AMERICAN STUDIES

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FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF AMERICAN STUDIES

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Associate Professors Kathryn Lofton (Religious Studies), Paul Sabin (History, Environmental Studies)

Assistant Professors Jafari Allen (Anthropology, African American Studies), Laura Barraclough, Crystal Feimster (African American Studies), Zareena Grewal (Ethnicity, Race, & Migration), Greta LaFleur, Albert Laguna (Ethnicity, Race, & Migration), Dixa Ramirez (Ethnicity, Race, & Migration), Birgit Brander Rasmussen (Ethnicity, Race, & Migration), Sam See (English), Jenifer Van Vleck (History), Tisa Wenger (Divinity School)

Senior Lecturers James Berger, Ron Gregg (Film Studies)

Lecturer Ryan Brasseaux

The American Studies program encourages the interdisciplinary study of the cultures and politics of the United States, the changing representations of national identity, and the construction of borderland and diasporic cultures over time. Each student in the major combines courses in American Studies with courses from other relevant disciplines (literature, history, the arts, and the social sciences) to explore these broad topics from local, national, and global perspectives. Through the selection of an area of concentration, each student develops a focus for course work in the major. The program encourages scholarly work in nontraditional combinations of disciplines; at the same time, however, it assumes and requires a substantial foundation of knowledge in the history and culture of the United States. Students interested in the major are encouraged to consult with the director of undergraduate studies as early as possible.

Requirements of the major All students majoring in American Studies must take fourteen term courses approved by the program’s faculty. Although a good deal of freedom in course selection is permitted, it is expected that all students will acquaint themselves with the materials, skills, and perspectives of cultural studies. Accordingly, the major requires completion—preferably by the end of the sophomore year, but no later than the end of the junior year—of at least four gateway courses (AMST 111–299), including two in cultural history/cultural studies, one broad survey course in American literature, and one course preparatory for work in the student’s area of concentration, to be selected in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. One of these four courses must address material produced before the Civil War. An additional five concentration courses from diverse disciplines must be taken for a letter grade, one of which must incorporate a comparable topic from a non-U.S. perspective. Two electives chosen from the American Studies course offerings are also required.

Students must take two junior seminars (AMST 300–399) during their junior year. At least one of the seminars must fall within the student’s area of concentration, described below. In each of the seminars, students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in interdisciplinary research and analysis through the production of critical essays on primary source materials or a paper of fifteen to twenty pages. Sophomores contemplating a junior term abroad are urged to take one of the junior seminars in the spring term of their sophomore year.

Area of concentration Each American Studies major selects an area of concentration, normally in the fall of the junior year, from five possible choices: (1) national formations, (2) the international United States, (3) material cultures and built environments, (4) politics and American communities, and (5) visual, audio, literary, and performance cultures. The concentration in national formations explores historic migrations, settlements, and encounters among peoples who have formed the American nation, with an emphasis on Native American history and the construction of America’s frontiers and borderlands. The international United States concentration focuses on historic and contemporary diasporas, the role of the United States outside its national borders, and the flows of American peoples, ideas, and goods throughout the globe. Students in the material cultures and built environments concentration examine the formation of the American landscape from the natural to the human-made, including the development of American architecture, and the visual and decorative arts. The concentration in politics and American communities investigates the emergence of social groups and their political struggles at the local and national levels, emphasizing the themes of power, inequality, and social justice. Majors with a concentration in visual, audio, literary, and performance cultures study American consumer culture, popular culture, representations, and media in relation to U.S. literatures. Students may also petition the director of undergraduate studies to develop an independent concentration.
Senior requirement During the senior year, each student in the major completes work in the area of concentration in one of three ways. First, the student may enroll in a senior seminar within the area of concentration (AMST 400–490). Students should apply interdisciplinary methods and undertake original research to produce a final paper of twenty to twenty-five pages. Students must complete all course requirements to fulfill the senior requirement.

Second, the student may complete a one-term senior project or essay (AMST 491). The product should be a thirty-page essay or its equivalent in another medium. All students writing a one-term senior essay participate in a proseminar on theory and method. To apply for admission to AMST 491, a student should submit a prospectus, signed by the faculty adviser, to the director of undergraduate studies.

Third, the student may enroll in the intensive major (AMST 493 and 494) and work independently for two terms. The intensive major offers an opportunity for significant original research leading to a substantial senior project. AMST 493, 494 carries two terms of credit; its final product should be a sixty-page essay or its equivalent in another medium. All students in the intensive major participate in a yearlong proseminar on theory and method. One term of the two-term project may count as a course in the area of concentration.

To apply for admission to AMST 493 and 494, a student should submit a prospectus, signed by the faculty adviser, to the director of undergraduate studies.

As a multidisciplinary program, American Studies draws on the resources of other departments and programs in the University. The following list of courses is meant to be suggestive only: apart from those courses required for the major, it is neither restrictive nor exhaustive. Students are encouraged to examine the offerings of other departments in both the humanities and the social sciences, as well as residential college seminars, for additional relevant courses. The stated area of concentration of each student determines the relevance and acceptability of other courses.

Requirements of the Major

Prerequisites None

Number of courses 14 term courses (incl senior req)

Distribution of courses 4 gateway courses, as specified; 2 junior sems, 1 in area of concentration; 5 courses in area of concentration for letter grades, 1 on a related non-U.S. topic (one may be one term of two-term senior project); 2 electives

Substitution permitted 1 freshman sem for 1 gateway course; others with DUS permission

Senior requirement Senior sem (AMST 400–490) or one-term senior project (AMST 491) related to area of concentration

Intensive major Same, except a two-term senior project (AMST 493 and 494) replaces AMST 491

Freshman Seminars

*AMST 007a / HSAR 002a, Furniture and American Life Edward Cooke, Jr.
In-depth study and interpretation of American furniture from the past four centuries. Hands-on experience with furniture in the collection of the Yale University Art Gallery to explore such topics as materials, techniques, styles, use, and meaning. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program. WR, HU, RP

*AMST 008a / AFAM 033a, Slavery in American Memory Edward Ball
The conflict over the story of American slavery as it has been told since the Civil War. Film, family history, fiction, and the competing tales of historians that make up the collective memory of the slave past. WR, HU

*AMST 010b / AFAM 050b / HIST 023b, War and Rebellion in Early America Alejandra Dubcovsky
The role of war and rebellion in early American history, from precontact to the War of 1812. Changing roles and meanings of war and rebellion; the impact of these violent events on European, Indian, and African populations; implications of using war and rebellion as historical categories. WR, HU

*AMST 012b / HIST 012b, Politics and Society in the United States after World War II Jennifer Klein
Introduction to American political and social issues from the 1940s to the present, including political economy, civil rights, class politics, and gender roles. Legacies of the New Deal as they played out after World War II; the origins, agenda, and ramifications of the Cold War; postwar suburbanization and its racial dimensions; migration and immigration; cultural changes; social movements of the Right and Left; Reaganism and its legacies; the United States and the global economy. HU

*AMST 013b / ER&M 013b / FILM 037b, Documentary Film in a Global Age Zareena Grewal
Introduction to the genres and political uses of documentary film, from the first documentary to activist films on YouTube. The cultural observation, witnessing, and critique that documentary films make possible. The ethics of producing and consuming representations of cultural difference. Insights into the paradoxical ways in which the story of the observer meshes with the story of the observed. Screenings in class. HU

Gateway Courses

AMST 115b / ANTH 115b / WGSS 115b, Gender in a Transnational World Inderpal Grewal
Gender and sex as constituted in modern nation-states through the divisions between domestic and foreign spheres. Ways in which the interactions between international and national issues shape gender and sexuality in everyday life. Topics include science, race, and empire; nation and identity formation; media, representation, and art practices; and migration, displacement, and globalization. SO
AMST 123b / ER&M 187b / HIST 107b, Introduction to American Indian History  Ned Blackhawk
Survey of American Indian history, beginning with creation traditions and migration theories and continuing to the present day. Focus on American Indian nations whose homelands are located within the contemporary United States. Complexity and change within American Indian societies, with emphasis on creative adaptations to changing historical circumstances. WR, HU

AMST 155a / HIST 127a / WGSS 200a, U.S. Lesbian and Gay History  George Chaunkey
Introduction to the social, cultural, and political history of lesbians, gay men, and other socially constituted sexual minorities. Focus on understanding categories of sexuality in relation to shifting normative regimes, primarily in the twentieth century. The emergence of homosexuality and heterosexuality as categories of experience and identity; the changing relationship between homosexuality and transgenderism; the development of diverse lesbian and gay subcultures and their representation in popular culture; religion and sexual science; generational change and everyday life; AIDS; and gay, antigay, feminist, and queer movements. WR, HU

AMST 150a / HIST 145a / RLST 108a, Religion in Modern America, 1865–2000  Kathryn Lofton
An examination of U.S. religious history from the close of the Civil War to the present day, a period of climactic change in the histories of capitalism, pluralism, secularization, and globalization. Locations discussed include Indian reservations and world fairs, auto plants and soap factories, storefront churches and stadiums; individuals include female evangelists and talk show hosts, presidents and pariahs, traveling monks and pop rabbis. Focus on how subjects are selected for historical inquiry. HU

AMST 160a / AFAM 160a / HIST 184a, Slavery and Abolition in Atlantic History, 1500–1888  Laurie Woodard
The history of peoples of African descent throughout the Americas, from the first African American societies of the sixteenth century through the century-long process of emancipation. HU

AMST 162b / AFAM 162b / HIST 187b, African American History from Emancipation to the Present  Jonathan Holloway
An examination of the African American experience since 1861. Meanings of freedom and citizenship are distilled through appraisal of race and class formations, the processes and effects of cultural consumption, and the grand narrative of the civil rights movement. HU

AMST 176b / EVST 206b / HIST 144b / HSHM 206b / HUMS 323b, Science and Technology in the United States  Daniel Kevles
The development of science and technology in American society from the colonial period through the late twentieth century. The rise of the United States to a world-class scientific and technological power; the American scientific community and the tensions it has faced in a democratic society; the role of science and technology in exploration, agriculture, industry, national defense, religion, culture, and social change. HU

AMST 190a / HIST 112a, The Formation of Modern American Culture, 1876–1919  Jean-Christophe Agnew
An introduction to the cultural history of the United States from Reconstruction through the First World War, with special attention to the persistence of popular culture, the transformation of bourgeois culture, and the birth of mass culture during a period of rapid industrialization. HU

AMST 207a / ARCH 340a, American Cultural Landscapes: An Introduction to the History of the Built Environment  Dolores Hayden
Introduction to land use, transportation, urban planning, and vernacular architecture in the United States. After a brief review of Native American and colonial settlement patterns, the first half of the course deals with the development of cities from 1800 to 1920. The second half emphasizes suburban growth that transformed traditional downtowns and created diffuse metropolitan regions between 1920 and the present. WR, HU, SO

AMST 211b / AFAM 140b / ENGL 293b / ER&M 210b / WGSS 211b, Race and Gender in American Literature  Birgit Brander Rasmussen
The role of literature in constructing representations of America as an idea, a nation, a colonial settlement, and a participant in world affairs. What kind of place America is and who belongs there; the consequences of America’s history for its national literature. Emphasis on the ways texts represent and contest social concepts of race and gender difference. WR, HU

AMST 212a / FILM 272a / HSAR 319a, John F. Kennedy’s Assassination and Its Aftermath  J. D. Connor
Introduction to the materials and methods of cultural studies, with a focus on the Kennedy assassination. Written and visual narratives of the events in official accounts, scholarly and pseudoscholarly reconstructions, and artistic reappropriations. The assassination in literature, film, and other arts. Attention to the moral responsibility of documentary and of fiction, ideas of mourning and trauma, and aestheticization and catharsis. HU

AMST 216b / ER&M 216b / HIST 130b, Introduction to Latina/o Histories  Stephen Pitti
The histories of Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Central Americans, Dominican, and Cuban Americans in the United States since the colonial period. Empire and settlement; demographic changes and anti-immigrant movements; citizenship and transnational politics; labor and popular culture; revolutions, the civil rights movement, and youth activism. HU

*AMST 255a / FILM 355a, American Film Comedy  Michael Roemer
A study of the great American film comedians and an investigation into the psychology of laughter. Comedians from Chaplin and Keaton to the Marx brothers and Fields examined against a background of European comedy. Comic form and technique and their relevance to the American scene. Not a history of American film comedy. Priority to juniors and seniors majoring in American Studies or in Film Studies. HU RP
AMST 228a / HIST 137a / HSHM 213a, American Families, 1873 to the Present  Ziv Eisenberg
Changes in the concept of the American family since the late nineteenth century, with a focus on the influence of scientific research, innovative technologies, and medical care and expertise. The effects of government policies, law, political ideologies, religion, markets, and media. Topics include marriage, divorce, parenthood and the parent-child relationship, adoption, pregnancy, childbirth, reproductive control, and the politics of family values.  HU

AMST 246a / ENGL 289a, Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Faulkner  Wai Chee Dimock
Novels and short stories by Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and Faulkner, supplemented with works by Gertrude Stein, Langston Hughes, Nella Larsen, and others. Exploration of interconnections among these works using three analytic scales: the macro history of the United States and the world; the formal and stylistic innovations of modernism; and the small details of sensory input and psychic life.  WR, HU

AMST 247a C / HIST 147a C / HLTH 170a / HSHM 202a C, Media and Medicine in Modern America  John Warner and Gretchen Berland
Relationships between medicine, health, and the media in the United States from 1870 to the present. The changing role of the media in shaping conceptions of the body, creating new diseases, influencing health and health policy, crafting the image of the medical profession, informing expectations of medicine and constructions of citizenship, and the medicalization of American life.  HU

*AMST 258b / EVST 258b, Wilderness in the North American Imagination  Staff
The idea of wilderness in American history, art, film, public policy, and literature, from the Puritans to the present. Authors include Thoreau, Faulkner, Jack London, Mary Rowlandson, Aldo Leopold, and Rachel Carson. A weekend field trip is held early in the term.  HU

AMST 260b / PHIL 260b, American Philosophy  Kenneth Winkler
A survey of American philosophy from colonial times to the middle of the twentieth century. Topics include European justifications of colonization and conquest; the spiritualist metaphysics of George Berkeley and Jonathan Edwards; slavery and abolition; and transcendentalism (Emerson, Thoreau). Particular attention to classical pragmatism, with readings in Peirce, James, Dewey, and their critics. Some discussion of recent reinterpretations of pragmatism by such writers as Quine, Richard Rorty, and Cornel West.  HU

AMST 261a / ENGL 291a, The American Novel since 1945  Amy Hungerford
American fiction; works by Richard Wright, Flannery O’Connor, Jack Kerouac, Vladimir Nabokov, Philip Roth, Thomas Pynchon, John Barth, Maxine Hong Kingston, Toni Morrison, Cormac McCarthy, Lev Grossman, Alison Bechdel, and Junot Diaz.  HU

AMST 271b / HIST 171b / WGSS 201b, Women in Modern America  Joanne Meyerowitz
U.S. women’s history and the history of gender from 1900 to the present. Changing meanings of femininity, masculinity, sex, gender, and sexuality; intersections of class, race, ethnicity, and gender; women’s labor in industrial and postindustrial economies; women’s participation in politics and social movements; trends in sexual expression, gender presentation, reproduction, child rearing, and marriage; and feminist and other gender-equity movements.  HU

AMST 272b / ER&M 282b / HIST 183b / WGSS 272b, Asian American History, 1800 to the Present  Mary Lui
An introduction to the history of East, South, and Southeast Asian migrations and settlement to the United States from the late eighteenth century to the present. Major themes include labor migration, community formation, U.S. imperialism, legal exclusion, racial segregation, gender and sexuality, cultural representations, and political resistance.  HU

*AMST 274a / ER&M 260a, American Captivity Narratives  Birgit Brander Rasmussen
Introduction to captivity narratives from colonial and nineteenth-century America. Settler narratives placed in dialogue with slave narratives and Native American pictographic sketchbooks produced in military forts. Contemporary captivity narratives from the U.S. war in Iraq and other conflicts compared with narrative forms and themes from the colonial period.  HU

AMST 284b / ER&M 217b, Introduction to Latino/a Studies  Albert Laguna
Themes and issues that have shaped the experiences of Latino/a populations in the United States explored within an interdisciplinary and hemispheric framework. Relations between the United States and Latin America; the history of ethnic labels; the formation of transnational communities and identities; the politics of language and bilingualism; race, class, and ethnicity; and gender and sexuality.  HU

Junior Seminars

*AMST 301a / ENGL 299a / FILM 311a, East Asia in U.S. Literature and Film  R. John Williams
An introductory course on American images of Asia and Asian America in twentieth-century literature and cinema.  WR, HU

*AMST 302a, Islam and Early America  Greta LaFleur
Cultural representations of Islam in colonial North America. Reasons for the widespread interest among religious, political, and cultural leaders in the history, culture, and practices of Islam. Early North American orientalism and its relation to ways in which American popular culture represents Islam today. Readings include literature, theological writing, legal documents, and ethnographic writing.  HU

*AMST 306a / FILM 469a, The Films of Martin Scorsese  Michael Kerbel
Close analysis of Scorsese’s films, with attention to his themes and styles and to ways in which his works have assimilated literary and cinematic influences, reflected their eras, and influenced other directors. Scorsese’s work examined in the context of film history, and of U.S. culture and history, from the 1960s to the present.  HU, RP
*AMST 307b, Sports, Civil Rights, and American Leadership  Joseph Spooner
Relations among sports, civil rights movements, and the evolution of American leadership values in the twentieth century. The American sports hero and the struggle for equality of race, gender, and sexual orientation; the cultural effects of major sports phenomena on ideas of leadership and social change. Attention to intellectual and cultural history, literature, and film. Case studies based on key sporting figures and events.

*AMST 311b / ER&M 311b, Latina/o New Haven  Alicia Schmidt Camacho
Introduction to the field of Latina/o studies, with a focus on interdisciplinary methods of social research, including oral history, interviews, archival research, cultural analysis, and social documentation. Students design collaborative research projects.  SO

*AMST 310b / ER&M 422b, Latino New York  Albert Laguna
The historical presence of Latinos and Latinas in New York City from the late nineteenth century to the present. Differences and similarities among Puerto Rican, Mexican, Cuban, and Dominican communities in the context of New York City history. Complex cultural dynamics as illustrated in novels, poetry, music, and film.  HU

*AMST 322b / ER&M 323b / WGSS 371b, Modern Families, Identities, and Cultures in Asia and the United States  Geetanjali Singh Chanda
A cross-cultural dialogue focusing on family, gender, and identity. Exploration of how specific Asian countries and people approach issues of religion, dress, education, and food as identity markers; U.S. perceptions and reactions to similar issues.  WR, HU

*AMST 323b / EDST 220b, History of Higher Education in the United States  George Levesque
The history and evolution of higher education in the United States from the colonial era to the present. Emphasis on changes in the profile of students, the role of the faculty, and the scope of the curriculum. Special attention to how these changes reflected larger developments in American intellectual, cultural, and social history. Recommended preparation: EDST 110. Preference to Education Studies Scholars. May not be taken after HIST 014.  HU

*AMST 327b / FILM 453b, Global Documentary and the 1960s  Joshua Glick
Documentary media as a tool for advocating for political change, for controlling populations, and for creating new kinds of socially conscious communities in the 1960s. Comparative analysis of works by documentary filmmakers in England, the United States, France, Canada, Japan, Czechoslovakia, and Latin America; the institutions, government policies, technological innovations, and creative networks that made these documentaries possible.  HU

*AMST 330b / ENGL 236b, Dystopic and Utopian Fictions  James Berger
Attempts since the late nineteenth century to imagine, in literature, cinema, and social theory, a world different from the existing world. The merging of political critique with desire and anxiety; the nature and effects of social power; forms of authority, submission, and resistance.  HU

*AMST 331b / FILM 428b / MUSI 330b / THST 330b, Alternate Realities and Musical Multimedia  Lynda Paul
The role of music and other kinds of sound in the creation and experience of alternate realities, from video games to theme parks and theatrical multimedia. Perspectives from recent work in film and media studies, theater and performance studies, anthropology, cognitive science, and a variety of musicological and ethnomusicological subdisciplines, such as popular music studies, opera studies, and ritual studies.  HU

*AMST 333a / WGSS 329a, Sex before Sexuality  Greta LaFleur
The history of sexuality in North America prior to the emergence of modern definitions of sexuality and sexual identity. What counted as "sex" in early North America; forms of sexual behavior that were discussed, defined, disciplined, and prohibited; comparison with contemporary understandings of sex and sexuality. Literary, historical, and scientific texts from the seventeenth through early nineteenth centuries; historical, critical, and theoretical writings on the history of sexuality and on the challenges of sexual historiography more generally.  HU

*AMST 334b, Documentary Film in a Global Age
Introduction to the genres and political uses of documentary film, from the first documentary to activist films on YouTube. The cultural observation, witnessing, and critique that documentary films make possible. The ethics of producing and consuming representations of cultural difference. Insights into the paradoxical ways in which the story of the observer meshes with the story of the observed. Screenings in class.  HU

*AMST 336b / AFAM 336b / ER&M 315b, Literature and Culture of Hispaniola and Its Diaspora  Dixa Ramirez
The literature and culture of Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and their diasporas in the United States and Canada since 1804. Focus on texts that explore relations between the two nations, with some attention to each country’s individual literary and cultural traditions. Conventional literary texts such as novels and poetry, as well as political documents, orally transmitted texts, and imagery.  HU

*AMST 337b / AFAM 324a / ER&M 314a, Urban Latina/o Literature  Dixa Ramirez
Urban Latina/o literature and the urban experience. Focus on works from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, with background on the roots of Latina/o experience in the late nineteenth century. Some attention to film and the visual arts.  HU
*AMST 342b / ER&M 316b, Los Angeles, City of Migrants  Laura Barraclough
The city of Los Angeles examined from the perspective of its migrant communities, from the era of Spanish and American colonialism to the present. Emphasis on the relationships between migrants and their cultural expressions as they shape, and are shaped by, the city’s race, gender, and economic structures and its physical and cultural geographies.  SO

*AMST 343b / ER&M 303b / MMES 303b, Muslim Diasporas in America  Zareena Grewal
Exploration of the meanings and attachments that connect Muslims in the U.S. to homelands in the Muslim world. How to define and apply the concept of diaspora to an ever-broadening set of Muslim populations dispersed in space, including immigrants, expatriates, refugees, guest workers, exiles, and religious seekers. Analysis of newspaper articles, political comics, memoirs, fiction, ethnographies, political essays, sociological surveys, and documentary films.  SO

*AMST 344b / ENGL 447a, American Literature in the World  Wai Chee Dimock
American literature as a gateway to the rest of the world. Key texts from the eighteenth century to the twenty-first, including works by Olaudah Equiano, Mark Twain, Henry James, Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, Monique Truong, Amy Tan, Ruth Ozeki, Jhumpa Lahiri, Cristina Garcia, Edwidge Danticat, and Dave Eggers. Pre-1900 with permission of the instructor.  WR, HU

*AMST 348a, Space, Place, and Landscape  Laura Barraclough
Survey of core concepts in cultural geography and spatial theory. Ways in which the organization, use, and representation of physical spaces produce power dynamics related to colonialism, race, gender, class, and migrant status. Multiple meanings of home; the politics of place names; effects of tourism; the aesthetics and politics of map making; spatial strategies of conquest. Includes field projects in New Haven.  SO

AMST 351b / FILM 321b, Hollywood in the Twenty-First Century  Ron Gregg
Examination of how globalization and the global success of American films have affected Hollywood film production, stardom, distribution, and exhibition, as well as the aesthetics of film image, sound, and narration. Topics also include the effects of new digital technologies on film aesthetics, spectacle, spectatorship, and exhibition, and the responses of independent and other national cinemas to Hollywood’s hegemony.  HU

*AMST 352a / FILM 377a / WGS 454a, Postwar Queer Avant-Garde Film  Ron Gregg
Production, exhibition, and aesthetic practices in postwar queer underground cinema in the United States as it developed from the 1930s to the early 1970s. The films of gay or bisexual filmmakers such as Willard Maas, Andy Warhol, Jack Smith, Kenneth Anger, and José Rodriguez-Soltero; the work of antiheteronormative female filmmakers such as Barbara Rubin and Marie Menken; the links between avant-garde cinema, theater, and other arts, as well as the political context.  HU

*AMST 358b / ENGL 281b, Animals in Modern American Fiction  James Berger
Literary portrayals of animals are used to examine the relations between literature, science, and social and political thought since the late nineteenth century. Topics include Darwinist thought, socialism, fascism, gender and race relations, new thinking about ecology, and issues in neuroscience.  HU RP

*AMST 361a / AFAM 350a / ER&M 405a, Exile and Migration in Caribbean Literature and Culture  Dixa Ramirez
Forms of geographic displacement in Caribbean literature and culture from the early nineteenth century to the present. National independence movements, the negritude and Pan-Africanist movements, and recent emigration to the United States and Canada. Connections between gender, class, race, and specific national ideals, and their effects on the displacement experience.  HU

*AMST 362b / AFAM 375b / ER&M 406b / WGS 406b, Gender in Caribbean Women’s and Latina Literature  Dixa Ramirez
Gender in the Caribbean and its diaspora explored through women’s literature and other cultural production. Ways in which gender has overlapped with other categories such as race and class; its effects on narratives of colonialism, imperialism, travel, and migration. The marginalization of Caribbean women’s cultural labor.  HU

*AMST 367a / FILM 308a, Modern Media Transitions  Joshua Glick
Major shifts in media technology from the 1890s to the present, with a focus on American media industries. Major epochs in media production and their political, economic, and cultural contexts. Ways in which new media technologies draw on, but also separate from, past precedents. Close analysis of film, radio broadcasts, television programs, videos, and Web-based content. Recommended preparation: FILM 150.  HU

*AMST 368a / ER&M 224a, Marxism and Social Movements in the Nineteenth Century  Michael Denning
The history and theory of the socialist and Marxist traditions from their beginnings in the early nineteenth century to the world upheavals of 1917–19. Relations to labor, feminist, abolitionist, and anticolonial movements.  RP

*AMST 369b / ER&M 229b, Marxism and Social Movements in the Twentieth Century  Michael Denning
The history of Marxism and its relation to the labor, feminist, and anticolonial social movements since the great upheavals of 1919. Topics include the Leninisms of the Communist movement, the anticolonial Marxisms of national liberation struggles, the cultural and intellectual trajectory of Western Marxism, the New Left, and contemporary global justice movements.  HU

*AMST 370b / THST 380b, The History of Dance  Emily Coates
An examination of major movements in the history of concert and social dance from the late nineteenth century to the present, including ballet, tap, jazz, modern, musical theater, and different cultural forms. Topics include tradition versus innovation, the influence of the African diaspora, and interculturalism. Exercises are used to illuminate analysis of the body in motion.  WR, HU
American Studies

*AMST 371a / ENGL 366a / THST 398a, American Experimental Theater  
Marc Robinson  
Topics include the Living Theater, Happenings, Cunningham/Cage, Open Theater, Judson Dance Theater, Grand Union, Bread and Puppet Theater, Ontological-Hysteric Theater, Meredith Monk, Mabou Mines, Robert Wilson, and the Wooster Group. Open to junior and senior Theater Studies majors, and to nonmajors with permission of the instructor. WR, HU

*AMST 378a / AMAM 369a / ENGL 364a / LITR 271a / THST 360a, African American Theater  
Staff  
African American dramatic literature and theater history from the nineteenth century to the present. Key events in black theater history, including the emergence of black musical comedy, the Federal Theatre Project, and the Black Arts movement. Plays by Langston Hughes, Lorraine Hansberry, Adrienne Kennedy, August Wilson, Amiri Baraka, and others. Open to junior and senior Theater Studies majors, and to nonmajors with permission of the instructor. Students must preregister during the reading period of the preceding term. WR, HU

*AMST 381b / ARCH 351b, Poets' Landscapes  
Dolores Hayden  
Introduction to techniques poets have used to ground their work in the landscapes and buildings of American towns and cities including Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles. Attention to poems from a national automotive landscape as well as narrative poems about cities. Writing exercises in different poetic forms; readings from the works of Dickinson, Frost, Bishop, Lowell, Wilbur, Dickey, Pinsky, Cervantes, and Merrill. WR, HU

*AMST 382a, Culture of the Early Cold War  
Joel Silverman  
U.S. history and culture from the end of World War II through the 1950s. Ways in which Americans made sense of their world. The formation of American identity after World War II, with emphasis on the construction of gender identity. Texts include novels, short stories, essays, film, advertisements, and music. HU

*AMST 383b / ER&M 384b, U.S. Border and Immigration Policy  
Laura Barraclough  
U.S. border and immigration policies at the national, state, and local levels from the colonial period to the present. The historical evolution of border and immigration policy; contemporary debates; the effects of shifting policy on immigrants of varying legal statuses. So, RP

*AMST 384bG / AFAM 423bG / ENGL 306bG, American Artists and the African American Book  
Robert Stepto  
Visual art in African American books since 1900. Artists include Winslow Reiss, Aaron Douglas, E. S. Campbell, Tom Feelings, and the FSA photographers of the 1940s. Topics include Harlem Renaissance book art, photography and literature, and children’s books. Research in collections of the Beinecke Library and the Yale Art Gallery is encouraged. HU

*AMST 385b, Trauma in American Film and Television  
Christine Muller  
Origins, multiple meanings, and influence of the notion of trauma in contemporary American culture. Relations between theories of popular culture and of trauma, particularly in discussions of war, social upheaval, and September 11, 2001. The conditions and implications of engaging trauma through everyday entertainment such as film and television; the ethics of representation. HU

*AMST 386b, Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Peoples  
Jessica Cattelino  
Ways in which settler colonialism conditions the lives of both indigenous and nonindigenous people in the United States and in other settler societies such as Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Citizenship and sovereignty, the politics of kinship and sexuality, place and property, nature, the role of indigenous peoples in the imaginations of settler societies, recognition and cultural authenticity, and economy. So

*AMST 390a or b, The Junior Seminar  
Staff  
An interdisciplinary course in American history, literature, arts, and society, organized around a common core of texts. Topics vary by term. HU, So

*AMST 396b / FILM 458b / ITAL 324b, Italian American Literature and Film  
Millicent Marcus and Taylor Papallo  
An exploration of the lives of Italian Americans as depicted in a series of literary texts and films of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Topics include questions of identity, multiculturalism, stereotypes, the experiences of Italian American women, and the complex relationship between new world and motherland. HU, Tr

Senior Seminars

*AMST 402a / ANTH 302a / FILM 324a / WGSS 380a, Gender and Sexuality in Media and Popular Culture  
Laura Wexler  
Investigation of visual media and popular culture in the United States and transnationally. Gender, race, class, and sexuality in relation to the production, circulation, consumption, and reception of media culture. Focus on theories of media and the visual. Significant lab component in which students use media technologies to make and illustrate theoretical arguments. HU

*AMST 403aG, Introduction to Public Humanities  
Ryan Brasseaux  
Introduction to the various media, topics, debates, and issues framing public humanities. The relationship between knowledge produced in the university and the circulation of ideas among a broader public, including modes of inquiry, interpretation, and presentation. Public history, museum studies, oral and community history, public art, documentary film and photography, public writing and educational outreach, and the socially conscious performing arts. HU
*AMST 405b / AFAM 406b / ENGL 405b, Autobiography in America  Robert Stepto
A study of autobiographical writings from Mary Rowlandson's Indian captivity narrative (1682) to the present. Classic forms such as immigrant, education, and cause narratives; prevailing autobiographical strategies involving place, work, and photographs. Authors include Franklin, Douglass, Jacobs, Antin, Kingston, Uchida, Balakian, Rodriguez, and Bechdel.  WR, HU

*AMST 406b / ENGL 329b, The Spectacle of Disability  James Berger
Examination of how people with disabilities are represented in U.S. literature and culture. Ways in which these representations, along with the material realities of disabled people, frame society's understanding of disability; the consequences of such formulations. Various media, including fiction, nonfiction, film, television, and memoirs, viewed through a wide range of analytical lenses.  WR, HU RP

*AMST 408a / AFAM 272a / ER&M 408a, Race and Comedy  Albert Laguna
Introduction to theories of the ludic and to critical race theory. Ways in which comic modes have been utilized by racialized subjects to represent and issue critiques of the dominant culture. Analysis of stand-up comedy, film, television, and novels.  HU

*AMST 417b / ENGL 422b / FILM 435b, The Private Eye  Paul Grimstad and Alan Trachtenberg
American novels and films of the 1940s and 1950s that introduce and develop the figure of the private eye. Attitudes toward class, gender, sexuality, criminality, race and ethnicity, state authority, and police power; visual style, narrative form, character, performance, and mise-en-scene; meanings of "noir" in film and fiction.  HU

*AMST 418b / HSHM 463b, Social Governance in Early America  Greta LaFleur
The management of bodies and populations in North America from c. 1790 to c. 1850. Focus on the creation, management, and hierarchization of populations through the science of classification, including categories such as race, nation, wealth, and work. Relations between new forms of government and emerging strategies of governance. The specific shape taken by the state's investment in the management of birth, life, and death, and the legacies of that investment.  HU

*AMST 422a / ER&M 435a / HIST 151Ja, Writing Tribal Histories  Ned Blackhawk
Historical overview of American Indian tribal communities, particularly since the creation of the United States. Challenges of working with oral histories, government documents, and missionary records.  WR, HU

*AMST 426a / AFAM 411a / ER&M 413a / WGSS 411a, The Fiction of Imaginary or Imminent Futures  Hazel Carby
Consideration of the nature of utopian and dystopian ideas and the relation between early science fiction and the political project of colonization. Readings of speculative fiction and critical essays from the middle of the twentieth century to the present, including a survey of writing by African American authors.  HU

*AMST 429a / ANTH 404a, American Communities  Kathryn Dudley
Consideration of the concept of community and an examination of various kinds of communities—ranging from those defined by social proximity to those defined by a common experience or ideology— that are part of the American experience, in order to understand the value Americans place on community itself, and the ways in which the pull of individualism exacts a toll on that commitment.  SO

*AMST 430a / FILM 426a, Contemporary Documentary Film and Video  Charles Musser and Anne Berke
Examination of documentary and related nonfiction forms in the last three decades. Issues include film truth, performance, ethics, race and gender, and the filmmaker as participant-observer. Filmmakers include Frederick Wiseman, William Greaves, Chris Choy, Errol Morris, Lourdes Portillo, Trin T. Minh-Ha, Sue Friedrich, and Marlon Riggs.  HU RP

*AMST 433b / ANTH 366b, Anthropology of Inequality in America  Kathryn Dudley
Sociocultural dimensions of social inequality in the contemporary United States. Ways in which the socioeconomic processes that produce inequality are inextricably embedded in worlds of cultural meaning; how those meanings are constructed and embodied in everyday practice. Perspectives from anthropology, sociology, economics, history, and popular media.  SO

*AMST 436b / AFAM 332b / ER&M 291b / LITR 293b / WGSS 343b, Caribbean Diasporic Literature  Hazel Carby
An examination of contemporary literature written by Caribbean writers who have migrated to, or who journey between, different countries around the Atlantic rim. Focus on literature written in English in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, both fiction and nonfiction. Writers include Caryl Phillips, Nalo Hopkinson, and Jamaica Kincaid.  HU RP

*AMST 447b / AFAM 210b / HIST 148Jb, Politics and Culture of the U.S. Color Line  Matthew Jacobson
The significance of race in U.S. political culture, from the "separate but equal" doctrine of Plessy v. Ferguson to the election of an African American president. Race as a central organizer of American political and social life.  HU RP

*AMST 450a / ER&M 430a, Islam in the American Imagination  Zareena Grewal
The representation of Muslims in the United States and abroad throughout the twentieth century. The place of Islam in the American imagination; intersections between concerns of race and citizenship in the United States and foreign policies directed toward the Middle East.  SO RP

*AMST 460a / AFAM 408a / ENGL 443a, African American Poets of the Modern Era  Robert Stepto
The African American practice of poetry between 1900 and 1960, especially of sonnets, ballads, sermonic, and blues poems. Poets include Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Sterling Brown, Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Walker, and Robert Hayden. Class sessions at the Beinecke Library for inspection and discussion of original editions, manuscripts, letters, and other archival material.  HU
*AMST 463a and AMST 464b / FILM 455a and FILM 456b, Documentary Film Workshop  
Charles Musser  
A yearlong workshop designed primarily for majors in Film Studies or American Studies who are making documentaries as senior projects. Seniors in majors other than Film Studies and American Studies admitted as space permits. RP

*AMST 466a / ENGL 444a, Contemporary Historical Novels  
James Berger  
Attempts of contemporary American authors to put the complexities of history into written form. Narrative as the privileged mode of historical representation; differences between what is regarded as academic history, popular history, and historical fiction; the influence of power and of the writer’s own historical position on historical narrative; effects of ethnicity, gender, and race on the creation and reception of history; writers’ use of historical fiction to change the ways readers think about the present and the future. HU

*AMST 468a / EP&E 396a / PLSC 251a, Progressivism: Theory and Practice  
Stephen Skowronek  
The progressive reform tradition in American politics. The tradition’s conceptual underpinnings, social supports, practical manifestations in policy and in new governmental arrangements, and conservative critics. Emphasis on the origins of progressivism in the early decades of the twentieth century, with attention to latter-day manifestations and to changes in the progressive impulse over time. SO

*AMST 471a and AMST 472b, Individual Reading and Research for Juniors and Seniors  
George Chauncey and Ned Blackhawk  
Special projects intended to enable the student to cover material not otherwise offered by the program. The course may be used for research or for directed reading, but in either case a term paper or its equivalent is required as evidence of work done. It is expected that the student will meet regularly with the faculty adviser. To apply for admission, a student should submit a prospectus signed by the faculty adviser to the director of undergraduate studies.

*AMST 473a / WGSS 452a, Affect in the Writing of History  
Laura Wexler and Michael Amico  
Methods for analyzing, interpreting, and writing about emotion experienced in the past. Focus on ways in which lived sexuality has shaped the feelings of people and the emotional tone of events in history. Psychoanalytical and affect theories as tools for studying the ephemeral, the ineffable, and what can be seen only in emotional reflections. Broader understandings of evidence and causality in historical analysis. HU

*AMST 480b / HIST 129Jb, Theories of History  
Greta LaFleur  
Critical, philosophical, and theoretical survey of history as an idea and a practice. The intellectual genealogy behind the historiographic practices used and discussed most often in contemporary scholarship, including new historicism and queer historiography. The problem of describing the nature, uses, and abuses of history. Readings from works by Socrates, Hegel, Marx, Freud, Benjamin, Foucault, Scott, White, Said, and Spivak. HU

*AMST 483a, Urban Public Spaces  
Laura Barraclough  
The production, representation, use, and transformation of urban public spaces, with a focus on the contemporary United States. Relations to evolving practices of citizenship, the workings of democracy, and dynamics of power. Meanings of public space for community and everyday life; power and resistance; art, theater, and performance; the work of community organizations. Includes field projects in New Haven. SO

Senior Project

*AMST 491a or b, Senior Project  
Ned Blackhawk and staff  
Independent research and proseminar on a one-term senior project. For requirements see under "Senior requirement" in the American Studies program description.

*AMST 493a and AMST 494b, Senior Project for the Intensive Major  
Ned Blackhawk  
Independent research and proseminar on a two-term senior project. For requirements see under "Senior requirement" in the American Studies program description.