

American Studies Courses Fall 2004

AMST 71.10 **Introduction to American Studies** **Murphy**
 CRN# 82785 MW 2:20 – 3:10pm 1957 E B12

Course Description:

This course will examine how American culture has evolved since the first contact between European and Indians. We will examine the inter-relationship between intellectual and economic change as well as the impact of ideas about race and gender on American social life. We will also consider the extent to which we should speak of a unified American culture or different American cultures. This course will use an interdisciplinary approach to study these issues, drawing on art, artifacts, literary texts, and historical documents.

Discussion Sections:

AMST 71.3		STAFF
CRN# 82786	R 10:00 -10:50am	P 201
AMST 71.31		STAFF
CRN# 82787	R 11:00-11:50am	P 201
AMST 71.32		STAFF
CRN# 82788	R 12:00-12:50pm	P 201
AMST 71.33		STAFF
CRN# 82789	R 01:00-01:50pm	P 201
AMST 71.34		STAFF
CRN# 82790	R 12:45-01:35pm	1957 E 111
AMST 71.35		STAFF
CRN# 82791	R 02:20-03:10pm	1957 E 111

AMST 139.80 **Women in the United States** **Murphy**
 CRN# 85068 MW 9:35-10:25am MPA 309

Course Description:

This course will examine the history of women in the United States from pre-Columbian settlement until Reconstruction. We will pay particular attention to the ways in which gender has been an important component in the construction of power relationships; the ways in which issues of race and class have affected the relationships among women; and the ways in which ideas about gender have evolved during the past several centuries.

Discussion Sections:

AMST 139.81		STAFF
CRN# 86218	W 11:00 -11:50am	P 201
AMST 139.82		STAFF
CRN# 86219	W 12:10-01:00pm	P 201
AMST 139.83		STAFF
CRN# 86220	W 01:10-02:00pm	P 201

Discussion Sections:

AMST 171.81

CRN# 86232

F 12:45 -1:35pm

STAFF

ROME 206

AMST 171.82

CRN# 86233

F 2:20-03:10pm

STAFF

MPA 302

AMST 171.83

CRN# 86234

M 11:10-12:00pm

STAFF

MPA 302

AMST 171.84

CRN# 86235

M 12:45-01:45pm

STAFF

1957 E 111

AMST 175.80

CRN# 86241

American Architecture

MW 12:45-2:00pm

Longstreth

1957 E 211

Course Description:

This course examines selected aspects of the built environment in the United States from the first period of European settlement to the eve of the Civil War. Stylistic properties, functions, common patterns of design, technological developments, and urbanistic 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 multi-faceted nature of colonial building and settlement patterns; the emergence of national expression; the rise of city building and of a commercial core; the growing specificity of building types for commercial, governmental, institutional, and religious functions; the enduring importance of the single-family house; the multi-faceted nature of eclecticism; evolving views of nature and landscape design; and the impact of technology.

ENGL 174 “Meditations on History:” Contemporary Fictions

Miller

About Slavery

TR 3:55 – 5:10 pm

CRN# 84911

Course Description:

After a consideration of a range of antebellum slave narratives this course will turn its attention to the ways in which contemporary American writers have appropriated the themes and conventions of the slave narrative to satisfy various literary, cultural and political purposes. Writers to be studied include William Styron, Sherley Anne Williams, David Bradley, Octavia Butler, and Toni Morrison. There will also be readings in the historiography of slavery, literary theory, and cultural history.

AMST 179.10

CRN# 82792

Practicum in American Studies

R 2:00-3:50pm

STAFF

P 201

Course Description:

This course is designed for senior majors in American Studies. It will cover the required three credit internship experience and a weekly or biweekly meeting, to talk about the internship experiences, analyze how the internship organizations create and manipulate cultural messages to create American culture and be effective within the US political context. Some readings will be assigned, but as we are a reasonably small group, we will wait until the semester begins to see where students are interning and to decide on pertinent readings. This course will be graded according to the reports of the intern supervisors and participation in the practicum meetings.

AMST 181.80

CRN# 85062

US Media & Cultural History

WF 9:35-10:25am

STAFF

1957 E B12

Course Description:

This course will investigate media and culture in the U.S. from 1900 to the present. Looking at film, literature, television, and new media together, the class will address the major developments in the U.S. cultural history: modernity and postmodernity; the impact of new technologies on culture; the importance of visual images in the 20th century; and debates about “high” and “low” culture. In the first half of the semester (1900-1945), topics range from amusement parks and silent film to the Harlem Renaissance and the Federal Theatre Project. In the second half (1945-2002), we will look at the rise of television, the Black Arts movement of the 1960’s, postmodern literature, the emergence of the internet, and the global impact of American culture. Overall, questions to be considered will include: what is “culture”? Who owns and defines the term? How does culture get produced, disseminated and consumed? How do we analyze the political impact of cultural products?

Discussion Sections:**AMST 181.81**

CRN# 85063

F 12:45 -1:35pm

STAFF

MPA 302

AMST 181.82

CRN# 85064

F 02:00-02:50pm

STAFF

P 201

AMST 181.83

CRN# 85065

T 10:00-10:50am

STAFF

P 201

AMST 181.84

CRN# 85066

T 11:00-11:50am

STAFF

P 201

AMST 195.10

CRN# 82793

Independent Study

AMST 250.10
CRN# 82794

American Material Culture
M 02:10-05:00pm

Mayo
GOV 312

Course Description:

This seminar is concerned with the use of objects in historical research. Material culture is a synthesis of theories and methods from art and architectural history, anthropology and archaeology, the history of technology, decorative arts, geography, folklife, environmental history, and cultural history. Readings include Thomas Schlereth, *Material Culture Study in America* and Ann Smart Martin & J. Ritchie Garrison, *American Material Culture* and other articles as assigned. Visits to exhibits and memorials will also be assigned. Students will be expected to prepare for each class discussion. At least one full-day field trip will be arranged. Studies are required to write three short (7-10 page) papers on an object or collection of objects. At least one paper must involve a discussion with a curator or museum specialists. Smithsonian staff members are extremely busy, please plan ahead. (You may request a copy of *Smithsonian Opportunities for Research and Study* [to identify collections and curators] from the Office of Fellowships. www.si.edu/research+study) One paper may be an exhibit review.

AMST 251.1
CRN# 82795

Museum Research and Education

STAFF

AMST 252.10
CRN# 84549

Mat. Cult. & 20th Cent. Consumer Society
R 10:00-11:50am

Nickles
STHN

Course Description:

This graduate seminar is an object-based study of a diverse range of durable goods from textiles to Tupperware considered within the historical development of a mass consumer society in America over the past century. Through an examination of museum objects, readings, and discussion, the class will engage in a debate at the center of interdisciplinary consumer culture scholarship: how do people use goods to express identity; maintain or contest race, class, and gender hierarchies; and promote social change?

AMST 256.80
CRN# 84295

Folklore Theory
T 03:30-06:00pm

Vlach
P 201

Course Description:

This course presents a survey of the intellectual history of the development of the academic field of folklore and folklife study in the United States. We will trace the rise of interpretation starting in the second half of the nineteenth century and concluding with contemporary times. The class will be conducted in a semi-seminar fashion. The instructor will lecture for the first half of each class meeting with discussion being led by a designated students or students for the second half. Student discussions will focus on the biographical profiles of key figures whose careers are emblematic of a particular interpretive techniques or positions. As can be seen from the syllabus, these individuals include many of the outstanding leaders in the fields of literature, social science, and museum work. In addition to participation in class discussions, students will be expected to write a seminar paper (20-25 pages) on some aspect of American folklore scholarship and practice. The specific topic will be selected in consultation with the instructor.

AMST 270.80

CRN# 85084

Theory & Practice – Public History

W 02:10-04:00pm

Horton

P 201

Course Description:

Recent discussions over exhibitions at the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, Colonial Williamsburg and several historic sites of the National Park Service illustrate some of the challenges and difficulties of doing public history. This graduate seminar in Public History will focus on the debates and controversies surrounding public exhibitions and the disputes over "revisionist history" which have made their way even into the halls of Congress. We will also discuss the role of scholars inside and 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 political and social consequences of the recent "Culture Wars," the efforts of private corporations, like the Disney Corp., to build history theme parks and to interpret American history for the general public, public disputes over the symbols of the Civil War, and the growing popularity of historical film presentation like the Ken Burns documentaries and historical programming on the History Channel. We will also focus on a new PBS series on the history of slavery and the difficulties of bringing such a contentious presentation to public TV. Students will become familiar with the theoretical and practical arguments over public history and have the opportunity to participate in exhibit evaluation at the Smithsonian and at various sites of the National Park Service.

Class requirements will include class presentations by students, exhibition reviews and a research paper. Representatives from a range of public history institutions and agencies will participate in the seminar, providing students with first-hand accounts and inside information about their particular field.

AMST 271.80

CRN# 86542

Rdgs/Rsrch: US Social History

W 06:10-08:00pm

Heap

P 201

Course Description:

This graduate-level readings seminar introduces students to the methodology and historiography of U.S. social history. Reading selectively from scholarship, we will examine how ordinary Americans experienced many of the major social transformations of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In particular, we will be concerned with the different ways that historians have conceptualized and interpreted how, why and with what consequences Americans have historically structured their lives and communities. The course is designed to provide students with a historiographical, methodological and theoretical background for their own research projects. Students planning to take the follow-up research seminar (AMST 272) in the spring semester will be asked to write and defend a proposal for their own research project before the end of the semester; the project will be completed during the spring semester. Students who wish to take only the fall semester readings course will be required to write a final historiographical essay.

AMST 277.8

CRN# 86251

Historic Preservation Prin/Methods

MW 04:10-06:00pm

Longstreth

P 201

Course Description:

This course addresses the scope and purpose of the preservation movement in the U.S., focusing on developments since the 1960s. Topics investigated include the development of ideas and approaches to preservation at home and abroad since the late 18th century; the legal

framework developed at the national, state, and local levels to foster preservation; the nature of an dynamics between public- and private-sector preservation organizations; and key facets of the research process essential to determine significance and set priorities to protecting historic properties.

Throughout the course, both pragmatic and conceptual aspects are explored, as are the implications of preservation practice on broader realms, ranging from our attitudes toward the past to the tangible benefits for a community or business. Preservation must be a practical line of work imbued with political, technical, and economic expertise, but its ultimate worth is as a form of cultural expression.

Classroom lectures and discussions are supplemented by visits from a number of prominent figures in the field – both nationally and locally – who afford behind-the-scenes insight current initiatives and challenges.

AMST 280.10

CRN# 86254

Field Methods: Arch Documents

R 04:10 -06:00pm

Ridout

P 201

Course Description:

In-depth thematic study of the cultural landscape, focusing on the basic field techniques and skills necessary to analyze and interpret accurately the fabric of historic buildings and their settings. Additional attention given to major thematic issues of both rural and urban landscapes. Topics considered include housing, agriculture, industry, and the architectural legacy of African American culture. A variety of building types and complexes are examined firsthand, with emphasis on the broader issue of interplay between natural and cultural landscapes. Intensive study is conducted on a single site, with members of the class divided into recording teams. Research methods based on building fabric and the physical landscape are the primary focus; work in the field constitutes a major component of the course. Schedule will include four one-day field trips on Saturdays or Sundays as selected by class members.

AMST 284.10

CRN# 84050

American Visual Studies- Introduction

M 06:10-08:00pm

Goodyear

P 201

Course Description:

This reading seminar serves as an introduction to American visual studies, paying particular attention to the field's theories and methods. Though a variety of historic periods will be considered, the course will be structured around an examination of different visual documents and the often divergent ways in which scholars have looked at them. The course is also designed to provide graduate students with an introduction to some of the classic primary and secondary sources in American visual studies. In the process of investigating these texts, we will address larger cultural issues, such as identity formation and cultural hierarchies in America. Each week we will focus on a particular primary document. The course aims to provide students with a broad foundation in understanding the many strategies used in reading visual documents. As such, class discussions will focus as much attention on the ways of reading a text, as it will on the text itself and the period from which it comes.

AMST 286.8 CRN# 82796	Interpretation- Historical House Museum T 11:10-1:00pm	Stapp BELL 108
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Course Description:

An interdisciplinary course integrating policies and practices in museum education with current scholarship in a variety of academic fields of study. The class visits and analyzes about a dozen DC-area museum (from the DAR Museum, Hillwood Museum and Gardens, to Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House), with an emphasis on National Park Service sites.

AMST 289.10 CRN# 86253	Social History to Civil War WF 11:10-12:00pm F 12:10 – 1:00pm	STAFF MPA 302 P201
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Course Description:

Same as 171.80. See Document.

AMST 295.10 CRN# 82797	Independent Study	Mergen
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AMST 299.10 CRN# 82798	Thesis Research	Mergen
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AMST 300.10 CRN# 82799	Thesis Research	Mergen
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AMST 394.10 CRN# 82800	Advanced Reading and Research	Mergen
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AMST 395.10 CRN# 82801	Dissertation Research	Mergen
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AMST 398.10 CRN# 82802	Advanced Reading and Research	Mergen
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AMST 399.10 CRN# 82803	Dissertation Research	Mergen
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AMST 801.10 CRN# 86246 Designated for Freshmen	US/M East Cultural Encounters TR 2:20- 3:35pm	McAlister MON B08
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AMST 801.11 CRN# 86247 Designated for Freshmen	How The World Views the US MW 09:35-10:50am	Mergen P 201
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