

# AMERICAN STUDIES

## AMS

### College of Arts and Letters

#### 150 The Entertainment Society

Fall, Spring. 4(4-0)  
Entertainment popular culture in America. Social, cultural, and historical impact of major entertainment popular culture, including dime novels, pulp magazines, comic books, comic strips, blockbuster films, story radio, and video gaming culture.

#### 200 Introduction to American Studies

Fall, Spring. 4(4-0) RB: Completion of Tier I Writing requirement  
Overview of American studies theories and methodologies. Library and media research in American studies with extensive writing.

#### 210 Introduction to Popular Culture

Fall. 4(4-0)  
Significant social issues in American popular culture. American studies theory and methods employed to analyze thematic and historical cultural representations in popular culture.

#### 250 American Art

Spring. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with History of Art. Administered by History of Art.  
Major developments and themes in non-indigenous American art (painting, sculpture, architecture, material culture) from its colonial origins through the 20th century.

#### 270 Comics and Animation in America

Spring. 3(3-0) P: Completion of Tier I writing requirement. RB: AMS 210  
Significant theories and methodologies in an American popular culture studies approach to comics and animation. Cultural, historical, and critical dimensions of the comic book and animation in film and television.

#### 285 Ethnicity and Identity in American Culture

Fall. 3(3-0) P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement SA: AMS 280  
Comparative study of ethnicity and identity in American culture using the theories and systems of analysis of American studies.

#### 290 Independent Study

Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 3 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: (AMS 265 or AMS 210) and AMS 280 and (HST 202 or HST 203) R: Approval of department.  
Special projects, directed reading, and research arranged by an individual student and a faculty member in areas supplementing regular course offerings.

#### 300 Writing Media Cultures (W)

Fall, Spring. 4(4-0) P: (AMS 200) and completion of Tier I writing requirement  
Understanding of media and media production technologies. Understanding and critiquing media and culture. Writing and making of new media.

#### 320 Gender and Popular Culture

Spring. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Women's Studies. Administered by American Studies. P: Completion of Tier I writing requirement. RB: AMS 261  
Issues in gender and sexuality, power and agency, values and norms. Application of American Studies theories and methods.

#### 330 Theories of American Studies

Fall. 3(3-0)  
Theories and systems of analysis used by American studies to understand diverse subjects using historical and contemporary ideas and materials.

#### 332 Technology and Culture (W)

Fall, Spring. 4(4-0) Interdepartmental with Lyman Briggs. Administered by Lyman Briggs. P: (LB 133) or completion of Tier I writing requirement R: Open to students in the Lyman Briggs College or in the American Studies major or in the Science, Technology, Environment and Public Policy Specialization. SA: LBS 332  
History of technology with special emphasis on the interaction of technical innovation and other elements of culture.

#### 335 The Natural Environment: Perceptions and Practices (W)

Fall of even years, Spring. 4(4-0) Interdepartmental with Lyman Briggs. Administered by Lyman Briggs. P: (LB 133) or completion of Tier I writing requirement R: Open to students in the Lyman Briggs College or in the American Studies major or in the Science, Technology, Environment and Public Policy Specialization. SA: LBS 335  
American attitudes toward the natural environment and related public and private institutions.

#### 340 Digital Popular Culture

Fall. 3(3-0) P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement RB: AMS 210  
Digital popular culture and change in the U.S. and the world. Technology change, visual rhetoric and culture, and global networking.

#### 350 Narrative and Genre in Popular Culture

Spring. 3(3-0) RB: AMS 210  
Significant eras, movements, cultural development, and systems of popular expression.

#### 360 Ethnicity and Identity in Global Popular Culture

Fall. 3(3-0) P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement RB: (AMS 200 or concurrently) or (AMS 210 or concurrently)  
Comparative study of ethnicity and identity in global popular culture using theories and systems of analysis of American studies.

#### 361 Analyzing American Media Culture

Spring. 3(3-0) SA: AMS 261  
American media culture. Analysis and interpretation of media texts and forms such as television, film, music, books, and newspapers. Role of media in American politics, society, and economy.

#### 365 Transcultural Perspectives

Spring. 3(3-0) SA: AMS 265  
Comparative study of contemporary and historical cultural discourses of and about the Americas and their place in the global commons. Implications of cultural identities, especially as shaped by age, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. Borders and tourism and the import and export of technologies, media and commodities.

#### 450 Major Themes in Popular Culture

Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement RB: AMS 210 R: Approval of department.  
Advanced, in-depth study of major themes in popular culture studies.

#### 461 Major Themes in Entertainment Culture

Fall of even years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement RB: AMS 150 R: Approval of department.  
Advanced, in-depth study of major themes in entertainment studies.

#### 465 Major Themes in Ethnicity and Identity in American and Global Culture

Spring of even years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement RB: AMS 360 R: Approval of department.  
Advanced, in-depth study of major themes in ethnicity and identity in American and global culture.

#### 490 Independent Study

Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 3 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: (AMS 200 and AMS 300) and completion of Tier I writing requirement R: Open to seniors in the American Studies major. Approval of department.  
Special project, directed reading and research supplementing regular course offerings.

#### 492 Seminar in American Studies

Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: (AMS 265 or AMS 210) and (AMS 280 or AMS 250) and (AMS 310 and ENG 481 and HST 480 and HST 202 and HST 203) R: Open only to students in the American Studies major.  
Selected topics in American studies emphasizing interdisciplinary approaches. Topics vary.

#### 493 American Studies Internship

Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 3 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 3 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: AMS 200 and AMS 300 R: Open to seniors in the American Studies major. Approval of department.  
Supervised professional field experience in American studies.

#### 849 Comparative Ethnic Studies (D)

Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Arts and Letters. Administered by American Studies. RB: AMS 881 R: Open to graduate students in the College of Arts and Letters and open to graduate students in the College of Social Science.  
Comparative study of cultural production as it relates to history and politics of race and ethnicity in the United States.

#### 851 Popular Culture Studies

Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Arts and Letters. Administered by American Studies. RB: AMS 881 R: Open to graduate students in the College of Arts and Letters and open to graduate students in the College of Social Science.  
Introduction to theories of popular culture. How cultural theories and theorists connect with and elucidate popular culture in its varied contexts of consumption.

## American Studies—AMS

### 855 Seminar in American Art

Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. Interdepartmental with History of Art. Administered by History of Art. R: Approval of department.

Intensive investigation of a topic in the history of American art.

### 860 Writing and Publishing American Studies Scholarship

Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) RB: AMS 881 and (AMS 849 or AMS 851 or AMS 891) R: Open to graduate students in the College of Arts and Letters and open to graduate students in the College of Social Science.

Orientation to the scholarly profession in American studies. Development of skills in oral presentation, writing, and publishing.

### 881 American Studies Theory, Methods, and Bibliography

Fall. 3(3-0)

Methods and bibliographical sources of American Studies research. Interdisciplinary approaches to studying American culture.

### 890 Independent Study

Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Approval of college.

Special projects, directed reading, and research arranged by an individual graduate student and a faculty member in areas supplementing regular course offerings.

### 891 Special Topics in American Studies

Fall, Spring, Summer. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course.

Special topics supplementing regular course offerings proposed by faculty for graduate students on a group study basis.

### 899 Master's Thesis Research

Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 6 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Approval of college.

Directed research leading to a master's thesis in partial fulfillment of Plan A master's degree requirements.

### 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research

Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 12 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 99 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Approval of college.

Doctoral dissertation research.