First Summer Session

AMST 2050 – 080 (CRN#30772)
The Supernatural and American Culture
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, andvisited 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# 31307)
Superheroes and Rom Coms
Dalton, D.
MTWR 2:00-4:30
Where do our notions of justice come from? How do societies determine their values? Superheros and Rom Coms looks at the role of popular genre cinema both within the US and throughout the world. As we watch films from these popular genres, we will critically engage with their depictions of criminal justice and economic justice. We will discuss the role of the state (or the lack thereof) in establishing order in superhero movies, while we will discuss the cross-class reconciliations that constantly occur in Rom Coms. Students will leave this course with a deeper appreciation for cinema’s contributions to social values in countries throughout the world.

AMST 3000 – 080 (CRN#30067)
Animation in American Culture (W,O)
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#30060)
Growing Up Southern (W)
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.
AMST 3020 – 082 (CRN#30064)  Love to Love You Baby: The Sexual Revolution of the 1970s (W)
Kitrick, L.  100% ONLINE
100% ONLINE Class. From Hugh Hefner’s creation of a hedonistic playboy lifestyle to disco queen, Donna Summer’s, eight-minute orgasm moaning from millions of radios, a sexual revolution was exploding in America. A 1969 New York Times Magazine article proclaimed “All They Talk About is Sex, Sex, Sex.” In this course we will explore the second American sexual revolution, that of the 1960s and 1970s, by looking at the history, politics, and socio-cultural effects rippling through the sexual landscape. We will examine shifting attitudes about traditional sex and gender roles, marriage and divorce, the significance of a nascent LGBT “coming out” movement, U.S. Supreme court rulings on contraception and abortion, and the effects of mainstreaming watered-down sexual content into Americans’ living rooms. We will attempt to find meaning in Americans’ desire to create a mostly nonviolent revolution for sexual liberation. The course is 100% online and meets the writing intensive general education requirement.

AMST 3020 – 083 (CRN#30065)  Race in America (W)
Obie-Nelson, K.  100% ONLINE
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 goal for general education.

AMST 3020 – 084 (CRN#30699)  Southern Foods: From Grits to Barbecue & Everything in Between (W)
Nooe, E.  100% ONLINE
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 provide 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.

AMST 3020 – 085 (CRN#31107)  Science Fiction in American Culture (W)
Toscano, A.  100% ONLINE
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 posts reflections on Canvas.

AMST 3050 – 080 (CRN#31322)  Pop Music 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 – 081 (CRN#30692)  Money, Work and Living on the Edge
Provolt, N.  100% ONLINE
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#30910)  
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#31041)  
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 the viewer 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#30925)  
Nooe, E.  
100% ONLINE  
100% ONLINE Class. The South is an international tourist destination and has drawn millions of visitors to see its natural and man-made attractions. Tourism operates as an economic engine for the region, introduces new cultural forces by visitors, and forges stories about the South that travelers seek out and take with them. More than just entertainment, leisure, recreation, and travel present an image of the South to tourists and influence how Southerners see their own region. Throughout the course we will examine the development of the Southern tourism, how tourism shapes the region, and the function of touristic endeavors connected to environmental/nature tourism, destination vacations, and heritage travel.

AMST 3050 – 085 (CRN#31042)  
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. When is the line crossed between protagonist/antagonist? Is the anti-hero his/her own worst enemy? Drawing on readings, and the television shows The Sopranos, The Wire, Breaking Bad, and Mad Men, we will examine the development of the main characters and the deeper societal issues that fuel their appeal. (DISCLAIMER: THIS COURSE CONTAINS EXTREMELY GRAPHIC MATERIAL, AND MAY BE UNSETTLING).

AMST 3050 – 086 (CRN#31323)  
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#30691)  
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.
The 1970s: Watergate, Jaws, and “Finding Oneself”
Kitrick, L.
100% ONLINE
100% ONLINE Class. Fondue, disco, Watergate. What else comes to mind when you imagine the 1970s? In this course we will explore how an unrestrained pursuit of pleasure and a quest to “find oneself” helped Americans make sense of their 70’s existential dilemma; specifically, what does it mean to be American after our loss in Vietnam, after witnessing corruption at the highest levels of our government, while living amidst massive social change, severe economic instability, and an emergent technological world? We will examine the bumpy political landscape of a three-president decade, and consider 70’s pop culture, which created the summer blockbuster movie, think Jaws and Star Wars, and produced innovative socio-political comedy, with television shows like SNL and comedians like Richard Pryor. The 70s, wedged between the idealistic 60’s and the materialistic 80’s, is a complex, dynamic period in our history, much of which still affects us today.

Ethical Issues in Personal, Public, and Professional Life
Provolt, N.
100% ONLINE
100% ONLINE Class. This 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.

Literature and Culture: Black Family in Film and Fiction
Leak, J.
100% ONLINE
100% ONLINE Class. 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.

Southern Literature and Culture
Bruner, 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.

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.
Second Summer Session

AMST 3000 – 080 (CRN# 40393)  Food in America (W,O)
Belus, M.
100% ONLINE Class. Food...we need it, we love it, but how does it shape our lives beyond our basic needs for sustenance? How does it impact us culturally? Ethnically? Romantically? In this 100% online course we will study the changing dynamic of food as it connects Americans through our rituals with family and friends, through media and advertising, and through our personal behaviors and relationship with food. Other topics we will cover include critical perspectives on gender and food, modified foods, fad diets, and the influence of the fast food industry on individuals and the nation. Course requirements include numerous reading assignments of books and articles, as well as formal and informal writing assignments. Additionally, as this summer course meets the University's requirements for the communication, "O," general education goal, students will be expected to create and upload presentations to Canvas. Note: This course meets both the writing intensive and communication general education goals.

AMST 3020 – 080 (CRN# 40037)  Outsider in American Culture (W)
Bauerle, S.
100% ONLINE Class. 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 3020 – 081 (CRN#40559)  Growing Up Southern (W)
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.

AMST 3020– 082 (CRN#40502)  Adolescence in America (W)
Belus, M.
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 – 083 (CRN# 40397)  City Lights: Life in Urban America (W)
Burford, J.
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 – 084 (CRN# 40894)  Motorsports in the South (W)
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. Note: This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.
AMST 3020 – 085 (CRN# 40672)  Dr. Strangelove, UFOs, and the Bomb: America in the Atomic Age (W)  McMurray, B.  100% ONLINE

100% ONLINE Class. On July 16, 1945, the world was forever changed when the first atomic bomb blast took place in the New Mexico desert. With this event, America entered the nuclear age. This course will examine the various effects that the development of the atomic bomb had on American life and culture, including how people learned to cope with the potential destruction posed by the bomb, the secrecy surrounding its development and use, the Cold War, the Space Race, the spin-off stories about alien existence and extraterrestrial visits, and such popular films as Dr. Strangelove, The China Syndrome, and WarGames. We will also discuss key scientists such as J. Robert Oppenheimer of the Manhattan Project, atomic testing that took place in the western United States, the use of nuclear energy in power production and medicine, and concerns today about about the impact of nuclear energy on the environment and humankind. This course meets the writing intensive goal for General Education.

AMST 3020 – 086 (CRN#41115)  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 3050 – 081 (CRN# 40396)  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 – 082 (CRN# 40824)  Love and Sex in the Age of Social Media  Provolt, 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 – 083 (CRN#40558)  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 – 084 (CRN# 40039)  American Humor and Comedy  Bruner, M.  100% ONLINE

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

AMST 3050 – 085 (CRN#40674)  Taking a Knee: Activism in American Sports  Obie Nelson, K.  100% ONLINE

100% ONLINE Class. Activism for social, political, and economic change has a long history in America - from civil rights, anti-war sentiments, women's rights, immigration reform and gay marriage. Sports are one arena in which activists can voice their opinions and hold demonstrations. Recent protests in the NFL have reignited conversations of whether or not athletes should use their platforms for social change. But activism in sports is not new; rather some may argue that sports are the very sites where real change can occur. Others view sports as purely entertainment and athletes as entertainers, not activists. This course will explore the history of activism in American sports and the athletes that used their platforms for social change, such as Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, Jim Brown, Arthur Ashe, Tommie Smith, John Carlos, Billie Jean King, and Colin Kaepernick.
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#40677) Belus, M. 100% ONLINE

Food Ethics and Quality of Life

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 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.