

# AMERICAN STUDIES

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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

**The major for the Class of 2018** With DUS approval, the following changes to the requirements of the major may be fulfilled by students who declared their major under previous requirements.

**The major for the Class of 2019 and subsequent classes** 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 be one of the designated "Early Americas" courses as listed on the American Studies Website. 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.

**Areas of concentration** Each American Studies major selects an area of concentration, normally in the fall of the junior year, from six possible choices: (1) national formations, (2) the international United States, (3) material cultures and built environments, (4) politics and American communities, (5) visual, audio, literary, and performance cultures, and (6) public humanities. 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 in the public humanities concentration explore various forms of public intellectual engagement, including museum studies, documentary work, public history, digital humanities, and archival based work in the visual or performing arts; senior projects in this area may consist of works or productions beyond the traditional scholarly essay. 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. Students electing this option should submit the senior seminar registration form, signed by the seminar instructor, to the director of undergraduate studies.

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. 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 list of American Studies 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.

#### ADVISING

**Combined B.A./M.A. degree program** Exceptionally able and well-prepared students may complete a course of study leading to the simultaneous award of the B.A. and M.A. degrees after eight terms of enrollment. See "Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees" under Special Arrangements, section K, in the Academic Regulations. Interested students should consult the director of undergraduate studies prior to the sixth term of enrollment for specific requirements in American Studies.

#### 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, (1 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

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#### FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF AMERICAN STUDIES

**Professors** Jean-Christophe Agnew (*History*), Ned Blackhawk (*History*), David Blight (*History, African American Studies*), Daphne Brooks (*African American Studies, Theater Studies*), Hazel Carby (*African American Studies*), Edward Cooke, Jr. (*History of Art*), Michael Denning (*English, Ethnicity, Race, & Migration*), Wai Chee Dimock (*English*), Kathryn Dudley (*Chair*) (*Anthropology*), Joanne Freeman (*History*), Beverly Gage (*History*), Jacqueline Goldsby (*English, African American Studies*), Inderpal Grewal (*Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies*), Matthew Jacobson (*African American Studies, History*), Kathryn Lofton (*Religious Studies*), Mary Lui (*History*), Joanne Meyerowitz (*History*), Charles Musser (*Film & Media Studies*), Tavia Nyong'o (*Theater Studies*), Gary Okihiro (*Theater Studies*), Stephen Pitti (*History, Ethnicity, Race, & Migration*), Sally Promey (*Divinity School*), Ana Ramos-Zayas (*Ethnicity, Race, & Migration, Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies*), Joseph Roach (*English, Theater Studies*), Marc Robinson (*Theater Studies, English*), Alicia Schmidt Camacho (*Ethnicity, Race, & Migration*), Caleb Smith (*English*), Harry Stout (*Religious Studies, History*), Michael Veal (*Music, African American Studies*), John Warner (*History of Medicine*), Michael Warner (*English*), Laura Wexler (*Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies*)

**Associate Professors** Crystal Feimster (*African American Studies*), Zareena Grewal (*Ethnicity, Race, & Migration*), Daniel HoSang (*Ethnicity, Race, & Migration*), Paul Sabin (*History, Environmental Studies*), Tisa Wenger (*Divinity School*),

**Assistant Professors** Laura Barraclough (*Ethnicity, Race, & Migration*), Greta LaFleur, Albert Laguna (*Ethnicity, Race, & Migration*), Dixa Ramirez (*Ethnicity, Race, & Migration*)

**Senior Lecturer** James Berger (*English*)

**Lecturers** Ryan Brasseaux, Irene Garza (*Ethnicity, Race, and Migration*), Christine Muller, Karin Roffman (*Humanities, English*), Joel Silverman, Quan Tran (*Ethnicity, Race, and Migration*)

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#### Freshman Seminars

\* **AMST 007a / HSAR 002a, Furniture and American Life** Edward Cooke

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 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. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program. HU

\* **AMST 026a / AFAM 055a / THST 096a, Protest Music in America and the Black Freedom Struggle** Daphne Brooks

Exploration of the history, politics, and cultures of protest music across three centuries, including the multiple genres, aesthetics, and performance strategies innovated as forms of black liberation. Topics include uniquely subversive vocal strategies, lyrical tropes, and instrumental disturbances, as well as African American literature that interrogates the radical dimensions of black music in the context of captivity, the post-Reconstruction era, the Jim Crow era, the long Civil Rights, and Black Power movements. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program. HU RP

\* **AMST 060b / AFAM 060b / HIST 016b, Significance of American Slavery** Edward Rugemer

The history of American slavery, its destruction during the nineteenth century, and its significance today. Topics include the origins of slavery, the development of racism, the transatlantic slave trade, the experience of enslavement, resistance to slavery, the abolitionist movement, the process of emancipation, and the perpetuation of slavery and other forms of unfree labor in the twenty-first century. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program. WR, HU

## Gateway Courses

**AMST 125a / AFAM 125a / EDST 130a / HIST 136a, The Long Civil Rights Movement** Crystal Feimster

Political, social, and artistic aspects of the U.S. civil rights movement from the 1920s through the 1980s explored in the context of other organized efforts for social change. Focus on relations between the African American freedom movement and debates about gender, labor, sexuality, and foreign policy. Changing representations of social movements in twentieth-century American culture; the politics of historical analysis. HU

**AMST 163b / EVST 120b / HIST 120b / HSHM 204b, American Environmental History** Paul Sabin

Ways in which people have shaped and been shaped by the changing environments of North America from precolonial times to the present. Migration of species and trade in commodities; the impact of technology, agriculture, and industry; the development of resources in the American West and overseas; the rise of modern conservation and environmental movements; the role of planning and impact of public policies. WR, HU

**AMST 188a / HIST 115a, The Colonial Period of American History** Rebecca Tannenbaum

Significant themes in American life, 1607-1750: politics and imperial governance, social structure, religion, ecology, race relations, gender, popular culture, the rhythms of everyday life. HU

**AMST 196a / AFAM 196a / ER&M 226a / EVST 196a / SOCY 190a, Race, Class, and Gender in American Cities** Laura Barraclough

Examination of how racial, gender, and class inequalities have been built, sustained, and challenged in American cities. Focus on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Topics include industrialization and deindustrialization, segregation, gendered public/private split, gentrification, transit equity, environmental justice, food access, and the relationships between public space, democracy, and community wellbeing. Includes field projects in New Haven. SO

**AMST 197b / ARCH 280b / HSAR 219b, American Architecture and Urbanism** Elihu Rubin

Introduction to the study of buildings, architects, architectural styles, and urban landscapes, viewed in their economic, political, social, and cultural contexts, from precolonial times to the present. Topics include: public and private investment in the built environment; the history of housing in America; the organization of architectural practice; race, gender, ethnicity and the right to the city; the social and political nature of city building; and the transnational nature of American architecture. HU

**AMST 198a / ARCH 385a / HIST 152a / PLSC 279a / SOCY 149a, New Haven and the American City** Elihu Rubin and Alan Plattus

Introduction to urban studies using New Haven as a model for the American city. Emphasis on historical development; urban planning; the built environment; transportation and infrastructure; reform and redevelopment; architecture and urban design; sustainability and equity. SO

\* **AMST 206b / ER&M 221b / WGSS 222b, Introduction to Critical Refugee Studies** Quan Tran

Reconfiguring refugees as fluid subjects and sites of social, political, and cultural critiques. Departing from dominant understandings of refugees as victims, consideration instead of refugees as complex historical actors, made visible through processes of colonization, imperialism, war, displacement, state violence, and globalization, as well as ethical, social, legal, and political transformations. Focus on second-half of the twentieth century. SO

**AMST 219a / AFAM 197a / ER&M 246a / HIST 326a / WGSS 346a, Race, Empire, and Atlantic Modernities** Anne Eller and Dixie Ramirez

Interdisciplinary examination of the colonial modernities of the Atlantic world, with focus on the production of racism and colonial difference, as well as popular responses to those discourses. HU

\* **AMST 231a / WGSS 231a, Introduction to Digital Humanities** Laura Wexler and Angel Nieves

The application of computational methods such as text analysis, mapping, and network analysis to traditional and new forms of inquiry in the humanities. What methods are best for which forms of inquiry, how to apply those methods, and how new questions arise in the process. The limitations and challenges as well as the promises of digital humanities. HU

**AMST 234b / ER&M 243b / HIST 188b / RLST 342b, Spiritual But Not Religious** Zareena Grewal

Study of the historical and contemporary "unchurching" trends in American religious life in a comparative perspective and across different scales of analysis in order to think about the relationship between spirituality, formal religion, secular psychology and the self-help industry. HU, SO

**AMST 238a / AFST 238a / ER&M 238a, Introduction to Third World Studies** Gary Okihiro

Introduction to the historical and contemporary theories and articulations of Third World studies (comparative ethnic studies) as an academic field and practice. Consideration of subject matters; methodologies and theories; literatures; and practitioners and institutional arrangements. SO

**AMST 247a / FILM 244a / HIST 147a / HLTH 170a / HSHM 202a, 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** Adrián Lerner Patrón

The idea of wilderness in American history, art, literature, and public policy. Authors include Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, John McPhee, and Ramachandra Guha. A class dinner and field trip are held during the term. HU

**AMST 260a / PHIL 260a, 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 273a / AFAM 279a / ENGL 298a / WGSS 342a, Black Women's Literature** Jacqueline Goldsby

Examination of black women's literary texts, with a focus on the post-civil rights era. Exploration of the ways writers construct and contest the cultural, ideological, and political parameters of black womanhood. Topics include narrative strategy, modes of representation, and textual depictions of the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, color, ethnicity, nationality, class, and generation. Texts placed within the context of black women's literary legacies. HU

## Junior Seminars

**\* AMST 303b / AFAM 340b / ER&M 320b / LAST 320b / LITR 332b, Narratives of Blackness in Latino and Latin America** Dixia Ramirez

Focus on the cultural and literary treatments of Afro-Latin American and Afro-Latina/o subjectivity in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Latin America and in the United States through the study of literature, historical first-hand accounts, film, and scholarship produced from the 16th century to the present. Themes include slave insurrections, the plantation system, piracy and buccaneering, the black roots of several Latin American musical genres, miscegenation, and the central role of sexuality in race-based social hierarchies. WR, HU

**\* AMST 304a / EVST 352a, Food and Documentary** Ian Cheney

Survey of contemporary public debates and current scientific thinking about how America farms and eats explored through the medium of documentary film. Includes a brief history of early food and agrarian documentaries, with a focus on twenty-first century films that consider sustainable food. HU

**\* AMST 309b / AFAM 391b / ER&M 310b / LITR 334b / WGSS 310b, Zombies, Pirates, Ghosts, and Witches** Dixia Ramirez

Study of the literature and history of the Atlantic Caribbean region (including the U.S. Northeast and Deep South) through its most subversive and disturbing icons—zombies, pirates, ghosts, vampires, and witches. Texts include Francis Drake on piracy, Katherine Dunham on zombies, Lauren Derby on vampires (*chupacabras*), Maryse Condé and Sandra Cisneros on witchcraft, and Toni Morrison and William Faulkner on ghosts. Films include documentaries and several horror classics, including *White Zombie* (1932), *I Walked with a Zombie* (1943), *The Serpent and the Rainbow* (1988), *The Witch* (2015), and *Get Out* (2017). WR, HU

**\* AMST 310b / AFAM 410b / WGSS 410b, Interdisciplinary Approaches to African American Studies** Anthony Reed

An interdisciplinary, thematic approach to the study of race, nation, and ethnicity in the African diaspora. Topics include class, gender, color, and sexuality; the dynamics of reform, Pan-Africanism, neocolonialism, and contemporary black nationalism. Use of a broad range of methodologies. WR, HU, SO

**\* AMST 314a / WGSS 306a, Gender and Transgender** Greta LaFleur

Introduction to transgender studies, an emergent field that draws on gender studies, queer theory, sociology, feminist science studies, literary studies, and history. Representations of gender nonconformity in a cultural context dominated by a two-sex model of human gender differentiation. Sources include novels, autobiographies, films, and philosophy and criticism. RP

**\* AMST 318a / HIST 415Ja, The Problem of Global Poverty** Joanne Meyerowitz

Study of the programs and policies that aimed to end global poverty from 1960 to the present, from modernization to microcredit to universal basic income. Topics include the green revolution, population control, the "women in development" movement, and the New International Economic Order. Extensive work with primary sources. May count toward geographical distributional credit within the History major for any region studied, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. WR, HU

**\* AMST 326b / AFAM 349b / HIST 115Jb / WGSS 388b, Civil Rights and Women's Liberation** Lauren Meyer

The dynamic relationship between the civil rights movement and the women's liberation movement from 1940 to the present. When and how the two movements overlapped, intersected, and diverged. The variety of ways in which African Americans and women campaigned

for equal rights. Topics include World War II, freedom summer, black power, the Equal Rights Amendment, feminism, abortion, affirmative action, and gay rights. 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 341a / AFAM 399a / ER&M 407a, Race and Capitalism** Aaron Carico

This interdisciplinary seminar explores, both theoretically and historically, how racial formations are bound to the formations of capitalism. Focus on the American scene, with sustained inquiry on slavery, its commodity logics, and their residues. Consideration of the effects of immigration and globalization. SO

\* **AMST 344a / ENGL 433a, The Nonhuman in Literature since 1800** Wai Chee Dimock

Nonhuman life forms in fiction and poetry from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first, including plants and animals, monsters and viruses, intelligent machines, and extraterrestrial aliens. The complexity and variety of nonhuman ecology. WR, HU

\* **AMST 347a / ENGL 307a / FILM 476a, Hollywood Novel and Film** Charles Musser

The history of novels and films about Hollywood. Ways in which the closely related forms of novel and film portray "the dream factory" – its past, present, and future – as well as the way the forms interact. Books include *Merton at the Movies* (1922), *I Should Have Stayed Home* (1938), *Loves of the Last Tycoon* (1940), and *The Player* (1988). Films include *What Price Hollywood?* (1932), *A Star is Born* (1937), *Sunset Boulevard* (1950), *In a Lonely Place* (1950), and *The Player* (1992). May not be taken after AMST S321/FILM S180. HU

\* **AMST 348a / EVST 304a, 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 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 364b / EVST 366b / FILM 423b, Documentary and the Environment** Charles Musser

Survey of documentaries about environmental issues, with a focus on *Darwin's Nightmare* (2004), *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006), *Food, Inc.* (2009), *GasLand* (2010), and related films. Brief historical overview, from early films such as *The River* (1937) to the proliferation of environmental film festivals. HU RP

\* **AMST 366a / ENGL 367a / THST 355a, Modernism and American Theater** Marc Robinson

Examination of modernist principles as they are adapted to, and tested in, American theater. Playwrights include Eugene O'Neill, Gertrude Stein, e. e. cummings, Djuna Barnes, Mae West, Thornton Wilder, Tennessee Williams, Jane Bowles, and Frank O'Hara.

\* **AMST 370b / THST 380b, The History of Dance** Brian Seibert

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

\* **AMST 371b / ER&M 297b, Food, Race, and Migration in United States Society** Quan Tran

Exploration of the relationship between food, race, and migration in historical and contemporary United States contexts. Organized thematically and anchored in selected case studies, this course is comparative in scope and draws from contemporary work in the fields of food studies, ethnic studies, migration studies, American studies, anthropology, and history. SO

\* **AMST 372b / ENGL 274b / THST 365b, American Drama, 1960–2000** Marc Robinson

Intensive study of a turning point in American theater. Following the example of the post-war European avant-garde, playwrights after 1960 undid fixed ideas of realism, expanded the lyric range of dramatic speech, and multiplied definitions of character and narrative. Many sought to reflect the era's eruptive politics; others offered a newly ambiguous vision of psychology. Readings include works by Edward Albee, Adrienne Kennedy, Maria Irene Fornes, Sam Shepard, David Mamet, Amiri Baraka, August Wilson, Tony Kushner, Wallace Shawn, and Suzan-Lori Parks. WR, HU

\* **AMST 384b / AFAM 423b / ENGL 306b, American Artists and the African American Book** Robert Stepto

Visual art in African American books since 1900. Artists include Winold Reiss, Aaron Douglas, E. S. Campbell, Tom Feelings, and the FSA photographers of the 1930s and 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 397b / AFAM 251b, Critical Race Theory** Crystal Feimster and Heather Vermeulen

Introduction to critical race theory, a radical critique of relations among race, law, and power in U.S. politics and society. Intellectual foundations of the field, with emphasis on African American perspectives; key juridical acts. The centrality of U.S. law in producing social hierarchies of race and racial difference, gender, sexuality, and class. The extension of critical race theory to global analysis of race, immigration, and cultural difference. HU

## Senior Seminars

\* **AMST 403a, 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 406a / ENGL 326a, 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 410a / HIST 166Ja / WGSS 409a, Asian American Women and Gender, 1830 to the Present** Mary Lui

Asian American women as key historical actors. Gender analysis is used to reexamine themes in Asian American history: immigration, labor, community, cultural representations, political organizing, sexuality, and marriage and family life. WR, HU

\* **AMST 411b / AFAM 401b / FILM 453b, Introduction to Documentary Studies** Matthew Jacobson and Anna Duensing

An introduction to documentary film, photography, and radio for students interested in doing documentary work, as well as for those who simply wish to study the history of the documentary as a cultural form. HU RP

\* **AMST 414a / ENGL 440a, Poetry and Debates on the Value of Arts and Humanities** James Berger

Attacks on and defenses of poetry in the broadest sense (as culture, the aesthetic, the humanities) from Plato to contemporary debates over the proper focus of education. The value of poetry in terms of knowledge claims, moral impact, economic utility, and other categories particular to artistic production and reception. WR, 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 420b / AFAM 437b / ENGL 445b, Ralph Ellison in Context** Robert Stepto

The complete works of Ralph Ellison and related works (in various art forms) of his contemporaries, including Wright, Baldwin, Bearden, and Louis Armstrong. WR, HU

\* **AMST 434a / ANTH 493a, American Precarity** Kathryn Dudley

Analysis of the 2016 presidential election and the seemingly bifurcated social worlds that currently structure political discourse in the United States. Drawing on an interdisciplinary array of ethnographic, journalistic, and analytical sources, this course traces the histories of the present that have produced cross-cutting zones of abandonment and social trauma not easily pigeon-holed by concepts of race, class, gender, and citizenship. SO

\* **AMST 438b / AFAM 352b / ER&M 291b / LITR 295b / WGSS 343b, Caribbean Diasporic Literature** Heather Vermeulen

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

\* **AMST 450b / ER&M 430b / WGSS 461b, 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

\* **AMST 451a / HIST 174Ja / RLST 260a, Religion, War, and the Meaning of America** Harry Stout

The relationship between religion and war in American history from colonial beginnings through Vietnam. The religious meanings of Americans at war; the mutually reinforcing influences of nationalism and religion; war as the norm of American national life; the concept of civil religion; biblical and messianic contexts of key U.S. conflicts. HU

\* **AMST 453a / AFAM 425a / ENGL 425a / THST 417a, Literature and Performance in New Orleans** Joseph Roach

Through perspectives and approaches of English literature, American studies, African-American studies, comparative literature, and theater and performance studies, students explore the sources of creative inspiration that writers and performers find in NOLA, including its cultural mystique, its colonial history, its troubled assimilation into Anglo-North America, its tortured racial politics, its natural

and built environment, its spirit-world practices, its raucous festive life, its eccentric characters, its food, its music, its predisposition to catastrophe, and its capacity for re-invention and survival. WR, HU

\* **AMST 456a / HIST 125Ja, Making America Modern, 1880–1930** Jean-Christophe Agnew

Exploration of United States cultural history between Reconstruction and the Crash, a period when a new class, gender, and racial order was put into place. Special focus on the national cultural apparatus that emerged in these years, thanks both to new technologies and to the experimental forms that avant-gardists, activists, impresarios, and other cultural brokers created and circulated to celebrate or to contest the nation's 'reconstructed' social order. WR, HU

\* **AMST 463a and AMST 464b / EVST 463a and EVST 464b / FILM 455a and FILM 456b, Documentary Film Workshop** Charles Musser

A yearlong workshop designed primarily for majors in Film and Media Studies or American Studies who are making documentaries as senior projects. Seniors in other majors admitted as space permits. RP

\* **AMST 466b / ENGL 444b, 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 468b / PLSC 261b, American Political Development** Stephen Skowronek

This course examines patterns of political change and institutional development in the United States. It looks to the past for leverage on thinking about the problems of government and politics today. Students examine issues of political culture like racism and liberalism, as well as standard developmental themes like party building, state building, social movement effects, and constitutional change. SO

\* **AMST 475b / ENGL 438b, Performing American Literature** Wai Chee Dimock

A broad selection of short stories, poems, and novels, accompanied by class performances, culminating in a term project with a significant writing component. "Performance" includes a wide range of activities including: staging; making digital films and videos; building websites; game design; and creative use of social media. Readings include poetry by Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Yusef Komunyakaa, and Claudia Rankine; fiction by Herman Melville, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Junot Diaz. WR, HU

\* **AMST 480a / HIST 422Ja, 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.

\* **AMST 484b / HSAR 493b / WGSS 462b, Visual Kinship, Families, and Photography** Laura Wexler

Exploration of the history and practice of family photography from an interdisciplinary perspective. Study of family photographs from the analog to the digital era, from snapshots to portraits, and from instrumental images to art exhibitions. Particular attention to the ways in which family photographs have helped establish gendered and racial hierarchies and examination of recent ways of reconceiving these images. HU

## Special Projects and Senior Project

\* **AMST 472b, Individual Reading and Research for Juniors and Seniors** Staff

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 491a or b, Senior Project** 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** Jorge Cuellar

Independent research and proseminar on a two-term senior project. For requirements see under "Senior requirement" in the American Studies program description.

\* **AMST 494b, Senior Project for the Intensive Major** Jorge Cuellar

Independent research and proseminar on a two-term senior project. For requirements see under "Senior requirement" in the American Studies program description.