forms and Feelings

Given how brutally not neutral the world is to black, brown, and queer forms of life and pleasure, this course thinks with "otherwise" spaces, figures, and feelings, like the queer club, the dance floor, abnormality, errancy, illegality, fugitivity, rage, indifference, and love. We will take up José E. Muñoz’s invocation of a "minoritarian theory of affect" that insists that "whiteness is a cultural logic which can be understood as an affective code that positions itself as the law." We will study affect beyond whiteness through attention to sonic forms and "audio-visual shapes" in African diasporic, Latina/o/x, and Caribbean arts. We will consider the diasporas and collectives grouped together in the terms "minoritarian," "brown," and "black" as abnormalities that generate alternative modes of moving through and feeling ourselves in the world. We will study for radical potentiality in the beautiful, obscene, and off-kilter affects of brown, black, and queer aesthetic and poetic forms.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL328, AFAM328, FGSS308
Prereq: None

AMST330 American Utopias in the 19th Century

This seminar will examine expressions, both religious and secular, of the utopian impulse in 19th-century American culture. Communitarian experiments launched by Shakers, transcendentalists, perfectionists, and feminists will be studied as manifestations of social and religious turmoil and will be compared with their literary analogues. Utopianism as a philosophical, literary, and literal approach to solving social problems and constructing a more perfect nation-state has been a persistent and recurrent feature in American history. This seminar explores precursors in the long 19th century to more recent utopian theory and experimentation.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
We will consider theories of citizen, state, race, and sexuality implicit in these discussed will be the slave codes, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the Fugitive this history has been reimagined in literature and cinema. Among the topics contradictions and injustices in the history of U.S. citizenship and the ways In this course, we will study several major legal events that highlight the corporeal differentiation and reimaging. where socio-cultural forms of difference (e.g., race, gender, disability, etc.) are at are symptomatic and those that are not; race- and gender-based approaches are symptomatic and those that are not; race- and gender-based approaches to medicine and medical difference; clinical trials and the ethics of human we understand expressions of race and queerness? How do institutions--religious, legal, and scientific--shape our understandings of both queer and racial identities? In what ways do sexuality and race interact, and how does this interaction inform the meanings of each these identity categories? Furthermore, how have queer movement and racial and ethnic communities, and temporalities. Our focus will be on African American, African diasporic, Latina/o/x and Indigenous literatures and cinemas, as they reveal the rifts and conjunctions among the categories citizen, “savage,” “gente sin razón,” slave, illegal, pervert, and deviant. This seminar will examine scientific and cultural practices of corporeal simulation, or, practices of bodily substitution, imitation, and re/modeling. Topics examined will include: reproductive surrogacy; gender reassignment surgeries; experimental subject protocols; prosthetic enhancements; xenotransplantation; biometrics and alternative forms of bodily imaging; the use of nonhuman animals as human proxies; the rise of personalized medicine, and more. Students will engage with a wide range of case studies and theoretical materials from interdisciplinary perspectives. Special attention will be paid to the relationship between scientific discourses of “universalism” and “particularity,” where socio-cultural forms of difference (e.g., race, gender, disability, etc.) are at once ignored and exacerbated. While most of the material addressed in the class will relate to recent phenomena, we will also be attentive to relevant histories of corporeal differentiation and reimagining. This course uses the lens of history to evaluate why some individuals are considered most effective as civic, elected, bureaucratic, and appointed leaders in African American history. The course will analyze social scientific models of leadership and then go into the historical record to discover meaningful and illuminating patterns. Careful consideration is given to the distinctive challenges posed by race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and institutional settings. This course will examine and interrogate the field of queer studies with particular focus on the ways in which queer scholarship and queer political movements function alongside critical race theory, ethnic studies, and sociopolitical antiracist efforts. Students will be asked to consider the history of queer studies and queer politics, the contemporary state of queer movements, and future visions of queer life. We will take an interdisciplinary approach, and we will rely upon a diverse range of theoretical, historical, and cultural studies texts. We will explore the normative parameters of both sexual and racial identities, probing the terms of identification to consider their meaning in the contemporary moment and in relationship to various cultural, social, legal, and political milieus. Throughout the course we will consider, What does it mean to study queerness and to study race? How do institutions--religious, legal, and scientific--shape our understandings of both queer and racial identities? In what ways do sexuality and race interact, and how does this interaction inform the meanings of each of these identity categories? Furthermore, how have queer movement and the contemporary state of queer movements, and future visions of queer life. We will take an interdisciplinary approach, and we will rely upon a diverse range of theoretical, historical, and cultural studies texts. We will explore the normative parameters of both sexual and racial identities, probing the terms of identification to consider their meaning in the contemporary moment and in relationship to various cultural, social, legal, and political milieus. Throughout the course we will consider, What does it mean to study queerness and to study race? How do institutions--religious, legal, and scientific--shape our understandings of both queer and racial identities? In what ways do sexuality and race interact, and how does this interaction inform the meanings of each of these identity categories? Furthermore, how have queer movement and scholarship both supported antiracist efforts and, also, how have they been complicit in cultural and institutional forms of racial oppression? How do other social categories of identification such as gender, ethnicity, and class, shape the ways in which we understand expressions of race and queerness?

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In this class, we will explore the interlocking histories of health, illness, and power in America. Special attention will be paid to the ways in which discourses of health and health care have undergirded notions of citizenship in the nation. We will consider how processes of disease, disability, and contagion have been imagined through the lenses of social difference, including race, gender, sexuality, and class. We will address civil institutions designed to manage individual and population health, and we will consider theories of political power in the making of the “modern” body. Sample topics covered will include immigration policies and contagious disease scares; STDs and the politics of public health campaigns; physical fitness and the value of bodily labor under capitalism; the management of diseases that are symptomatic and those that are not; race- and gender-based approaches to medicine and medical difference; clinical trials and the ethics of human experimentation; interventions surrounding blood and organ donation; changing rituals of bodily hygiene; preventative medicine and the call to personal responsibility; mental health policies and institutions; and pride movements surrounding the “unhealthy” body.

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The remainder and majority of the seminar is laboratory style, taking shape multidisciplinary social movement research; archival, ethnographic, and activism of your choice. We'll start with some foundational reading on divergence? environmental struggle? How do these movements converge, and where do they legacies of one of the most transformative events in American culture and around your particular projects. Each week, we will collaboratively analyze one or two projects, mapping out and comparing methods, goals, visions, struggles, and contexts of the movements under study. Our goal is to understand a range of social justice activisms in their economic, political, and historical context, with an eye toward integrating activist scholarship and social change.

The activism you research can be contemporary or historical; local, national, or global; and can take any shape: direct action, community organizing, activist philanthropy, art as activism, etc. You do not need previous experience or activist contacts for this course--just passion and the desire to learn collaboratively!

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CHUM
Identical With: ANTH355, FGSS355
Prereq: None

AMST361 Thresholds of Art and Activism Since the 1960s
Since the 1960s, a period marked by war and social upheaval, artists have navigated the contested boundaries of art and activism by turning to the street and inventing new strategies of performance, distribution, and collaboration. Exploding the familiar protocols of agitprop, they advanced a politics of representation as much as a representation of politics. Philosophical texts (e.g., Adorno, Benjamin, Debord, Habermas, Ranciere, etc.) support our engagement with recent debates in art historical scholarship (e.g., Bishop, Bryan-Wilson, Lambert-Beatty, McKee, etc.) as we consider contexts as diverse as the social movements of the 1960s, queer liberation, eco-critical activism, and Occupy Wall Street. Extending the 20th-century avant-garde’s project to break down the division between art and life, our case studies (focused primarily but not exclusively on the Unites States: Emory Douglas, the Art Workers Coalition, Gran Fury, Women on Waves, etc.) provoke this seminar’s central questions: Where is the line between art and activism? What value might that boundary continue to hold, and why? How must we assess the efficacy, ethics, and aesthetics of such practices? And what historical conditions have made them timely for artists?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-AMST
Identical With: ARHA361
Prereq: None

AMST362 Calderwood Seminar in Public Writing: The Dark Turn in Television Storytelling
This course, offered in association with the Calderwood Seminars in Public Writing, examines a certain tendency in contemporary television storytelling. Taking the debut of "The Sopranos" in 1999 as a benchmark, we will explore the emergence in dramas and comedies of a dark, uncertain, pessimistic, or disillusioned address within a medium long known for its reassuring tone. We will consider the industrial and social conditions for this tonal shift, as well as the role it has played in elevating public perceptions of television's cultural value. The course will use the "beat model" developed in certain Calderwood Seminars, where students become "experts" in specific bodies of material. In this case, students will select a particular series on which they will focus over much of the course.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-FILM
Identical With: ANTH361, FILM362
Prereq: None

AMST363 Kill Anything That Moves: The Vietnam War in Literature and Film
This course examines various forms of literature and film to understand the legacies of one of the most transformative events in American culture and
history: the Vietnam War. “Kill anything that moves” were the orders that
American soldiers reportedly received while on the ground in Vietnam, yet, to
a large extent, the historical focus on the American experience of the conflict
has overshadowed other perspectives. Thus, this class will take a comparative
approach, exploring works by canonical and noncanonical American, Southeast
Asian, and Southeast Asian American authors and directors. Among the diverse
genres we will study are prose, poetry, graphic narrative, and narrative and
documentary film. To think about the Vietnam War’s broader relevance,
we will situate the works under study within current debates concerning
refugees, genocide, human rights, and the complex politics and aesthetics of
war representation. Students will have the opportunity to investigate an under-
studied aspect of the Vietnam War toward the end of the semester.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL244
Prereq: None

AMST371 American Autobiography
This class will explore various forms of life writing—autobiographies, memoirs,
graphic narratives, and fictional autobiographies—to understand how authors
make and unmake the American “I.” We will focus on how autobiographical
selves relate to various categories of region, nation, and transnation, as well as
how they are shaped by histories and legacies of travel, migration, slavery, and
war. Toward the end of the course, we will consider how new technologies of
writing the self, from Twitter to Facebook, are transforming the landscape of life
writing.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL273
Prereq: None

AMST375 Black Global Cities
In this course, we will analyze representations of cities and Black urban
modernity in Afro-diasporic literature of the twentieth and twenty-first century.
Placing special emphasis on the global hubs of London, Cape Town, Kinshasa
Lagos, New York, Marseilles, and Kingston, we will ask what makes these former
imperial sites Black global cities? We will read literary works on and from Black
Global Cities alongside sociological texts on urbanization, globalization and
discuss the extent to which literary representations either collude with or
challenge dominant national and transnational narratives about Black urban
modernity. Although each week’s readings will focus on a different location, we
will approach these locales as nodes in larger global networks of people, texts,
and goods rather than as discreet, bounded places. To this end, we will trace
how histories of racial formation move across borders and are transposed onto
different spaces, and to what effect. Authors we will read include: Claude McKay,
James Baldwin, Gabeba Baderoon, Petina Gappah, Kei Miller, and Teju Cole. We
will also watch films such as Girlhood (2014), Black Panther (2018), The Harder
They Come (1972), Bad Friday: Rastafari After Coral Gardens (2011), Welcome to
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL375, AFAM375
Prereq: None

AMST391 Religion and the Social Construction of Race
In this course we examine aspects of the intersections between race and
religion in a number of historical and social contexts. We place at the center
of our discussions the question of how race and religion are co-constructed
categories that function as a prism through which people come to understand
and experience their own identities and those of others. We will privilege
interpretations that emphasize (1) the intersectionality of race and religion
as a process in which power plays a pivotal role; and (2) the means through
which communities form collective identities. We will read a range of historical
analysis and primary source materials from the U.S. and the Caribbean. After a
theory module, we will examine a colonial-era captivity narrative, antebellum
pro-slavery document, missionary works, analyses of anti-Semitism, works on
Rastafari, Haitian Vodou, Jonestown, the Christian White Supremacy movement,
as well as the contemporary U.S. relationship to the Middle East.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI391, AFAM280
Prereq: None

AMST393 Materia Medica: Drugs and Medicines in America
This course investigates the identification, preparation, and application of
drugs and medicines in the United States, emphasizing the period before the
20th-century institutionalization of corporate research and development. Topics
include early modern European prospecting for medicinal plants, the
development of an international drug trade, and the formation of national
pharmaceutical markets in the United States in the 19th century. Participants
will explore the production, circulation, and restriction of medical knowledge
through local practice, public and private institutions, trade and commerce,
and regulation. In addition to knowledge of the social history of drugs and
medicines in the United States, students are expected to develop competencies
in historical research using primary and secondary sources. The final weeks of the
course are devoted to applying historical knowledge to contemporary debates
in global public health, including international pharmaceutical research, drug
development, and epidemic disease.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST393, SISP393
Prereq: None

AMST401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

AMST402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

AMST403 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

AMST404 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

AMST407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with
the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
AMST408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

AMST409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

AMST410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

AMST411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

AMST412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

AMST419 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

AMST420 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

AMST465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

AMST466 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

AMST469 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

AMST470 Independent Study, Undergraduate
Credit may be earned for an independent study during a summer or authorized leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2) all specified requirements have been satisfied.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

AMST481 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

AMST482 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT