

## American Studies Courses Spring 2006

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### **AMST 72.80 – Introduction to American Studies**

Dr. Phyllis Palmer  
CRN 52354  
MW 11:10-12:00  
1957E B12

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.

*Only Freshman. Fulfills PSA requirement.*

### **Discussion Sections:**

#### **AMST 72.30**

CRN 52355  
R 1:00-1:50  
P201

#### **AMST 72.32**

CRN 52357  
R 2:20-3:10  
P201

#### **AMST 72.31**

CRN 52356  
R 9:00-9:50  
P201

#### **AMST 72.33**

CRN 55058  
R 12:45-1:35  
2020K 22

### **AMST 72.80 – Introduction to American Studies (Writing in the Discipline)**

Dr. Phyllis Palmer  
CRN 55424  
MW 11:10-12:00  
1957E B12

Discussion Section:

#### **AMST 72.34 (WID)**

CRN 55425  
R 10:00-10:50  
P201

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

Dr. Cynthia Harrison  
CRN 53683 - Cross-listed with Women's Studies  
TR 2:20-3:35  
1957 E 211

### **AMST 145.80 – Folk Arts in America**

Dr. John Vlach  
CRN 56224 - Cross-listed with Art History  
M 2:20-3:35  
W 3:55-5:10  
1957 E B12

This course will present an overview of folk art traditions within the United States. Examples will include works produced by a variety of ethnic and regional groups including Native Americans, African Americans, and Euro-Americans. Examples of blacksmithing, pottery, quilting, woodcarving, ceramics, and other genres will be surveyed. Lectures will be 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) and we may also have some visiting specialists give presentations.

Students will be expected to attend class regularly, take exams, and prepare a research paper (ca. 10-12 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 participation and discussion = 10 %.

### **AMST 167.80 – Public Memory**

Mr. Paul Gardullo

CRN 54126 - Cross-listed with History

WF 9:35-10:50

FNGR 210

On the broadest level, this course is an introduction to American Studies, which examines American thought, culture, and society from a range of disciplinary perspectives. The central issue in the class is the ways in which the past matters to people in the present, and the ways in which a sense of group identity is shaped in relation to certain shared “memories.”

In this course we will spend time defining similarities and differences between our key terms memory, community and history. We will then study selected cases of public memory, investigating questions such as: What distinguishes public and private memories from “history”? How do individuals within communities of memory find a place for themselves and their own, possibly deviant memories? How does the interplay between personal or private memory and collective or public memory find expression in culture and social life? And does memory itself have a history?

Four broad categories -- “Monument,” “Document,” “Performance,” and “Archive” -- will provide an organizing structure that will guide our investigations over the course of the semester. Following this structure, students will critically analyze representations of the past in the built environment, written texts, performances, museums, memorials and paper and web-based archives. We will also devote some time in class to thinking about how a problem of interpretation can be framed from the perspective of a historian, a literary scholar, an art historian, a journalist, or a sociologist, and what might be gained by considering several approaches to a period, movement or event in the past.

### **AMST 167.81 – US-Middle East Cultural Encounters**

Dr. Melani McAlister

CRN 56249 - Cross-listed with History

W 11:10-12:25 – 1957 E 111

F 12:45-2:00 – 1957 E 111

This course examines a range of cultural forms that have connected, or disconnected, people in the United States and those in the Middle East (primarily the Arab world, but including also Israel and Iran). The course is not a history of US-Middle East politics, though that history will be relevant to our discussions. It focuses instead on the ways that cultural products and experiences have mattered, from films and music to literature to news accounts to tourism. We will pay closest in the role of culture in constructing US images of the Middle East, but we will also look at the ways that people in the Middle East have imagined the United States.

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

Dr. Kip Kosek

CRN 56772

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 56226 - Cross-listed with History

MW 12:45-2:00

DUQUES 255

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 1860-1940**

Dr. Richard Longstreth

CRN 52358 - Cross-listed with Art History

MW 12:45-2:00

1957 E B12

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 180.10 – Proseminar in American Studies**

Dr. Phyllis Palmer

CRN 52359

M 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.

### **AMST 180.11 – Proseminar in American Studies**

Dr. Teresa Murphy

CRN 54125

M 12:45-3:15

1957 E 309

### **AMST 186.80 – US Urban History**

Dr. Chad Heap

CRN 56229 - Cross-listed with History

TR 2:20-3:10

COR 302

This lecture/discussion course explores the history of U.S. urban life and culture. 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 and the built environment; 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; the so-called “disintegration” of urban neighborhoods; gentrification; and the post-industrial, multicultural city.

#### **Discussion Sections:**

##### **AMST 186.81**

CRN 56231

F 10:00-10:50

P201

##### **AMST 186.83**

CRN 56235

F 1:00-1:50

P201

##### **AMST 186.82**

CRN 56233

F 11:00-11:50

P201

##### **AMST 186.84**

CRN 56237

F 2:00-2:50

P201

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

Dr. Jim Deutsch

CRN 52360 - Cross-listed with Art History

M 3:30-6:00 – 1957 E B17

W 9:35-10:50 – GELM B04

In this course, students will learn about the cultural, social, and economic history of movies in the United States, with an emphasis on the period prior to 1980. Students will also develop their skills for analyzing and appreciating cinematic techniques, visual styles, and film genres. Class time will consist of a weekly lecture and discussion (Wednesdays) and weekly screenings of relevant films and clips (Mondays). Assignments will include a midterm exam, final exam, and final paper, as well as several shorter assignments to be determined.

### **AMST 195.10 – Independent Study**

CRN 52361

### **AMST 198W.10 – Women and Social Activism in Nineteenth Century America**

Dr. Teresa Murphy

CRN 57145

T 4:10-6:00

P201

This course will focus on guided research in the area of U.S. Women's History in the Nineteenth Century. Students will read several books and then in consultation with the professor, produce a proposal, bibliographic essay, and ultimately, a twenty page research paper on a topic they choose in this area. Students will be introduced to archival resources at the National Archives, Library of Congress, and other major collections of Washington, D.C. Students should have some background in American Studies, History, or Women's Studies, but there are no specific prerequisites for this course. Restricted to Undergraduates

### **AMST 198.11 – Internet in American Culture**

Ms. Stephanie Schulte

CRN 57039

W 11:10-1:00

P201

In this seminar, we will look at the ways in which computers and the internet both function in and are constructed through American culture. Principal questions include: How are computers and the internet situated in American daily life? What does it mean to think about these (and other) technologies as cultural? How does the internet compare with other systems of communication and how does it complicate individual and national identity? How do computers and the internet serve as cultural locations for debates about Americanness, postmodernism, and globalization?

This course is explicitly interdisciplinary and uses primary sources from popular culture, politics and computer industries in combination with theoretical perspectives from sociology, psychology, political science, ethics, economics, anthropology and cultural theory.

### **AMST 251.10 – Museum Research and Education**

CRN 52362

Student arranges an internship with a Smithsonian curator.

### **AMST 253.10 – Decorative Arts**

Dr. Nancy Davis

CRN 56253

M 3:30-5:30

SMTH

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 269.10 – American Cultural History**

Dr. Chad Heap

CRN 56239

T 6:10-8:00

P201

This graduate readings seminar introduces students to a selection of recent monographs in twentieth-century U.S. cultural history. The course will explore topics such as the rise of visual culture and mass consumption, the emergence of concepts of modernity and postmodernity, the effects of cultural and subcultural politics, the spatial organization of American culture, and the role of discourse and performativity in the construction of American identities.

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

Dr. Noralee Frankel

CRN 55062

W 5:10-7:00

GELM 609

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 the exhibition atomic bomb. 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, lobbying efforts on behalf of history, 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 276.10 – Economics of Preservation**

Dr. Richard Wagner

CRN 56252

R 6:10-8:00

P201

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 – Historic Preservation: Principles & Methods**

Dr. Richard Longstreth

CRN 56258 - Cross-listed with History

MW 4:10-6:00

P201

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 – American Photography: Theory & Practice**

Dr. Frank Goodyear

CRN 53274

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.

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 – US Urban History**

Dr. Chad Heap

CRN 56240

TR 2:20-3:10 – COR 203

T 1:00-1:50 – P201

This lecture/discussion course explores the history of U.S. urban life and culture. 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 and the built environment; 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; the so-called “disintegration” of urban neighborhoods; gentrification; and the post-industrial, multicultural city. The graduate students attend the undergraduate lecture and then meet again for a discussion.

### **AMST 289.10 – Religion and American Culture**

Dr. Kip Kosek

CRN 56228

R 4:10-6:00

P201

This seminar explores the beliefs, practices, and experiences of religious people and religious communities in the United States, as well as the intersections between religion and “secular” society. We will focus in particular on the ways that serious attention to religion might change our perspective on other subjects, such as: race and ethnicity; gender, sexuality, and the body; capitalism and consumer society; scientific knowledge; mass media; social and political movements; material and visual culture; and transnationalism. This course will also assess the relative merits of different disciplinary approaches to interpreting religion (historical, anthropological, sociological, and ethnographic, among others).

### **AMST 289.11 – Autobiography: Literature and Art**

Dr. Kathy Lawrence

CRN 56774

R 11:10-1:00

2035 F

Autobiography and self-portrait have the power to convey the story of a culture written and painted from within. Invented against the background of American history, these expressions of subjectivity comment profoundly on the American experience. This course will study descriptions of the individual American consciousness in image and text beginning with the Puritan migration through contemporary times. Throughout our investigation we will ask how these autobiographies and portraits reflect both the subjective self and American history. Our inquiry will focus on questions of objectivity and subjectivity, rhetorical strategy, iconography, construction of image, and cultural context. This course is designed to be of interest to students in American Studies, Women’s Studies, African-American Studies, and Art History.

### **AMST 290.10 – Research Problems**

Dr. Melani McAlister

CRN 56251

W 1:30-4:00

P201

This seminar is for students working on individual research projects. These may be dissertations, dissertation proposals, MA theses, or academic articles. It will focus entirely on developing research and writing strategies, organizing deadlines, and sharing and critiquing each others work. Highly recommended for students in 2<sup>nd</sup> year or above. Permission of Instructor

### **AMST 295.10 – Independent Study**

CRN 52363

### **AMST 299.10 – Thesis Research**

CRN 52364

### **AMST 300.10 – Thesis Research**

CRN 52365

### **AMST 352.10 – Research: Selected Aspects of American Studies**

CRN 52370

**AMST 394.10 – Advanced Reading & Research**

CRN 52366

**AMST 395.10 – Dissertation Research**

CRN 52367

**AMST 398.10 – Advanced Reading & Research**

CRN 52368

**AMST 399.10 – Dissertation Research**

CRN 52369