

American Studies Fall 2006

AMST 71.10 - Introduction to American Studies

Dr. Teresa Murphy
CRN 72339

WF 2:20-3:10 - 1957 E B12

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course will use an interdisciplinary approach to study these issues, drawing on art, artifacts, literary texts, and historical documents. Students must register for a discussion section.

AMST 71.30 - Discussion

CRN 72340
M 9:35-10:50 – MPA 302

AMST 71.31 - Discussion

CRN 72341
M 11:10-12:00 – 2020 K 21

AMST 71.32 - Discussion

CRN 72342
M 2:00-2:50 - P201

AMST 71.33 – Discussion

CRN 72343
M 1:00-1:50 - P201

AMST 71.34 – Discussion

CRN 72344
M 12:45-1:35 – COR 106

AMST 71.35 – Discussion

CRN 72345
M 2:20-3:10 – COR 111

AMST 71W.80 - Introduction to American Studies

Dr. Teresa Murphy
CRN 77601

WF 2:20-3:10 – 1957 E B12

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course will use an interdisciplinary approach to study these issues, drawing on art, artifacts, literary texts, and historical documents. Students must register for a discussion section 81.

AMST 71W.81 – Discussion

CRN 77602
M 9:00-9:50 – P201

AMST 139W.80 – Women in the United States (WID course)

Dr. Teresa Murphy
CRN 74506

WF 9:35-10:25 – MPA B07

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. Students must register for a discussion section.

AMST 139W.81 – Discussion

CRN 74507

F 11:10-12:00 – P201

AMST 139W.82 – Discussion

CRN 77598

F 12:00-12:50 - P201

AMST 139W.83 – Discussion

CRN 77600

F 2:00-2:50 – P201

AMST 139W.84 – Discussion

CRN 77606

F 11:10-12:00 – MPA 309

AMST 139W.85 – Discussion

CRN 77607

F 1:00-1:50 – P201

AMST 144.80 – Explorations in Historical Geography

Dr. Eric Lindstrom

CRN 76615

TR 5:10-6:25 – DUQUES 254

AMST 165.80 – Introduction to Folklore

Dr. John Vlach

CRN 76616

M 2:20-3:35 – DUQUES 151

W 3:45-5:00 – DUQUES 151

This course offers a survey of some of the major forms of traditional expressive culture in the United States. Examples are drawn from various folk groups and will cover verbal, artifactual, and performance genres such as folktales, crafts, and music. The primary objectives and techniques of folklore scholarship will be discussed and illustrated throughout the course. In addition to lectures and discussion of readings, the class may also feature visits to local museums, the viewing of documentary films and videos, and presentations by visiting experts and folk artists.

AMST 167.80 – US Religion and Politics

Dr. Kip Kosek

CRN 74400

TR 2:20-3:35 – MPA B07

This course explores the history of religion's intersection with American politics and public life. Our main concerns include: religious and secular visions of the nation; religion's role in promoting, or preventing, bigotry, conflict, and violence; the separation of church and state; religious factors in racial and gender politics; the use of religious resources in reform movements; and the relationship of religion and democracy. The Constitution, the Civil War, the Social Gospel, World War II, the civil rights movement, and the "New Christian Right" are some of the likely subjects of study. While the course takes a historical approach, the last section will give some attention to the contemporary religious and political landscape.

AMST 167.81 – Race and Ethnicity in US Postwar Cities

Dr. Suleiman Osman

CRN 76618

W 11:10-12:25 – GELM 607

F 12:45-2:00 – GELM 607

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, multiracial Honolulu, and gentrifying Washington D.C.

AMST 167W.10 – Representations of the American West (WID course)

Dr. Melinda Knight

CRN 75458

M 12:45-3:15 – MPA 305

W 2:20-3:10 – OM 312

This course will consider the American West as an idea, place, and process. We will focus primarily on the period from 1880 to 1940 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 168W.10 – Cultural Criticism in America (WID course)

Dr. Kip Kosek

CRN 75251

TR 10:50-12:05 - 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 174.80 – American Slavery in History and Memory

Dr. James Horton

CRN 76622

TR 11:10-12:25 – FNGR 209

AMST 175.80 – American Architecture (1600-1860)

Dr. Richard Longstreth

CRN 74270

MW 11:10-12:25 - FNGR 222

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.

Graduate students can take the course and we will schedule a separate graduate discussion section.

AMST 179.10 – Practicum in American Studies

Dr. Melani McAlister

CRN 72346

T 12:10-2:00 – P201

This course is limited to, and required for, American Studies majors in their senior year. The course work is primarily an internship of approximately 8 hours a week in an organization or agency whose work is generally related to American Studies, U.S. culture or politics, or social issues. The internship must be approved at the beginning of the semester by the course instructor. In addition to the internship, students must attend class, which focuses on preparation for the spring senior research thesis.

AMST 186.80 – US Urban History

Dr. Christopher Klemek

CRN 77447

M 2:20-3:35 – MPA 309

W 3:45-5:00 – ROME 206

AMST 195.10 – Independent Study

CRN 72347

AMST – 198.10 – Researching American Culture

Dr. Chad Heap

CRN 76632

T 6:10-8:00 – P201

This intensive seminar introduces 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 colleagues 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.

NOTE: Students registering for this course are expected to come up with a preliminary research topic over the summer that they can begin researching at the beginning of the fall semester. *American Studies majors in their final year of classes have priority in registering for this course. If space remains, other majors may petition the instructor for permission to take the course.*

AMST 198.80 – Music Cultures of Black America

Dr. Kip Lornell

CRN 72965

TR 12:45-2:00 – FNDR 220

This course introduces you to the wealth of African American music found throughout the United States. This semester we'll pay particular attention to the important genres that have developed in the 20th century since the close of WW II. In addition you will be introduced to D.C.'s unique contribution to American culture. Through readings, lectures, video tapes, and musical examples, you will become aware not only of the historical development of the various genres of black American music but their distinctive musical characteristics, performance practices, and aesthetic values.

AMST 220.80 – Fundamentals of Feminist Theory

Dr. Burack

CRN 75794

W 7:10-9:00 – ROME 459

Restricted to Women's Studies and Public Policy Students. Contact department directly.

AMST 231.10 – Scope and Methods

Dr. Teresa Murphy

CRN 72368

R 2:10-4:00 – 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 250.10 – American Material Culture

Dr. Edith Mayo

CRN 72348

M 1:30-3:20 - Smithsonian

The purpose of this seminar is to learn to use material culture in historical research. Material culture refers to both physical objects created by humans and an approach to their study synthesizing theories and methods used in art, architectural history, archaeology, decorative arts, the history of technology and museum studies. The course uses the resources and collections of various museums within the Smithsonian Institution including art museums, the Museum of American History, the Air and Space Museum, and a field trip to the Winterthur Museum in Delaware.

Class requirements include either 3 short papers (7-10 pages) or one short paper and one longer paper (15-20 pages), focusing on object interpretation, historic house museum interpretation, or an exhibition review.

AMST 251.10 – Museum Research and Education

CRN 72349

Internship or independent study at the Smithsonian. To be arranged with department chair before registration.

AMST 252.10 – American Decorative Arts

Dr. Nancy Davis

CRN 73546

M 3:40-5:30 - Smithsonian

The class focuses on issues related to the study of American Decorative Arts with an interpretive application to exhibitions and public history. The course presents selections from exhibition catalogs, monographs, articles and books that broke new ground in historical research in American Decorative arts or in the application of the decorative arts in an exhibition format. The student will become familiar with stylistic issues related to a wide range of materials including furniture, textiles, silver, metals, and ceramics, will become conversant with methodologies related to the public exhibition of the decorative arts object, and aware of decorative arts/material culture theory.

AMST 257.80 – Seminar: American Folklife

Dr. John Vlach

CRN 76635

W 6:10-8:00 – P201

This course will present the materials of American folk culture concentrating particularly on folk architecture, folk crafts, and folk art. The major organizing themes of the course are regionalism and the use of objects as

indicators of cultural intention. During the first half of the course we will assess the entire nation in terms of architectural expression. This will be followed by a topical consideration of insights to be gained by the analysis of objects in their social contexts. Readings and a major term paper.

AMST 262.10 – US Media in a Global Context

Dr. Melani McAlister

CRN 76636

W 10:00-12:30 – P201

This readings course will examine the history of US media – film, television, music, the internet, etc. It will specifically situate the development, deployment, and reception of US cultural products in the context of debates about Americanization, globalization, and the role of culture in producing assent (or resistance) to US foreign policy. We will also look at the most recent scholarship within cultural studies and American studies, whether or not it is global in its focus, in order to understand the history of mass media -- its technological and formal aspects, its role in the public sphere – as well as the theoretical debates about ideology, visibility and spectacle, audience reception studies, etc. Texts will likely include W. Benjamin, L. Rabinovitz, L. Spigel, M. Rogin, U. Poiger, M. Denning, A. Kaplan, V. de Grazia.

AMST 270.80 – Theory and Practice: Public History

Dr. James Horton

CRN 73801

T 2:10-4:00 – P201

AMST 271.80 – Readings and Research: US Social History

Dr. Tom Guglielmo

CRN 76637

R 6:10-8:00 – P201

The purpose of this graduate seminar is to offer a high-level introduction to the field of U.S. social history and to explore a variety of ordinary Americans' everyday lives. We will begin by defining the parameters of the field and examining some of its key interpretive frameworks and theoretical tools. Then we will read a collection of the most important and influential texts of the last several decades. All along we will focus on such broad topics as identity, power, difference, culture, ideology, structure, and agency; on land, labor, community, politics, religion, social movements, and pop culture; and on race, class, gender, and sexuality.

AMST 277.80 – Historic Preservation: Principles and Methods

Dr. Richard Longstreth

CRN 74273

MW 4:10-6:00 – P201

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 the 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.

AMST 280.10 – Field Methods: Architectural Documentation

Dr. Orlando Ridout

CRN 76638

R 4:10-6:00 – P201

AMST 284.10 – American Visual Studies: Introduction

Dr. Frank Goodyear

CRN 73219

M 6:10-8:00 – P201

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 B. Stapp

CRN 72350

T 11:10-1:00 – BELL 108

Visit a different historic house every week! 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 – Research Problems in Urban History

Dr. Suleiman Osman

CRN 76639

R 12:10-2:00 – P201

In this graduate-level seminar, students will conduct primary research on a topic in 20th century urban history, ultimately producing an article-length paper. While conducting their own research, students will read and comment on each other's work throughout the semester. Along with being introduced to the major themes in urban scholarship, students will be encouraged to become familiar with local archives in the Washington metro area.

AMST 289.82 – Twentieth Century

Dr. Jim Miller

CRN 77407

R 3:30-6:00 – PHIL 413

AMST 295.10 – Independent Study

CRN 72351

AMST 299.10 – Thesis Research

CRN 72352

AMST 300.10 – Thesis Research

CRN 72353

AMST 394.10 – Adv. Reading & Research

CRN 72354

AMST 395.10 – Dissertation Research

CRN 72355

AMST 398.10 – Adv. Reading & Research

CRN 72356

AMST 399.10 – Dissertation Research

CRN 72357

AMST 801.10 – Washington Sex Scandals

Dr. Chad Heap

CRN 76640

M 10:00-12:30 – P201

AMST 801.11 – World War II: Experience and Memory

Dr. Tom Guglielmo

CRN 76641

F 3:00-5:30 – P201

AMST 801.12 - US-Middle East Cultural Encounters

Dr. Melani McAlister

CRN 77403

W 1:30-4:00 – P201