

# AMERICAN STUDIES (AMST)

## AMST 50: The Literature and Lore of Mining

3 Credits

Experience and values of mining tradition: survey of the literature and lore, including field research. AMST 50 The Literature and Lore of Mining (3) (GH)(BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. AMST 50 is a nontraditional approach to the humanities whose central methodology is a comparative use of literature, lore, and oral history to explore humanistic themes related to the coal mining experience and tradition regionally, nationally, and internationally. Throughout the course, knowledge about the miner and his tradition is derived and synthesized from a variety of sources. During the 15 weeks, students typically read one novel, one play, six short stories, a dozen poems, six essays and articles, and a mining culture and lore anthology. Students also view films and videos, examine historical documents, artifacts, and photos, listen to oral history tapes, and visit a coal heritage site. Central to the course is a three-week segment devoted to preparing students to conduct field research involving an interview of a miner or miner's wife. The other 12 weeks are divided equally to stress poetic, fictional, dramatic, and expository expressions of the mining experience. Students analyze and interpret information collected during the field research and make connections between the contents of the interview and the contents of the national and international literature selections assigned for class. By reading, analyzing, and discussing works of literature, students learn how the mining tradition was an inextricable part of American culture and how it played a vital role in the industrial revolution of America. Issues related to immigration, ethnicity, and the struggle between labor and management are also illuminated. Some universal themes related to the human condition to be explored are: the search for dignity, security, and justice; the struggle against the environment to achieve purpose and meaning in life; the indomitable human spirit versus resignation to fate; and the values of solidarity, brotherhood, and family relationships. Representative authors to be studied who have written about coal mining are D.H. Lawrence (England), George Orwell (England), Franz Kafka (Austria-Czech), Stephen Crane (U.S.) Alexandre Kuprine (Russia), and Emile Zola (France). After reading selections by these authors, students compare and contrast the mining tradition in the U.S. to the mining tradition in other countries, with special emphasis on the coal miner's life style, character, and values. For assessment, students will complete three exams-objective and essay in nature. They will conduct an oral history field research project, prepare three reports, and keep a journal. Class attendance and discussion of the work assigned will also be factors in evaluation. The course will fulfill a general education humanities requirement.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
General Education: Humanities (GH)

## AMST 83: First-Year Seminar in American Studies

3 Credits

Critical approaches to the interdisciplinary study of American culture. AMST 83 First-Year Seminar in American Studies (3) (GH;FYS) (BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. This course will be an open topic course in American Studies, limited to 20 students, and taught by an experienced professor. The course will be designed to provide a small, interactive learning environment for first-year students.

Each section of 83 will address a large theme or number of themes that encourage students to examine a range of assigned texts in the context of broad questions of ethical and social value. Each section of the course will focus on a well-defined body of scholarship that is topical in the discipline, such as "Civil Disobedience," "Utopian Communities, and Blacks and Jews: A Multi-Cultural Perspective." In addition to the academic topic and issues of this course, students can expect to gain a general introduction to the University as an academic community and have the opportunity to explore their responsibilities as members of that community. Students will develop an understanding of the learning tools and resources available to them, including the opportunity to develop relationships with faculty and other students who share their academic interests. Each section of the course will require active class participation from all students and a minimum of three substantial written assignments. Each of these written assignments will take one of the following forms: essay, essay exam, or a semester-long reading journal. The course fulfills a General Education humanities requirement or a Bachelor of Arts humanities requirement.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
First-Year Seminar  
General Education: Humanities (GH)

## AMST 100: Introduction to American Studies

3 Credits

AMST 100 offers a broad-ranging introduction to American cultural history and the discipline of American Studies. The course examines what "America" means and what it means to be "American" within the context of specific topics that may include Social Class and American Dream, Nature and Wilderness, Consumer Culture, Holidays and Festivals, Childhood and Education, Youth Culture, Popular Amusements, Racial Identity, and the Immigrant Experience. All iterations of the course employ the interdisciplinary method of American Studies to explore the chosen topic in a holistic way. Students study not only history but also art, literature, politics, folklife, and film. American Studies 100 is a requirement for the American Studies major and minor, and offers students valuable experience in critical thinking and writing. Non-American Studies majors and minors may use this course to fulfill General Education or Bachelor of Arts requirements. The course also serves as preparation for more advanced courses in American Studies, American Literature, and American History.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
GenEd Learning Objective: Effective Communication  
GenEd Learning Objective: Integrative Thinking

## AMST 100Y: Introduction to American Studies

3 Credits

A study of selected attempts to identify and interpret movements and patterns in American culture. AMST100Y Introduction to American Studies (3) (GH)(BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. AMST 100 is a broad-ranging introduction to American culture. While specific topics may vary from class to class, the course examines what "America" means and what it means to be "American." These issues will be examined from a variety of perspectives: literature, history, politics, film, race, gender, and geography. The course is often

broken down into discussion sections to facilitate student discussion of the material and the lecture. Requirements generally include community service projects, and students will be evaluated on essay tests, papers, journal entries and attendance. AMST 100 (or AMST 105) is a requirement for the American Studies major and minor, and offers students valuable experience in critical thinking, analysis, and writing. Non-American Studies majors and minors may use this course to fulfill a general education or Bachelor of Arts-Humanities credits. The course offers students a broad introduction to American culture, also serves as preparation for more advanced courses in American studies, American literature, and American history, in particular.

**Prerequisite:** third-semester standing  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
Writing Across the Curriculum

#### AMST 103: American Masculinities

3 Credits

Introduction to aspects of masculinities and manhood in America. This course examines aspects of masculinities and manhood in America from a variety of perspectives. It views American manhood through the lens of gender, and presents ideas on the ways that issues of masculinity and sexuality enter, or have entered, discourses of politics, literature, and medicine, among others. It takes up discussion of the varieties of masculinities in American experience across historical periods, regions, racial groups, and ethnicities. Students will view these forms of masculinities in different media, including film, art, folklore, media, advertising, and literature.

United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
GenEd Learning Objective: Crit and Analytical Think  
GenEd Learning Objective: Integrative Thinking

#### AMST 104: Women and the American Experience

3 Credits

Selected aspects of the role of women in United States history and culture from colonial to modern times. AMST 104 / WMNST 104 Women and the American Experience (3) (GH;US)(BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. AMST 104 / WMNST 104 is a broad-ranging introduction to women in American culture. While specific topics may vary from class to class, the course examines the history and literature of American women, paying particular attention to issues of race and diversity. Students will be evaluated on essay tests, papers, journal entries, and attendance. The course offers students valuable experience in critical thinking, analysis, and writing. The course offers students a broad introduction to American women's issues, and so serves as preparation for more advanced courses in American studies, American literature, American women's history, and Women's studies. AMST 104 / WMNST 104 counts towards the American Studies major and minor and the Women's Studies major and minor. Non-American Studies majors and minors may use this course to fulfill a general education humanities (GH) or Bachelor of Arts humanities credit requirements.

Cross-listed with: WMNST 104  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
United States Cultures (US)

General Education: Humanities (GH)

#### AMST 105: American Popular Culture and Folklife

3 Credits

Survey of popular culture, folklife, and ethnicity, synthesizing material from such areas as literature, media, entertainment, print, music, and film. AMST 105 / ENGL 105 American Popular Culture and Folklife (3) (GH;US) (BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. AMST 105 / ENGL 105 covers a broad scope of materials, which may range from early to contemporary American folk and popular cultures. While selected topics for reading and discussion often vary from class to class, all courses focus on a critical examination of a variety of popular and folk cultures in order to produce an enriched understanding of America and its inhabitants. To meet this goal, popular and folk cultures will be examined from a variety of perspectives, including literature, history, politics, film, race, gender, class, and geography. Course requirements frequently include: essay exams, papers, journal entries, vigorous class discussion, and course talk participation. Technology is often incorporated into the class well, this course (or AMST 100) is a requirement for the American Studies major and minor, and offers students valuable experience in critical thinking, analysis, and writing. Non-American Studies majors and minors may use this course to fulfill a general education or Bachelor of Arts/Humanities credit. AMST 105 / ENGL 105 serves as a broad introduction to American popular and folk cultures as well as interpretive strategies relevant to the study of cultures and individuals. The course, as a result, provides preparation for more advanced courses in American studies, American literature, and American history.

Cross-listed with: ENGL 105  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)

#### AMST 106N: The Mass Media and Society

3 Credits

Mass communications in the United States: organization, role, content, and effects of newspapers, magazines, television, radio, books, and films. The Mass Media and Society is an overview of the interaction between mass media and society. By drawing from selected topics, the course pays particular attention to the social influences (e.g., economics, politics, technology, law and culture) that shape media messages. Among others, the course examines the nature of media controllers as well as the character of users and consumers of media products. By so doing, students are informed about the overall structure and scope of the mass media and led to understand the power and influences associated with media messages and practices. By the end of the semester, each student should have a better understanding of the dynamic nature of the mass media in an information society.

Cross-listed with: COMM 100N  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
Bachelor of Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences  
International Cultures (IL)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
General Education: Social and Behavioral Scien (GS)  
General Education - Integrative: Interdomain  
GenEd Learning Objective: Crit and Analytical Think

GenEd Learning Objective: Global Learning  
GenEd Learning Objective: Integrative Thinking

AMST 134: American Comedy

3 Credits

Studies in American comedy and satire, including such writers as Mark Twain, Faulkner, Vonnegut, Ellison, O'Connor, Welty, and Heller.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
General Education: Humanities (GH)

AMST 135: Alternative Voices in American Literature

3 Credits

United States writers from diverse backgrounds offering varying responses to issues such as race, class, gender, and ethnicity.

Cross-listed with: ENGL 135  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)

AMST 140: Religion in American Life and Thought

3 Credits

The function, contributions, tensions, and perspectives of religion in American culture.

Cross-listed with: RLST 140  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
Writing Across the Curriculum

AMST 150: America in the 1960s: An Introduction

3 Credits

This course offers an introduction to the history of the United States in the 1960s. The dual goals of this course are to instill a particular body of knowledge - in this case, America in the 1960s, and to provide students with tools that will help formulate interpretations of this crucial period in U.S. history. Topics covered will include the leadership of John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon; the struggle for civil rights for people of color; the emergence of student movements across the country; the steady escalation of US involvement in Vietnam; shifting relations across gender lines, and particularly the rise of the modern feminist movement; and, finally, the growing influence of popular culture, such as music, literature, and film.

Cross-listed with: HIST 150  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
GenEd Learning Objective: Integrative Thinking  
GenEd Learning Objective: Key Literacies

AMST 150N: Western Pennsylvania Art, Literature, and Culture

3 Credits

AMST 150N: Western Pennsylvania Art, Literature, and Culture (GA/GH) will survey western Pennsylvania's rich artistic, literary, and cultural heritage from pre-history to the present day. Beginning with the region's indigenous cultures and earliest settlements, the course will examine the important artists, individuals, and organizations that figured in the development of western Pennsylvania's literary and artistic culture, the important role philanthropy and industry played in that development, and how these artists, organizations, and individuals relate to historical movements across the United States. The course will be divided into six units, and each unit will explore a variety of artists and genres, including architecture, literature, music, painting, photography, and sculpture. Individuals and their works to be discussed may include but are not limited to, among others, architects Frederick J. Osterling, Henry Hobson Richardson, and Frank Lloyd Wright, authors Hugh Henry Breckenridge, Rachel Carson, Willa Cather, Annie Dillard, John Edgar Wideman, and August Wilson, musicians Art Blakey, Billy Eckstine, and Stephen Foster, painters John White Alexander, Mary Cassatt, H.O. Tanner, and Andy Warhol, photographers Charles "Teenie" Harris and W. Eugene Smith, and sculptors Glenn Kaino and Thaddeus Mosley. During the last unit, particular attention all be paid to western Pennsylvania's dynamic contemporary art and literary scenes. The course will also discuss numerous individuals, groups, locations, and organizations that figured prominently in the region's cultural heritage. Topics to be discussed may include, among others, Andrew Carnegie, Martin Delaney, Henry Clay Frick, H. J. Heinz, Andrew Mellon, Henry Phipps, and Jane Grey Swisshelm, the Carnegie Music Hall, Library, and Art Gallery, Pittsburgh's Exposition Hall, the Scalp Level School of painters, the Carnegie International Art Show and directors John Beatty and Homer Saint-Gaudens, the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, newspapers "The Mystery" and "The Pittsburgh Courier," and the Crawford Grill. Depending upon the individual instructor, students may visit at several regional sites, including but not limited to the Andy Warhol Museum, the Carnegie Art Gallery, the Carrie Furnace, the Frick Museum, the Heinz History Center, the Rachel Carson Homestead, the Mattress Factory, and the Silver Eye Center for Photography. The class is a General Education Interdomain course for GH/GA and United States Cultures (US) course.

**Recommended Preparations:** ENGL 15  
United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Arts (GA)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
General Education - Integrative: Interdomain  
GenEd Learning Objective: Effective Communication  
GenEd Learning Objective: Crit and Analytical Think  
GenEd Learning Objective: Integrative Thinking

AMST 160: Introduction to Asian American Studies

3 Credits

An introduction to the history, literature, and culture of Asian America.

Cross-listed with: AAS 100  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)

## AMST 196: Introduction to American Folklore

3 Credits

A basic introduction to verbal and non-verbal folklore stressing the basic procedures of collection, classification, and analysis. AMST 196 / ENGL 196 Introduction to American Folklore (3) (GH;US)(BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. English 196 is an introduction to the verbal and nonverbal folk traditions characteristic of several American subcultures, including Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, African Americans, and immigrants. It will cover important genres of folklore, including folk speech, folk narrative, beliefs and religious experiences, use of space, and material culture. Topics under consideration will include ethnicity and cultural identity, the ways in which verbal and material cultures have influenced the literary, political, and economic development of the United States. Students will learn strategies for "reading" and valuing the folklore of subcultures other than their own. This class will prepare students to be able to perform well in future courses that deal with analyzing written, oral, and nonverbal texts and being able to analyze their significance within the subculture that produced them. By the end of the course, students will be able to recognize the cultural, political, and historical implications of such traditions. Additionally, they will have received first-hand practice in compiling a fieldwork project from first-hand interviews and site observations, combined with archival research. Students will be evaluated on the basis of class discussion, oral presentation and group exercises, in-class examinations, and a fieldwork portfolio, based on the fieldnotes, research, and analysis done as part of their project. This course may be used by English majors for English Major elective credit or as credit toward the English Minor, and (as AMST 196) also by American Studies majors in the same way. Non majors may use this course to fulfill a general education or Bachelor of Arts Humanities requirement. ENGL 196 will be offered twice a year with 60 seats per offering.

Cross-listed with: ENGL 196  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)

## AMST 197: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject that may be topical or of special interest.

## AMST 197B: Special Topics - InterDomain

3 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal course given on a topical or special interest subject offered infrequently; several different topics may be taught in one year or semester. This Special Topics is an Inter-Domain GA/GH GenEd course

General Education: Arts (GA)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
General Education - Integrative: Interdomain

## AMST 199: Foreign Studies

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Courses offered in foreign countries by individual or group instruction.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
International Cultures (IL)

## AMST 226N: Critical Approaches to Hip-Hop

3 Credits

This course will examine the politics of hip-hop art and culture. To do so, we will place hip-hop in broad historical context and trace its aesthetic and cultural roots from Africa to Jamaica to 1970s New York City and then forward to 1980s gangsta rap and former President Barack Obama's iPod. We will think through the implications of hip-hop's addiction to Italian-American mobsters, bling, and all-things keepin' it real. We will also search for hip-hop's political foundations in funk records, 1960s community organizing, and poetry of the Harlem Renaissance. All the while, we will analyze the varieties of hip-hop politics by paying close attention to how hip-hoppers vie for authenticity, recognition, and power through cultural practices—b-boying/girling, graffiti art, emceeing, djing, e.g.-at odds with the State, inequality, and injustice. We will also situate hip-hop politics within the ongoing history of American social movements. To avoid over-romanticizing, we will equally examine hip-hop's appetite for conspicuous consumption, misogyny, homophobia, trappin', and criminality. A deep understanding of hip-hop politics, then, requires examining its contradictions as well as the ways race, class, gender, sexuality, and geography shape hip-hop—and therefore American-culture, art, and identity. To get at these and other ideas, we will read, listen, and think broadly about why a full understanding of hip-hop truly matters.

**Recommended Preparations:** AMST 100; AFAM 126; INART 126  
General Education: Arts (GA)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
General Education - Integrative: Interdomain  
GenEd Learning Objective: Effective Communication  
GenEd Learning Objective: Crit and Analytical Think  
GenEd Learning Objective: Integrative Thinking

## AMST 294: Research Project

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Supervised student activities on research projects identified on an individual or small-group basis.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 295: Internship

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Supervised off-campus, nongroup instruction including field experiences, practica, or internships. Written and oral critique of activity required.

**Prerequisite:** prior approval of proposed assignment by instructor  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 296: Independent Studies

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Creative projects, including research and design, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 297: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject which may be topical or of special interest.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 307: American Art

3 Credits

History of art in the English colonies and the United States from the seventeenth century to the present. AMST 307 / ARTH 307 American Art (3) (GA;US)(BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. American art, from the colonial period to the present, is examined through paintings, sculpture, buildings, prints and photographs, as well as exhibitions and national/world fairs. The class places special emphasis upon the predicament of national identity by examining the ways in which the very notion of the "American" has historically been highly contested. Special points of emphasis include: negotiations between indigenous, colonial and European artistic styles, representations of and by displaced populations (colonial subjects, Native Americans, African Americans), myths of the American landscape, the cult of domesticity and the gendering of American citizenry, later transatlantic experiences of expatriate artists, conflicts between urban and rural conceptualizations of the "typical" American experience, the role of the American avant-garde after World War II, and debates over federal funding for the arts. The course is designed to meet two principal goals. The first is to increase students' powers of visual analysis and help them build a critical vocabulary for discussing an art object's medium, composition, style, and iconography. The second is to foster an understanding of the deep implication of the visual arts in their social and cultural contexts. The course therefore involves significant material relating to political, economic and religious issues. It investigates problems in patronage, function, reception and censorship. It considers such intra- and cross-cultural issues as representations of gender. Requirements include essay exams and at least one paper. As a general education course in the arts, this course provides an introduction to American art to a student of any major. This course has no prerequisite and presumes no prior exposure to fine art. Students majoring in Art History will learn both the common vocabulary of the field and the outlines of the field that form the foundation for the future study.

Cross-listed with: ARTH 307  
Bachelor of Arts: Arts  
United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Arts (GA)

## AMST 308: American Architecture

3 Credits

History of the architecture of the United States, as well as its Native American and colonial antecedents. AMST 308 / ARTH 308 American Architecture (3) (GA;US)(BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. This Art History course (cross-listed with American Studies) will cover the history of American architecture and will examine such topics as the architecture of: Native Americans, Spanish Colonial missions, 17th-century Virginia, Puritan New England, Georgian America, Southern Plantations and Slave Cabins, Thomas Jefferson, the new federal city of Washington, D.C., the Greek Revival, the industrial

revolution, utopian religious communities such as the Shakers, Gothic Revival cottages and villas, Victorian Philadelphia, Henry Hobson Richardson, Newport mansions, the birth of the skyscraper in New York and Chicago, the City Beautiful Movement, Frank Lloyd Wright, Arts & Crafts California, Henry Ford's Michigan, Art Deco New York, Mies van der Rohe, Levittown, Disneyland, Louis I. Kahn, Post-Modernism, Frank Gehry, and Green Buildings. Selected major buildings, architects, ideas, and urban developments will be emphasized. Architecture will be considered within the contexts of religion, politics, philosophy, culture, economics, gender, race, society, technology, engineering, landscape architecture, urban planning and interior design. This introductory survey has no prerequisite and is intended for both students of architecture/art and students unfamiliar with the field.

Cross-listed with: ARTH 308  
Bachelor of Arts: Arts  
United States Cultures (US)  
General Education: Arts (GA)

## AMST 309N: American Material Culture

3 Credits

This course covers American material culture defined as the interconnection of tangible, human-made forms in contexts representing cultural ideas and practices. It investigates the links of genres such as architecture, art, craft, dress, and food to one another in natural and social contexts such as landscapes, communities, and oceans. The spaces examined can be small, such as a desk, and analyzed ethnographically and historically. They can also be larger such as the built environment of suburbia and its symbolic meaning between city and country. Students identify aspects of form, construction, and use in such spaces and the patterns they express, including regional, ethnic, gender, religious, and class associations. The spaces can be "real" such as the house and body, and virtual, such a representation of environments that users build or that appear in video games. The course has a goal of analyzing cultural meanings and influences of material environments people create on human selves and their society.

Bachelor of Arts: Arts  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
International Cultures (IL)  
General Education: Arts (GA)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
General Education - Integrative: Interdomain  
GenEd Learning Objective: Crit and Analytical Think  
GenEd Learning Objective: Global Learning

## AMST 400: Early America to 1765

3 Credits

American society and culture in the colonial period. AMST 400 Early America to 1765 (3) A study of early American history and culture from the Columbian encounter to the end of the colonial period in America. The course covers the results of contact between Native American civilizations and Europeans, forms of government and community that emerged in America, the formation of an American identity, and the creation of a distinctive, expanding American cultural landscape. The course satisfies the "area" requirement in history for undergraduate majors in American Studies, and is open to all majors.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in American Studies or History

## AMST 401: Revolution and Early Republic, 1765-1815

3 Credits

American society and culture during the period of the Revolution and the Early Republic. AMST 401 Revolution and Early Republic 1765-1815 (3) American society and culture during the period of the Revolution and Early Republic. The course satisfies the "area" requirement in history for undergraduate majors in American Studies, and is open to all majors. An objective of the course is for students to understand the significance of this formative period on the emergence of the United States as a nation. Students will examine the mythology of the Revolution as well as its historical record. They will consider the development of social and political institutions in the early years of the new nation, including the creation of pivotal texts of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits of American Studies or History or 5th semester standing

## AMST 402: Antebellum and Civil War Era, 1815-1876

3 Credits

Social and cultural conditions, sectional rivalry, political crises, warfare, and Reconstruction from 1815 to 1876.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in American Studies or History

## AMST 404: Industrial America

3 Credits

An analysis of American politics, literature, society, and economics from the 1870s to World War II.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits of American Studies or History

## AMST 405: Cold War

3 Credits

Examination of social and cultural currents in American life from World War II to 1990. AMST 405 Cold War America (3) Examination of social and cultural currents in American life after World War II to 1990. The course satisfies the "area" requirement in history for undergraduate majors in American Studies, and is open to all majors. Students will analyze the way that the confrontation between communist superpowers and the United States shaped politics, culture, and society. Among the events discussed are the nuclear bomb, space and arms race, Kennedy assassination, Watergate scandal, and Korean and Vietnam wars. The cultural expression of the period in film, television, literature, music, and art will be analyzed.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits of American Studies or History

## AMST 412: American Eras

3 Credits/Maximum of 99

Examination in depth of various and distinctive American time periods; subtitle expresses specific content. (May be repeated for credit.) AMST 412 American Eras (3) Examination in depth of various and distinctive American time periods. The subtitle expresses specific content. May be repeated for credit. The course satisfies the "area" requirement in history for undergraduate majors in American Studies and is open to all majors. The course covers periods or eras in American

history that are not covered or emphasized in other courses. Some eras to be studied are the Great Depression, World War II, and 1960s. In addition to analyzing major events of the period, students will consider social and cultural developments.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits of American Studies or History

## AMST 417: American Beliefs and Myths

3 Credits/Maximum of 99

A study of symbols, beliefs, and myths in the American experience; subtitles express specific content. (May be repeated for credit.)

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits of American Studies

## AMST 422: Religion and American Culture

3 Credits/Maximum of 6

Selected topics, problems, or historical movements in American religion; relation between religion and American culture.

Cross-listed with: RLST 422

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 423: Folk Groups and Genres

3 Credits

We live surrounded by folklore. From the jokes and stories we tell, to the ways we cook and eat, work and dress, even how we interact using digital media, much of what we do in our lives involves tradition. This course will provide students with detailed study of American folklore through an in-depth focus on a specific social group or creative genre. Topics covered may include group-based material such as ethnic folklore; the folklore of age groups; folklore, gender and sexuality; and occupational folklore; as well as units on genre categories such as folk narrative (folktale, legend, myth), verbal genres (proverbs, rhymes, jokes), customary forms (parades, festivals, dancing, games), material culture (dress, folk art, foodways), and musical forms (folk song, folk music). At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to explain key concepts in the study of folklore such as tradition, folk group, genre, performance, and practice, as well as how these concepts can be applied in the analysis and interpretation of culture. Students will also develop practical skills in ethnography, including participant observation, interviewing, audio and video recording, field note taking, fieldwork ethics, and folklore archiving. As part of this course, students will undertake a significant ethnographic research project, culminating in a comprehensive portfolio of field materials and an analytical or interpretive paper.

**Prerequisite:** (AMST 105; or ENGL 105) and (AMST 196; or ENGL 196)

## AMST 430: Women in American Society

3 Credits

A historical study of women's roles and experiences in the United States.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits of American Studies, Sociology, or Women's Studies

Cross-listed with: WMNST 430

United States Cultures (US)

## AMST 432: Ethnicity and the American Experience

3 Credits

Theoretical and conceptual framework of ethnic studies: examination of specific issues related to major American ethnic and racial groups.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 435: Americans at Work

3 Credits

A study of occupational and organizational cultures in America. AMST 435 Americans at Work (3) A study of occupational and organizational cultures in America. The course examines historical and social changes in primary occupations of Americans, including agriculture, crafts and trades, mining and trapping, maritime, manufacturing, corporate, and service and information work. The role of unionism, individualism, and mobility in shaping attitudes toward work will be examined. Students will learn techniques of ethnography and historical analysis to interpret images of work in American society. Evaluation includes application of historical analysis and ethnographic observation of Americans at work in written essays, and two examinations.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in American Studies or Labor and Industrial Relations, or Sociology

## AMST 439: American Regional Cultures

3-6 Credits/Maximum of 6

An interdisciplinary study of the culture of a region of the United States, such as the south or the west.

**Prerequisite:** seventh-semester standing  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 441: History of Sport in American Society

3 Credits

Background, establishment, and growth of sport in America from colonial times to the present. AMST 441 / KINES 441 History of Sport in American Society (3) Study of the background, establishment, and growth of sport in America from colonial times to the present, and the role of American sports in American culture and society. The course will examine the ways that sports have operated in the United States as the country has developed into a modern, mass society. Issues of national identity, commercialism, race, ethnicity, class, and gender will be discussed in relation to the popularity of sports. Another set of issues will center on language and media; students will employ methods of analysis such as ethnography and rhetorical criticism that emphasize the multiple layers of meaning inherent in sports culture.

**Enforced Prerequisite at Enrollment:** KINES 100 or KINES 341 or COMM 170 or RPTM 120 or HIST 113 or ENGL 234 or AFAM 114 or ASIA 101N or CAMS 142 or 6 credits of AMST or 6 credits of HIST or (3 credits in AMST and CAMS 142)

Cross-listed with: KINES 441  
United States Cultures (US)

## AMST 447: Recent American History

3 Credits/Maximum of 3

Contemporary economic, social, and political aspects of the United States and its role as a world power since 1945. AMST 447 / HIST 447 Recent American History (3) This course covers the history of the United States from the end of World War II to the present. Topics include but are not limited to the Marshall Plan, the Cold War, the Korean War, the rise of television, atomic power, the Eisenhower presidency, the Civil Rights and Women's Movements, the Vietnam War and protests, the space race, Watergate, the Reagan presidency, the two Iraq Wars, the Dot-com revolution, 9-11 and the War on Terror, and the Obama presidency. While addressing major historical movements, the course will also explore the culture of the period - art, literature, music, sports, television, religion, and film. Even though the course covers a relatively short span of years, students will see that American society has undergone dramatic changes in this period as the result of social movements, immigration, wars, political scandal, and technological innovation. The course will close by speculating on the current direction of the United States in light of the serious challenges the nation faces.

**Prerequisite:** HIST 021 , 3 additional credits in history, economics, or political science

Cross-listed with: HIST 447  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
United States Cultures (US)

## AMST 448: Ethnography of the United States

3 Credits

Ethnographic descriptions of various dimensions of life in the United States. ANTH 448 / AMST 448 Ethnography of the United States (3) Ethnographic descriptions of various dimensions of life in the United States. The course covers uses of ethnography in American Studies toward an understanding of social and cultural communication and performance. The application of ethnography and concepts of cultural anthropology to complex societies such as the United States is discussed. The course teaches students to use ethnographic methods for research of American society and culture. Attention is given to the ethics and issues of ethnographic fieldwork. The course satisfies the "area" requirement in "society" for American Studies majors.

**Prerequisite:** ANTH 045  
Cross-listed with: ANTH 448

## AMST 451: Topics in American Film

3 Credits/Maximum of 6

Critical and historical studies of American films. Analysis of directing, cinematography, editing, screenwriting, and acting.

**Enforced Prerequisite at Enrollment:** COMM 250  
Cross-listed with: COMM 451

## AMST 462: American Art and Architecture of the 20th Century

3 Credits

A survey of American painting, sculpture, decorative arts, and architecture of the twentieth century.

## AMST 470: The American Renaissance

3 Credits

Studies in the works and the interrelationships of writers such as Emerson, Hawthorne, Poe, Thoreau, Whitman, Melville, and Dickinson. The course will cover Transcendentalism and the authors who contributed to this movement, many of whom lived in Concord, MA. Though the class will feature the works of Emerson, Hawthorne, and Thoreau, it can also branch out to address other authors such as Margaret Fuller, Jones Very, and Elizabeth Peabody. Departing from Concord, the course will explore Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, both of whom read and were inspired by Emerson. Finally, the course will include works by Herman Melville, who formed a friendship with Hawthorne prior to writing *Moby-Dick*. Though literature constitutes the center piece of this course, iterations of the course may bring in other parts of the cultural, social, and political landscape: slavery, abolitionism, Jacksonian Democracy, western settlement, art, science, and technology.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 015 or ENGL 030

Cross-listed with: ENGL 430

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 472: Topics in American Literature

3 Credits/Maximum of 99

Focused study of a particular genre, theme, or problem in American literature. (May be repeated for credit.) ENGL 434 / AMST 472 Topics in American Literature (3) This course will allow faculty and students to focus a semester's study on a particular genre, theme, or problem in American literature. The flexibility of a topics course will allow faculty a forum in which to share current scholarship or to relate issues in American literature to larger school-wide themes in a classroom environment. Because of the potential variety of topics and faculty members, specific evaluation methods will be determined by the instructor and specified in the syllabus. The course will be offered once every two years with an expected enrollment of 25 students. The course satisfies the "area" requirement in culture for American Studies majors.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits of ENGL, ENLSH, or LIT

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 475: Black American Writers

3 Credits/Maximum of 6

A particular genre or historical period in the development of Black American literature. ENGL 431 / AMST 475 Black American Writers (3) (US) A study of a particular genre or historical period in the development of Black American literature. This course will allow faculty and students to focus a semester's study on a particular genre, theme, or problem in African-American literature. The flexibility of the course will allow faculty a forum in which to share current scholarship or to relate issues in African-American literature to larger school-wide themes in a classroom environment. Because of the potential variety of topics and faculty members, specific evaluation methods will be determined by the instructor and specified in the syllabus. The course will be offered once every two years with an expected enrollment of 25 students. The course satisfies the "area" requirement in culture for American Studies majors.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 015 or ENGL 030

Cross-listed with: ENGL 431

## Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 476: American Women Writers

3 Credits

A study of selected American women writers. ENGL 492 / AMST 476 / WMNST 491 American Women Writers (3) A study of selected women writers, this course provides the opportunity to study writing by American women from an historical perspective and to explore the views these women have of themselves as artists. The course will concentrate on a careful reading of works by a variety of authors. It will raise the question of the role that gender—as well as other differences such as race, class, and ethnicity—play in the selection of literary forms and the development of character, theme, symbol, and rhetorical strategy. It will also explore the dimensions American women have brought to the American literary tradition. The course satisfies the area requirement in culture for American Studies majors and is open to all majors meeting the prerequisite requirements. The course will be offered once every two years and enrollment is 25.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits of ENGL

Cross-listed with: ENGL 492, WMNST 491

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 479: American Expressive Forms

3 Credits/Maximum of 99

Examination in depth of various and distinctive American expressive forms; subtitle expresses specific content. (May be repeated for credit.) AMST 479 American Expressive Forms (3) Examination in depth of various and distinctive American expressive forms. The subtitle expresses specific content. May be repeated for credit. The course satisfies the "area" requirement in culture for undergraduate majors in American Studies, and is open to all majors. The course covers periods or eras in American history that are not covered or emphasized in other courses. Some expressive forms to be studied are American essays, American humor, and American films. In addition to analyzing the traditions and patterns of these forms, students will consider the historical, social, and cultural context of these forms in the American experience.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in American Studies

## AMST 480: Museum Studies

3 Credits

An introduction to the basic purposes, philosophies, and functions of a museum, with emphasis on the problems of museum administration. (May be repeated for credit.) AMST 480 Museum Studies (3) An introduction to the basic purposes, philosophies, and functions of a museum, with emphasis on the problems of museum administration. The course examines applications of American Studies to mechanics of operation and development of core services including exhibits, structured educational programs, and special events. The course places these functions within the philosophy of the "experience economy," whereby museums and historical organizations are challenged to meet expectations of an increasingly sophisticated audience.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in American Studies



## AMST 481: Historic Preservation

3 Credits

A study of preservation practices and programs in America. AMST 481 Historic Preservation (3) A study of historic preservation practices and programs in America. This seminar will examine the historic preservation movement in the United States, including its history, function, and practice. Its role in government, economic development, and community and regional planning will be discussed. The ways that American studies scholarship has influenced historic preservation will be considered.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in American Studies

## AMST 482: Public Heritage Practices

3 Credits/Maximum of 99

A study of public heritage practices and programs in America. (May be repeated for credit.) AMST 482 Public Heritage (3) A study of public heritage practices and programs, which encompasses interpretation and education projects in American history and culture, disseminated through institutions to the general public. The areas under public heritage include the practices and programs of museums, expositions and fairs, archives, historical and cultural agencies, government bureaus, foundations, community organizations, magazines, films, festivals, and computer sites. The course traces the changes that have occurred in the public heritage movement, especially the ways that American Studies scholarship has been distilled through various public institutions and programs.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in American Studies

## AMST 491: American Themes, American Eras

3-6 Credits/Maximum of 6

Interdisciplinary American culture course on major themes and eras such as the American Revolutionary Era or the 1930s.

**Prerequisite:** seventh-semester standing  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
Writing Across the Curriculum

## AMST 491W: American Studies Perspectives

3-6 Credits/Maximum of 6

This writing-intensive course covers perspectives and approaches of American Studies scholarship regarding themes, issues, and problems in American culture and their applications in society. It serves as a capstone course for American Studies majors who are required to take two sections on different themes, issues, and problems. It is open to other majors seeking exposure to the interdisciplinary methods and concepts of American Studies in addition to interpretative explorations of American society and culture. Examples of themes, issues, and problems that are covered in the course and represent key concepts in American Studies include "The American Dream," "Nature and Wilderness in American Culture," "The American Way of War," and "American Borders and Frontiers in the American Imagination." Methods that are typically covered include rhetorical/symbolic analysis, ethnography of cultural scenes, and comparative analysis of a cultural collection. Concepts include American exceptionalism, colonialism, materialism, individualism, and consumerism in a global context. A variety of evidence is typically used in the course including historical documents, literature, artifacts, oral expressions, photographs and graphics, and popular film and

television. The course includes exposure to applications of American Studies knowledge in various institutions and careers such as museums and heritage organizations, government, communications, and education.

**Prerequisite:** seventh-semester standing  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
Writing Across the Curriculum

## AMST 493: The Folktale in American Literature

3 Credits

A survey of the literary uses of the folktale and legendary materials, with particular concentration on the literature of America.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 015 or ENGL 030  
Cross-listed with: ENGL 493  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 494: Research Project

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Supervised student activities on research projects identified on an individual or small-group basis.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 494H: Research Project

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Supervised student activities on research projects identified on an individual or small-group basis.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
Honors

## AMST 495: Internship

1-6 Credits/Maximum of 6

Supervised internship for undergraduate or graduate American Studies majors at a museum or another cultural, historical, or arts agency.

**Prerequisite:** senior-level status for undergraduate students; 18 credits of course work in major for graduate students; approval of program required

## AMST 496: Independent Studies

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Creative projects, including research and design, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

## AMST 497: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject which may be topical or of special interest.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

AMST 499: Foreign Studies

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Courses offered in foreign countries by individual or group instruction.

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
International Cultures (IL)