



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA
AT CHARLOTTE**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
Summer 2014**

First Summer Session

AMST 3020-086 Seminar in AMST: Cult Movies: At the Edge of Hollywood, the Mainstream, and Good Taste
Bernard, M. 100% ONLINE (W)

“Cult movie” is a term that many of us have probably heard in reference to a particular film. However, if asked to define what exactly a “cult movie” is, we may struggle for a precise definition. This course will attempt to answer the deceptively simple question of what we mean when we say “cult movie.” In exploring this issue, we will ask several questions such as: what are the origins of cult behavior surrounding the movies? Are certain films from certain genres more likely to become cult movies than others? Can a filmmaker or studio aim to make a cult movie, or is a cult movie something that can only be determined by audience reception? Can Hollywood blockbusters be cult movies? Are some actors more cult than others? How has the cult reception of certain films varied over time as film viewing habits and formats change? Students will read, think, and write critically about films screened in class and will also present on selected films viewed outside of class. Films screened/discussed may include, but are not limited to: Freaks (1932), Wizard of Oz (1939), It’s a Wonderful Life (1946), Plan 9 from Outer Space (1959), Night of the Living Dead (1968), El Topo (1970), Pink Flamingos (1972), The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975), This Is Spinal Tap (1984), and The Big Lebowski (1998). *Note: This course meets the writing intensive goal for general education.*

AMST 3020 – 080 (CRN# 30932) Adolescence in America (W)
Belus, M. 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 goal for general education.*

AMST 3020 – 081 (CRN# 30992)
McMurray, B.

Motorsports in the South: NASCAR Past and Present (W)
100% ONLINE

From the gritty, rutted fairground dirt tracks to the gleaming, sleek Super speedways, racing has always been a Southern product. NASCAR stock car racing has grown from its regional roots to become one of the nation's top sporting attractions. In this 100% ON LINE 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 – 082 (CRN# 31001)
McMurray, B.

Seminar in AMST: 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 3050 – 080 (CRN# 30990)
Hofmann, Linda

Topics in AMST: Asian American Experience
100% ONLINE

Asian Americans are often referred to as "perpetual foreigners" and "the model minority." Why? What can we learn about their immigrant experience and contemporary life in the U.S.? This course explores the cultures, conflicts, and identities of Americans of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean origin, from the initial immigration of the Chinese to the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII, to popular culture and daily life in the U.S. Discussions and writings are centered around texts by writers such as Amy Tan, Lisa See, and An Na, film clips and interviews, and exploration of local Asian American enclaves. A course for any student interested in the immigrant experience and diverse cultures of the United States. 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. *Note: This is a 100% online course using Moodle. For helpful resources visit <http://summer.uncc.edu>.*

AMST 3050 – 081 (CRN# 30991)
Harris, M.

Topics in AMST: Poker in American Film and Culture
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 – 082 (CRN# 30995)**Bauerle, S.****Topics in AMST: The Zombification of America****100% ONLINE**

The current popularity of zombies in media highlights uncertainties about issues surrounding society, individuality, gender, religion, and science in American culture as well as reflects an interesting juxtaposition between the zombie's need to literally consume others and the quest for the American Dream. In this 100% ON LINE course we will examine graphic novels/comics, video games, films, and popular television programs to better understand the role of the zombie figure and the fear of the apocalypse in Americans' psyches.

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.

AMST 3050-083 (CRN# 31210)**Germain, Felix****Topics in AMST: Blacks in Urban America****100% ONLINE**

Cross-listed with AFRS 3280-080

African-Americans have been part of the urban scene since the colonizing of the Americas. The course will examine the ways in which their presence in cities has both exemplified and contradicted the understanding of both urban development and race relations in America from colonial times to the present. (*on-demand*)

AMST 3100 – 080 (CRN# 30982)**Belus, M.****The 1930s: Hard Times in America****100% ONLINE**

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 – 021 (CRN# 40623)**Hoffman, D.****Topics in American Film: Basketball in American Film (W,O)****MTWRF 9:45 – 11:15**

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# 40629)**Eckard, P.****Seminar in American Studies: Appalachian Literature and Culture****100% ONLINE**

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 second 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 – 084 (CRN# 40646)

Eckard, P.

Seminar in American Studies: Growing Up Southern (W)

100% ONLINE

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 second 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 3050 – 083 (CRN# 40625)

Obie Nelson, K.

Sports in America: Issues and Controversies

100% ONLINE

In this 100% online class we will explore the relationship between sports, culture, and society. Students will be exposed to the historical, cultural, and sociological aspects of the world of sports. This course will analyze the controversial issues surrounding these aspects as well as evoke critical thinking from the students as they examine sports in their own lives and in the world in which they live. Students will take an in-depth look at such topics as race, gender, commercialization, and the media and how these topics impact, disrupt, and/or distinguish sport society. The course will primarily focus on intercollegiate and professional sports.

AMST 3050 – 084 (CRN# 40626)

Coles, S.

Topics in AMST: Social Media in American Culture

100% ONLINE

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.

AMST 3020 – 085 (CRN# 40647)

Bruner, M.

Topics in AMST: Television 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 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. (W)

AMST 3100 – 081 (CRN# 40648)

Brumer, M.

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

100% ONLINE

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.