

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

A COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

American Studies Program



Spring 2010 Course Brochure *(Includes American Studies and Related Programs)*

*Times and dates subject to change without notice.
Please contact Delayne Graham at 496-9629 if you have any further questions.*

**American Studies
Schedule of Classes
Spring 2010**

CLASS LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Course	CRN	Title	Instructor	Day	Time	Room
AMST 60200	10853	Contemporary Issues in American Studies	Curtis	T	2:30-5:20	BRNG B202
AMST 60300	10854	American Studies Interdisciplinary Project <i>(Meets w/AMST 63000)</i>	Mullen	M	2:30-5:20	REC 309
AMST 63000	42981 42985	M.A. Research Seminar <i>(Meets w/AMST 60300)</i>	Mullen	M	2:30-5:20	REC 309
AMST 65000-01	10857	Reading Seminar in American Studies: Feminism, Power, and Nonviolence <i>(Cross-listed with POL 69300-43472/WOST 68100-43013)</i>	Carroll	W	6:00-8:50	BRNG B242
AMST 65000-03	35248	Reading Seminar in American Studies: Politics of Race, Class and Gender in Social Inquiry <i>(Cross-listed with EDST 60000-43015)</i>	Jaramillo	M	6:00-8:50	BRNG B202
AMST 65000-08	42404	Reading Seminar in American Studies: American Legal History and Culture <i>(Cross-listed with HIST 65100-20339)</i>	Pitts	T	4:30-7:20	UNIV 319
AMST 65000-09	42758	Reading Seminar in American Studies: Archives & Digital Humanities <i>(Cross-listed with ENGL 68000-33671)</i>	Bay/ Sullivan	Th	4:30-7:20	HEAV 227
AMST 69500	10864	AMST Service Learning Internship	Arrange			

American Studies Course Catalog

Spring 2010

American Studies

AMST 60200: Contemporary Issues in American Studies

Susan Curtis
T, 2:30-5:20
CRN: 10853

As a follow-up to AMST 60100: Introduction to American Studies, AMST 60200 familiarizes students with current issues and debates in the field. Students explore the ways contemporary American Studies scholars conceive and carry out interdisciplinary projects and how the students' research interests can be placed in conversation with work going on in the field today. Seminar readings include work the practice of interdisciplinary American Studies scholarship, recent scholarship in *American Quarterly*, and exemplary book-length studies. Some of the assigned readings will be developed by students enrolled in the course as they discover the body of work within which they can locate their own scholarly concerns. Prerequisites: AMST 60100.

AMST 60300: American Studies Interdisciplinary Project

Bill Mullen
M, 2:30-5:20
CRN: 10854

Students will conduct independent research under faculty supervision towards completion of the Special Field examination for the Ph.D. degree. The project should be an extended, original research essay, based upon interdisciplinary research. The project should aim to produce original findings on a clearly defined topic or problem. In addition to the research and essay, students must produce a statement of methodology in which they explain their choice of sources and how their project contributes to the field of American Studies. To be taken in the final semester of coursework. Prerequisite: AMST 60100

AMST 63000: M.A. Research Seminar

Bill Mullen
M, 2:30-5:20
CRNS: 42981, 42985

A research seminar required of all M.A. students in their final semester. Students write substantial essays based upon original research in which they seek to crystallize, in practice, methods and concepts of American Studies.

AMST 65000-001: Feminism, Power & Nonviolence

Cross-listed with POL 69300-43472 & WOST 68000-43013
Berenice Carroll
W, 6:00-8:50
CRN: 10857

In the search for keys to the eradication of war and pervasive violence, feminist theorists and activists have challenged prevailing ideas, practices, and institutions, proposing alternative conceptions and forms of power, nonviolent resistance, and creative action. As Hannah Arendt wrote: "It is only after one ceases to reduce public affairs to the business of dominion that the original data in the realm of human affairs will appear, or rather, reappear, in their authentic diversity" (*On Violence*, 1972). Related to the issue of power is the relationship

between “theory” and “practice,” or intellect and action. Women’s direct action has had a much more extensive history and greater impact than has been generally recognized, but even when noted, the theoretical components of women’s movements and women’s activism have most often gone unexamined. In the 21st century, feminist deconstructions of the so-called “wars on terrorism” and feminist action against the resurgence of patriarchal systems are of central importance in understanding the dynamics of contemporary society and shaping the future. The class will be conducted with emphasis on discussion, critical analysis of readings, critical viewing of selected films and videos, and sharing of information on bibliography and internet sources. Students are expected to be active participants in class discussion and to take initiative in helping to shape the course structure and content.

AMST 65000-003: Politics of Race, Class and Gender in Social Inquiry

Cross-listed with EDST 60000-43015

Nathalia Jaramillo

M, 6:00-8:50

CRN: 35248

AMST 65000-008: American Legal History and Culture

Cross-listed with HIST 65100-20339

Yvonne Pitts

T, 4:30-7:20

CRN: 42404

In this course we will discuss the major lines of historical inquiry in U.S. legal history with particular focus on how historians and legal scholars have approached the intersections of law and culture. We will begin with an exploration of the classic approaches and methods used by legal historians and move into more recent texts. How as the field of legal history evolved before and after the ‘cultural turn’? How have legal institutions shaped or been shaped by social or cultural reality? What do interdisciplinary (sociological, disability, economic, feminist, literary) approaches bring to legal history? Students will produce several short evaluation papers and a longer historiographical essay. Students will also be asked to lead class discussion at least once.

AMST 65000-009: Archives & Digital Humanities

Cross-listed with ENGL 68000-33671

Jennifer Bay/Patricia Sullivan

Th, 4:30-7:20

CRN: 42758

How are archives and cultural memory being re-seen by Digital Humanities? This seminar introduces traditional archival theory & practice, then turns through historiography to digital history, culture, and rhetoric. Since the archival turn, traditional archiving practices--activities such as appraisal, acquisition, arrangement, preservation, description, disaster planning, finding aids, access, and electronic records--have been rethought through various lenses, most particularly postmodernism, digital spaces, and now posthumanism. We are particularly interested how archives conceived as places (or nonplaces), methods, and processes contribute to the production of culture. Thus, we will review traditional and emerging constructions of "archive" as they contribute to our coming understandings of digital libraries, digital publications, and digital humanities. We will work in groups on microprojects that explore description (e.g., how descriptions vary when constructed to invite different kinds of public participation), finding aids (e.g., deconstructing collections using the logic of their arrangement and the language of their finding aids), and preservation (e.g., whether to preserve with mylar sleeves or digitization). Then we will turn to digital

archives, exploring the extant types, planning some needed collections, considering the challenges of "saving" native electronic media, and digitizing some materials. We hope participants will 1) better understand the issues, theories, and practices important to archives and historical work in this digital age, and 2) begin a project relevant to their own interests. Though we have not finalized the reading list, we plan to include such works as: Steedman's *Dust*, Cohen and Rosenzweig's *Digital History*, Hall's *Digitize this Book!*, and Derrida's *Paper Machine*. We will also draw on selections from Blouin and Rosenberg's *Archives, Documentation and Institutions of Social Memory*, de Certeau's *The Writing of History*, Liu's *Laws of Cool*, relevant articles and manuals for both paper and digital archiving processes.

Anthropology

For ANTH courses, please see the Anthropology website for further information on instructors and course descriptions (

Communication

For COM courses, please see the Communication website for further information on course descriptions (<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/communication/index.html>).

Educational Studies

For EDCI & EDST courses, please see the Educational Studies website for further information on course descriptions (<http://www.education.purdue.edu/>).

English

ENGL 59500-001: Contemporary American Fiction

TTh, 12:00-1:15

John Duvall

CRN: 42956

This course will survey contemporary American Fiction since the late 1950s. My aim is to provide some understanding of the distinction between modernism and postmodernism. An issue we will explore is the relation of the contemporary American novel to the aesthetic past and to history. If the directed intertexts of modernism were, as T.S. Eliot put it in describing James Joyce, instances of "mythological method," what are the intertexts of contemporary narratives? To a certain extent, we will see history replace the aesthetic past as the intertext of the contemporary American novel. This turn to history, however, does not grant a special privilege to history; rather, contemporary writers acknowledge that any attempt to recover the past is always already implicated in fictional gestures. In addition to fiction by such writers as Kathy Acker, Don DeLillo, E.L. Doctorow, Toni Morrison, Thomas Pynchon, Ishmel Reed, and Leslie Marmon Silko, we will read criticism and theory that attempts to define the aesthetic and cultural postmodern. In particular, we will look at Fredric Jameson's dismay over the degraded historicism of the present and Linda Hutcheon's celebration of historiographic metafiction as an expressive form able to produce social critique.

ENGL 59600-002: Young Adult Literature

T, 4:30-7:20

Janet Alsup

CRN: 42969

This course is a survey of young adult literature and a study of relevant literary criticism and theories of reading. Attention will also be paid to the effective teaching of young adult literature to adolescents.

ENGL 68000-003: Archives & Digital Humanities

Cross-listed with AMST 65000-009-42758

Jennifer Bay/Patricia Sullivan

Th, 4:30-7:20

CRN: 33671

How are archives and cultural memory being re-seen by Digital Humanities? This seminar introduces traditional archival theory & practice, then turns through historiography to digital history, culture, and rhetoric. Since the archival turn, traditional archiving practices--activities such as appraisal, acquisition, arrangement, preservation, description, disaster planning, finding aids, access, and electronic records--have been rethought through various lenses, most particularly postmodernism, digital spaces, and now posthumanism. We are particularly interested how archives conceived as places (or nonplaces), methods, and processes contribute to the production of culture. Thus, we will review traditional and emerging constructions of "archive" as they contribute to our coming understandings of digital libraries, digital publications, and digital humanities. We will work in groups on microprojects that explore description (e.g., how descriptions vary when constructed to invite different kinds of public participation), finding aids (e.g., deconstructing collections using the logic of their arrangement and the language of their finding aids), and preservation (e.g., whether to preserve with mylar sleeves or digitization). Then we will turn to digital archives, exploring the extant types, planning some needed collections, considering the challenges of "saving" native electronic media, and digitizing some materials. We hope participants will 1) better understand the issues, theories, and practices important to archives and historical work in this digital age, and 2) begin a project relevant to their own interests. Though we have not finalized the reading list, we plan to include such works as: Steedman's *Dust*, Cohen and Rosenzweig's *Digital History*, Hall's *Digitize this Book!*, and Derrida's *Paper Machine*. We will also draw on selections from Blouin and Rosenberg's *Archives, Documentation and Institutions of Social Memory*, de Certeau's *The Writing of History*, Liu's *Laws of Cool*, relevant articles and manuals for both paper and digital archiving processes.

ENGL 69600-001: Theory & Popular Culture

T, 4:30-7:20

Dino Felluga

CRN: 33842

This class will seek to explain and exemplify various theoretical approaches to literature and culture by way of popular entertainment. Following the lead of Slavoj Žižek, who published the essay collection, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Lacan but Were Afraid to Ask Hitchcock*, the class will function as a thorough and rigorous analysis of some of the most perplexing and pervasive issues in and ideological contradictions of our contemporary postmodern world, examined through the lens of pop culture. The course will also clarify some of the major theories currently influencing cultural criticism today, even as we implement the tools of cultural critique throughout the semester. Each theoretical approach

will be paired with an example in pop culture: Narratology through the X-Files; Psychoanalysis through Buffy, the Vampire Slayer; Postmodernism through *Bladerunner*, the *Matrix*, and *Brazil*; and a final wrap-up of all the theories through *Fight Club* (along with some Marxism).

History

For HIST courses, please see the History website for further information on course descriptions (<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/history/>).

HIST 59500-001: Holocaust & Genocide

TTh, 12:00-1:15
Rebekah Klein-Pejsova
CRN: 32846

HIST 64200-001: Global Research Seminar: Gender & Global History

W, 6:30-9:20
Sally Hastings
CRN: 32848

HIST 65100-001: Legal History and Culture in America

Cross-listed with AMST 65000-008

T, 4:30-7:20
Yvonne Pitts
CRN: 20339

HIST 65200-001: History Research Practicum

Cross-listed with HIST 60200

Th, 4:30-7:20
Caroline Janney
CRN: 20341

Philosophy

For PHIL courses, please see the Philosophy website for further information on course descriptions (<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/philosophy/courses/index.html>)

Political Science

For POL courses, please see the Political Science website for further information on course descriptions (<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/polsci/gradprog/schedule.html>)

Sociology

For SOC courses, please see the Sociology website for information on their course offerings (<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/sociology/>)

Women's Studies

WOST 68000-001: Feminist Theories of War, Peace, and Revolution

Cross-listed with AMST 65000-001 & POL 69300

W, 6:00-8:50

Berenice Carroll

In the search for keys to the eradication of war and pervasive violence, feminist theorists and activists have challenged prevailing ideas, practices, and institutions, proposing alternative conceptions and forms of power, nonviolent resistance, and creative action. As Hannah Arendt wrote: "It is only after one ceases to reduce public affairs to the business of dominion that the original data in the realm of human affairs will appear, or rather, reappear, in their authentic diversity" (*On Violence*, 1972). Related to the issue of power is the relationship between "theory" and "practice," or intellect and action. Women's direct action has had a much more extensive history and greater impact than has been generally recognized, but even when noted, the theoretical components of women's movements and women's activism have most often gone unexamined. In the 21st century, feminist deconstructions of the so-called "wars on terrorism" and feminist action against the resurgence of patriarchal systems are of central importance in understanding the dynamics of contemporary society and shaping the future. The class will be conducted with emphasis on discussion, critical analysis of readings, critical viewing of selected films and videos, and sharing of information on bibliography and internet sources. Students are expected to be active participants in class discussion and to take initiative in helping to shape the course structure and content.