



AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES SPRING 2015

AMST 2050-001 (CRN#26778)
Mode, H.

Topics in AMST: New World Archaeology
TR 3:30 – 4:45

AMST 2050-002 (CRN#26771)
Vanier, J.

Topics in AMST: Southeastern Prehistory
WF 11:00 – 12:15

AMST 2050-003 (CRN#27123)
Cameron

Topics in AMST: American Slavery and Emancipation
MW 9:30 – 10:45

AMST 2050-004 (CRN#27125)
Hogue

Topics in AMST: American Military History
WF 12:30 – 1:45

AMST 2050-005 (CRN#27126)
Mixon

Topics in AMST: African-American History Since 1860
MW 12:30 – 1:45

AMST 2050-090 (CRN#26773)
May, J.

Topics in AMST: North American Indians
T 6:30 – 9:15

AMST 2050-A01 (CRN#27116)
Higham

Topics in AMST: Native American History
MW 2:00 – 3:15

AMST 2050-A02 (CRN#27118)
Hicks

Topics in AMST: African American Music
TR 2:00 – 3:15

AMST 2050-A03 (CRN#27332)
Obie-Nelson, K

Topics in AMST: The History of Sports
WF 8:00 – 9:15

AMST 2050-A04 (CRN#27119)
Simmons

Topics in AMST: Rebellion and Revival
TR 3:30 – 4:45

AMST 2050-A05 (CRN#27121)
Simmons

Topics in AMST: US Since 1945
TR 12:30 – 1:45

AMST 2050-A90 (CRN#27122)
Canipe

Topics in AMST: American Legal History
T 6:30 – 9:15

AMST 3000 – 001 (CRN#20443)**Bruner, M.****Seminar in AMST: American Humor and Comedy (W, O)****TR 9:30 – 10:45**

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). *Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.*

AMST 3000 – 002 (CRN#20444)**McMurray, B.****Seminar in AMST: The Catawba: River of Life (W, O)****W 2:00 – 4:45**

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.*

AMST 3000 – 003 (CRN#24892)**Bernard, M.****Seminar in AMST: The American Nightmare: Horror Film and American Culture****(W, O) T 2:00 – 4:45**

While some film genres come and go, the horror film has been a staple of American cinema since the release of Universal's *Dracula*, the first sound horror film, in 1931. This course traces the history of the American horror film, looking at how the genre has changed over time and how these changes reflect both cultural anxieties of our society and economic imperatives of the commercial film industry. This course acknowledges the transnational dimension of the term "American" and, accordingly, will consider the horror film's origins in German Expressionism and the recent influence of Asian cinema and international co-production on the genre. In keeping with the online nature of the course, a majority of films for the course will be available to watch online via Netflix, Amazon Instant Video, and YouTube. **Participation in this course may require a subscription to one or more online streaming services. Warning: films assigned for this course may contain graphic content not suitable for all audiences.** *Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.*

AMST 3000 – 004 (CRN#24893)**Obie-Nelson, K.****Seminar in AMST: Race in America (W, O)****F 9:30 – 12:15**

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 of 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. *Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.*

AMST 3000 – 005 (CRN#24894)**Bruner, M.****Seminar in AMST: Conspiracy Theory in American Film, Television, and Politics****(W, O) TR 11:00 – 12:15**

Using such political dramas as *The West Wing*, *24*, *Prison Break*, *All the President's Men*, *JFK* and others, we will explore how conspiracy theories have entered American culture. This in-depth survey addresses the evolution of social and political events and how they have been interpreted in American film, TV and politics as conspiracies. Extensive writing, class discussion, and oral presentations are required. *Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.*

AMST 3000 – 006 (CRN#26000)**Nooe, E.****Seminar in AMST: Southern Culture Past and Present (W, O)****M 2:00 – 4:45**

Southern Culture can be viewed as "a fiction of geographically bounded and coherent set of attributes to be set off against a mythical non-South." Consciously and unconsciously, Americans both in and outside the South have constructed images and expectations of the region that are manifested in what we identify as Southern Culture. Throughout this course, we will take an interdisciplinary approach exploring the South through history, anthropology, literature, and media to examine an array of topics such as Native Americans, slavery, sports, and tourism. We will also examine how incidents associated with these topics reinforce and, at other times, contradict popular conceptions of the South. *Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.*

AMST 3000 – 090 (CRN#20510)
McMurray, B.

Seminar in AMST: Motorsports in the South (W, O)
W 5:00 – 7:45

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. This course 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. **Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.**

AMST 3000 – 091 (CRN#25999)
Bernard, M.

Seminar in AMST: Cult Movies: At the Edge of Hollywood, the Mainstream, and Good Taste (W,O) T 6:00 – 8:45

"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 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 ask several questions such as: what are the origins of cult behavior surrounding the movies? Are certain films from certain genres more likely to become cult movies than others? Can a filmmaker or studio aim to make a cult movie, or is a cult movie something that can only be determined by audience reception? Can Hollywood blockbusters be cult movies? Are some actors more cult than others? How has the cult reception of certain films varied over time as film viewing habits and formats change? Students will read, think, and write critically about films screened in class and will also present on selected films viewed outside of class. Films screened/discussed may include, but are not limited to: Freaks (1932), Wizard of Oz (1939), It's a Wonderful Life (1946), Plan 9 from Outer Space (1959), Night of the Living Dead (1968), El Topo (1970), Pink Flamingos (1972), The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975), This Is Spinal Tap (1984), and The Big Lebowski (1998). **Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.**

AMST 3020 – 001 (CRN#21194)
Harris, M.

Seminar in American Studies: Poker in American Film and Culture (W)
100% ONLINE

In this completely on-line 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.**

AMST 3020 – 002 (CRN#20445)
Hoffman, D.

Orson Welles: A Life in Cinema
WF 8:00 – 9:15

This course will consist of a critical overview of Welles's major films and will focus upon his identity as the discipline's earliest and most controversial *auteur*, one whose essentially "cinematic" view of narrative technique came to characterize his own life and career, from *Citizen Kane* and *The Magnificent Ambersons* through the lengthy period of his commercial decline, wherein he produced some of his most characteristic and challenging achievements, such as his treatments of Shakespeare, Kafka, and the *noir* classic *Touch of Evil*. **Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.**

AMST 3020 – 003 (CRN#23628)
Belus, M.

Adolescence in America
100% ONLINE

In this 100% online class 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. Classes will be taught in Moodle with asynchronous modules that explore and interpret the evolution of American adolescence. Students will be expected to participate in on-line discussions and assignments and complete a class project, various reading and writing assignments, quizzes, and the final exam. **Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.**

AMST 3020 – 004 (CRN#23842)
Gardner, S.

American Indians in Children's Literature (W)
WF 11:00 – 12:15

Probably the history and literature of no other ethnicity in the contemporary US has been so "over-written" by the mainstream culture. White writers have predominantly controlled how Am. Indian children are represented. Focusing on YA novels and biographical reflections on the YA experience by Am. Indian writers, we will explore their differences from the stereotypes that had (and, to some extent, still do) prevailed. We will also explore the forced confinement of Am. Indian children in federally and church-run boarding schools during the 19th and 20th centuries, which aimed to strip them of their culture: an "education for extinction," as one scholar has described it. **Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.**

AMST 3020 – 005 (CRN#27379)**Belus, M.****Contemporary American Childhood****100% ONLINE**

In this 100% online course, 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 general education goal.*

AMST 3020 – 007 (CRN#25173)**McMurray, B.****Seminar in AMST: Motorsports in the South (W)****100% ONLINE**

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. *Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.*

AMST 3020 – 008 (CRN#26352)**Bernard, M.****Seminar in AMST: The American Nightmare: Horror Film and American Culture****(W) 100% ONLINE**

While some film genres come and go, the horror film has been a staple of American cinema since the release of Universal's *Dracula*, the first sound horror film, in 1931. This course traces the history of the American horror film, looking at how the genre has changed over time and how these changes reflect both cultural anxieties of our society and economic imperatives of the commercial film industry. This course acknowledges the transnational dimension of the term "American" and, accordingly, will consider the horror film's origins in German Expressionism and the recent influence of Asian cinema and international co-production on the genre. In keeping with the online nature of the course, a majority of films for the course will be available to watch online via Netflix, Amazon Instant Video, and YouTube. **Participation in this course may require a subscription to one or more online streaming services. Warning: films assigned for this course may contain graphic content not suitable for all audiences.** *Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.*

AMST 3020 – 090 (CRN#20446)**Schacht, J.****Seminar in American Studies: Pop Culture and the American Music Scene (W)****T 6:30 – 9:15**

This course will explore the impact of popular music on American culture. We'll begin with the earliest mass mediums (radio, acetates, field recordings) and the rise of rock 'n' roll. 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, and indie rock. We'll look at the effect music has had on other mediums, such as film and television. Finally, we'll examine the impact of the internet on the American music scene. *Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.*

AMST 3050 – 001 (CRN#27127)**Cameron****Topics in AMST: Colonial America****MW 11:00 – 12:15****AMST 3050 – 003 (CRN#24897)****Coles, S.****Topics in AMST: Innovation in Modern America****100% ONLINE**

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.

AMST 3050 – 004 (CRN#27326)**Crane, J.****Topics in AMST: Persuasion and Popular Culture****TR 11:00 – 12:15**

Analysis of the systems of media production and patterns of media representation that constitute contemporary sports culture. Focus on current issues in sport including controversies surrounding race, gender, sexuality, performance enhancement, concussions and other matters of political and social importance.

AMST 3050 – 005 (CRN#24904)**Obie-Nelson, K.**

In this 100% online class, we will explore 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: Issues and Controversies**100% ONLINE****AMST 3050 – 006 (CRN#26861)****McCloud, S.**

An examination of the interactions and intertwinings of religion and popular culture in the United States. Topics may include, but are not limited to, popular literature, domestic rituals, material and visual cultures, space and place, fan cultures, media, and folklore. Emphasis on how religion and popular culture shape and are shaped by issues of identity, community, nostalgia, memory, commercialism, capitalism, power, and meaning.

Topics in AMST: Religion in Popular Culture**TR 11:00 – 12:15****AMST 3050 – 007 (CRN#26859)****Lewis, J.**

This course will pay particular attention to literary forms exhibited in texts of the 17th through 19th centuries that were authored by African Americans. From poetry to narrative to novel, we will examine the critical relevance of individual works beyond the historical significance of their publication. Assessments include examinations, short papers, presentations and a paper developed from midterm draft to final submission.

Topics in AMST: Early African American Literature**TR 11:00 – 12:15****AMST 3050 – 092 (CRN#24910)****Burford, J.**

This course will focus on the emergence of the LGBT community in 20th century American Culture. We will look at the ways in which Gay culture developed from a collection of men and women hiding their lives in fear, to a post-Stonewall liberation culture of increased visibility. We will look at the many ways LGBT identity developed in the 20th century by exploring the intersections of science, religion, popular culture, politics, and urbanization on LGBT people. Because the experience of LGBT individuals is so varied, we will use a variety of media to create patterns and connections within this diverse community. We will read biography, watch films, read novels, listen to music and look at a collection of primary documents to illuminate the vast experience of what it is like to be Gay in modern American Culture. This class is designed to be an introduction to the study of LGBT culture and students at all levels are invited to participate in the discussion of where this community has been, and where it will go in the 21st century.

Topics in AMST: Modern Gay America**T 5:30 – 8:15****AMST 3050 – A01 (CRN#27129)****Mixon****AMST 3050 – A02 (CRN#27131)****Starnes****AMST 3050 – B01 (CRN#27324)****Plotnick, R.****AMST 3050 – B03 (CRN#27328)****Grano, D.****AMST 3090 – 090 (CRN#22930)****Shapiro, S.**

If there was a Mount Rushmore for film directors, the enormous visage of Alfred Hitchcock would no doubt stare gloomily down upon us. Often referred to as “The Master of Suspense,” Hitchcock was a prolific artist, whose films and filmmaking style inspired a legion of filmmakers and writers. In this course, we will view Hitchcock masterpieces and will analyze what makes these films such powerful, transcendent works of art (as well as terrifically suspenseful flicks). Films studied will include *The Thirty Nine Steps*, *Notorious*, *Strangers on a Train*, and *The Birds*.

Topics in AMST: History of the South**MW 9:30 – 10:45****Topics in AMST: Southerners****MW 2:00 – 3:15****Topics in AMST: Imagining the Future of Media****MW 2:00 – 3:15****Topics in AMST: Sport, Media and Culture****TR 3:30 – 4:45****Topics in AMST: The Films of Alfred Hitchcock****R 6:30 – 9:15****AMST 3100 – 001 (CRN#20447)****Bruner, M.**

From the atomic bomb, spies, and Sputnik to Rock and Roll, television, and drive-in movies, this course takes an in-depth look at the fascinating decade of the 1950s in America.

Intro to American Studies: The 1950's**100% ONLINE**

AMST 3100 – 002 (CRN#20448)**McNeil, J.**

With the release of the 52 Iranian hostages and Ronald Reagan's inauguration, the 1980's begin. The birth of MTV would soon follow, as would a full-blown AIDS pandemic, the Iran-Contra hearings, the invasion of Grenada, the rise of hip-hop, and Reaganomics. It was a decade of greed and one in which the term 'yuppie' was coined. The 1980's also saw an explosive growth in media, especially television. In this class, we will explore the political, social, and artistic landscape of the decade and its impact on American culture today.

Intro to American Studies: The 1980's**WF 11:00 – 12:15****AMST 3100 – 003 (CRN#20450)****Belus, M.**

In this 100% on-line 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?

Intro to American Studies: The 1930's**100% ONLINE****AMST 3100 – 004 (CRN#20452)****Kitrick, L.**

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.

Intro to American Studies: The 1970's**TR 11:00 – 12:15****AMST 3100 – 005 (CRN#22923)****Bauerle, S.**

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.

Intro to American Studies: The 1990's**WF 12:30 – 1:45****AMST 3100 – 006 (CRN#27347)****Bruner, M.**

This 100% ONLINE course will cover Flappers, Speak-Easies, The First Radio, The Jazz Age. This decades course will take us on a tumultuous ride from Post World War I prosperity up to the Wall Street Crash of 1929. Topics include: Prohibition, The Rise of the Mafia, The President Harding Scandals, The Great Gatsby and more.

Intro to American Studies: The 1920's**100% ONLINE****AMST 3100 – 090 (CRN#22924)****Rutledge, P.**

Note: This class will be taught as a hybrid online course. That means that instruction and student participation will be divided between in-class meetings and online activities using Moodle. A high-speed internet connection is strongly recommended.

Intro to American Studies: The 1960's (Hybrid)**W 6:30 – 9:15**

The 1960's brought serious challenges to authority, the status quo, and the traditional institutions that had previously defined American life. In the early part of this explosive decade, the conservative conformity of the 1950's gave way to an increasingly direct and hostile questioning of the American Dream. This course will examine the important cultural, social, and political conflicts that emerged in the 1960's, especially those related to the black civil rights movement, feminism, the Vietnam War, environmentalism, social justice, the youth-base counterculture, and expanding one's consciousness' through drug use. These diverse conflicts ultimately brought significant change in American attitudes, values, institutions, and policies.