

**American Studies Courses**  
**Fall 2005**

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**AMST 71.10 - Introduction to American Studies**

**Dr. Theresa Murphy**

CRN 12570

WF 2:20-3:10pm - 1957 E St. B12

*Course Description:*

This course will examine how American culture has evolved since the first contact between Europeans 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course will use an interdisciplinary approach to study these issues, drawing on art, artifacts, literary texts, and historical documents.

*Only Freshman. Fulfills PSA requirement.*

**AMST 71.13 - Introduction to American Studies**

**Dr. Theresa Murphy**

CRN 16798

WF 2:20-3:10pm - 1957 E St. B12

W 12:45-2:00pm - XX 112

*Course Description:*

This course will examine how American culture has evolved since the first contact between Europeans 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course will use an interdisciplinary approach to study these issues, drawing on art, artifacts, literary texts, and historical documents.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 71.30**

CRN 12571

M 9:35 -10:50am - MPA 302

**AMST 71.33**

CRN 12574

M 1:00-1:50pm - P201

**AMST 71.31**

CRN 12572

M 11:10-12:00pm - MPA 302

**AMST 71.34**

CRN 12575

M 12:45-1:35pm - MPA 302

**AMST 71.32**

CRN 12573

M 2:00-2:50pm - P 201

**AMST 71.35**

CRN 12576

M 2:20-3:10pm - MPA 302

**AMST 139.80 - Women in the United States before 1876**

**Dr. Teresa Murphy**

CRN 14346

WF 9:35-10:25am - 1957 E 112

*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**

CRN 15032

F 11:10 -12:00pm - TOMP 202

**AMST 139.82**

CRN 15033

F 1:00-1:50pm - P 201

**AMST 139W.80 - Women in the United States before 1876 (WID)**

**Dr. Teresa Murphy**

CRN 15452

WF 9:35-10:25 - 1957 E 112

*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 Section:**

**AMST 139W.81**

CRN 15453

F 11:10 -12:00pm - P 201

**AMST 167.10 – Researching American Culture**

**Dr. Chad Heap**

CRN 16417

T 6:10-8:00pm

**AMST 167.80 - Religion and American Identity**

**Dr. Joseph Kip Kosek**

CRN 15283

TR 9:35-10:50am - Rome 351

*Course Description:*

Religion is an inescapable part of life in the United States. From George W. Bush and Joseph Lieberman to Mel Gibson, Madonna, and Ned Flanders. Millions of us define ourselves at least partly in terms of our faith (or occasionally, our lack of it). This course asks how and why religious identity has been so important in modern America. We will focus on autobiographical narratives from a variety of traditions (including Native American religion, Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism, and Islam), ranging from the early twentieth century to the present day. These accounts illuminate religion's intellectual, emotional, cultural, and social power in the formation of the modern self, while also revealing moments when religion failed to sustain its adherents.

Thus our central questions include how has religion dealt with the horrific political violence that has defined recent history? When has faith affected, and depended upon, modern racial and ethnic formations, gender roles, and family structures? In what ways have social class and religious status intersected? How did religion resolve, or increase, the characteristic American tension between individual fulfillment and community obligation? Finally, how have the boundaries between the "religious" and the "secular" been drawn and redrawn, in individual lives and in the nation as a whole? In our focus on autobiographical and biographical narratives, we seek to understand religion both as an individual experience and as part of a wider system of norms, values, symbols, and ideas.

**AMST 167W.10- Representing the American West (WID)**

**Dr. Melinda Knight**

CRN 16883

TR 3:55-5:10pm - 1957 E 111

*Course Description:*

This course will consider the American West as an idea, place, and process. We will focus primarily on the period from 1880 to 1930 and study cultural documents such as exploration and settlement narratives, autobiography, fiction, historiography, painting, photography, and film. We will examine the iconography of the wilderness; westward migration and pioneer images; the "closing" of the frontier; issues of race, class and gender in relation to nationalism and nativism; the myth of the "Vanishing American"; the western as genre; and the legacy of conquest.

**AMST 167.82 - Senior Research Seminar**

**Dr. Chad Heap**

CRN 16417

T 6:10-8:00pm - P201

*Course Description:*

This intensive seminar introduces fourth-year students to a range of research methods in American Studies in preparation for the spring-term thesis to be completed in AMST 180. In this course, you will discover how to identify and analyze a variety of primary source materials, including published texts, images, sound, first-hand research, material culture, spatial sources, manuscripts and archival documents. You will also learn how to use historiography and other secondary sources to provide historical context for your original research and to situate your work within recent academic scholarship. Pertinent course readings will be assigned, but you are expected to spend most of your class preparation time engaged in the actual research process, writing critical analyses of your discoveries, and assisting your fellow students with their own research endeavors by sharing your experiences and providing constructive critique of their written work. The course will culminate in the production of a research proposal for your senior thesis.

*Restricted to AMST Majors*

**AMST 168.80 - Cultural Criticism in America**

**Dr. Joseph Kip Kosek**

CRN 12600

TR 2:20-3:35pm - 2020K 16

*Course Description:*

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 168W.80 - Cultural Criticism in America (WID)**

**Dr. Joseph Kip Kosek**

CRN16603

TR 2:20-3:35pm - 2020K 16

*Course Description:*

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 171.80 - US Social History**

**Dr. James Horton**

CRN 15042

TR 11:10-12:00pm - MPA 309

**Discussion Sections:**

**AMST 171.81**

CRN 15043

R 12:45 -1:35pm - 2020K 21

**AMST 171.83**

CRN 15045

R 2:00 -2:50pm - P 201

**AMST 171.82**

CRN 15044

R 2:20-3:10pm - 2020K 21

**AMST 171.84**

CRN 15046

R 3:55-4:45pm - 2020K 21

**AMST 175.80 - American Architecture (1610-1860)**

**Dr. Richard Longstreth**

CRN 15052

MW 12:45-2:00pm - 1957 E B17

*Course Description:*

Examination of selected aspects of the built environment in the United States from the mid-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries. Stylistic properties, form type characteristics, technological developments, and urbanistic patterns are introduced as vehicles for interpreting the historical significance of this legacy. Buildings are analyzed both as artifacts and as signifiers of broader social, cultural, and economic tendencies. Other concerns introduced include the role of the designer, the influence of region, and architecture as a component of landscape. Among the topics examined are the impacts of urbanization and suburbanization, the increasing diversity of housing, the implications of the tall commercial building, the changing objectives of eclecticism, the multi-directional rise of modernism, and the impact of the automobile on architecture and landscape. A special section exists for graduate students.

**AMST 179.10 - Practicum in American Studies**

**STAFF**

CRN 12577

W 12:00-1:50pm - P 201

*Course Description:*

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.

**AMST 181.80 - US Media & Cultural History**

**Dr. Melani McAlister**

CRN 14341

MW 11:10-12:00pm - MPA 309

**Discussion Sections:**

**AMST 181.81**

CRN 14342

W 12:45 -1:35pm - Rome 352

**AMST 181.83**

CRN 14344

R 12:40-1:35pm - MON 101A

**AMST 181.82**

CRN 14343

W 2:20-3:10pm - Phil 108

**AMST 181.84**

CRN 14345

R 11:10-12:00pm - PHIL 109

**AMST 195.10 - Independent Study**

**STAFF**

CRN 12578

TBA - TBA

**AMST 198.80 - Musical Cultures of Black America**

**Dr. Christopher Lornell**

CRN 13316

TR 12:45-2:00pm - 1957 E 112

**AMST 220.80 – Fundamentals of Feminist Theory**

**Dr. Phyllis Palmer**

CRN 12950

MW 6:10-8:40pm - P201

**AMST 226.80 - US Media & Cultural History**

**Dr. Melani McAlister**

CRN 14350

MW 11:10-12:00pm - MPA 309

W 5:00-5:50pm - 1957 E 315

**AMST 231.10 - Scope and Methods in American Studies**

**Dr. Melani McAlister**

CRN 12599

W 2:00-4:00 - P201

*Course Description:*

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 250.10 - American Material Culture**

**Edith P. Mayo**

CRN 12579

M 2:10-5:00 - Smithsonian

*Course Description:*

Familiarization with the historical collections of the Smithsonian Institution and introduction to opportunities for research and publication based on historical objects. Required of all students in the master's and doctoral programs affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution.

**AMST 251.10 - Museum Research and Education**

**STAFF**

CRN 12580

*Course Description:*

Supervised work and/or study under the direction of Smithsonian staff members and research associates – examples of topics are museum visitor behavior, costumes and furnishings, decorative arts, and photography as historical documentation.

**AMST 252.10 - American Decorative Arts**

**Dr. Nancy Davis**

CRN 14022

R 5:10-7:00 – 2035 F

*Course Description:*

Concepts of visual recognition and evaluation of surviving domestic artifacts from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, including those made of wood, clay, glass, metal, and cloth. AMST 252 is a prerequisite to AMST 253.

**AMST 256.80 - Folklore Theory**

**Dr. John Vlach**

CRN 13813

T 4:10-6:00pm - P201

*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 student 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 technique or position. 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 268.10 - Readings in American Cultural History**

**Dr. Teresa Murphy**

CRN 16418

R 4:10-6:00pm - P201

*Course Description:*

This course will employ a highly selective rapid-fire approach to readings in American cultural history, focusing on the colonial period and the early nineteenth century. We will read theoretical and applied works from a variety of disciplines that examine the ways in which culture is symbolically organized and the ways in which power is deployed within the culture of the United States during this period.

**AMST 270.80 - Theory and Practice-Public History**

**Dr. James Horton**

CRN 14360

T 2:00-4:00pm – P201

**AMST 273.80 – Readings on Women in American History**

**Dr. Cynthia Harrison**

CRN 16873

R 5:10-7:00

**AMST 277.80 Historic Preservation: Principles and Methods**

**Dr. Richard Longstreth**

CRN 15062

MW 4:10-6:00pm - P201

*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 18<sup>th</sup> century; the legal framework developed at the national, state and local levels to foster preservation; the nature of a dynamic between public-and private-sector preservation organizations; and set 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 284.10 - American Visual Studies: An Introduction**

**Dr. Frank Goodyear**

CRN 13622

M 6:10-8:00 - P201

*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 286.80 - Interpretation- Historic House Museum**

**Dr. Carol Stapp**

CRN 12581

T 11:10-1:00pm - GOV 310

*Course Description:*

Seminar integrating advanced practices of museum education with current scholarship in architectural history, material culture, and social history. Extensive use of Washington museum resources. Admission by permission of instructor.

**AMST 289.10 - Social History to Civil War**

**Dr. James Horton**

CRN 15064

TR 11:10-12:00pm - 1776 G 105

R 1:00-1:50pm - P201

**AMST 289.11 - Preservation Planning**

**Dr. Constance Ramirez**

CRN 16419

T 5:10-7:00 - GOV 312

*Course Description:*

This course examines issues related to the role of historic preservation in land-use planning. Communities are shaped by local, state, and federal, and private decisions. Historic, social, environmental, and cultural values. Emphasis is given to how historic resources are treated in local planning activities in the Washington metropolitan area and of how to make recommendations for ways in which historic preservation objectives can be achieved with other institutional growth.

**AMST 289.14 - Sexuality & US Culture**

**Dr. Chad Heap**

CRN 16422

R 6:10-8:00pm - P201

*Course Description:*

This graduate seminar introduces students to the usefulness of sexuality as a category of analysis in American Studies. We will read broadly across the field of sexuality studies in U.S. history and cultural studies, ethnography, cultural geography, film studies, art history and cultural theory. The course will be arranged chronologically, proceeding from the history and culture of sex "before sexuality" to the "invention" of sexuality as a sphere of personal definition, the emergence of hetero- and homosexuality as categories of experience and identity, and the challenges that other sexual practices and desires pose to the now-dominant hetero/homosexual binary. Some topics that we are likely to address include: the social history of sexual communities; sexual discourses and representations; the spatial organization of sexuality; the relationship between sexuality and the state; sexual difference and embodiment; and the globalization of sexual culture and identity.

**AMST 295.10 - Independent Study**  
**STAFF**  
CRN 12582

**AMST 299.10 - Thesis Research**  
**STAFF**  
CRN 12583

**AMST 300.10 - Thesis Research**  
**STAFF**  
CRN 12584

**AMST 394.40 - Advanced Reading and  
Research**  
**STAFF**  
CRN 12585

**AMST 395.10 - Dissertation Research**  
**STAFF**  
CRN 12586

**AMST 398.10 - Advanced Reading and  
Research**  
**STAFF**  
CRN 12587

**AMST 399.10 - Dissertation Research**  
**STAFF**  
CRN 12588

**AMST 801.10 - Spaces, Places, and Things**  
**Dr. John Vlach**  
CRN 15058  
MW 9:35-10:45 - P201  
*\* Freshman Only*