

AMST 3000 – 003 (CRN#13033)**Seminar in AMST: From the Sopranos to Breaking Bad: The Male Antihero in Contemporary Television (W,O)****TR 11:00 – 12:15****Bruner, M.**

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

AMST 3000 – 004 (CRN#14781)**Seminar in AMST: The Catawba: River of Life (W, O)****W 2:00 – 4:45****McMurray, B.**

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 – 005 (CRN#15603)**Seminar in AMST: The Coen Brothers in American Film****T 2:00 – 4:45****Bernard, M.**

Over the past three decades, the writing/producing/directing team of the Coen brothers (Joel and Ethan) has been making films that have been met with critical acclaim, box office success, and academic analysis. In this course, we will cover films spanning the Coens' rich and varied body of work. We will discuss how the Coens utilize postmodern pastiche in their neo-noirs, like their debut film *Blood Simple* (1984), their popular favorite *Fargo* (1996), their cult classic *The Big Lebowski* (1998), and their award-winning *The Man Who Wasn't There* (2001). We will explore how the Coens depict family life in their uproarious comedies like *Raising Arizona* (1987) and *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000). This course will also consider the Coens' work in various genres such as the Western, like their Oscar-winning *No Country for Old Men* (2007) and their hit remake of the classic *True Grit* (2010). Finally, we will take account of the Coens' more unconventional, difficult-to-classify fare, like *Barton Fink* (1991) and *A Serious Man* (2009). Throughout our discussions, we will return to reoccurring themes, such as crime, gender bending, the double, intertextuality, and regionalism, that cross over into all of the Coens' films. Students will read, think, and write critically about films screened in class and will also present on selected films viewed outside of class. *Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.*

AMST 3000 – 006 (CRN#10307)**Seminar in AMST: Racism and Racial Violence in American Culture (W,O)****F 9:30 – 12:15****Obie-Nelson, K.**

Racism has plagued the history of America. Racism comes in many forms including segregation, intolerance, prejudice, discrimination, and even violence. This course will examine the violent and blatant forms of American racism through lynchings and race riots. Students will analyze and explore the events surrounding lynchings and race riots through historical, cultural, social, and literary contexts. This course will evoke critical thinking from students as they study how these violent acts preserved, perpetuated, disseminated, and maintained racism throughout American culture. Disclaimer: The subject matter is extremely graphic and may be unsettling. *Note: This course meets the writing intensive and oral communication goals for general education.*

**AMST 3000 – 092 (CRN#14065)
McMurray, B.**

**Motorsports in the South: NASCAR Past and Present (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 3020 – 001 (CRN#10309)
Belus, M.**

**Adolescence in America (W)
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 – 002 (CRN#10310)
Belus, M.**

**Food In America (W)
100% ONLINE**

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

**AMST 3020 – 003 (CRN#13872)
Gardner, S.**

**Topics in AMST: American Indian Fiction and Community (W)
WF 12:30 – 1:45**

Cross-listed with ENGL 3051 –003

If contemporary American Indian Fiction is "about" anything, it is about community, organized around kinship, a particular place, and a specific language. Even novels and short stories about individuals alienated from their home community, belonging nowhere and speaking English only, testify to the significance of community, for such characters usually can only be made whole by reconnecting with it. We will focus both on traditional communities and contemporary ones, for "There is always a connection to a core of tribal teachings in Native American Literature, even when it expresses distance or alienation from the core" (Walters [Dine] & Reese [Nambe Pueblo] 159). Representatives of local Indian communities will visit the course.

**AMST 3020 – 004 (CRN#13873)
Harris, M.**

**Poker in American Film and Culture (W)
100% ONLINE**

In this 100% online 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 – 005 (CRN#14011)**Spielberg’s Munich and the Rise of the Modern Terrorism Film (W)****Hoffman, D.****WF 8:00 – 9:15**

This course will examine the tragedy of the 1972 Olympic games on film as a paradigm of world events presaging the War on Terror. Precursors to Spielberg’s 2005 film will include Pontecorvo’s *Battle of Algiers* (1966), John Frankenheimer’s *Black Sunday* (1976), and the television film *Sword of Gideon* (1986), along with related documentaries and various shorts. Special attention will also be given to source journalism such as George Jonas’ *Vengeance* and the related work of Simon Reeve, Stephen Prince, and others. *This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.*

AMST 3020 – 006 (CRN#14578)**Topics in American Film: The Cold War and American Film (W)****Hoffman, D.****WF 9:30 – 10:45**

This course will examine the conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union from the end of World War II to the assassination of John F. Kennedy as depicted in the works of such directors as Stanley Kramer, John Frankenheimer, Stanley Kubrick, and Sidney Lumet, along with selected government-sponsored public service presentations and other shorts. Special attention will be given to such aspects as the threat of nuclear holocaust (*On the Beach, Failsafe*), political intrigue (*The Manchurian Candidate, Seven Days in May, Advise and Consent*), science fiction (*The Thing, The Day the Earth Stood Still, Invasion of the Body Snatchers*), and satire (*The Atomic Café, Dr. Strangelove*). *This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.*

AMST 3020 – 007 (CRN#14782)**Motorsports in the South: NASCAR Past and Present (W)****McMurray, B.****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 – 090 (CRN#14005)**Pop Culture and the American Music Scene (W)****Schacht, J.****T 6:30 – 9:15**

This course explores the impact of popular music on American culture and vice versa. We’ll begin with the earliest mass mediums (radio, acetates, gramophones) and the rise of a national audience, and dissect the birth of rock & roll in terms of race, business, and cultural trends. We’ll continue through the youth culture movement of the second-half of the 20th century, including Woodstock, the sexual and drug revolutions, punk, hip-hop, the rise of MTV, and the multi-billion dollar music industry of the 1990s. We’ll look at the effect music has had on other mediums, such as film, advertising and television. Finally, we’ll examine the impact of the Internet on the American music scene and the declining business model that characterized it for nearly a century. *Note: This course meets the writing intensive general education goal.*

AMST 3050 – 001 (CRN#14006)**Topics in AMST: Innovation in Modern America****Coles, S.****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 – 002 (CRN#14010)**Obie Nelson, K.****Sports in America: Issues and Controversies****100% ONLINE**

This 100% online 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 3050 – 003 (CRN#14086)**Salanger, C.****Work, Success, and the Pursuit of Happiness in American Culture****100% ONLINE**

What do you want to be when you grow up?" This commonly asked question opens the imagination for many young Americans and begins to solidify early in development the cultural importance of work, the profound connection between our profession and our being, and the limitless possibility to become whatever you desire. This course takes a broad look at work, the workplace, and the American work ethic over time and how these aspects influence the definition of ourselves and our culture. We will use American culture in the forms of film, literature, magazines and humor to examine how work has shaped our culture and in turn how our culture has shaped the workplace. Throughout the course, students will work to personally define "success" and "happiness." We will look at different sectors of hard-working Americans including those who struggle to make ends meet. What does this struggle say about a culture that values success and money to the level that America does? This 100% online course is open to all students.

AMST 3050 – 090 (CRN#10311)**Burford, J.****Urban America****R 5:30 – 8:15**

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.

AMST 3100 – 001 (CRN#10312)**Bauerle, S.****Intro to American Studies: The 1990's****WF 11:00 – 12:15**

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 – 002 (CRN#10313)**Belus, M.****Intro to American Studies: The 1930's****100% ONLINE**

In this 100% online 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?

AMST 3100 – 003 (CRN#10314)**Bruner, M.****Intro to American Studies: The 1950's****TR 9:30 – 10:45**

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 – 004 (CRN#10315)

Intro to American Studies: The 1970's

Kitrick, L.

TR 11:00 – 12:15

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.

AMST 3100 – 005 (CRN#14007)

Intro to American Studies: The 1980's

McNeil, J.

100% ONLINE

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 100% online class, we will explore the political, social, and artistic landscape of the decade and its impact on American culture today.

AMST 3100 – 090 (CRN#10316)

Intro to American Studies: The 1960's (Hybrid)

Rutledge, P.

W 6:30 – 9:15

Note: This class will be taught as a hybrid course (50% online/50% face-to-face). This means that instruction and student participation will be divided between in-class meetings and online activities using Moodle, and classes will meet every two weeks rather than every week. A high-speed Internet connection is strongly recommended.

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.

