

American Studies Courses Spring 2004

AMST 72.10 **Introduction to American Studies** **Palmer**
CRN# 22681 MW 12:30 – 1:20pm 1957 E 213

Course Description:

The course provides a basic chronology and interpretations of American culture from 1890-2000. We will "read" primary texts of autobiographies, photographs, movies, novels, and music. These will be analyzed within a framework that emphasizes four large patterns of the 20th century: shift from a producer to consumer culture; U.S. rise to international economic, military, and cultural dominance; assertions of identities based on race, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality; and tensions between private liberty and public obligation. The course requires two short essays, a mid-term, final exam, and regular participation in weekly discussion sections.

Discussion Sections:

AMST 72.30
CRN# 22682 R 09:00 -09:50am P 201

AMST 72.31
CRN# 22683 R 10:00-10:50am P 201

AMST 72.32
CRN# 22684 R 11:00-11:50am P 201

AMST 72.33
CRN# 22685 R 12:00-12:50pm P 201

AMST 72.34
CRN# 22686 R 03:00-03:50pm P 201

AMST 72.35
CRN# 22687 R 04:00-04:50pm P 201

AMST 140.80 **Women in the US from 1877-Present** **Harrison**
CRN# 24715 TR 2:00-3:15pm ROME 459

Course Description:

This course will examine the experience of women in the United States during the late 19th and 20th centuries, to understand how gender shapes social, economic and political roles. This exploration will include the impact of class, religion, race, and ethnicity on women's role on men.

AMST 144.80
CRN# 25663

**Historical Geography of
North America**
M 4:10-6:00

Grim
1957 E 111

Course Description:

An overview of the changing geography of North America, focusing primarily on the United States experience from the 16th century to beginning of the 20th century. For the colonial period, there will be an emphasis on aerial variation and the formation of regional economies and distinctive settlement patterns. For the 19th century, the focus will be on settlement expansion west of the Appalachians and the socio-economic development of the United States in comparison with the Canadian experience, discussing such topics as immigration, economic activity, industrialization, transportation, and urbanization. Several projects, utilizing cartographic and historical geographical resources available on the Internet are an integral part of course requirements.

AMST 145.80
CRN# 25790

American Folk Art
MW 11:00 –12:15pm

Vlach
MPA 310

Course Description:

This course will present an overview of American folk art traditions with a sequences of lectures organized by artistic media. Several examples within each medium will be discussed to illustrate significant aspects of historical development, cultural variation, technical expertise, and/or creative innovation. Lectures will all be illustrated with slides (some films may be shown as well) and we may also have some visiting specialists give presentations. We will also be making a field trip to a museum to view works of art in person.

Students will be expected to attend class regularly, take exams, and prepare a research paper (ca. 15 pages) on any subject related to American folk art. Course grades will be determined in the following manner: Mid-term =20%, Final Exam = 30%, Paper = 40%, class discussion = 10%.

AMST 167.80
CRN# 25797

Environmental History
W 04:10 – 06:00pm

Mergen
1957 E 111

Course Description:

This course will examine American attitudes toward nature and the physical environment over the past 200 years with an emphasis on the conflicts that have arisen between aesthetic and spiritual values and economic and technological development. We will pay particular attention to the changing definitions of nature, wilderness, and natural resources. Readings will be assigned from Carolyn Merchant, ed. *MAGOR PROBLEMS IN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY* and Robert Finch & John Elder, eds. *THE NORTON BOOK OF NATURE WRITING*. Two short (8-10) papers are required, one a review of a book, exhibition, or film selected from a list of recommended works, the other an essay on a place or personal experience with nature. Field trips and field screenings will be arranged.

AMST 168.10
CRN# 23925

Cultural Criticism in America
TR 11:00 – 12:15pm

Drown
MPA 302

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 like film, music and

television, is such a significant aspect of our lives. Different units in the course will examine 1) the institutions (corporations and individuals) that produce culture, 2) the ideological messages that circulate in cultural products and 3) how different audiences interpret the culture they consume. This course is writing-intensive and discussion oriented. American Studies majors by permission of instructor.

AMST 176.80

CRN# 22688

American Architecture

MW 2:00-3:15pm

Longstreth

1957 E B12

Course Description:

Examination of 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, from 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 topics introduced include the role of the designer, the influence of region, and architecture as an aspect of landscape.

AMST 180.10

CRN# 22689

Proseminar in American Studies

T 4:10-6:00pm

Palmer

MPA 302

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 180.11

CRN# 25793

Proseminar in American Studies

T 4:10-6:00pm

Drown

P201

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 186.80

CRN# 25767

US Urban History

TR 12:30 –1:20pm

Heap

MPA B07

Course Description:

This course explores the history of U.S. urban life and culture, focusing on the period since the late nineteenth century when a majority of Americans have lived either in urban centers or in the suburban developments that sprang up around them. Approaching the American city as a contested cultural terrain, we will analyze the urban politics of race, class, gender and sexuality; the changing definition of urban work and its effects on life in the city; the reconfiguration of urban space, including the development of parks, apartment buildings and public housing; social and moral reform efforts to police the city and its inhabitants; the role of mass culture and public amusements in shaping urban experience; the rise of popular urban discontent; the increasing tendency toward suburbanization; and the so-called “disintegration” of urban neighborhoods. Although course readings will examine these dynamics in a variety of American cities, students will be encouraged to use this scholarship to develop a more complex understanding of their own urban surroundings and will be required to take a historical walking tour of one Washington, D.C. neighborhood. Class time will consist of two weekly lectures

and one smaller section meeting where students will discuss the week's assigned readings and films.

Discussion Sections:

AMST 186.81

CRN# 25768 R 3:00-4:20pm ROME 206

AMST 186.82

CRN# 25764 R 4:30-5:20pm PHIL 110

AMST 186.83

CRN# 25770 R 3:30-4:20pm PHIL 110

AMST 186.84

CRN# 25771 R 4:30-5:20pm GELM 608

AMST 192.80

CRN# 22690 **The American Cinema** **Mergen**
T 2:00-3:15pm GELM B04
R 2:00-4:30pm GELM B04

Course Description:

An introduction to the history of American movies emphasizing the art, entertainment, and business contexts of movies from 1896-1996. Required viewing of 21 movies (14 in class + 7 outside.) Required reading: Robert Sklar, *Movie-Made America: A Cultural History of American Movies* (1994); Richard Maltby & Ian Crave, *Hollywood Cinema: An Introduction* (1995); and Lillian Ross, *Picture* (1952). Two short papers (5-10 pages), quizzes, and a final exam.

AMST 195.10

CRN# 22691 **Independent Study** **Palmer**
T BA TBA

AMST 251.10

CRN# 22693 **Museum Research and Education** **Mergen**
TBA TBA

AMST 253.10

CRN# 24612 **Material Culture and History of** **Nickles**
Home and Family **NMAH**
R 10:00-11:50am

Course Description:

This seminar explores selected topics in home and family life in America from the colonial period to the present within an American Studies and historical intellectual framework using the lens of material culture: architecture, spaces, furnishings, utensils, technological systems, and artifacts associated with ritual. Through museum collections, exhibits, and readings, we will consider a range of issues including ideal and actual standards of living, family structures and ideology, life stages, rituals, foodways, community, and museum interpretation. Particular focus will be given to the home as a place for constructing and performing social identity (ethnicity, class, gender, race, religion); reproducing and contesting the social and political order; and producing and consuming goods and services.

AMST 257.80
CRN# 25195

Seminar: American Folklife
W 4:10-6:00pm

Vlach
1957 E 111

Course Description:

This course will present the materials of American folk culture concentrating particularly on folk architecture, folk crafts, and folk art. The major organizing themes for 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 269.80
CRN# 25776

American Cultural History
W 6:10-8:00pm

Heap
P201

Course Description:

This graduate-level readings seminar combines historical and theoretical approaches to the study of 20th-century culture in the United States. The course will explore the relationship between mass-produced cultural products, the rise of visual culture, concepts of modernity and post-modernity, and the construction of identities in the United States--including, but not limited to, identities defined by race, gender, sexuality, religion, and nation.

AMST 276.10
CRN# 25794

Economics of Preservation
R 6:10-8:00pm

Wagner
P201

Course Description:

This course will develop skills in real estate analysis and preservation economics, focusing on basic techniques necessary to understand financial pro formas, market studies, financing techniques, incentive programs and economic studies related to preservation of the built environment. Students will have the opportunity to examine economic impact models as they are applied to preservation of historic structures and districts.

AMST 278.80
CRN# 25795

Historic Preservation
MW 4:10-6:00pm

Longstreth
P 201

Course Description:

This course investigates selected aspects of contemporary preservation practice in the U.S. Topics examined include the survey and documentation of historic properties, the nature of historic districts and the changes to which they are subjected over time, the bearing of physical context for historic properties, the meanings of significance in historic preservation and the criteria by which it is determined, and the implications of new design within a preservation framework.

The primary focus of this course is on physical aspects of preservation and on the broad issues these aspects represent. While class lectures and discussions will address these concerns in a general way, the opportunity to explore some matters in detail and out in the field will be afforded by the semester assignment.

AMST 284.10
CRN# 23926

Am Photo: Theory & Practice
T 6:10-8:00

Goodyear
P201

Course Description:

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.

In addition to the weekly reading assignments, each student will be required to deliver three in-class reports. Approximately ten minutes each in length, these presentations should provide the class with a critical summary of the subject or book that you chosen. The topics for these reports include a photographic process or format (Week 2), a photographic history survey (Week 3), and an additional book of your choice (Week to be determined).

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 287.80

CRN# 25778

US Urban History

TR 12:30-1:20pm

R 02:00-2:50pm

Heap

1957 E B12

ROME 201

Course Description:

This graduate course explores the history of U.S. urban life and culture, focusing on the period since the late nineteenth century when a majority of Americans have lived either in urban centers or in the suburban developments that sprang up around them. Approaching the American city as a contested cultural terrain, we will analyze the urban politics of race, class, gender and sexuality; the changing definition of urban work and its effects on life in the city; the reconfiguration of urban space, including the development of parks, apartment buildings and public housing; social and moral reform efforts to police the city and its inhabitants; the role of mass culture and public amusements in shaping urban experience; the rise of popular urban discontent; the increasing tendency toward suburbanization; and the so-called "disintegration" of urban neighborhoods. Although course readings will examine these dynamics in a variety of American cities, students will be encouraged to use this scholarship to develop a more complex understanding of their own urban surroundings and will be required to take a historical walking tour of one Washington, D.C. neighborhood. Class time will consist of two weekly lectures and a smaller graduate section meeting where students will discuss the week's assigned readings and films.

AMST 289.10

CRN# 25792

Seminar: 1970 America

R 4:10-6:00

McAlister

PHIL 109

Course Description:

This graduate research seminar will combine historical readings on politics and culture with analysis of primary sources from the period (novels, journalism, and film). Likely readings include McGuirr, *Suburban Warriors*; Greenberg, *Nixon's Shadow*; Gerhard, *Desiring Revolution*; and Miller, *The Seventies Now*, as well as Ishmael Reed's *Mumbo Jumbo*, Kingston's *The Woman Warrior*, and several films, including *The Godfather*, *Alien*, and Laura Mulvey's *Riddles of the Sphinx*. Much of the course will be devoted to work on individual research projects, which will result in a 30-page publishable essay.

AMST 289.80

CRN# 25996

Public Archaeology

T 6:10-8:40pm

Cressey

HAH 202

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the basic data and methods of research in the material culture of recent history. Same as ANTH 187.

AMST 295.10

CRN# 22694

Independent Study

TBA

Mergen

TBA

AMST 299.10

CRN# 22695

Thesis Research

TBA

Mergen

RBA

AMST 300.10

CRN# 22696

Thesis Research

TBA

Mergen

TBA

AMST 352.10

CRN# 22701

Research: Selected Aspects of AMST

TBA

Mergen

TBA

AMST 394.10

CRN# 22697

Advanced Reading and Research

TBA

Mergen

TBA

AMST 395.10

CRN# 22698

Dissertation Research

TBA

Mergen

TBA

AMST 398.10

CRN# 22699

Advanced Reading and Research

TBA

Mergen

TBA

AMST 399.10

CRN# 22700

Dissertation Research

TBA

Mergen

TBA