

COURSES FOR DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES

American Studies Courses

AMS100 Special Topics

Hours 1

Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduate students offered by American studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants. Some examples include the following five-week, one-hour courses: African-American Star Athletes, Superbowl Ads, Stand Up Comedy, Disney's America, and Why Eat Local?.

AMS101 Special Topics

Hours 1

Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS102 Special Topics

Hours 1

Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS103 Special Topics

Hours 1

Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS104 Special Topics

Hours 1

Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS105 Special Topics

Hours 1

Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS106 Special Topics

Hours 1

Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS150 Introduction to American Pop Culture

HU

Hours 3

Exploration of the relation between the arts - popular, folk, and elite - and American culture in four selected periods: Victorian America, the '20s and '30s, World War II and the Postwar Era, and the '60s. Class presentations and discussions revolve around novels, movies, art, music, artifacts, and readings about the periods. This course is team taught by all the members of the American studies faculty. Offered fall semester.

Humanities

AMS151 America and the World

HU

Hours 3

A broad survey of American culture formed by global, national, and regional influences. The first section, "World," looks at the United States as a product and shaper of international movements, ideas, and cultures from 1500 to the present. The second section, "Nation," examines the creation of a distinctly American identity between 1790 and 1890 that ultimately incorporated and reflected global issues. The third section, "Regions," focuses on the South and other regions as contributors to and consequences of national and global interactions. Team taught by the entire AMS faculty, lectures will include topics on film, music, literature, art, sports, and other cultural artifacts. Offered spring semester.

Humanities

AMS200 Special Topics Amer Stud

Hours 3

Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduate students offered by AMS faculty members or Americanists from related departments. Recent examples include The Asian-American Experience, The American Road, The Sporting Life, Baseball Since 1945, and Twilight Zone Culture. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours.

AMS201 Intro African Amer Study

SB

Hours 3

This course provides a basic outline of the diversity and complexity of the African American experience in the United States. It surveys the early academic and social concern of Black Studies advocates; the changes in the field's objectives that arise from its connections to contemporary social movements for Black Power, women's liberation, and multiculturalism; and its major theoretical and critical debates.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

AMS203 Introduction to Southern Studies

HU

Hours 3

This discussion-based course introduces students to major texts and interdisciplinary methodologies in the field of Southern Studies. Traversing epochs from before the Civil War until after the Civil Rights Movement, we will scrutinize the interplay between course materials (autobiographies, fictional texts, historical accounts, and films) and major political, cultural, and social forces influencing the region and the nation.

Humanities

AMS204 Introduction to Western American Studies

HU

Hours 3

A lecture/discussion course utilizing a biographical approach to the salient themes, issues, and episodes of the American West. Some of these lives are real, some of them imagined, and others are a little of each. All of them, however, reveal much about both region and nation and how each has changed over time.

Humanities

AMS205 Dirty Jobs

HU

Hours 3

This course explores jobs that get you "dirty." Work is one of the aspects that most shapes individual lives, and many lines of work are viewed as dangerous, dirty, or somehow unsavory by American society. This course uses films, TV shows, written narratives, and music to explore different types of "dirty" work in the United States.

Humanities

AMS206 Native American Studies

HU

Hours 3

There's a lot more to Native Americans than the first Thanksgiving, the Battle of the Little Bighorn, and casinos (although we'll discuss all those things too). This course will introduce you to the diversity of Native American societies, their histories, and their significant influence on American culture, contemporary U.S. policy, and law. We'll be examining everything from ancient archaeological artifacts to contemporary film and literature as we investigate the vital role of indigenous people in North America. As much as possible, we'll be directly engaging Native sources and voices as we explore the struggles over land, sovereignty, and culture that have shaped (and continue to shape) Native American lives.

Humanities

AMS207 Intro to Latinx Studies

HU

Hours 3

This course introduces students to the range of issues and analytical approaches that form the foundation of Latinx studies. By tracing the history of the Latinx concept in relation to key elements of life, such as time, space, identity, community, power, language, nation, and rights, students will develop understandings of the particular ways in which Latinx studies takes shape. Focus for the course will be on the largest Latino groups in the U.S.: those of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban and Dominican descent.

Humanities

AMS208 Rock, Hip-Hop, and Country

Hours 3

This course will offer an introduction to popular music that young Americans used for two generations, to root their aesthetics, center their values, and test their ethical allegiances.

AMS213 Honors Introduction to Southern Studies

HU, UH

Hours 3

In this discussion-based honors course, students engage with major texts and methodologies in the interdisciplinary field of Southern Studies. We will study the history, literature, and culture of the U.S. South through autobiographies, fictional works, scholarly analyses, and popular media. We'll look at major events like the Civil War and Civil Rights Movement and evaluate varying and often conflicting ideas about what makes the South distinctive.

Humanities, University Honors

AMS215 Introduction to Urban Studies

Hours 3

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the intricacies of city life and to look at how place and space shape the human experience. Throughout the course, we will examine the city as a physical and spatial place as well as a place defined by its people and institutions. We consider the social and behavioral relations that form communities, including the diversity produced by factors such as race, class, and gender. As we proceed through the course, you should come to understand that physical and social structures are related to one another, and often times, are inseparable.

AMS222 Modern Gay America: Introduction to LGBTQ Histories

Hours 3

During the past decade, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) Americans have achieved various forms of empowerment and visibility in the nation's political, legal, social, and cultural arenas. However, LGBTQ persons continue to face various barriers to full equality and well-being including employment discrimination, high rates of homelessness among teens, violence, and inadequate access to health care. This 3 credit hour course places the events of the last decade into a longer history of LGBTQ communities, visibility and politics that begins in the late nineteenth century and ends in the early twenty-first century. During the semester, we will explore the historical development of LGBTQ identities, communities, politics, and cultural production. Together, we will analyze an array of materials including scholarly texts, oral histories, newspapers, films, photographs, art and political ephemera.

Prerequisite(s): None

AMS231 Contemporary America

HU

Hours 3

This course analyzes the changing nature of American values for the period dating from the 1970s through the 2000s by examining key developments in the everyday life patterns and cultural expressions of Americans in contexts that range from the local to the international. In doing so, we will draw connections between the economic and political contexts of these decades and contemporaneous works of creative expression and popular culture. This course also will serve as an introduction to the types of interdisciplinary research methods used in American Studies. Offered fall and spring semesters.*.

Humanities

AMS232 Honors Contemporary America

HU, UH

Hours 3

This course analyzes the changing nature of American values for the period dating from the 1970s through the 2000s by examining key developments in the everyday life patterns and cultural expressions of Americans in contexts that range from the local to the international. In doing so, students will draw connections between the economic and political contexts of these decades and contemporaneous works of creative expression and popular culture. This course also will serve as an introduction to the types of interdisciplinary research methods used in American Studies.

Humanities, University Honors

AMS280 American Pop Music

HU

Hours 3

This course will tell the story of mainstream popular music in the United States from the arrival of rock and roll in the 1950s through to the present, including stops along the way for Top 40, soul, arena rock, country, punk, MTV, hip-hop, electronic dance music, American Idol, and the culture of streaming hits on YouTube and Spotify today. In addition to learning about different kinds of sounds, students will read work by artists, fans, and label people to think about how music shaped identity – the soundtrack of new groups emerging in American life.

Humanities

AMS300 Special Topics

Hours 3

Selected American topics for advanced undergraduate students, offered by American Studies faculty members or Americanists from related departments. Recent examples include American Hobo Subculture, World War II and Modern Memory, Women's Liberation Movement, Justice and Civil Society, Southern Sexual Cultures, and Cultures of American Slavery. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS303 Education Of Southern Blacks

Hours 3

A study of the "miseducation" of Africans in America. The course explores education for blacks from West Africa at the middle of the second millennium and early American society to the emergence of the separate school system of the 19th and 20th centuries.

AMS305 Southern Poor Whites

Hours 3

Shining a light on a marginalized yet momentous figure—the poor white—this class asks: What kinds of cultural work do representations of poor white Southerners do? How do depictions of poor white women's experiences differ from men's? How and why do accounts of poor white life in the South change over time? We will study scholarly analyses, fictional works, autobiographies, and movies in search of answers to these and other questions.

Prerequisite(s): 6 credit hours of Social/Behavioral (SB) or Humanities (HU) courses

AMS310 The Latinx Experience

W

Hours 3

This course focuses on the history of people of Latin American descent (Latinas/os) living in the United States. Although we will examine communities comprised of people of Central and South American descent, the focus of this course will be on the four largest Latinx groups: those of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban and Dominican descent. Students will become familiar with issues that have affected different Latinx populations in the United States: migration patterns, cultural interaction, community and cultural formation; and racial formations. We will also examine relations among Latinx and European immigrants, and consider the affects of US intervention and imperialism in Latin America on US Latinx communities. Lectures, readings, and films will explore connections between the past and the present and provide students a forum to express their own viewpoints on the legacy of this history. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

Writing

AMS318 Amusement and Tourism in America

Hours 3

This course explores the centrality of amusement and tourism in defining the American pursuit of happiness. The course examines varied forms of leisure culture that emerged in the 19th century and exploded in popularity throughout the 20th century. By asserting connections between a wide range of amusement and tourist activities, the course provides a framework for understanding how Americans at play participate in a vibrant component of American social, economic, and aesthetic history.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS320 American Popular Humor

Hours 3

This course explores major writers, performers, works, and themes of American humor that have achieved enduring popularity among mass audiences. It examines the social and historical contexts that reverberate in humor produced in the United States and focuses on three persistently popular mediums: prose and performance; film; and the television situation comedy.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS321 African American Folk Art

W

Hours 3

An examination of the objects created by African Americans variously classified as "folk," "self-taught," and "outsider" artists. Course material will address the African origins and American transformations of traditional arts and crafts (architecture, pottery, iron work, and quilting) as well as the work of selected 20th-century artists in such media as painting, sculpture, and assemblage. Key concerns will include not only analysis and cultural/historical contextualization of these artists and their works but also political and theoretical debates with respect to issues of collection, modes of exhibition, and use of the above-listed classifications. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course. One of the written assignments will be graded and returned before the mid-term.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

Writing

AMS323 Into the Wild: Nature and American Popular Imagination

Hours 3

This course examines the often contentious and always passionate American relationship with "nature," an idea as much as a physical reality. Students consider the varying ways that nature has been imagined over a wide range of time periods and through the lenses of various forms of creative expression and cultural practices. The course explores how our complex relationship with "nature" has influenced American culture at large, its history and mainstream values.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS325 America West And 19th Century

Hours 3

Few things remained so central to the 19th American century experience as the West, a region to be explored, inhabited, and incorporated into an expanding urban-industrial society. From Lewis and Clark to Buffalo Bill, this lecture/discussion course examines the relationship between America and the West as it developed throughout the 19th century.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS326 The Modern West

Hours 3

This lecture/discussion course examines the growth of the American West during the 20th century as both the embodiment of modernity and, as mythic imagination, an escape from the very modernity it represents.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS330 The Great Depression

Hours 3

This course explores the Great Depression, the single most important economic event of the 20th Century. We will focus on the causes, events, policies, movements, personalities, and human tragedy and triumph of this era through an interdisciplinary historical perspective that will examine aspects of this twentieth century crisis. As an American Studies course, we will use films, TV shows, written narratives, and music to explore the era.

AMS334 Science Fiction: Borders of Identity

W

Hours 3

This course looks at science fiction through literature, film, and television. We'll explore how futuristic settings reflected anxieties of the all-too-real present. These included the impact of new technology, changing notions of race, gender, sexuality, and class, threats to life such as the Cold War, and the general sense of constant, rapid change in modern life. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): 6 credit hours of HU or SB courses.

Writing

AMS336 Rock, Soul, Hip-Hop and Country

W

Hours 3

After 1965, rock and roll became rock, representing the counterculture; rhythm and blues became soul, representing Black Power; and country music became the emotional voice of the post-Civil Rights white South. This class contrasts these three dominant American popular music genres, with particular emphasis on how race, but also gender, class, and region, came to invest certain sounds with charged social significance. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): Students must have completed at least 6 credit hours of AMS or other SB/HU courses.

Writing

AMS340 Women in the South

W

Hours 3

What insights into American experience are afforded by reading nineteenth- and twentieth-century texts in which Southern women engage questions of gender, class, race, labor, and region? This class will explore fictional and nonfictional prose by and about Southern women in order to examine how historical, cultural, and sociopolitical factors have shaped the lives and writings of women in the South. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): To enroll, a student must have completed six credit hours in AMS courses.

Writing

AMS341 African American Art

Hours 3

An examination of the work of formally trained 20th century African American painters, sculptors, and photographers in relation to broader currents in the social and cultural history of the United States. Examines ways in which African American art has alternately reflected, shaped, and challenged such important historical events and currents as the Harlem Renaissance, the Great Depression, the Cold War, the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, the Women's Movement, and contemporary identity politics. Also evaluates the contributions of selected artists in relation to such key art movements as Modernism, Social Realism, and Postmodernism.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS345 The American War on Drugs through Film

Hours 3

This course examines the American War on Drugs through film. The course starts with the premise that the content in films, and the events contemporary to the making of the films, should be critically analyzed for their perspectives, biases, reliability, and interpretive choices. In the course, students will examine the ability of film to successfully portray the war on drugs and analyze how present events, cultures and attitudes shape our view of the past. Students will examine how the history of drugs in the U.S and how the war on drugs affects people of different nationalities and of different racial and ethnic groups.

AMS350 Honors Women in the South

UH, W

Hours 3

What insights into American experience do we gain by reading texts in which Southern women engage questions of gender, class, race, labor, and region? In this course, students will explore fictional and nonfictional prose by and about Southern women in order to examine how historical, cultural, and sociopolitical factors have shaped the lives and writings of women in the South. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

University Honors, Writing

AMS352 American Folklore

Hours 3

This course offers a survey of such genres of American folk culture expression as ghost stories, urban legends, foodways, music, and folk art—paying special attention to how these diverse forms of expression reflect and shape particular regional, ethnic, class, and gender identities. Course materials include ethnographic writing, sound recordings, film, and folklore scholarship. The course also will devote attention to the competing definitions of “folk” and “folklore” prevalent from the late 19th century to the present. Assignments will emphasize student collection and analysis of original folklore material.

Prerequisite(s): 6 SH Humanities or Social Sciences or permission of instructor.

AMS367 The American Game

Hours 3

Lecture topics, readings, and classroom discussions will pursue major connections between baseball and American society from 1880 to the present: (1) the modernization of America and the rise of an urban, industrial game; (2) baseball and race; and (3) postwar America and baseball.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS380 Imagining the Indian: Native Americans on Page and Screen

W

Hours 3

Native American imagery is widespread in American culture, from butter packaging to sports mascots and from children's picture books to epic films. These depictions have embedded ideas about American Indians—often romanticized, stereotyped, or just inaccurate ideas—in the imaginations of millions of readers and film-goers. In this course, we will examine representations of Native Americans in art, writing, film, music, and more, ranging from early encounters between Natives and newcomers to contemporary pop culture. We'll consider continuities and changes in how Indians have been imagined by outsiders, while also exploring Native self-representation in the face of cultural appropriation and stereotyping. We'll explore a variety of methods and sources as we reflect on the pervasiveness of ideas about, and images of, Natives in American culture. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

Writing

AMS400 Internship

Hours 1-3

An internship opportunity that combines independent study and practical fieldwork experience focusing on a particular problem or topic related to American culture and experience. Examples are internships in archival fieldwork, material culture fieldwork, museum management, and sound recordings. Credits earned in this course are applicable to the major and minor in American studies but are not counted in 400-level requirement. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours.

AMS401 Black Intellectual Thought

Hours 3

An upper level seminar designed to provide students with an in-depth study of major intellectual debates and movements that have shaped the politics, history and identities of the people of African descent in the United States and the African diaspora. The course will combine methodologies and concepts from multiple disciplines including history, political theory, literature, women's studies, sociology, psychology and philosophy.

AMS402 Special Topics

Hours 3

Selected African American topics for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours.

AMS403 Honors Research - Ams

UH

Hours 3

Internship opportunity that combines guided and independent study with on- or off-campus research experience involving a particular methodological approach to American culture and experience. Examples are social science methods, oral history, original manuscript research, and technology.

University Honors

AMS405 Directed Study

Hours 1-3

May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours.

AMS406 Directed Study

Hours 1-3

Independent study in American Studies.

AMS407 Landscapes of the South

W

Hours 3

A study of environmental and cultural landscapes of the American South, as altered and used by successive waves of native peoples, explorers, immigrants, laborers, industrialists, and urban builders, addressing historical and contemporary environmental challenges. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Writing

AMS412 On The Road

W

Hours 3

This course examines the American love affair with the open road. It considers the dramatic influence of car culture on the national imagination and the many ways it permeates and defines the United States. Drawing from an array of literary, historical, and cultural sources, the course encourages students to examine how writers, filmmakers, and artists in all mediums demonstrate the pervasiveness of the road in our historical, literary, and cultural imagination. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor

Writing

AMS416 American Environmental Thought in a Global Context

W

Hours 3

Popular conceptions of nature hold extraordinary power in shaping our responses and policies toward both the geophysical world and built environments. This interdisciplinary course examines key concepts and controversies in American thought about nature since before colonization. Using accounts from various regions, the course explores evolving conceptions of nature and justice, competing claims about race and class, and changing institutional responses and remedies to environmental degradation in the context of global change. The course is highly interactive, inviting critical thinking about the human place in the physical world. We read and discuss ecological views as presented in colonial writings, slave narratives, Transcendentalist thought, Gilded Age preservationist and conservationist debates, and the work of Progressive Era occupational health specialists and ecologists. We give specific attention to twentieth century social movements for environmental public health, examining contemporary approaches, including eco-feminism, environmental justice, and sustainability. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

Writing

AMS420 Mark Twain's America: America's Mark Twain

Hours 3

This course employs the life, work, and times of America's most celebrated author to examine American popular culture from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. In addition to exploring his major works and his times, the course considers his impact on popular culture to this day—from film adaptations of his work, to pop-culture references, to the traditions of American humor and cultural criticism.

Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor

AMS421 Writer & Artist in America

W

Hours 3

This course offers a comparative examination of responses by 20th century literary and visual artists to perceived social crises and challenges to American cultural values, such as sex in the early 20th century American city, working class struggles during the Great Depression, issues of atomic anxiety during the early years of the Cold War, the ethical dilemmas of the Vietnam War, the perils of the AIDS/HIV crisis, and the flourishing of contemporary consumer culture. The course also introduces several important movements in twentieth century American arts and letters, including Naturalism, Modernism, Social Realism, the Beat movement, Social Surrealism, and Postmodernism. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor

Writing

AMS422 Popular Culture in America

W

Hours 3

A selective survey and analysis of 20th century U.S. popular culture-- particularly, comic books, fan culture, television, music, advertising, and sports. Examines ways in which popular culture has reflected and shaped aspects of American society such as gender ideologies, economics, race, class, and regional identity. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor

Writing

AMS423 The Roots of American Music

W

Hours 3

This class surveys American music from ragtime, blues, and hillbilly to Broadway, Hollywood musicals, and swing jazz. Our focus will be on commercial mainstays and democratic audiences – how selling sound led to different identities being expressed through taste and style. Race, gender, class, sexuality, age, technology, and the music business will all factor as we move from blackface minstrelsy in the 1800s to World War II. We will listen closely to several songs each week, connecting music to larger themes through primary and secondary sources, regular writing, and in-class discussion. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

Writing

AMS429 America between the Wars

W

Hours 3

Explores first two decades of America's "Modern Times" (1919-1941) when Americans redefined themselves and their society embracing and debating (sometimes hotly) old beliefs, new conceptions, and the implications of a machine-driven, modern-mass society. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor

Writing

AMS430 Special Topics

Hours 3

Selected American topics for advanced undergraduate majors in American studies, offered by American Studies faculty members or Americanists from related departments. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours.

Prerequisite(s): Nine Semester Hours of humanities or social science courses or Instructor's Permission

AMS439 Urban Spaces: The Nature of Cities

W

Hours 3

This interdisciplinary social science course provides an introduction to the cultural and physical ecology of cities, focusing primarily on urbanization in the United States from the late 19th century to the present. Course readings include classical scholars in urbanism and urban design. Contemporary urban environmental histories explore population shifts and land use along the urban gradient from the suburbs to urban centers, with attention to water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure, pollution, and urban sprawl. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Writing

AMS445 The "Good War"

W

Hours 3

Examination of selected topics from the American experience during the Second World War. Topics include the Homefront, the Holocaust, race relations, the emergence of American air power, and the impact of the war on American memory and postwar American society. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

Writing

AMS450 (En)gendering Black History: Black Feminist Thought and Action in American History

Hours 3

In the Zora Neale Hurston classic, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, the protagonist's (Janie) grandmother described the gender and racial norms that dictated their lived experiences as women and racial minorities under the Jim Crow regime. This class places the experiences and expressions of black women like Janie and her grandmother at the center of scholarly and pedagogical explorations of black feminist thought and action. Beginning with black women's responses to legal racialized chattel slavery in the nineteenth century and ending in the early twenty-first century, we will examine how black women in the United States articulate(d) politicized understandings of and responses to interlocking oppressions including racism, sexism, patriarchy, heterosexism, classism, etc. This interdisciplinary course will also examine African American gender and sexual politics, interactions between black women and the state, moments of coalition and conflict between black and white women, as well as the diverse nature of black feminist thought.

AMS465 Fictions of American Identity

W

Hours 3

This course explores nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature and culture. Novels and short stories by Zora Neale Hurston, Henry James, Gish Jen, James Weldon Johnson, Toni Morrison, Vladimir Nabokov, and other writers are studied in the context of debates over slavery, national identity, women's roles, immigration and assimilation, social mobility, sexual mores, consumer culture, and race relations. Paper assignments emphasize close reading techniques and process-oriented writing. Assigned literary critical readings include papers written by students in this class and subsequently published in *The Explicator*, a journal of text-based critical essays. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

Writing

AMS470 Natives and Newcomers: Cross-Cultural Encounters in Early America

W

Hours 3

The colonization efforts of European empires in the early modern period led to cross-cultural encounters between societies previously unfamiliar with one another, introducing each of them to unfamiliar ideas, cultures, political systems, and landscapes and changing their lives in profound ways. This course explores the complex interactions between Native American, European, and African peoples in North America, with a particular focus on the region that is currently the Southeastern United States. Such cross-cultural contact could result in valuable collaborations, deep misunderstandings, violence, or contests for power. How were interactions with unfamiliar peoples described and understood by Native Americans, Europeans, and African peoples in North America? How did the circulation of peoples and cultures shape ideas about 'America' and 'Americanness'? Is 'encounter' a single event, or a long process? Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

Writing

AMS492 American Topic Seminar

Hours 3

Study of special topics within the American cultural experience. Recent examples include *American Thought*, *Sports in American Life*, *American Perspectives on the Environment*, the *Civil Rights Movement*, the *Picture Press*, *Music and Ethnicity*, the *Politics of Culture*, *Regionalism*, *Homelessness in America*, *American Autobiography*, *American Monuments*, *Southern Popular Culture*, *Politics and Culture*, *Historical Memory*, *America by Design*, *Women in America*, *Race in America*, *19th-Century Popular Culture*, and *Disasters in America*.

Prerequisite(s): Nine Semester Hours of American Studies Courses or Instructor's Permission

AMS500 Internship

Hours 1-3

An internship opportunity that combines independent study and practical field work focusing on a particular problem or topic related to American culture and experience. Recent examples include internships in museum management, historic preservation, archaeological research, television production, category fiction, promotion of academic programs, documentary television, academic public relations, with Alabama Heritage and Louisville magazines, and with the Paul Bryant Museum.

AMS505 Directed Study

Hours 1-3

*No description available***AMS506 Directed Study**

Hours 1-3

No description available

AMS507 Landscapes of the South

Hours 3

This seminar explores the cultural, social, and natural ecology of the Mississippi watershed from St. Louis to the Gulf Coast. This interdisciplinary American Studies course examines the river dubbed "the Body of the Nation," its history, cultural geography, and geophysical ecology. Through readings in history, literary accounts, and artistic expressions, we explore effects of human interventions in nature and nature's impact on the course of human events.

AMS509 Memory, Identity and Politics: Gender, Race, and Class

Hours 3

This interdisciplinary graduate seminar explores the ways in which memory and the past construct political identities and the interplay of race, class, gender, and ethnicity in its social construction through readings, discussion, and student research. Reading selections include core theoretical texts on memory studies and specific case studies on topics, including not but exclusive to the American Civil War memory, U.S. South, slavery, and Reconstruction. Issues and questions are: how memories are constructed, translated into identities and political action; bases of shared memories and contested memories; political memorialization and the effects of collective amnesia; and how "communities of memory" are developed, sustained, and dissolved.

Prerequisite(s): None

AMS512 On The Road

Hours 3

This course seeks to introduce the breadth and power of the travel culture that defines "America" and examines enduring features when writers take to the open road in America.

AMS516 American Environmental Thought

Hours 3

Popular conceptions of nature hold extraordinary power in shaping our responses and policies toward both the geophysical world and built environments. This interdisciplinary course examines key concepts and controversies in American thought about nature since before colonization. Using accounts from various regions, the course explores evolving conceptions of nature and justice, competing claims about race and class, and changing institutional responses and remedies to environmental degradation in the context of global change.

AMS521 Writer & Artist in America

Hours 3

This course offers a comparative examination of responses by 20th century literary and visual artists to perceived social crises and challenges to American cultural values, such as sex in the early 20th century American city, working class struggles during the Great Depression, issues of atomic anxiety during the early years of the Cold War, the ethical dilemmas of the Vietnam War, the perils of the AIDS/HIV crisis, and the flourishing of contemporary consumer culture. The course also introduces several important movements in twentieth century American arts and letters, including Naturalism, Modernism, Social Realism, the Beat movement, Social Surrealism, and Postmodernism.

AMS522 Popular Culture in America

Hours 3

Survey and analysis of 20th century US popular culture including social context and how it has reflected and shaped American society, including gender, race, class and region.

AMS523 The Roots of American Music

Hours 3

This class surveys American music from ragtime, blues, and hillbilly to Broadway, Hollywood musicals, and swing jazz. Our focus will be on commercial mainstems and democratic audiences – how selling sound led to different identities being expressed through taste and style. Race, gender, class, sexuality, age, technology, and the music business will all factor as we move from blackface minstrelsy in the 1800s to World War II. We will listen closely to several songs each week, connecting music to larger themes through primary and secondary sources, regular writing, and in-class discussion.

AMS529 American between the Wars

Hours 3

Explores first two decades of America's "Modern Times" (1919-1941) when Americans redefined themselves and their society.

AMS530 Special Topics

Hours 3

Selected American topics in American Studies offered by AMS faculty members or Americanists from related departments. Recent example: Women in America.

AMS531 Studies In Pop Culture

Hours 3

Research and discussion of selected topics in American popular culture: literature, music, network broadcasting, advertising, film, and drama.

AMS532 Studies In The Arts

Hours 3

Research and discussion of selected topics in literature, film, painting, photography, and architecture, and the role of the artist in 19th- and 20th-century America.

AMS536 Studies Social Experience

Hours 3

Research and discussion of selected topics in the American social experience.

AMS539 Urban Spaces

Hours 3

This interdisciplinary social science course provides an introduction to the cultural and physical ecology of cities, focusing primarily on urbanization in the United States from the late 19th century to the present. Course readings include classical scholars in urbanism and urban design. Contemporary urban environmental histories explore population shifts and land use along the urban gradient from the suburbs to urban centers, with attention to water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure, pollution, and urban sprawl.

AMS545 The "Good War"

Hours 3

A topical examination of the American Experience at home and abroad, 1941-1945.

AMS565 Fictions of American Identity

Hours 3

This course explores nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature and culture. Novels and short stories by Zora Neale Hurston, Henry James, Gish Jen, James Weldon Johnson, Toni Morrison, Vladimir Nabokov, and other writers are studied in the context of debates over slavery, national identity, women's roles, immigration and assimilation, social mobility, sexual mores, consumer culture, and race relations. Paper assignments emphasize close reading techniques and process-oriented writing. Assigned literary critical readings include papers written by students in this class and subsequently published in *The Explicator*, a journal of text-based critical essays. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

AMS570 Natives and Newcomers: Cross-Cultural Encounters in Early America

Hours 3

The colonization efforts of European empires in the early modern period led to cross-cultural encounters between societies previously unfamiliar with one another, introducing each of them to unfamiliar ideas, cultures, political systems, and landscapes and changing their lives in profound ways. This course explores the complex interactions between Native American, European, and African peoples in North America, with a particular focus on the region that is currently the Southeastern United States. Such cross-cultural contact could result in valuable collaborations, deep misunderstandings, violence, or contests for power. How were interactions with unfamiliar peoples described and understood by Native Americans, Europeans, and African peoples in North America? How did the circulation of peoples and cultures shape ideas about 'America' and 'Americaness'? Is 'encounter' a single event, or a long process? This course meets a college core writing requirement; a demonstration of writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course.

AMS585 American Experience to 1865

Hours 3

An exploration of the formative years of the American cultural experience, from early European encounters with the New World to the attainment of continental nationhood. The course will draw upon insights from many disciplines and will include several kinds of cultural evidence (for example: literature, art, and photography; religious, political, and social thought and behavior; and economic, technological, and geographical development) as well as consideration of recent major synthetic works of cultural scholarship. Topics covered include the growth of colonial societies; the Revolutionary movement and the political foundations of the American Republic; the Market Revolution and the rise of middle-class culture; the antebellum South and the emerging West; and the origins and evolution of American cultural diversity. Offered fall semester.

AMS589 Approaches Teaching Ams

Hours 3

A study of basic approaches to interdisciplinary teaching in American culture at the college level, along with supervised teaching experience.

AMS592 American Topic Seminar

Hours 3

Study of special topics within the American cultural experience. Recent examples include American literary realism, women in America, the Civil Rights movement, the picture press, music and ethnicity, the politics of culture, regionalism in American culture, the changing American family, homelessness in America, American autobiography, American monuments, contemporary American folklore, Southern popular culture, Southern iconoclasts, politics and culture, historical memory, America by design, the other in America, women in America, race in America, 19th-century popular culture, and slavery and the Civil War in historic memory.

AMS595 Ams Colloquium: Res & Methods

Hours 3

Discussion of methodological and theoretical issues in American Studies.

AMS596 Ams Colloquium: Scholarly Writ

Hours 3

Presentation of research and methods.