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 567 Body, Power and Politics
This graduate seminar investigates theories, histories, knowledge and representation of the body imbricated in the nexus of power and political resistance. The course examines historical and conceptual scholarship on the relationship of body, techniques of power, representation and transformation that emerged in 18-20th centuries through epistemologies of medical and biological sciences, anthropology and criminology and institutions of clinics, exhibitions, prisons, concentration camps. In order to explore these questions, we will examine touchstone theoretical approaches to the body and power as well as scholarship on health and medicine, carceral and political struggles, performance studies, queer and transgender studies, critical race, indigenous and colonial studies. We will pay particular attention to how bodies communicate pain, give voice and testimony to the experience of violence upon the body, how defiance to domination is expressed bodily and what the impact is on persons, communities, societies and states. This seminar will explore how scholars engage with archival, ethnographic, and cultural studies methods to illuminate the vitality, viability, and subversive challenges of the human body. We will explore contexts of bodies in duress, pain, illness, and incarceration and what are the potential pathways of transformation in power relations, institutions, and movements. We will learn to produce differential analysis of both ordinary and exceptional forms of power and the human struggles for alternative, possible and transformative futures. (T 2:00-4:50pm, Prof. Nayan Shah)

AMST 580 Readings in Cultural Studies: Race and Youth Culture
This graduate seminar focuses on theoretical approaches to cultural studies with an emphasis on the analysis of race, gender, sexuality, and class vis-à-vis American youth culture. Beginning with an introductory overview of foundational interdisciplinary texts in cultural studies, the course unfolds to employ more recent works that position youth of color as critical players in the consumer realms. We will endeavor throughout to comprehend cultural studies as informed by various disciplines and how the relationship between hegemony and power is elucidated within the cultural worlds of youthful/gendered/racialized/classed social actors. Texts will include Antonio Gramsci’s The Antonio Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935; David Morley and Kuan-Hsing Chen’s Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies; Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno’s Dialectic of Enlightenment: Philosophical Fragments; Dick Hebdige’s Subculture: The Meaning of Style; José Muñoz’s Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics; Elizabeth Chin’s Purchasing Power: Black Kids and American Consumer Culture. (W 5:00-7:50pm, Prof. Oneka LaBennett)
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 archival and ethnographic research, discern recent trends in scholarship, 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—in addition to amazing guest speakers—and hopes to empower students from diverse disciplines to chart exciting new directions in Chicanx and Latinx Studies.
(W 2:00-4:50pm, Prof. Shawn McDaniel)

AMST 630: Interdisciplinary Research Seminar: African American Studies
Methodological and theoretical approaches to conducting research in African American Studies; design and completion of a publishable research paper.
(T 5:00-7:50pm, Prof. Francille Wilson)

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.  (M 4:30-6:50pm, Prof. Dorinne Kondo)

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, writing alternatives to an anthropology of the state, dreams, ghosts and alternative sexualities.
(T 2:00-4:50pm, Prof. Janet Hoskins)
COMM 519: Seminar in Cultural Studies in Communication (4)
Theoretical foundations, history, and development of cultural studies in communication. Implications of issues of nationalism, colonialism, technologies, popular culture, and politics of bodies for communication. (W 12:30-3:20pm, Prof. Henry Jenkins)

COMM 550: Quantitative Research Methods in Communication I
Epistemological assumptions, design, and beginning methods of qualitative and quantitative analysis of communication research. (Th 9:30-12:20pm, Prof. Lynn Miller)

CTCS 510: Mexican Cinema
This course surveys the history, politics, and culture of filmmaking in Mexico over the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will focus on key moments in this history: the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema, the emergence of radical filmmaking practices in the 1960s, the so-called Mexican Film Renaissance led by directors Alejandro Gonzalez Iñarritu, Guillermo del Toro, and Alfonso Cuaron, and the emergence, out of the rampant violence of recent years, of “narco-media.” Topics we will investigate include the tension between international influences and a national industry, stardom, the role of the state in media production, and popular film and independent or alternative practices. (W 10am-1:50pm, Prof. Laura Isabel Serna)

CTCS 517 Introductory Concepts in Cultural Studies
Introduction to central concepts, key theories, and/or leading figures in cultural studies, particularly as they relate to issues of popular culture and visual media. (Th 2:00-5:50pm, Prof. Nitin Govil)

CTCS 564: Seminar in Film and Television Genre
Advanced study of a selected genre of film and/or television—its relation to history, society, and culture, as well as to genre theory. (Th 10-1:50pm, Prof. Ellen Seiter)

CTCS 587: Graduate Television Seminar
Detailed investigation and discussion of various aspects of television, including genre, textual analysis, production and distribution systems and audience studies. (Tu 2:00-5:50pm, Prof. Tara McPherson)

CTCS 677: Cultural Theory
Seminar in theoretical approaches to cultural studies; focus on interdisciplinary research of media and audiences, covering a range of methods and theoretical frameworks; concentration varies. (W 10-1:50pm, Prof. Priya Jaikumar)

ENGL 504: Theories of Race, Class, and Gender: “Black Lives & 21st Century African American Literature
As static and essentialist notions of identity have been supplanted by more dynamic and fluid accounts, the task of defining blackness has never been more complicated or contested. Scholars working at the forefront of African American literary studies agree that old approaches to subjectivity and periodization can no longer offer a coherent framework for assessing contemporary black life or literature. But there really is no scholarly consensus on what it means to be black in America today or just what to call this current outpouring of African American literary production.
Viewing black existence as a generative site of inquiry, this seminar explores how recent African American writings conceptualize black identity in the 21st century. Acknowledging that there is no singular, universal black experience, this course surveys a wide range of writings to remain mindful of the sheer diversity of black life in modern America. Adopting an intersectional approach, this course examines blackness through the interlocking and overlapping lenses of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Understanding these categories as mutually constitutive forces, this seminar stresses the cumulative significance of these social constructs in the making of black subjects, aesthetics, and critical theories. (Th 2:00-4:20pm, Prof. Melissa Daniels-Rauterkus)

ENGL 610: Theory and Criticism
Studies in meaning and meaning making, form, comparative theory, theories of history and culture, theory in the classroom and other topics. (T 4:30-6:50pm, Prof. Margaret Nelson)

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 660: Studies in Genre
History, transformation, and theory of genre; studies in epic, lyric, drama, comedy, tragedy, the novel, biography, essay, and other forms. (M 4:30-6:50pm, Prof. Elda Maria Roman)

FREN 503 “Racial Modernities”
This seminar interrogates the extent to which modern conceptions of “race” are contiguous with modernity itself. Our primary frame of reference will be French literature and “la plus grande France” (France and its colonies), although we will make frequent incursions into contiguous imperial formations, particularly in considering the longue durée history of empire and the emergence of modern conceptions of race in the post-1492 world. Along the way we will consider the place of race in arguments for or against “colonial modernity” (Rabinow, Stoler) and “alternative modernities” (Dirlik, Mignolo). Was the modern conception of race formed in the colonial laboratory, or were earlier conceptions of racial difference translated in the colonial context? What is the place of race in the Enlightenment (Buck-Morss)? Is it possible to think through the history of capitalism without taking race into consideration (Rodney)? What of the transformations of race in the neoliberal era (Goldberg)? Through an interdisciplinary investigation of literary, archival, and theoretical texts, we will attempt a genealogy of “racial modernities” in France and beyond. Readings (in French and English) will include texts by Montaigne, Céline, Césaire, Sartre, and Fanon. A required course for PhD students in Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture (French and Francophone Studies), FREN 503 is open to all students who can read French at a graduate level. Please contact Dr. Olivia C. Harrison for more information: oharriso@usc.edu. M 2-4:50pm, Prof. Olivia Harrison
HIST 593: The Art of Historical Writing
An analysis of conventional forms of historical representation and the artistic and scientific challenges to them. Laboratory training in innovative dorms of historical writing will be stressed. (Th 2-4:50pm, Prof. Marjorie Becker)

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. (Th 9:30-12:20pm, Prof. Paul Lichterman)

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. (W 5:00-7:50pm, Prof. Paula Cizmar)