

Fall 2023
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 500: Introduction to American Studies and Ethnicity (4)

An exploration of themes, theoretical influences, and methodological approaches current in American studies and Ethnic studies. *Professor Sarah Gualtieri, Mondays, 10-12:50pm*

AMST 552: Archives and Subcultures

Introduction to the practice of archival research with an emphasis on the literary and historical methods of documenting subcultural groups, particularly racial and sexual minorities. *Professor Nayan Shah, Wednesdays, 2-4:50pm*

AMST 554: Readings in Chicano/Latino History

This course is intended to survey some of the best and most recent works in the field of Chicano/Latino history, paying particular attention to various approaches, topics, or genres in the field. We will explore the contributions made by scholars writing at the "cutting edge" of Chicano/Latino history in order to analyze the methods they have employed and the theoretical underpinnings of their work. It is impossible to be exhaustive in one semester, although this course should serve to point students in the direction of further reading and study. Students are encouraged to consult with Professor Sanchez to further their own particular interests. *Professor George Sanchez, Fridays, 1-3:50pm*

AMST 593: Practicum in Teaching the Liberal Arts: American Studies

Practical principles for the long term development of effective teaching within college disciplines, intended for teaching assistants in American Studies and Ethnicity. *Professor Alicia Chavez, Thursdays, 5-6:20pm*

AMST 599: Methods in American Studies and Ethnicity

This graduate seminar will impart proficiency in contemporary research methods used by American Studies and Ethnic Studies scholars. The course is grounded in the interdisciplinary methodologies which practitioners utilize to investigate the multi-faceted problems of race, immigration, urban geography, culture, power, gender, sexuality, and social justice. We will highlight American Studies approaches to oral history interviewing, ethnographic fieldwork, and archival research methods. The seminar will emphasize strategies for engaged research especially in urban settings and African Diasporic communities. However, materials, guest speakers, and assignments will be useful to graduate students working on a diverse range of intersectional ethnic and social groups including LGBTQ+, Latinx, Asian-American, and Indigenous communities. We will address questions such as: How can we utilize oral history to advance our understandings of African Diasporic communities with long-held traditions in oral culture? What are the particular ways in which American Studies scholars employ ethnographic methods including participant observation and interviewing? To what degree can an "outsider" gain membership in another

community? How do differences in positionality (i.e., race, class, gender, age) between the interviewer and the interviewee affect the oral history process? What challenges do researchers face as they attempt to prioritize the life stories of queer people, Black women, and marginalized youth? What ethical issues come into play when interviewing vulnerable subjects? The course objectives include imparting training in the following: designing a research agenda, maintaining a field journal, applying for IRB approval, and conducting and transcribing oral history interviews. We will also address concerns and debates around earning trust, conducting community-engaged research, and prioritizing critical social justice and equity issues. *Professor Oneka LaBennett, Tuesday, 2-4:50pm*

AMST 610: Interdisciplinary Research Seminar in Chicano/Latino Studies

The objective of this interdisciplinary research seminar is to produce an article that will be submitted for publication at the end of the semester. Through a series of readings, discussions, and workshops, participants in this course will survey theories, methodologies, and logistics of researching and writing an academic article. In addition to discerning recent trends in scholarship, students will learn about the peer-review process (such as selecting appropriate venues and pitching articles), and, most importantly, offer frequent, constructive feedback on their peers' research papers. This seminar will provide a collaborative environment and hopes to empower students from diverse disciplines to chart exciting new directions in Chicanx and Latinx Studies. *Professor Shawn McDaniel, Tues, 2-4:50pm*

AMST 630: Interdisciplinary Research Seminar in African American Studies

Methodological and theoretical approaches to conducting research in African American studies; design and completion of a publishable research paper. *Professor Kara Keeling, Tuesdays, 2-4:50pm*

AMST 700: Theories and Practices of Professional Development

Offers students a structured environment in which to write their dissertation proposals and focused on professional development. Completion of qualifying exam. *Professor Juan De Lara, Mondays, 5-7:50pm*

OTHER COURSES OF INTEREST

ANTH 502: Contemporary Theory in Anthropology

This is an exciting moment in the history of anthropology – a time of flux and reinvention. The discipline continues to generate new kinds of problems to study and to rethink traditional modes of carrying out fieldwork, and of representing and analyzing that field. This course begins with a look at how anthropologists have responded to the rethinking and reframing of “culture” as a core construct. This challenge induced immense reflexivity into the discipline and continues to feed current thinking even as “culture” has gained ascendance in culture studies, ethnic studies and other disciplines. Defining "visual culture" and "visual anthropology" is an ongoing project that we will examine, and students will share visual works-in-progress in their presentations to examine the theoretical questions they address. We will also look at new developments in 21st century anthropology like “an anthropology beyond the human”, multi-species ethnography, an “anthropology of life” and of movement, de-colonization the discipline as well as our own social lives, alternatives to the state, performance, and alternative sexualities.

Professor Janet Hoskins, Thursdays, 2-4:50pm, KAP 145

ANTH 562: The Practice of Ethnography (4)

Major approaches to ethnographic fieldwork are explored in classic cases. *Professor Emily Zeamer, Thursdays, 2-4:50pm*

COLT 511: Translating Race

This seminar will trace the genealogy of intersecting notions of race across imperial formations and analyze the ways in which these notions have been translated across languages and (post)colonial contexts. This seminar is an elective for the [Graduate Certificate in Translation Studies](#), housed in the Department of Comparative Literature, and is open to students in adjacent PhD programs. Knowledge of one or several languages other than English is a plus, but not required.

Professor Olivia Harrison, Wednesdays, 2-4:50pm, THH 119

COMM 649: Methodologies in Cultural Studies

Focusing on cultural studies approaches to communication, this course explicitly addresses the question: How to be cross-disciplinary without being a dilettante? This problem is at work on multiple levels of interdisciplinary scholarship, from what and how questions are posed, to the frameworks and strategies deployed to answer them, and especially to the layered professional identities cultivated to speak across different humanistic audiences. In a broad and expansive field like communication interfaced with an equally diverse approach like cultural studies, a daunting challenge faced by new/junior communication scholars is precisely how one can limn one's research and scholarly identity without silo-ing either, or how one's work can be comprehensive and legible to multiple perspectives without being conceptually messy. The course tackles this question head-on by examining texts that self-consciously cross disciplinary boundaries—texts explicitly accounting for the theoretical, technical, and political implications of such crossings. A platform for methodological thinking, this course demonstrates the challenges, provocations, and pleasures of doing the interdisciplinary work of cultural studies.

Professor Cristina Mejia Visperas, Tuesdays 12:30pm-3:20pm, ASC 328

CRIT 500: Performance Studies

What is performance? What is performance studies? This course offers an introduction to the promiscuous field of performance studies, an interdisciplinary area of study that draws from theatre studies, anthropology, sociology, art history, cultural studies, and beyond. Over the course of the semester, we will delve into readings in the history and development of this unruly field while also exploring more targeted case studies in the later half of the term. Performance Studies encourages us to think beyond fixities and hierarchies. To that end, our work this semester will also unravel the intricacies of questions of race, class, gender, and sexuality as these relate to performance and performance studies. *Professor Madison Moore, Tues, 10-1:20pm, IFT 109*

CRIT 510: History & Theory Art & Exhibition

The **History and Theory of Art and Exhibitions** seminar takes a serious look at the interrelated questions: What is art? What is curating? How does art relate to its publics? The course gives students a basic framework through which to understand the history and theory of art and the

museum, the role of the artist, and curatorial practices in relation to the interfaces between art and its publics. Examining issues in contemporary art and curatorial discourse (primarily in the Euro-American contexts, but also addressing the “global art” phenomenon), including decolonial and anti-racist as well as feminist and queer approaches, the course is tailored to introduce graduate students to a range of methodologies and theoretical issues in the fields of art, art history, art theory, art criticism, and curatorial studies. *Professor Amelia Jones, Thurs, 10-1:20pm, ATM 113A*

CTCS 500: Seminar in Film Theory

Introduction to classical and contemporary film theory; exploration of their relationship to filmic experimentation. *Cinema Lab Fee: \$75.00.*

Professor J.D. Connor, Fridays, 10-1:50pm, SCB 104

CTCS 564: Seminar in Film and Television Genres

Advanced study of a selected genre of film and/or television—its relationship to history, society, and culture, as well as to genre theory. *Cinema Lab Fee: \$75.00.*

Professor Todd Boyd, Wednesdays, 1-3:50pm, SCA 216

Wednesdays, 4-6:50pm, SCA 112

CTCS 569: Seminar in Film and Television Authors

Seminar in the style of an auteur, studio, filmmaking, or televisual mode in terms of thematic and formal properties and their influences upon the art of film and/or television. *Cinema Lab Fee: \$75.00.*

Professor Giancarlo Cornejo, Mon 10-1:50pm, SCA 316

Professor Giancarlo Cornejo, Mondays, 10-1:50pm, SCA 316

CTCS 688: Advanced Methods and Approaches

Research seminar in methods and approaches to moving image history including film, television and digital media. Focus on archival research and issues in writing history. *Cinema Lab Fee: \$75.00.*

Professor J.D. Connor, Mondays, 2-5:50pm, SCA 216

ENGL 501: History of Literary and Cultural Theory

The assumptions and practices of major theorist and theoretical schools from Plato to literary modernism. *Professor William Handley, Tuesdays, 2-4:20pm*

Professor Dana Johnson, Tuesdays, 2-4:50pm

ENGL 660: Studies in Genre

History, transformation, and theory of genre; studies in epic, lyric, drama, comedy, tragedy, the novel, biography, essay, and other forms. *Professor Elda Maria Roman, Mondays, 4:30-6:50pm*

HIST 500: Introduction to Graduate Historical Studies

Techniques, theories, and sub-disciplines of history. *Professor Aro Velvet, Mondays, 8:30-11:20am, SOS 250*

HIST 567: Readings in 19th Century US History

This reading seminar will serve as an introduction to the major questions and issues of nineteenth-century America. Many contemporary American institutions and problems originated or became entrenched during this century: industrial revolutions, slavery, immigration, westward expansion, Civil War, Reconstruction, consumer culture, “Wall Street”, public education, prisons, indigenous removals and relocations, and labor reform. In each week, we will explore the most recent trends and historiography, unpack methodology, analyze theoretical frameworks, and discuss interpretive agendas. This course is designed to prepare you to teach, research, write, and think critically about the nineteenth century United States. *Professor Celeste Menchaca, TBA*

PSYC 660: Seminar in Clinical Psychology

Selected topics in clinical psychology. *Professor Stanley Huey, Wednesdays, 2-5:50pm, SGM 1030L*

SOCI 671: Urban Sociology

Examination of theories and research on cities in the United States, examining issues such as politics, race, development, and inequality. *Professor Manuel Pastor, Time/Date/Location: TBA*