



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA
AT CHARLOTTE**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
Summer 2017**

First Summer Session

AMST 3000 – 080 (CRN#30110)

Belus, M.

100% ONLINE Class, In Animation in American Culture 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 goals for general education.

Animation in American Culture (W,O)

100% ONLINE

AMST 3020– 080 (CRN#30094)

Belus, M.

We will study the evolving role of teens in American culture. In doing so, we will review classic and contemporary films and various novels, shorts stories, poems and personal experiences. Some of the themes to be overviewed include adolescent girls, gangs, multiculturalism and teen relationships. We will begin our study by exploring teens in Colonial America and continue through contemporary adolescents with the objective to better understand the ever-changing role of the American teenager. Note: This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

Adolescence in America (W)

100% ONLINE

AMST 3020 – 081 (CRN#30105)

Eckard, P.

100% ONLINE Class 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. Note: This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

Growing Up Southern (W)

100% ONLINE

AMST 3020 – 082 (CRN#30106)

Eckard, P.

100% ONLINE Class, This 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

100% ONLINE

AMST 3020 – 083 (CRN#30107)

Harris, M.

In this 100% ONLINE Class in Canvas, 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

100% ONLINE

AMST 3020 – 084 (CRN#30958)**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. This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

Love to Love You, Baby: The Sexual Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – 081 (CRN#30946)****Bruner, M.**

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).

American Humor and Comedy**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – 084 (CRN#31454)****Obie-Nelson, K.**

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.

Sports in America**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – A81 (CRN#31414)****Provolt, N.**

100% ONLINE Class. 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 its 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.

Money, Work and Living on the Edge**100% ONLINE****AMST 3100 – 080 (CRN#30945)****Bruner, M.**

100% ONLINE Class. 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.

The 1950s: Cold War, Television, and Rock n' Roll**100% ONLINE****AMST 3100 – 081 (CRN#30108)****Kitrick, L.**

100% ONLINE Class, 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 duds 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.

The 1970s: From Disco to Watergate**100% ONLINE**

LBST 2212 – E83 (CRN#30566)**Leak, J.**

100% online This course is designed to explore the ways in which African American writers and filmmakers explore family relations. More specifically, it will address the transformation of certain novels about black family life into film. How does the transition from fiction to film alter, improve or even diminish the original story or the depiction of black family life? What particular points of emphasis are shared by these two art forms? What is the history of American Americans in cinema? In light of the struggle for racial equality in America, what are the unique or more complex dimensions of black family life in the United States? Although we are focusing on family in the African American literary and cinematic contexts, we will also discuss family in more of a general sense, since we all hail from families ourselves.

Literature and Culture: Black Family in Fiction and Film**100% ONLINE****LBST 2214 – S81 (CRN#31237)****Provolt, N.**

This 100% online course provides an introduction to Ethical Issues in Personal, Public and Professional life. We will study the correlation between various ethical issues, define what are ethical issues versus moral issues, and how they intertwine within the confines of Personal, Public, and Professional Life. This course will also look at who and what defines what is “ethical” and what is not while examining the various theories of what is ethical on multiple levels.

Ethical Issues in Personal, Public, and Professional Life**100% ONLINE****Second Summer Session****AMST 3000 – 080 (CRN#40549)****Schacht, 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 goal for general education.

Pop Culture and the American Music Scene**M-TH 11:30-1:30****AMST 3020 – 085 (CRN# 40052)****Bauerle, S.**

This course will explore certain groups and individuals considered “outsiders” in American society. We will use historical texts, literature, film, and art to examine the possible causes and implications of the hysteria around the Salem Witch Trials, cults/communes, and religious groups considered on the fringes of the norm. This study would involve learning about the myths and rituals of these groups as well as closely studying the political, religious, and personal motivations behind ostracizing and/or persecuting these groups. Coursework for this writing intensive class will involve informal and formal writing assignments, class discussions, and oral presentations. Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.

Outsider in American Culture (W)**100% ONLINE****AMST 3020 – 087 (CRN# 40955)****Obie-Nelson, K.**

This 100% online 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.

Seminar in American Studies: Race in America**100% ONLINE****AMST 3020 – 088 (CRN# 40817)****Hoffman, D.**

100% ONLINE Class, 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**100% ONLINE**

AMST 3020 – 089 (CRN# 40556)**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 3020 – A80 (CRN# 40555)****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 goal for general education.

The Catawba River of Life (W)**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – 083 (CRN# 40955)****Obie-Nelson, K.**

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.

Sports in America**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – 085 (CRN# 40553)****Provolt, N.**

100% ONLINE Class. 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.

Love and Sex in the Age of Social Media**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – 086 (CRN# 40550)****Bruner, M.**

100% ONLINE Class, 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).

From the Sopranos to Breaking Bad: The Male Anti-Hero in American Television**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – 087 (CRN# 40551)****Bruner, M.**

100% ONLINE Class. 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.

Television in America**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – 088 (CRN# 40553)****Coles, S.**

100% online class. This 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 – 089 (CRN# 40055)**McMurray, B.**

100% ONLINE Class. 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 3100 – 082 (CRN# 40054)****Bauerle, S.**

100% ONLINE Class. 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.

The 1990s: From Grunge to the War on Terror**100% ONLINE****AMST 3100 – 083 (CRN# 40056)****Belus, M.**

In this 100% ONLINE class, 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?

The 1930s: Hard Times in America**100% Online****LBST 2212 – 425 (CRN#40944)****Bruner, M.**

100% online. Southern Literature and Culture. This course examines the distinct literature and culture of the South. Topics include literature, film, music, art, religion, politics, race relations, gender and social class. We will view the literature and culture in both a historical and contemporary context.

Southern Literature and Culture**100% ONLINE****LBST 2214 – S81 (CRN#40816)****Belus, M.**

In this 100% online, asynchronously taught course, we will analyze what it means to eat food verses "foodish products." In the process, we will study the ethics of the food industry from manufacturing to factory farming and the government regulations and subsidies that affect the food industry. Students will also consider the future of food and infer the effects of GMOs and argue for or against issue of cloning of animals to sustain the ever-growing global demand for food. We will also research the fast food industry and discuss its impact on the obesity epidemic and low-wage earners.

Food Ethics and Quality of Life**100% ONLINE**