THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA
AT CHARLOTTE

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
Summer 2018

First Summer Session

AMST 2050 – 080 (CRN#30913)
The Supernatural and American Culture
100% ONLINE
McCloud, S.
100% ONLINE Class. Despite claims that modernity is a realm of disenchantment, contemporary American culture continues to be haunted by ghosts, possessed by demons, and visited by alien others. In this course, we examine some of the multiple appearances and meanings of the supernatural in American culture. In this course, we will not be interested in assessing the “reality” of any supernatural entities. Instead, we will focus intensely on trying to unveil the “work” that such entities do in cultural, political, individual, and social spheres. In others words, the beliefs and practices surrounding the supernatural in American culture have affects for both individuals and groups of people. In this class we will read scholarship which examines how the supernatural both reflects and works to shape the cultural field and those who interact within it.

AMST 2050 – 081 (CRN#31432)
Indians of the Southeastern United States
100% ONLINE
Mode, H.
100% ONLINE Class. Study of American Indians of the Southeastern United States with emphasis on tribes of the Carolinas. Areas of investigation include precontact cultures, Indian-European contact relationships, history, and contemporary Southeastern Indian issues.

AMST 3000 – 080 (CRN#30081)
Animation in American Culture (W,O)
100% ONLINE
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.

AMST 3020 – 080 (CRN#30072)
Adolescence in America (W)
Belus, M.
100% ONLINE
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. Note: This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

AMST 3020 – 081 (CRN#30077)
Growing Up Southern (W)
Eckard, P.
100% ONLINE
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.
100% ONLINE Class. This 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.

100% ONLINE Class. 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.

100% ONLINE Class. 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 general education goal.

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.

100% ONLINE Class. No other genre reflects American culture of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries more than science fiction. In fact, science fiction is more culturally significant than the Western for contemporary American identity. This class explores science fiction as a product of American values in all its exciting, thought-provoking, and entertaining ways. In order to understand both the texts and the cultural contexts, we will watch films, television shows, and even video game segments. We will also read stories to help us understand how important this popular culture genre is to American identity overall. This is a 100% online Writing Intensive (W) course, so students will write essays and post reflections on Canvas.

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.
### AMST 3050 – 082 (CRN#31128)
**Hip Hop in American Culture**

Harris, F.  
100% ONLINE  
100% ONLINE Class. What is Hip Hop? Using an interdisciplinary approach, this course engages with answering this question. In a collaborative approach, students will identify current and historic elements of Hip Hop Culture in the US society and internationally. Hip Hop is an umbrella term in American Culture art, music, dance, literature, identity, gender, style and politics. This class will explore and begin to understand the culture and politics of Hip Hop by looking at the movements and politics that inspired the birth of Hip Hop as a form of art and music, and its impact in American Culture. We will consider the art and aesthetics of Hip Hop and the musical styles that made Hip Hop music possible. We also will then explore Hip Hop as a form of cultural politics and activism toward social justice. Through multimedia analysis and critical reading and listening, student led discussions; students will develop the skills necessary to critically analyze Hip Hop culture in American Culture.

### AMST 3050 – 083 (CRN#31334)
**American Horror in Fiction and Film**

Shealy, D.  
100% ONLINE  
100% ONLINE Class. Stephen King once wrote that “the work of horror really is a dance—a moving, rhythmic search. And what it is looking for is the place where you see the villain or the reader, lives at your most primitive level.” In this online class, we shall explore horror in American fiction and film. From cautionary tales to stories of revulsion, horror has long held an established place in American art. Through various films and fiction, we will examine how horror has influenced American culture and how that culture has helped shaped the horror genre. Among the writers we will study are Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Edith Wharton, H. P. Lovecraft, and Shirley Jackson. (This class is 100% online.)

### AMST 3050 – 084 (CRN#31165)
**From the Sopranos to Breaking Bad: Male Anti-Hero in American TV**

Bruner, M.  
100% ONLINE  
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. Where 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 – 085 (CRN#31335)
**Sports in America**

Obie-Nelson, K.  
100% ONLINE  
100% ONLINE Class. This 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#30799)
**The 1950s: Cold War, Television, and Rock n’ Roll**

Bruner, M.  
100% ONLINE  
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.

### AMST 3100 – 081 (CRN#30080)
**The 1970s: From Disco to Watergate**

Kitrick, L.  
100% ONLINE  
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 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.
This course meets the writing intensive goal for us to connect the dots of our lives. We will also explore how race, religion, social class, and gender influence growing up in the United States. Although we are focusing on family in the African American literary and cinematic contexts, we will also discuss family in a more general sense, since we all hail from families ourselves.

This course will 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 a more general sense, since we all hail from families ourselves.

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AMST 3020 – 082 (CRN#40618) Appalachian Culture: Moonshine, Miners, and Mountain Music (W)
Eckard, P.
100% ONLINE
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.

AMST 3020 – 083 (CRN# 40465) The Catawba River of Life (W)
McMurray, B.
100% ONLINE
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.

AMST 3020 – 084 (CRN#40464) Dis/Ability in American Culture (W)
Martin, S.
100% ONLINE
100% ONLINE Class. What does it mean to be disabled? Is it a mark against an individual that makes them impure or is it just a difference, a minority body? And what about those who are injured or become disabled? How does American society classify disability and the disabled body? These are the questions we will be examining in this course. From Puritans and freak shows to soldiers and the X-Men, this course will examine the evolution of the definitions and roles differently abled individuals occupy in American society through an examination of literature, film, disability art, graphic novels and documentaries. This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

AMST 3020 – 085 (CRN# 40904) Urban America (W)
Burford, J.
100% ONLINE
100% ONLINE Class. Urban America is a class that explores the development of urban culture in America by looking at a variety of US cities and culture that develops from urban space. We will take a look at everything from how cities are constructed, to the creation and subsequent loss of public space, to tourism as a form of leisure and memory. We will also take a look at the character of America as it pertains to the citizens of its cities. All told this course will look at the ways in which the urban environment has influenced who we are as a nation as well as who we think we are. This class will use multiple formats including texts, art, urban theory, film, websites, and architecture. Note: This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

AMST 3020 – 086 (CRN# 40905) Motorsports in the South (W)
McMurray, B.
100% ONLINE
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. Note: This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.

AMST 3050 – 081 (CRN# 40463) Television in America
Bruner, M.
100% ONLINE
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.

AMST 3050 – 083 (CRN# 40721) Men, Women, and Hollywood
Furnish, P.
100% ONLINE
100% ONLINE Class. This course is a critical survey of women’s and men’s presence in Hollywood cinema with examples drawn from different historical periods. It is designed to introduce students to the complexities and ambiguities of the film medium and the entertainment industry that creates the products by showing how film has, historically and aesthetically, represented and employed women. This course places women and the Hollywood system within the economic and historical context of its production, circulation, and consumption. Students examine how and why the aesthetic systems at work in Hollywood cinema should not be separated from their underlying commercial ambitions. Based in canonical readings from major film scholars and filmmakers – including directors, executives, and stars – students explore the roles of women and men within the workings of Hollywood as an industrial and formal system, revealing the delicate balance between industry and art, between entertainment and commercial enterprise, between “show” and “business.” We’ll screen films such as Wonder Woman (2017), Get Out (2017), Frida (2002), Alien (1979), Aliens (1986), and The Color Purple (1985).
had everything from music videos to guns for stages. Destroyed immune systems. Come experience the decade that roared with cultural revolution.

100% ONLINE Class.

**AMST 3050 – 084 (CRN# 40045)**

**Love and Sex in the Age of Social Media**

Provost, N. 100% ONLINE

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.

**AMST 3050 – 085 (CRN#40906)**

**Pop Culture and the American Music Scene**

Schacht, J. 100% ONLINE

100% ONLINE Class. 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.

**AMST 3050 – 086 (CRN# 40461)**

**American History through Film**

Furnish, P. 100% ONLINE

100% ONLINE Class. This course consists of in-class lectures, film-viewing and assigned readings. It addresses United States history thematically, using visual and print media. We will examine a series of topics highlighting major themes and developments that reveal the contours of American social and political history. This class will emphasize race, class, and gender as a means of interpreting U.S. history. Using film to look at the American past allows us to better understand how film influences the way we understand U.S. history, and it provides an opportunity to analyze selected films for their historic content and interpretive value. We’ll screen films such as The Graduate (1967), Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964), Malcolm X (1992), and Apocalypse Now (1979).

**AMST 3050 – 087 (CRN# 40462)**

**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 disseminate 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 3090 – 080 (CRN# 40907)**

**Hustlers, Homeboys, and Homicidal Maniacs**

Bratynski, J. 100% ONLINE

100% ONLINE Class. American movie audiences no longer accept depictions of the black “Sambo,” happy slave or the “Savage Indian” as authentic representations of America racial and ethnic identity. But consider the following contemporary film characters: the black street hustler, the Chicano “cholo” or the “sexually confused” serial killer. These are just a few of the cinematic identities that have emerged in American film and television over the last forty years. This course will examine the debates and controversies concerning the representation (and misrepresentation) of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity in U.S. contemporary films.

**AMST 3100 – 080 (CRN# 40044)**

**The 1990s: From Grunge to the War on Terror**

Bauerle, S. 100% ONLINE

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.

**AMST 3100 – 081 (CRN# 40046)**

**The 1980s:**

Bratynski, J. 100% Online

100% ONLINE Class. MTV Rocked! Pac-Man Ruled! And The Breakfast Club was the single greatest movie ever! Students will examine how American Cold War foreign policy inspired a unique consumer culture and created a new breed of conservative culture warrior. Students will also explore how the waning idealism of the 1960s was supplanted by corporate raiders that decimated industries faster than a deadly virus destroyed immune systems. Come experience the decade that roared with cultural revolutions as well as spiritual revelations; this decade had everything from music videos to guns for hostages.
LBST 2212 – S80 (CRN#40908)  
Southern Literature and Culture  
Briner, M.  
100% ONLINE  
100% ONLINE Class. 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.

LBST 2213 – S80 (CRN# 40957)  
Innovation in Modern America  
Coles, S.  
100% ONLINE  
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.

LBST 2214 – S80 (CRN#40909)  
Food Ethics and Quality of Life  
Belus, M.  
100% ONLINE  
100% ONLINE Class. In this 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 faming 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.