



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA
AT CHARLOTTE**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
Summer 2016**

First Summer Session

AMST 3000 – 020 (CRN#30131)

Kitrick, L.

100% ONLINE. From the “free-love” ethos of hippie communities in the 1960s to disco “queen” Donna Summer’s eight-minute orgasm in her 1975 hit, *Love to Love You Baby*, a “Sexual Revolution” was impacting Americans’ attitudes and behaviors about traditional sex and gender mores. This course investigates Americans’ quest for sexual “liberation” during the 1960s and 70s by examining the intersecting socio-political and cultural changes occurring at the time. Course topics reflect shifting American views, values and representations of sexuality: Social changes (the “Pill,” female sexual expression, divorce), legal implications (Roe v. Wade, abortion rights; Loving v. Virginia, interracial marriage), political and social movements (women’s liberation, civil and gay rights movements), popular cultural developments (Three’s Company, pornography, sex-advice manuals) and the conservative backlash (religious, anti-feminists and feminists alike). The course will also highlight innovators and noteworthy contributors to sexual discourse. Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.

Love to Love You, Baby: The Sexual Revolution of the 1960s & 1970s

MTWR 11:30-1:30 (W,O)

AMST 3020 – 080 (CRN#30111)

Belus, M.

In this 100% ONLINE, we will explore the evolving nature of childhood in American society from the mid-20th century to the present. We will examine representations of childhood in film, literature, and popular culture over the past several decades. We will also study the role of family, school, and peers in shaping children’s lives, as well as controversies over child rearing, child health, inequality in education, and other issues that affect childhood in America today. Students will be expected to complete various projects, online presentations, reading and writing assignments and group work. Note: This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

Contemporary Childhood in America (W)

100% ONLINE

AMST 3020 - 081 (CRN#30125)

McMurray, B.

100% ONLINE Class, From the highlands of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, through the rolling Piedmont of the Carolinas, to the flat swamps of the south, the Catawba River has a rich history of Native American culture and life. This course will study the Catawba River, from its source to its termination in the Atlantic Ocean, and will include the history and culture of the Catawba (Iswa) Nation, beginning with their first mention by Spanish explorers in the 1500s to the present day Catawba Reservation near Rock Hill, South Carolina. Our study of this river of life will also examine its use today by private and corporate citizens. Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education..

The Catawba: River of Life (W)

100% ONLINE

AMST 3020 – 082 (CRN#30126)

Eckard, P.

100% ONLINE. Growing up in the American South often means coming to terms with a history, culture, and mindset unlike any other part of the United States. The South has such a rich, complex and diverse culture that even lifelong residents scratch their heads in wonderment. To help us understand the “Growing Up Southern” experience, we will study literature, films, and music. Our primary focus will be on the importance of family and place in shaping individual lives. Our lives are determined by our relationship with ourselves and with others, with time, with place, and with the culture in which we live. In essence, our relationships are our lives. Writing about them will help us connect the dots of our lives. We will also explore how race, religion, social class, and gender influence growing up in the South. This course meets both writing intensive and oral communication general education goals. Note: This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

Growing Up Southern (W)

100% ONLINE

AMST 3020 – 083 (CRN#30127)**Eckard, P.**

This 100% ONLINE course will focus on the history and culture of Southern Appalachia. Using film, music, and readings, we will explore the rich heritage of the region and will cover such topics as coal mining, moonshine, ethnic diversity, economics, the environment, religion, serpent handling, folklore, mountain music, and other traditions that have defined both people and place. Note: This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

Appalachian Culture: Moonshine, Miners, and Mountain Music (W)**100% ONLINE****AMST 3020 – 084 (CRN#31295)****Harris, M.**

In this 100% ONLINE class in Moodle, we will examine the history of poker in America -- a game invented in the U.S. shortly after the nation's birth -- focusing in particular on cultural productions, including film and literature, in which poker is of special thematic importance. Students will not only learn poker's rich story and relevance to U.S. history generally speaking, but will also come to appreciate how the game serves as a lens through which to examine numerous aspects of American culture from the early 19th century to the present day. Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.

Poker In American Film and Culture (W)**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – 080 (CRN#30112)****McMurray, B.**

100% ONLINE Course. From the gritty, rutted fairground dirt tracks to the gleaming, sleek Super speedways, racing has always been a Southern product. NASCAR stock car racing has grown from its regional roots to become one of the nation's top sporting attractions. In this 100% online course we will explore the men and machines that raced the tracks of the South, as well as the rules and regulations that every driver has been caught breaking. From the brave moonshine runners of the 40's to the slick, highly-televised races of today, we will explore why this phenomenon is such a popular sport. Characters such as NASCAR's Founder, Big Bill France, along with famous drivers Fireball Roberts, Curtis Turner, Dale Earnhardt, Sr., Bobby Allison, Cale Yarborough and Others will be featured for their impact on Southern Culture. In addition to the study of racing in films, we will examine contemporary support industries such as marketing, public relations, and souvenir merchandising.

Motorsports in the South**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – 081 (CRN#31281)****Bernard, M.**

100% ONLINE Class. This course is designed to introduce you to the American horror film and how it reflects cultural issues in American society. We will begin by examining some basic frameworks for studying horror films. We will then look at various tropes and hallmarks of the horror film, like sexual repression, frame narratives, supernatural monsters, and human monsters. About midway through the semester, we will begin focusing on how the horror film embodies societal debates about feminism, discrimination, racial prejudice, and homophobia. We will conclude by thinking about meta-horror, that is, horror films about horror films. This course will familiarize you with the horror film themes and tropes, give you a general knowledge of the history and development of the horror film genre, and look the ways in which horror films reflect wider societal beliefs and/or prejudices about sex, gender, race, class, and other identity markers. This course is 100% online, and to participate in the course, student must be able to view films on Netflix Instant, Amazon Instant Video, and YouTube. Some films screened for this course may contain extreme material that is not appropriate for all audiences.

The American Nightmare: Horror Film and American Culture**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – 082 (CRN#31283)****Bishop, N.**

This 100% ONLINE course explores the role of technological innovation in modern American life. Our concern is not merely with things and processes, but rather with how technologies have interacted with society and culture in complex and important ways. We will explore the lives of the innovators such as Steve Jobs of Apple, Donna Dubinsky of the Palm Pilot, and Otis Boykin whose electronic control devices were used in computers and pacemakers, as well as dissect the impact of innovation on the economy and education. The course material will go behind the disputes over the nature and direction of technical change (and the social changes associated with it) that have persistently been a central part of the American experience, and their outcomes have mattered a great deal to the lives of all Americans.

Innovation in Modern America**100% ONLINE**

AMST 3050 – 083 (CRN#31285)**American Humor and Comedy****Bruner, M.****100% ONLINE**

100% ONLINE Class. Americans are a funny lot. We have been known to laugh at just about every aspect of public and private life--political gaffes, personal faults, and the newest viral videos, to name a few. Humor and comedy in this country has been used to uncover and dissect diverse social, cultural and political values, ideas and tensions. Constance Rourke suggests that American humor and comedy began with the close of the American Revolution, when the country "was freed from the worry of self-preservation" and its citizens began to regard themselves as "works of art." This course will use a variety of humor and comedy that has permeated American culture both historically and contemporarily. We will start by examining theories and functions of laughter and humor, and then explore the proliferation and types of comedy and humor in literature, media and performance by tracing the evolution of a nascent American "work of art" to what we now consider a distinctly American sense of humor based on national character(s) and experience(s).

AMST 3050 – 084 (CRN#30129)**Sports in America****Obie-Nelson, K.****100% ONLINE**

This 100% ONLINE class explores the relationship between sports, culture, and society. Students will be exposed to the historical, cultural, and sociological aspects of the world of sports. This course will analyze the controversial issues surrounding these aspects as well as evoke critical thinking from the students as they examine sports in their own lives and in the world in which they live. Students will take an in-depth look at such topics as race, gender, commercialization, and the media and how these topics impact, disrupt, and/or distinguish sport society. The course will primarily focus on intercollegiate and professional sports.

AMST 3100 – 080 (CRN#31279)**The 1930s: Hard Times in America****Belus, M.****100% ONLINE**

In this 100% ONLINE course using Moodle and Second Life, we will examine how diverse social, economic, artistic, literary, philosophical and political forces shaped American society during the 1930s. We will discuss the complex and multifaceted nature of American culture during a tumultuous era that experienced the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, the demise of the American Dream, the New Deal, and the rise of modern activism. The 1930s powerfully impacted the lives of ordinary people living under extraordinary circumstances. What can we learn from their experiences?

AMST 3100 – 081 (CRN#30128)**The 1950s: Cold War, Television, and Rock n' Roll****Bruner, M.****100% ONLINE**

100% ONLINE. American Studies is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of a topic or period in American History. In this decade class, focusing on a shorter time period than is possible in a history survey provides the opportunity to look more in depth at the music, popular culture, literature, theater, art, sports, religion, race relations, gender roles, medicine, business, education, etc. of the period. Get ready to slip back in time to a fascinating period of Sputnik and spies, the Red Scare, James Dean and drive-ins, the birth of Rock and Roll, Elvis, Youth Culture, and Marilyn Monroe.

Second Summer Session

AMST 3000 – 080 (CRN#40754)**Animation in America (W,O)****Belus, M.****100% ONLINE**

100% ONLINE Class, In Animation in America students will immerse themselves in all things cartoon. We will explore the spectacular Golden Age of Animation with its nascent comics, silent films and the profound impact this industry had on the popular radio programs and theatrical shorts of the 1930s. From here Bugs Bunny will accompany us on adventures as we delve into the turning point of American animation as its purpose evolved to utilitarian – to build the public's morale and promote war bonds during the tumultuous WWII era. We will further study animation in the decades following World War II from the proliferation of television through the American Animation Renaissance of the late 1980s spanning to the most contemporary elements of animation today. From rudimentary cartoons to blockbuster Disney films and everything in between, this course is designed to "BAM". Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goal for general education.

AMST 3000 – 021 (CRN#40072)**Schact, J.**

This course explores the impact of popular music on American culture and vice versa. We'll begin with the earliest mass mediums (radio, acetates, gramophones) and the rise of a national audience, and dissect the birth of rock & roll in terms of race, business, and cultural trends. We'll continue through the youth culture movement of the second-half of the 20th century, including Woodstock, the sexual and drug revolutions, punk, hip-hop, the rise of MTV, and the multi-billion dollar music industry of the 1990s. We'll look at the effect music has had on other mediums, such as film, advertising and television. Finally, we'll examine the impact of the Internet on the American music scene and the declining business model that characterized it for nearly a century. Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication general education goal.

Pop Culture and the American Music Scene (W,O)**MTWR 11:30-1:30****AMST 3000 – 022 (CRN#40767)****Vanier, J.**

The Piedmont region of North and South Carolina has been home to many Native American populations for the past fourteen thousand years. This course explores the cultural and material diversity of the various tribes from prehistory times to the present. This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for General Education.

Indians of the Carolina Piedmont (W,O)**MTWRF 9:45-11:15****AMST 3020 – 085 (CRN#40073)****Belus, M.**

100% ONLINE. Food...we need it, we love it, but how does it shape our lives beyond our basic needs for sustenance? How does it impact us culturally? Ethnically? Romantically? In this 100% online course we will study the changing dynamic of food as it connects Americans through our rituals with family and friends, through media and advertising, and through our personal behaviors and relationship with food. Other topics we will cover include critical perspectives on gender and food, modified foods, fad diets, and the influence of the fast food industry on individuals and the nation. Course requirements include numerous reading assignments of books and articles, as well as formal and informal writing assignments. Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.

Food in America (W)**100% ONLINE****AMST 3020 – 087 (CRN#40764)****Hoffman, D.**

100% ONLINE. This course will explore representations of drug culture, past and present, in American cinema. Drawing on early drug films such as Reefer Madness (1936) and Man with the Golden Arm (1955), cult films such as The Trip (1968), Easy Rider (1969), and Panic in Needle Park (1971), and later films such as Traffic (2000) and Blow (2001), we will examine film portrayals of drug addiction, racketeering, and punishment. Special attention will be given to the relationship between crime and commerce, self-destruction and individual choice, and the growing complexity of international relations in the war on drugs. This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

Drug Culture in American Cinema (W)**100% ONLINE****AMST 3020 – 089 (CRN#40766)****Obie-Nelson, K.**

This course will examine the evolution and impact of race in America. Students will analyze racial ideology and the controversial issues surrounding race throughout history and culture. Students will learn how racial constructs have been and still are perpetuated within American society through such mediums as media, politics, labor, law, and education. This course will evoke critical thinking from students as they examine race in the world in which they live and the impact of racial paradigms and relations from the past, present, and future of American society and culture. This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

Race in America (W)**100% ONLINE****AMST 3020 – A80 (CRN#40765)****Nooe, E.**

100% ONLINE Class, From iconic dishes like okra to the international commercial success of Kentucky Fried Chicken, Southern food is many things to many people. Foodways provides us an opportunity to explore "why we eat, what we eat, and what it means". Through the study of Southern Foodways, this course will explore what food means to the region and what it reveals about the South. We will examine the significance of the region's culinary history, regional social issues surrounding food, food's relationship to race, class, and gender in the South, and cultural representations of the South through food. The course is 100% online and meets the writing intensive general education requirement.

Southern Foodways (W)**100% ONLINE**

AMST 3050 – 085 (CRN#40762)**From the Sopranos to Breaking Bad: The Male Antihero in Contemporary Television****Bruner, M.****100% ONLINE**

100% ONLINE. James Gandolfini has been memorialized in countless essays about his greatest role—the role that revolutionized television, the role that paved the way for so many other troubled men who served as microcosms of the American experience for viewers and critics. What do these violent, complicated characters mean, and not just to us—to TV and how we watch it. When *Mad Men* and *Breaking Bad* are over, is the television anti-hero here to stay? The heavy, heavy shows that feature these men—and, yes, they are almost always men—are labeled brilliant because they are able to say something about the American condition through despicable guys who are somehow watchable and also somehow representative. This course will examine the idea of the anti-hero. Beginning with the character of Tony Soprano to Don Draper and Walter White, and, Americans have been enamored with the idea of the flawed hero. When is the line crossed between protagonist/antagonist? Is the anti-hero his/her own worst enemy? Drawing on readings, and the television shows *The Sopranos*, *The Wire*, *Breaking Bad*, and *Mad Men*, we will examine the development of the main characters and the deeper societal issues that fuel their appeal. (DISCLAIMER: THIS COURSE CONTAINS EXTREMELY GRAPHIC MATERIAL, AND MAY BE UNSETTLING).

AMST 3050 – 086 (CRN#40756)**Love and Sex in the Age of Social Media****Bishop, N.****100% ONLINE**

Class is 100% ONLINE. An introduction to love, sex in the Age of Social Media. The primary focus of this is to explore love and sex in the age of social media through various lenses including, but not limited to film, social media, pop culture, and music. The class will examine how love and sex has been influenced in the age of social media and how this has either hindered or helped us, examining how this new age of social media has shaped how we approach love and sex in our society today.

AMST 3050 – 087 (CRN#40757)**Money, Work, and Living on the edge****Bishop, N.****100% ONLINE**

This course provides an introduction to Money, Work and Living on the Edge. We will study the correlation between social, economic and political consequences and how poverty is not recognized and how many people are living on the edge, barely making ends meet yet tirelessly working day after day. This course will also look at the privilege that being wealthy provides. This course will study the unspoken assumption that caring for the home and children are a woman's responsibility and how a change in female/male role expectations could help resolve many of these issues. Theory and political action, particularly as they relate to the issues of race and ethnicity, will be emphasized. Students will both read the works of women and men writers in this field and also examine their own communities to analyze the ways in which the individual, community values, and how systems of power play a key role in further keeping it's citizens in poverty. Students will also learn to formulate responses and interpretations using varied strategies (e.g., critical reading, online discussion, self-reflection, comparative analysis). We will also examine other social issues such as population, wage gap, health care and religion.

AMST 3050 – 088 (CRN#40074)**Television in America****Bruner, M.****100% ONLINE**

100% ONLINE. We will study television's evolution as a technology, economic, and cultural influence on American society from the 1950s to the present. We will focus on prime time commercial broadcasting, but will also look at game shows, children's programming, and soap operas. Much required viewing as well as reading in media history and cultural interpretation.

AMST 3050 – 089 (CRN# 40076)**The Zombification of American Culture****Bauerle, S.****100% ONLINE**

100% ONLINE. The current popularity of zombies in media highlights uncertainties about issues surrounding society, individuality, gender, religion, and science in American culture as well as reflects an interesting juxtaposition between the zombie's need to literally consume others and the quest for the American Dream. This course will examine graphic novels/comics, video games, films, and popular television programs to better understand the role of the zombie figure and the fear of the apocalypse in Americans' psyches.

AMST 3050 – A81 (CRN#40079)**Cult Movies: At the Edge of Hollywood, the Mainstream, and Good Taste****Bernard, M.****100% ONLINE**

100% ONLINE Class. "Cult movie" is a term that many of us have probably heard in reference to a particular film. However, if asked to define what exactly a cult movie is, we may be able to list some titles, but still struggle for a precise definition. This course will attempt to answer the deceptively simple question of what we mean when we say cult movie. In exploring this issue, we will examine different disciplinary approaches to studying cult movies. We will analyze how cult movies relate to topics such as: censorship and controversy, film directors and actors, freakery, gender and sexuality, drugs, and music. We will also look at a brief history of exploitation films and B movies and discuss cult genres like horror and science fiction. This course is 100% online, and to participate in the course, student must be able to view films on Netflix Instant, Amazon Instant Video, and YouTube. Some films screened for this course may contain extreme material that is not appropriate for all audiences. Films screened and discussed will/may include: Freaks (1932), Plan 9 from Outer Space (1959), The Trip (1967), The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975), This Is Spinal Tap (1984), Dirty Dancing (1987), Hellraiser (1987), and Donnie Darko (2002).

AMST 3100 – 083 (CRN#40077)**The 1990s: From Grunge to the War on Terror****Bauerle, S.****100% ONLINE**

100% ONLINE. The 1990s have been described as one of the most diverse and interesting periods in American history. The underground became mainstream as music, fashion, literature, film, and pop culture strived to test and transcend boundaries as society explored rebellion and idealism. The last decade of the millennium marked an explosion of economic, cultural, technological, and political activity in almost every aspect of American society. Some of the trends that we will trace through the 90s include: the rise of the grunge movement in music, movies, and fashion; the impact of the War on Terror and national traumas like the Oklahoma City Bombing and Los Angeles Riots; and the dramatic cultural transformations surrounding race, gender, and sexuality.

AMST 3100 – 082 (CRN#40075)**The 1970s: From Disco to Watergate****Kitrick, L.****100% ONLINE**

100% ONLINE. What do the 1970's bring to mind? Disco? Leisure suits? That '70s Show? Once passed, decades tend to be stereotyped and are actually more contradictory and varied than we remember or imagine them to be. While the 1970's saw plenty of dancing and too many dads in polyester, the decade also gave birth to glam, punk, and rap. The colorful 1970's also had a dark side—Watergate, the energy crisis, and continuing outbreaks of violence. The protest movements of the 1960's became increasingly more radical in the 1970's while receiving more mainstream attention. In addition, new developments in the arts, marketplace, and government that took place in the seventies continue to affect us today. In this course we will examine the politics, technology, and popular culture (including film, literature, music, and television) that made the 1970's an especially complex and dynamic decade.

AMST 4050 – 090 (CRN#40944)**Topics in Advanced Technical Communication: New Media-Gender, Culture, and Technology****Toscano, A.****Hybrid, MW 5:30-7:30**

Hybrid course delivered through a combination of face-to-face classroom instruction and Moodle. The term "new media" is an interesting subject for the twenty-first century student and a study that has an evolving definition. Currently, new media refers to the digital technologies that have inundated contemporary society—video games, webpages, digital photography, and numerous multimedia texts. This course will explore the ways in which new media reflect larger cultural myths, values, and attitudes. We will approach the study of new media by analyzing media in general (TV, films, commercials, printed texts, etc.) and locating the cultural values incorporated within media to help us evaluate capitalism, militarization, fragmented realities, patriotism, the individual hero, gender roles, and even manifest destiny. Recent scholarship on new media reveals complex narratives that complicate traditional notions of textuality. Many video game sequences, webpages, commercials, TV shows, film clips, and printed media will be shown in class to aid our study of not just the technologies behind new media, but also the cultures from which they come. The course will consider theories from rhetoric/composition, feminism, and cultural studies to enrich our analysis of new media. This is a hybrid course, so students will meet in a traditional classroom and have online activities and resources

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