Graduate Courses Spring 2016
DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES & ETHNICITY
GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

Disclaimer: The following list of courses is based on our best available information. We do not guarantee instructor, courses, location and time are accurate.

CORE COURSES

AMST 530: Readings in African American Studies
Seminar exploring crucial theoretical, methodological and historical issues in the development of African American Studies.
T 4-6:50pm Prof. Francille Wilson

AMST 570: Readings on Los Angeles and Urban Culture
Exploration of some of the leading scholarship from a variety of disciplines writing about Los Angeles and the southern California area. Particular emphasis is placed on the intersections of historical, contemporary and cultural issues that inform recent scholarship on Los Angeles.
W 2-4:50pm Prof. Juan De Lara

AMST 680: Research in Cultural Studies
The seminar is designed to expose students to a range of theoretical perspectives in cultural studies: poststructuralist theory, affect theory, critical race theory/conjuncturalism, performance studies, and questions of the subject and power. We will read “theory” conventionally defined, as well as genre-bending writings that “perform” theory. The class provides a supportive environment for the participants’ own research. Depending on students’ individual goals, we will investigate appropriate journals, article structure, and research funding. The final project will be an article designed for publication or a draft of a dissertation chapter. Recommended preparation: graduate reading course in cultural studies. TH 5-7:20pm Prof. Dorinne Kondo

AMST 701: Contemporary Theories of American Studies and Ethnicity
Seminar in representative theoretical works in the fields of American Studies and Ethnic Studies published in the past fifteen years.
M 4-6:20pm Prof. Laura Pulido

HIST 560/AMST 522: Transpacific History
This graduate readings seminar addresses the emerging research area of “transpacific history.” Our goal is to survey and assess many different interpretations of transpacific history as a scholarly field, conceptual framework, and methodological approach. Most, but not all, texts focus on the modern period from the nineteenth century to the present, an era suited to the instructor’s expertise. W 2-4:50pm Prof. Lon Kurashige
OTHER COURSES OF INTEREST

AHIS 515: Seminar in Contemporary Art  
Does the turn towards “the global” in contemporary art represent another fashionable art world trend, or does it signal a more substantive development with intellectual implications for the discipline of art history? This problem serves as a point of departure for our seminar, which will investigate the production, criticism, and display of contemporary art in selected cities and geopolitical contexts around the world. We will situate, in other words, the relatively recent appearance of “global contemporary art” as a point of entry into the complex histories of modernity, modernism and modern art as they emerged unevenly throughout the 20th century.

The course's "itinerary" includes various locations, theories, exhibitions, guest speakers, and histories of contemporary art without privileging a central paradigm. We will not attempt to "cover the world" of contemporary art in a comprehensive fashion, but to think critically and comparatively about current discussions surrounding internationalism through specific sites of artistic production and display.

Th 2-4:50pm

ART/CRT 515: Visiting Artist and Scholar Seminar  
Lecture and discussion course in the professional practice of art featuring formal presentations by visiting artists and scholars.  T 7-8:20pm and W 12-2pm Prof. Noura Wedell

COLT 575: Colonial Affect  
This course examines the recent interdisciplinary ‘turn’ to affect within contemporary studies of theory and criticism, and its bearing on questions of race and colonialism. Examining a diverse range of both theoretical and fictive engagements with affect and emotion, this course will begin by interrogating the nature of this recent ‘turn’ and its emergence within the contemporary moment. Secondly, we will ask, how has this recent interest in affect expanded, challenged, or shifted our inquiries into questions of race and empire?

Our discussions of the affective turn will necessarily involve an interrogation of its relationship to genealogies of queer and feminist epistemologies, as well as critical race and postcolonial interventions. How can we study affect historically? How are affects racialized or gendered, colonized or decolonized? Topics we will investigate include the role of affect in technologies of discipline and control, the production of modern racial subjects and gendered citizen subjects, as well as public feelings and memories.

Readings will include works by Raymond Williams, Eve Sedgwick, Siânne Ngai, Lauren Berlant, José Munoz, Saidiya Hartman, Frantz Fanon, Karl Marx, Sarah Ahmed, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, The Subaltern Studies Collective, Virginia Woolf, Richard Wright, Sigmund Freud, Hanna Arendt, and Fredric Jameson. Finally, as literary scholars, we will ask, how and in what ways is the field of affect studies generative of new academic genres, reading practices, and/or modalities of intellectual discourse with which we may engage modern legacies of colonialism?  TIME/DAY TBA – Prof. Neetu Khana
CRIT 525: Making and Curating Art: Pedagogy and Praxis
Provides students with a foundation in the history and theory of studio art and curatorial education and develops their teaching skills in these areas. TBA Prof. Erin Silver

CTCS 510: Case Studies in National Media and/or Regional Media
Seminar on media’s impact in defining nation and/or region in specific cultural contexts. Also addresses issues of exile, diaspora, transnationalism and globalism. Departmental approval required. M 10-1:50pm Prof. Ella Taylor

CTCS 587: Seminar in Television Theory
Detailed investigation and discussion of various aspects of television, including genre, textual analysis, production and distribution systems and audience studies. W 10-1:50pm Prof. Tara McPerson

CTCS 673: (In)Visible Blackness
This seminar is designed to encourage students to think creatively and well about what might be encountered under the categories of “blackness” and “audio-visuality” even as it aims to provide students with a context for how “blackness,” “visibility,” “audibility” have been thought in scholarship that is available in English. Though the emphasis will be on African American audio-visual culture, we also will consider how “blackness” appears in other national and regional contexts. To do this, we will consider a range of studies of “blackness” produced in the areas of cinema and media studies, performance studies, visual studies, and sound studies. While some of the readings on the syllabus do not explicitly address blackness, the audio-visual media on the syllabus do; thus, audio-visual media will serve as the primary cultural products through which we will seek to understand how “blackness” has been formulated in different contexts and historical periods, how it might be differently configured today, and what interests various formulations of “blackness” have served or might be made to serve. W 2-5:50pm Prof. Kara Keeling

CTCS 677: Modernity and History
What is history, memory and historical consciousness? Where do we look for history and when do we know it has happened? This course looks at critical theories of history that have impacted the study of cinema, media and popular culture. Readings will include works by Michel Foucault, Walter Benjamin, Hayden White, Svetlana Boym, Gayatri Chakravorti Spivak, Jacques Rancier, Paul Ricoeur, Andreas Huyssen, David Harvey, Frederic Jameson and others. MA students may be permitted to take this class with special permission of the instructor. W 10-1:50pm Prof. Priya Jaikumar
ENGL 620: Literature and Interdisciplinary Studies
Issues and theory of studying literature in relation to history, science, politics, psychology, religion, sociology, media, the visual arts, and other disciplines.
T 2:00-4:20pm  Prof. David St John

ENGL 630: Studies in Gender
History and ideology of gender studies, feminist theory, gay and lesbian discourse, and other studies in feminism and masculinities in relation to literature.
M 4:30-6:50pm  Prof. Tania Modleski

HIST 568: Historical Scholarship on 20th and 21st Century America
Introduction to historiography and research in the political, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual history of the 20th and 21st Century United States.
Friday 2-4:50pm, Prof. George Sanchez

POSC 670: Seminar in International Law
Topics and cases illustrating general principles and problems. Special research.
T 2-4:50pm Prof. Alison Renteln

PSYC 660: Seminar in Clinical Psychology
Selected topics in clinical psychology
F 1:00-4:50pm Prof. Darby Saxbe

SOCI 520: Qualitative Research Methods
Seminar in epistemologies, ethics, and techniques of qualitative research. Critical reading and practice in social observation, interviewing, fieldwork, and research design. Preparation of IRB proposal.
T 2:00-4:50pm Prof. Paul Lichterman

SOCI 521: Quantitative Methods and Statistics
Theory of measurement, scaling, sample designs in survey research, ecological correlations, measures of agreement. Lecture and laboratory.
M 2:00-4:50pm Prof. Ann Owens

SOCI 671: Urban Sociology
This course offers an examination of theories of, research on, and practice in cities, primarily in the United States, with a special focus on the dynamics of race, inequality, and social movements. Classic theories of urban form, urban politics, and city-based economic development provide an undergirding for the course but the course stresses contemporary evolutions in urban areas, including the emergence of the metropolitan region; shifting patterns of racial and income segregation, including the rise of gentrification and suburban diversity; and the new ways in which cities and metros have become locales for movement building and policy experimentation. Students will read in both quantitative and qualitative methods and will write a paper that combines theory and data, with some emphasis on applications to real-world policy decisions or organizing strategies.
W 10:00-12:50pm, Prof. Manuel Pastor