

## American Studies Courses Spring 2007

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### **AMST 72W.10 – Introduction to American Studies**

Dr. Phyllis Palmer

CRN 26436

MW 11:10-12:00 - MPA B07

This class is a survey of U.S. history and culture from 1890-2000, presented through a combination of readings, visual texts, and lectures. One major theme of the course will be the complex interactions between the United States and the rest of the world - interactions that include multi-directional flows of people, culture, and ideas, as well as foreign policy and national politics. The course will also include sustained attention to issues of race and ethnicity, religion, social movements, and mass culture.

### **AMST 72W.30 – Discussion**

CRN 26432

F 9:35-10:25 - COR 111

### **AMST 72W.34 – Discussion**

CRN 26227

F 9:00-9:50 - P201

### **AMST 72W.31 – Discussion**

CRN 26433

F 11:10-12:00 - COR 111

### **AMST 72W.35 – Discussion**

CRN 26228

F 10:00-10:50 - P201

### **AMST 72W.32 – Discussion**

CRN 26434

F 12:45-1:35 - COR 205

### **AMST 72W.36 – Discussion**

CRN 26229

W 1:00-1:50 - P201

### **AMST 72W.33 – Discussion**

CRN 26435

F 2:20-3:10 - COR 106

### **AMST 72W.87 – Discussion**

CRN 26230

W 2:00-2:50 - P20

### **AMST 130.80 – Sexuality in US History**

Dr. Chad Heap

CRN 26239

WF 2:20-3:10 - FNGR 103

This course introduces students to the histories of U.S. sexual identities and subcultures. Course readings and films will be used to analyze the changing social organization and cultural meaning of sexual practices and desires in the United States, beginning with those that existed before European settlers landed on the continent. We will examine the establishment of sexual norms in colonial America; the relationship between sex and slavery; the contested boundaries drawn between same-sex sociability, friendship and eroticism during the nineteenth century; early twentieth-century cultural conflicts centered around prostitution, cross-racial sex, and racial and sexual violence; as well as the relatively recent emergence of heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality and transsexuality as the predominant categories of sexual experience and identity. Class time will consist of two weekly lectures and one smaller section meeting where students will discuss the week's assigned readings and films.

### **AMST 130.81 – Discussion**

CRN 26240

M 10:00-10:50 - P201

### **AMST 130.83 – Discussion**

CRN 26242

M 12:45-1:35 - ROME 459

### **AMST 130.82 – Discussion**

CRN 26241

M 11:10-12:00 - PHIL 108

### **AMST 130.84 – Discussion**

CRN 26243

M 2:20-3:10 - PHIL 111

**AMST 130.85 – Discussion**

CRN 26244  
M 9:00-9:50 - P201

**AMST 130.86 – Discussion**

CRN 26245  
M 1:00-1:50 - P201

**AMST 140.80 – Women in the US from 1877-Present**

Dr. Cynthia Harrison  
CRN 23118  
TR 2:20-3:35 - FNGR 208

**AMST 160.80 – Material Culture in America**

Dr. John Vlach  
CRN 26231  
MW 12:45-2:00 - 2020K 20

This course will provide students with the skills to interpret the cultural messages imbedded in our material surroundings. This vast subject area, generally referred to as material culture, is made up of all sorts of humanly created artifacts ranging from specific objects to vast landscapes. The things around us can be read as texts in ways that parallel the way that we draw meaning from books and other written documentation. These tangible "texts" are particularly important as evidence of cultural values in view of the facts that 1) so few people actually leave written records about their everyday experiences and 2) material goods are an important factor in shaping the character of American life.

Following an orientation to the principle modes of material culture analysis the bulk of our classes will consist of exercises in observing, recording, describing, and interpreting various classes of artifacts. Our list of prime targets will include places (neighborhoods, work sites, water fronts, parks, shopping malls, central business districts, etc.), buildings (houses, schools, churches, stores, theaters, courthouses, etc.) and objects (tools, clothing, furnishings, artworks, etc.). We will be looking for what these spaces, places, structures, and things might be telling us about their designers, makers, users, and consumers. Finally we will try to assemble these particular messages into a collective portrait of social life in the United States.

In addition to three task required papers, there will be weekly readings either from books or articles on reserve. Students' understanding of lectures and readings will be assessed by the final exam.

**AMST 167.80 – 20<sup>th</sup> Century US Immigration**

Dr. Tom Guglielmo  
CRN 26233  
MW 9:35-10:25 - MPA 310

This course will examine twentieth-century U.S. immigration through a mixture of lecture and discussion. It will focus on a series of related questions: America is a "land of immigrants," we are told, but what does this mean? Who are these immigrants? Where have they come from, why did they leave their homelands, and what were their migration processes like? How were they treated when they got here -- by neighbors, co-workers, employers, schoolmates, and the federal government? How did they respond to the new economic, political, and social challenges and opportunities of the United States? How have factors such as race, gender, class, and generation shaped their lives? How have these immigrants changed the United States? How has the United States changed immigrants? How have the answers to these questions changed -- or not changed -- over time?

R 11:10-12:00 - FNGR 207

**AMST 167.81 – Discussion**

CRN 26234  
R 9:35-10:25 - ROME 204

**AMST 167.83 – Discussion**

CRN 26236  
R 12:45-1:35 - GELM 608

**AMST 167.82 – Discussion**

CRN 26235

**AMST 167.84 – Discussion**

**AMST 167.85 – Race and Ethnicity in US Cities**

Dr. Suleiman Osman

CRN 26238

TR 12:45-2:00 - 1957 E 212

This course will examine the history of race and ethnicity in postwar American cities. What have been the "great migrations" that have shaped the American city? How have the changing tensions between immigrants, African-Americans and their descendants shaped the political institutions, language of reform, racial ideology, ethnic identity, and built environment of the city? How has the evolving cityscape reshaped the relationship between African-Americans, "whites" and different waves of immigrants? The course will examine the history of cityscapes as varied as inner-city Detroit, suburban immigrant Los Angeles, and gentrifying Washington D.C.

**AMST 167W.80 – Native Culture through Literature**

Dr. John Donaldson

CRN 26591

TR 4:45-6:00 - GELM 607

**AMST 168W.10 – Cultural Criticism in America**

Dr. Kip Kosek

CRN 25104

TR 11:10-12:25 - P201

This seminar introduces students to major methods for understanding and interpreting cultural materials. We will explore how and why culture—particularly mass culture such as film, television, photography, music, fashion, and advertising—plays such a significant role in our lives. At various point in the semester, we will examine 1) the ways that we experience culture and ground our identities in it; 2) the ideological messages and stereotypes that circulate in cultural products; 3) the institutional, corporate and individual production of cultural products and spaces; and 4) the ways that different audiences interpret the culture they consume. This course is writing-intensive, discussion-oriented, and fulfills the WID requirement. Non-majors will be admitted only with permission of the instructor.

**AMST 172.80 – US Social History**

Dr. Richard Stott

CRN 24659

MW 12:45-2:00 - FNGR 210

This course will focus on the history of ordinary Americans from the Civil War to the present. The course begins with a survey of the of living and working conditions of ordinary Americans, men and women, white, black and Native American, middle class and working class, young and old, in the period 1870-1917. The second section examines how the great social changes of the twentieth century, including the World Wars and Vietnam War, the Great Depression, prosperity of the 1950s and 1960s affected them. The final part of the course resurveys ordinary Americans today to analyze the significance of the social changes that have occurred over the last 140 years. Readings will be drawn from, Hareven and Lagenbach, Amoskeag, Neil R. McMillen, Dark Journey, Robert McElvaine, Down and Out in the Great Depression, Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique, John D'Emilio, Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities, and Kenneth Jackson, Crabgrass Frontier. Grading will be based on a midterm and final exam, quizzes, a term paper and class participation. Graduate students must do a longer research paper and additional readings.

**AMST 176.80 – American Architecture**

Dr. Richard Longstreth

CRN 22033

W 11:10-12:25 – 1957 E 213

F 12:45-2:00 – 1957 E 113

This course examines selected aspects of the built environment in the United States from the Gilded Age to the eve of World War II. Stylistic properties, functions, common tendencies of design, technological developments, and urban patterns are introduced as vehicles for interpreting the historical significance of this legacy of both exceptional and representative examples. Buildings are analyzed both as artifacts and as signifiers of broader social, cultural, and economic tendencies. Other topics introduced include the persistence and mixing of cultural traditions, the role of the designer, the influence of region, and architecture as a component of landscape.

Among the facets of the built environment that are examined are the changing, multi-faceted nature of eclecticism; the exponential growth of metropolitan areas; the emergence and development of tall commercial buildings; the rise of a comprehensive approach to planning; the enduring importance of the single-family house; evolving views of nature and landscape design; the pursuit of fantasy and reality in design; the impact of mass transportation systems and motor vehicles on the landscape; the reluctant acceptance of modernism; and the varied impacts of technology.

Detailed examination is made of the contribution made by many celebrated figures in design, including Daniel Burnham, Frank Furness, Charles and Henry Greene, Irving Gill, Richard Morris Hunt, Charles McKim, Richard Neutra, Henry Hobson Richardson, John Wellborn Root, R. M. Schindler, Gustav Stickley, Stanford White, and Frank Lloyd Wright. At the same time, attention is given to broad tendencies in design and their effect upon suburban and urban landscapes. The impact immigrants and new ideas from abroad is examined throughout the decades covered. Lectures are profusely illustrated.

#### **AMST 180W.10 – Proseminar in American Studies**

Dr. Phyllis Palmer

CRN 26437

T 12:45-3:15 - P201

Senior research seminar for American Studies majors. During the course students will produce an analytic essay based on primary research in American culture. The course concludes in a public symposium where majors present their research projects. This course is identical to AMST 180W.11 and students can register under either CRN.

#### **AMST 180W.11 – Proseminar in American Studies**

Dr. Phyllis Palmer

CRN 26438

T 12:45-3:15 - GELM 609

Senior research seminar for American Studies majors. During the course students will produce an analytic essay based on primary research in American culture. The course concludes in a public symposium where majors present their research projects. This course is identical to AMST 180W.10 and students can register under either CRN.

#### **AMST 192.80 – The American Cinema**

Dr. Kerric Harvey

CRN 22035

M 3:30-6:00 – 1957 E B17

W 9:35-10:50 – COR 302

#### **AMST 194.80 – Historical Archaeology**

Dr. Pamela Cressey

CRN 26590

T 3:30-6:00 - COR 101

**AMST 195.10 – Independent Study**  
CRN 22036

**AMST 198.10 - American Television: Cultural Product, Cultural Force**

Laura Cook Kenna

CRN 26254

TR 9:35-10:50 - COR 111

This course will consider the impact of television on American life. We will study TV genres, minority representations, the television news, TV fandom, and other related topics. Students will become conversant in critical frameworks for analyzing and debating the effects of television. This includes understanding American television as a product of creative and historical processes and as an institution with the potential to support cultural stasis or cultural change. While critical thinking about television will be a primary goal in class assignments, the course will also emphasize a historical perspective that views television content and the role of television in everyday life as historically specific developments. Class time and student work will synthesize historical texts, television shows, and theoretical essays. Multiple out-of-class viewings may be required and students should be prepared for this necessity upon registering for the course.

**AMST 198.11 – Landscapes of Desire: Shopping and Urbanism in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America**

Cameron Logan

CRN 26255

MF 11:10-12:25 - GELM 609

This course will examine the history and meaning of places where Americans spent money in the 20th Century. This involves looking at the rise of department stores, shopping malls, casinos and sports stadiums among other places, and the changing meaning of capitalist production that accompanied their growing influence. In addition to examining the reformulation of the consumer at different points during the twentieth century we will explore the ideas of merchants, architects, planners and social critics who variously conceived, funded, designed and commented on exemplary sites of consumption. We will consider the influence of technology and transportation, as well as city planning, tourism, historic preservation and popular culture. Students will be expected to engage with a variety of scholarship concerned with urban development, architectural and urban history as well as cultural and social criticism. They will also be expected to visit and think about how places in and around Washington D.C., places such as Georgetown, Downtown Washington, Tyson's Corner and Union Station illustrate the ideas and processes explored in class and the assigned readings.

**AMST 231.10 – Scope and Methods – American Studies**

Dr. Suleiman Osman

CRN 26249

T 4:10-6:00 - P201

This course examines the consideration of American Studies as an area for research and teaching; introduction to bibliography. Required of candidates for the degree of Master of Arts in the field of American Studies.

**AMST 232.10 – Cultural Theory and American Studies**

Dr. Chad Heap

CRN 26252

W 6:10-8:00 - P201

**AMST 251.10 – Museum Research and Education**

CRN 22037

Student arranges an internship with a Smithsonian curator. Contact Dr. John Vlach for further information.

**AMST 253.10 – American Decorative Arts**

Dr. Nancy Davis

CRN 24683

M 2:30-4:30 - SMITHSONIAN

How do we define Home? Is it a place to hang our hat, a concept, a machine for living, or just a container for our material goods? How does the aspect of home relate to the concepts of family, private life, and public activities? This course will examine how American homes have changed from the seventeenth to the twenty-first century. The focus will be on all the material aspects of homes, their furnishings, their technological systems, their architecture with a broad approach to issues and theories. Emphasis will be given to goods as personal or community property and their practical, social and symbolic uses.

**AMST 270.10 – Theory and Practice - Public History**

Dr. Noralee Frankel

CRN 23962

W 5:10-7:00 - GELM 402

This graduate seminar in Public History will focus on how historians present history to the public and the actual practical work in which public historians are engaged. The class will discuss controversies surrounding historical interpretation including disputes over exhibitions on the atomic bomb and on slavery. We will also analyze the role of scholars outside the academy in educating the public in the places where the majority of American people learn. Among the topics we will consider will be the how people including children learn about and conceptualize history, web history sites, and the efforts of the historians employed by the federal government to present history in different venues.

Requirements will include class presentations, exhibition reviews, and a research project that can focus on creating an exhibition. Representatives from a number of institutions and agencies will participate in the seminar, providing a first-hand account and inside information about the field.

**AMST 272.80 – Research – US Social History**

Dr. Tom Guglielmo

CRN 26247

M 2:00-4:00 - P201

In this graduate-level seminar, students will conduct primary research on a topic in U.S. social history and write an article-length paper. As a research rather than a readings seminar, this course will focus on individual research and writing -- and on reading and commenting on classmates' work.

**AMST 282.10 – Seminar in American Architecture**

Dr. Richard Longstreth

CRN 26253

W 3:30-6:00 - P201

During the fifteen-year period after World War II, the shape and character of the American landscape experienced profound changes. The highly centralized organization of cities that had dominated growth patterns since the early republic began decisively to shift to more diffuse patterns.

Industrial production became ever more scattered and relied on sophisticated technological processes. Corporate offices likewise were relocating into what were formerly considered rural or quasi-rural sites. Retail activities regrouped along arteries far removed from the city center. Suburban residential development occurred at an accelerated pace and for the first time lay within reach of a major segment of the populace. At the same time, the urban core was experiencing accelerated decay and became subject to massive clearance programs. Central and outlying sections alike were shaped and reshaped by massive highway construction programs. A variety of renewal programs captured the limelight, but few proved effective in reversing the prevalent trend. Design was also experiencing significant changes. Only recently cast as extreme and freakish,

avant-garde modernism rose to the fore in architectural training and also in building campaigns for commerce, industry, and education. The United States now led the world in fostering a rich spectrum of approaches to design that made the environment of preceding decades seem markedly dated.

Among other topics explored are the impact of widespread motor vehicle use on the metropolis, the rise of a mass consumer market for goods and housing, fundamental shifts in popular taste, critical views of the city, and the undercurrent of persistence in traditional patterns of settlement.

Participants may choose from a wide range of topics concerning architecture, landscape, urbanism, as well as cultural, economic, social, and technological factors that have an impact on the built environment for their research paper.

### **AMST 284.10 – American Photo – Theory and Practice**

Dr. Frank Goodyear

CRN 22790

M 6:10-8:00 - P201

Over the course of the last one hundred and sixty years, photography has emerged as the dominant visual medium in American society. Photographic images have played a central role in mediating our understanding of the different social, political, and cultural landscapes in America. This graduate seminar will consider the many ways in which photography has been practiced by individuals, theorized by visual culture scholars, and incorporated into American life. We will look especially at the unique nature of the medium and interrogate the different traditions and usages that have grown up around it. Readings will comprise a selection of recent books on the theory and practice of photography in America.

Students will be required to complete two writing assignments. The first assignment is a five-page critical review of the book you chose to report on. This essay will be due one week after your in-class report. It is expected that this essay will be more than a summary of the book's contents, but will be rather a paper that interrogates its methods and conclusions. Each student will also research and write a 15 to 20 page essay on an original topic in this field. During the final three weeks of the semester, students will have an opportunity to present their research to the class.

### **AMST 289.10 - Preservation as Public Policy**

Dr. de Teel Patterson Tiller

CRN 26250

R 4:10-6:00 - P201

This class builds professional skills in heritage public policy criticism. Through readings, written analyses, and discussions, students develop critical assessment skills by analyzing selected past, current and evolving U.S. heritage laws, regulations, and administrative procedures at the local, state, tribal, and national levels.

Oftentimes this is accomplished through comparative analyses with international counterparts.

Understanding better the key attributes that make for effective heritage public policy and applying these critically through comparative analysis of existing heritage policy practices provides important professional skills. The class explores such important questions as: what are the policy goals; how do you measure success; what is the cost; what is the public benefit; who are the constituents; what are their interests; what public support is there; and, what opposition exists and why? Of paramount importance is the idea that every heritage law or public policy has multiple and often conflicting points of special interest, view, and support / opposition. And that the most effective public policy is one that anticipates these, or changes with them, ensuring the optimum public benefit and effectiveness all the while preserving our nation's heritage patrimony for future generations. Topics to be explored include: is heritage an appropriate interest of the state; cultural biases in current heritage public policies; the influence of growing cultural diversity on heritage public policies; and, analyses of current heritage policy issues before the Congress and the American people today.

**AMST 289.80 – Research – 20<sup>th</sup> Century US History**

Dr. Kip Kosek

CRN 26248

R 2:10-4:00 - P201

This graduate-level research seminar requires each student to produce a scholarly article based on primary source research in some aspect of 20<sup>th</sup>-century American history. The goal is to write a manuscript of 8,000 to 10,000 words that could be submitted to an academic journal. Class meetings will focus on crafting a topic, doing primary research, assembling bibliographies, formulating arguments, using evidence, editing drafts, and writing clearly. *Each class member should be ready to discuss potential paper topics on the first day of class.*

**AMST 295.10 – Independent Study**

CRN 22038

**AMST 299.10 – Thesis Research**

CRN 22039

**AMST 300.10 – Thesis Research**

CRN 22040

**AMST 801.10 – Representing Culture**

Dr. Teresa Murphy

CRN 26246

F 2:00-4:30 - P201

Restricted to freshman.

**AMST 298.10 – Advanced Reading and Research**

CRN 22043

**AMST 399.10 – Dissertation Research**

CRN 22044