Spring 2017

AMST 530: Readings in African American Studies
TITLE: (I(N)HUMANITY This course stages a conversation between two fields—Black Studies and Posthumanism—often seen as mutually exclusive, or even as antagonists, rather than correlative or complementary. However, both fields have articulated incisive critiques of the legacy of liberal humanism’s idealization of what is ultimately a hollow conception of “the human.” As is often argued, “the human” misrecognizes the self and perpetually fails to come to terms with human vulnerability, interdependence, embodiment, finitude, and violence. Black Studies scholars and posthumanists commonly agree that such a condition of disavowal is a state of emergency for “life” writ large. Yet the motivations, aims, and genealogies of these fields typically diverge when it comes to the theorization of human difference generally, and race in particular. The course asks how might a specifically decolonial, feminist, and queer approach to the question of “the human,” objects and things, flesh and matter, and intersectionality and assemblage clarify the terms and stakes of (dis)agreement. In doing so, we will consider whether a generative theory of the human is possible. Prof. Zakiyyah Jackson, Tu 4-6:50pm

AMST 660: Interdisciplinary Research Seminar in Race and Ethnicity
This course examines material and discursive ways that space is produced, performed, and contested. Students will deploy multidisciplinary research methods to interrogate how emerging and already existing knowledges can be used to engage with and transform spatial practices. Research projects will explore the intersections between racial capitalism, radical cartographies, and revolutionary notions of collective freedom. Prof. Juan De Lara, W 2-4:50pm

AMST 701: Contemporary Theories of American Studies and Ethnicity
This seminar is an opportunity to plan, execute and complete a chapter of your dissertation. In this seminar, each participant will ideally have completed AMST 700 (the prospectus for the dissertation). In 701, each person will write a chapter of his/her doctoral dissertation in a workshop format. The seminar will entail assignments and exercises that you will help prepare you to reflect critically on the process of writing a substantial, multi-faceted, comprehensive project – the dissertation and the eventual book manuscript. You will be offered different practical approaches to the dissertation organization and writing. We aim to cultivate a supportive, intellectually rigorous and engaging atmosphere that will allow you to reflect and experiment with your writing process. Prof. Dorinne Kondo, M 4:30-6:50pm

OTHER COURSES OF INTEREST

AHIS 515: Seminar in Contemporary Art (Queer Arts and Rights)
Queer Arts and Rights: European and American Perspectives taught by Senior Fulbright Scholar, Pawel Leszkowicz. Classes will be held in the ONE Institute and Archive, room 210. Instructor Suzanne Hudson, Th 2-4:50pm
AHIS 525: Seminar in American Art  
In-depth exploration of a specified topic in the history of American art.  
Prof. Jennifer Greenhill, Tu 2-4:50pm

ANTH 502: Contemporary Theory in Anthropology  
The course looks at anthropology as a contested discipline, confronting a “crisis in representation”, postcolonial critiques and newly emerging fields like perspectivism, multi species ethnography, the “anthropology of the good”, new theories of the agency of objects, the anthropology of suffering and actor network theory.  
Prof. Janet Hoskins, Th 2-4:50pm

COMM 550: Quantitative Research Methods in Communication I  
Epistemological assumptions, design, and beginning methods of qualitative and quantitative analysis of communication research. Taught in Computer lab.  
Prof. Peter Monge, W 9-11:50am

COMM 610: Studies in Rhetorical Theory  
Problems in rhetorical theory and criticism: advanced, specialized inters tares of individual faculty on frontier of knowledge.  
Prof. Randy Lake, M 2-4:50pm

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.  
Prof. Priya Jaikumar, W 10-1:50pm

CTCS 518: Seminar: Avant-garde Film/Video  
Aesthetic, historical and ideological issues in avant-grade film and video.  
Cinema Lab fee $50.  
Prof. David James, M 1-4:50pm

CTCS 587: Seminar in Television Theory  
Detailed investigation and discussion of various aspects of television  
Prof. Tara McPherson, Tu 10-1:50pm

CTCS 673: Topics in Theory – Gender, Sexuality, and the Imagination  
This graduate seminar is designed to encourage graduate students to think creatively and well about what might be encountered under the categories of “gender” and “sexuality,” even as it aims to provide students with a context for how “gender” and “sexuality” have been thought in critical studies scholarship that is available in English. To do this, we will take up “the Imagination” both as a concept that has a history and therefore a discernible (even if contradictory) set of politics and as an injunction to create from within existing paradigms. While many of the readings on the syllabus do not explicitly address gender or sexuality, the audio-visual media on the syllabus do; thus, audio-visual media will serve as the primary cultural productions through which we will seek to understand how “gender” and “sexuality” have been formulated in different contexts and historical periods, how they might be differently configured today, and what interests various formulations have served or might be made to serve.  

This seminar is designed to introduce PhD students to a range of texts and questions that might contribute to existing scholarship on gender, sexuality, and media without regard for whether those have entered that scholarship (yet) or not. Because of this, it is not an introduction to that scholarship. It is not a survey of that scholarship, nor is it an engagement with or production of a canon. It is instead an opening to the possibility that gender, sexuality, and media might be thought otherwise.  
Prof. Kara Keeling, W 2-5:50pm.
CTCS 678: Seminar in Film Theory and Media Specify
This PhD-level seminar takes as its fundamental question what it is that renders media useful and to whom. The recent growth in interest in “educational,” sponsored, and other non-theatrical genres begs the question of how the utility of film or any other form of moving image media is determined, shaped, or foreclosed. Charles Acland and Heide Wasson write, “The concept of useful cinema does not so much name a mode of production, a genre, or an exhibition venue as it identifies a disposition, an outlook, and an approach toward a medium on the part of institutions and institutional agents.”[1] We will explore a range of media projects that are or have been considered “useful” by their makers, sponsors, or audiences including colonial films, films sponsored by both government and corporate entities, educational films, and current examples of digital media produced with the goal of affecting contemporary issues. Readings will approach the concept of “usefulness” from theoretical and historical perspectives, allowing us to assess how media technologies have been deployed to educate, convince, and promote ideas and ideologies. Our readings which will draw on post-colonial theory, critical race studies, film theory and feminist theory and case studies, which will be gathered from across time periods and locations, will help us develop our own working definitions of “useful media.” Seminar participants will be expected to produce a 20 to 25-page research paper on a topic decided on in consultation with the instructor.
Prof. Laura Serna, M 10-1:50PM

ENGL 502: Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory: Writing as an Other
What does it mean to be an other? How does the other experience her or his own self and subjectivity? What does it mean to write as an other? These are the core questions for this course, which foregrounds in particular the way that writers who are marked as other or who imagine themselves as other have dealt with issues of aesthetics, politics, economics, history, representation, publishing, and criticism. The writers who interest me are the ones who resist boundaries of all kinds—national, racial, gendered, generic, sexual, and disciplinary. Boundaries are a way of creating others and managing otherness by restricting creative, critical, and political inquiry. The writers we will read challenge multiple boundaries. Prof. Viet Nguyen, M 5:00pm-7:20pm

ENGL 591: 20th Century American Literatures and Cultures
Studies in rural and urban fictions, modernism the shift from imagism and symbolism to confessional poetry, recovered writers, hemispheric traditions, literature and kindred arts, and other topics. Prof. William Handley, Tu 4:30-6:50pm

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. Prof. Geoff Dyer, M 2-4:20pm

ENGL 630: Studies in Gender: Queer/Normativity
This graduate seminar revisits the relationship between queer texts and norms, particularly since the academic institutionalization of queer studies in the early 1990s. In recent years, queer and feminist scholars such as Robyn Wiegman and Elizabeth A. Wilson, have called for a sustained attention to norms. In the process they eschewed the “anti normative” stances they claim nearly everyone else in queer studies has adopted. A lot of ink has been spilled about this inside baseball debate between some of the contemporary players in queer studies, including tag-team responses from Bully Bloggers, Jack Halberstam and Lisa Duggan, among others. This set of conversations currently animating the field of queer studies—one that has resurfaced perpetually since Foucault, and in the more recent past, since Michael Warner’s The Trouble with Normal
(1999)—is but another iteration of the national attention to norming, normalizing and normcore aesthetics, which this seminar will also explore in depth. In addition, we will explore the possibility of queer ambivalence, in order to re-enliven the reparative, and disidentificatory practices of queer spectatorship we tend to lose amidst firmer agendas and exertions that require we pick teams and draw hard lines.

Prof. Karen Tongson, Th 4:30pm-6:50pm

**HIST 675: Seminar in 19th Century United States History**
Research in historical problems of the Antebellum, Civil War, and Post-Civil War periods.  Prof. Karen Halttunen, M 2pm-4:50pm

**POSC 648: International Human Rights Law and Policy**
Historical and contemporary consideration of human rights issues in world politics. Examination of the philosophical foundations of human rights and the institutions that enforce international standards. Prof. Alison Renteln, Tu 2-4:50pm

**SWMS 560: Feminist Theory**
History of feminist theory and major perspectives of current feminist theory: liberal feminism, socialist/Marxist feminism, radical feminism, psychological feminism, spiritual feminism and ecological feminism.  Prof. Ange-Marie Hancock, M 2-4:50pm

**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.  Instructor Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Tu 10-12:50pm

**SOCI 521L: Quantitative Methods and Statistics I**
Introduction to the logic and tools of quantitative analysis in sociology; covers the basic elements of designing research, summarizing and exploring patterns in data, and making generalizations about populations based on characteristics of samples.  Instructor Tim Biblarz, Tu 2-4:50pm

**THTR 501: Poetry and Prose into Drama**
Plays for the stage shall be written using public-domain poetry and prose as inspiration and source material, complemented with exploring poetry, prose, and varied dramas as context for the student writer.  Students should be well-versed in literature, and have written in one or more genres.  Prof. Velina Hasu Houston, M 5-7:50pm