



**THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH CAROLINA  
AT CHARLOTTE**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS  
Summer 2013**

**First Summer Session**

**AMST 2050 – 020 ( CRN#30550)**

**Topics in AMST: U.S. Religious History**

**Cameron, C.**

Come examine how religion has helped shape our nation's history and culture; as well as how various faith traditions have been shaped in turn by their encounter with America. This course discusses the rich diversity of religious experience in the United States, and its role in American society past and present. Topics we will explore include Native American and African religions, the formation and history of the Puritan commonwealths of New England, the causes and consequences of the Great Awakening, the relation between religion and the founding of the American republic, the nature of 19th century Evangelicalism and the formation of American denominations, the emergence of theological liberalism and the Social Gospel, the course of the fundamentalist / modernist controversy, and the situation of American religions in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. This introductory course is open to students of all majors and visitors alike.

**AMST 3000 – 020 (CRN#30090)**

**Seminar in AMST: Icons of American Cinema (W,O)**

**McNeil, J.**

**MTWRF 11:00 – 12:30**

This course will examine several notable icons of American Cinema, including Billy Wilder, Marilyn Monroe, Humphrey Bogart, the Coen Brothers and other film legends. We will explore how each iconic figure captures his or her own version of the 'American spirit' on film and behind the camera. Films such as *Sabrina*, *Casablanca*, and *The Big Lebowski* are a major component of the course. In addition, biographical readings will help us understand the complex personalities of these actors, actresses, and filmmakers outside the context of film. Writing assignments and oral presentations are a requirement, as this course satisfies the oral and writing components for the general education goals.

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

**AMST 3000 – 021 (CRN#30091)**

**Seminar in AMST: Coppola's Godfather Trilogy: An American**

**Criminal Epic (W,O)**

**Hoffman, D.**

**MTWRF 9:30 – 11:00**

An examination of Francis Ford Coppola's three *Godfather* films as constituting a tragic narrative of Italian-American criminality, one that begins and ends in an obscure Sicilian village and encompasses such issues as cultural assimilation, black market capitalism, the ancient principle of the vendetta, and the prevalence of the Catholic church, culminating in the Vatican Bank scandal and the alleged murder of the Pope. Background material will include Mario Puzo's source novel and historical precedents ranging from Augustan Rome and the Medici family to prominent 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Sicilian organized crime figures. **Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.**

**AMST 3020 – 080 (CRN#30092)****Eckard, P.****Seminar in American Studies: Appalachian Literature and Culture****100 % ON-LINE**

This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu/onlinelearning>. Deeply rooted in history, music, and culture, the Appalachian Mountains have been called America's "first frontier." Using film, music, and literature, this online course will explore the rich culture and traditions of Southern Appalachia. We will study such topics as corn shucking, serpent handling, midwives and granny women, the Hatfields and the McCoys, moonshine, mountain music, coal mining and mountain top removal. This 100%onlinecourse meets the writing intensive goal for general education. Requirements: High speed internet connection, a media player for playing online video and music clips, a DVD player for viewing videos, and the ability to use Moodle. It is recommended that students purchase needed texts and videos in advance of the first summer session. A copy of all texts and videos will be available at the reserve desk for limited use in Atkins library. *Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.*

**AMST 3020 – 081 (CRN#30093)****Eckard, P.****Seminar in American Studies: Growing Up Southern (W)****100% ON LINE**

This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu/onlinelearning>. 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. Using literature and film, we will focus on the importance of family and place in shaping individual lives. We will also explore how race, religion, social class, and gender influence growing up in the South. This 100% online course meets the writing intensive goal for general education. Requirements: High speed internet connection, a media player for playing online video, a DVD player for viewing videos, and the ability to use Moodle. It is recommended that students purchase needed texts and videos in advance of the first summer session. A copy of all texts and videos will be available at the reserve desk for limited use in Atkins library. *Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.*

**AMST 3020 – 082 (CRN#30094)****Belus, M.****Adolescence in America (W)****100% ONLINE**

This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu/onlinelearning>. 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, and view various movies and documentaries.

To be a member of this class, you must have on-line access with high-speed internet and be able to participate in these projects via UNCC's 49er Express. You will also need access to a DVD player to view the various films required, and have the ability to use Moodle. *Note: This course meets the writing intensive and goal for general education.*

**AMST 3050 – 080 (CRN#30095)****Harris, M.****Topics in AMST: Poker in American Film and Culture (C)****100% ONLINE**

This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu/onlinelearning>. This course examines 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.

**AMST 3050 – 081 (CRN#30096)****Obie Nelson, K.****Topics in AMST: Sports in America: Issues and Controversies(C)****100% ONLINE**

This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu/onlinelearning>. This course 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#30097)****Belus, M.****The 1930s: Hard Times in America****100% ON LINE**

This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu/onlinelearning>. 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?

Classes will be taught in Moodle with asynchronous modules that explore and interpret the evolution of the 1930s. 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, and view various movies and documentaries.

To be a member of this class, you must have on-line access with high-speed internet and be able to participate in these projects via UNCC's 49er Express. You will also need access to a DVD player to view the various films required, and have the ability to use Moodle.

## **Second Summer Session**

**AMST 3000 – 022 (CRN#40056)****Schacht, J.****Seminar in AMST: Pop Culture and the American Music Scene (W,O)****TWR 11:00 – 1:30**

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 and oral communication goals for general education.**

**AMST 3000 – 023 (CRN#40057)****Hoffman, D.****Seminar in AMST: Basketball in American Film (W,O)****MTWRF 9:30 – 11:00**

This course examines the sport of basketball as a uniquely American and democratic innovation whose portrayal in cinema constitutes a metaphor for creative expression and explores populist issues of mentoring, leveling of race relations, and redemption from crime. Films will include Hoosiers (1986), Hoop Dreams (1994), Coach Carter (2003), Finding Forrester (2000). **Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.**

**AMST 3020 – 083 (CRN#40058)****McMurray, B.****Seminar in American Studies: The Catawba: River of Life (W)****100% ONLINE**

This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu/onlinelearning>. 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 general education goal.*

**AMST 3020 – 084 (CRN#40059)****Past and Present (W)****McMurray, B.****Seminar in American Studies: Motorsports in the South: NASCAR****100% ONLINE**

This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu/onlinelearning>. 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 goals for general education.*

**AMST 3020 – 085 (CRN#40060)****Bauerle, S.****Seminar in American Studies: The Outsider in American Culture (W)****ONLINE**

This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu/onlinelearning>. 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.*

**AMST 3050 – 082 (CRN#40061)****Coles, S.****Topics in AMST: Social Media in American Culture (C)****100% On Line**

This 100% online course incorporates thought-provoking resources and activities designed to guide our conversation and exploration of the use and impact of social media on American culture. The goal of the course is to give students the tools and the opportunity to build knowledge related to the current landscape of American culture with the rapid proliferation of social media. Students will examine the influence of social media, including the social networking giant – Facebook, along with Twitter, blogs, and others on how we live, communicate, shop, socialize, worship, and engage with the arts. Students will access the Moodle course via the Internet: <https://moodle.uncc.edu/login/index.php>.

**AMST 3050 – 083 (CRN#40062)****Bruner, M.****Topics in AMST: Television in America (C)****100% ONLINE**

This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu/onlinelearning>. 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 – 090 (CRN#40333)**

**Cole, T.**

American films offer historians the populist perception and interpretation of America's young but rich heritage; as well as a view on the significance and evolution of American cinematography in arts and social science. This course examines the American past through the eyes of Hollywood. Students will examine a wide range of historical and contemporary movies about America's past, combined with primary source material and historical readings. In addition, they will investigate film from the viewpoint of artistic value and social commentary. This course requires multiple exams and writing exercises, as well as a comprehensive research paper.

**Topics in AMST: America in Cinema**

**MW 5:00 – 9:00**

**AMST 3100 – 081 (CRN#40063)**

**The Youth Culture (C,L)**

**Bruner, M.**

This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu/onlinelearning>. 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.

**The 1950s: From the Cold War and Television to Rock-n-Roll and**

**100% ONLINE**