AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES

FALL 2004

AMST 71.10  Introduction to American Studies  Murphy
CRN# 82785  MW 2:20 – 3:10pm  1957 E B12

Course Description:
This course will examine how American culture has evolved since the first contact between European and Indians. We will examine the inter-relationship between intellectual and economic change as well as the impact of ideas about race and gender on American social life. We will also consider the extent to which we should speak of a unified American culture or different American cultures. This course will use an interdisciplinary approach to study these issues, drawing on art, artifacts, literary texts, and historical documents.

Discussion Sections:
AMST 71.3  STAFF
CRN# 82786  R 10:00 -10:50am  P 201
AMST 71.31  STAFF
CRN# 82787  R 11:00-11:50am  P 201
AMST 71.32  STAFF
CRN# 82788  R 12:00-12:50pm  P 201
AMST 71.33  STAFF
CRN# 82789  R 01:00-01:50pm  P 201
AMST 71.34  STAFF
CRN# 82790  R 12:45-01:35pm  1957 E 111
AMST 71.35  STAFF
CRN# 82791  R 02:20-03:10pm  1957 E 111

AMST 139.80  Women in the United States  Murphy
CRN# 85068  MW 9:35-10:25am  MPA 309

Course Description:
This course will examine the history of women in the United States from pre-Columbian settlement until Reconstruction. We will pay particular attention to the ways in which gender has been an important component in the construction of power relationships; the ways in which issues of race and class have affected the relationships among women; and the ways in which ideas about gender have evolved during the past several centuries.

Discussion Sections:
AMST 139.81  STAFF
CRN# 86218  W 11:00 -11:50am  P 201
AMST 139.82  STAFF
CRN# 86219  W 12:10-01:00pm  P 201
AMST 139.83  STAFF
CRN# 86220  W 01:10-02:00pm  P 201
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>CRN#</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>AMST 165.80</td>
<td>Introduction to Folklore</td>
<td>Vlach</td>
<td>86243</td>
<td>TR 11:10 –12:25pm</td>
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<td>the major forms of traditional</td>
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<td>expressive culture in the United States.</td>
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<td>Examples are drawn from various folk</td>
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<td>artifactual, and performance genres</td>
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<td>such as folktalees, crafts, and music.</td>
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<td>The primary objectives and</td>
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<td>techniques of folklore scholarship</td>
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<td>will be discussed and illustrated</td>
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<td>lectures and discussion of readings,</td>
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<td>documentary films and videos, and</td>
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<td>presentations by visiting experts and</td>
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<td>folk artists. Same as ANTH 192.</td>
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<td>AMST 167.10</td>
<td>Themes in U.S Cultural History</td>
<td>STAFF</td>
<td>86544</td>
<td>W 12:45 – 03:15pm</td>
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<td>AMST 167.11</td>
<td>Themes in U.S Cultural History</td>
<td>STAFF</td>
<td>86545</td>
<td>R 06:10 – 08:40pm</td>
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<td>AMST 168.10</td>
<td>Cultural Criticism in America</td>
<td>Heap</td>
<td>82817</td>
<td>TR 03:55 – 5:10pm</td>
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<td>major methods for understanding and</td>
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<td>interpreting cultural materials. We will</td>
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<td>explore how and why culture—particularly</td>
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<td>types of mass culture, including film,</td>
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<td>television, music, advertising, etc.—</td>
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<td>plays such a significant role in our</td>
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<td>lives. Different units in the course</td>
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<td>will examine 1) the institutions,</td>
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<td>corporations and individuals that</td>
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<td>produce culture; 2) the ideological</td>
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<td>messages and stereotypes that circulate</td>
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<td>that different audiences interpret the</td>
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<td>culture they consume. This course is</td>
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<td>writing-intensive and discussion-oriented.</td>
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<td>AMST 171.80</td>
<td>US Social History</td>
<td>STAFF</td>
<td>86231</td>
<td>WF 11:10-12:00pm</td>
<td>1957 E B12</td>
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<td>of common working people in their</td>
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<td>struggle for survival and achievement</td>
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<td>“settlement” of North America to the</td>
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<td>upon the latest historical research and</td>
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<td>theories. We will investigate some of</td>
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<td>techniques and methods. Students will</td>
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<td>be encouraged to think like historians.</td>
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<td>dates and names. It means developing the</td>
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<td>ability to think in historical and</td>
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<td>gender as they helped to shape American</td>
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<td>society during the 17th, 18th and 19th</td>
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<td>centuries.</td>
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Discussion Sections:

AMST 171.81  
CRN# 86232  F 12:45 -1:35pm  ROME 206

AMST 171.82  
CRN# 86233  F 2:20-03:10pm  MPA 302

AMST 171.83  
CRN# 86234  M 11:10-12:00pm  MPA 302

AMST 171.84  
CRN# 86235  M 12:45-01:45pm  1957 E 111

AMST 175.80 American Architecture  
CRN# 86241  MW 12:45-2:00pm  1957 E 211

Course Description:
This course examines selected aspects of the built environment in the United States from the first period of European settlement to the eve of the Civil War. Stylistic properties, functions, common patterns of design, technological developments, and urbanistic patterns are introduced as vehicles for interpreting the historical significance of this legacy of both exceptional and representative examples. Buildings are analyzed both as artifacts and as signifiers of broader social, cultural, and economic tendencies. Other topics introduced include the persistence and mixing of cultural traditions, the role of the designer, the influence of region, and architecture as a component of landscape.

Among the facets of the built environment that are examined are the multi-faceted nature of colonial building and settlement patterns; the emergence of national expression; the rise of city building and of a commercial core; the growing specificity of building types for commercial, governmental, institutional, and religious functions; the enduring importance of the single-family house; the multi-faceted nature of eclecticism; evolving views of nature and landscape design; and the impact of technology.

ENGL 174 “Meditations on History:” Contemporary Fictions About Slavery  
CRN# 84911

Course Description:
After a consideration of a range of antebellum slave narratives this course will turn its attention to the ways in which contemporary American writers have appropriated the themes and conventions of the slave narrative to satisfy various literary, cultural and political purposes. Writers to be studied include William Styron, Sherley Anne Williams, David Bradley, Octavia Butler, and Toni Morrison. There will also be readings in the historiography of slavery, literary theory, and cultural history.
AMST 179.10  Practicum in American Studies  STAFF
CRN# 82792  R 2:00-3:50pm  P 201

Course Description:
This course is designed for senior majors in American Studies. It will cover the required three credit internship experience and a weekly or biweekly meeting, to talk about the internship experiences, analyze how the internship organizations create and manipulate cultural messages to create American culture and be effective within the US political context. Some readings will be assigned, but as we are a reasonably small group, we will wait until the semester begins to see where students are interning and to decide on pertinent readings. This course will be graded according to the reports of the intern supervisors and participation in the practicum meetings.

AMST 181.80  US Media & Cultural History  STAFF
CRN# 85062  WF 9:35-10:25am  1957 E  B12

Course Description:
This course will investigate media and culture in the U.S. from 1900 to the present. Looking at film, literature, television, and new media together, the class will address the major developments in the U.S. cultural history: modernity and postmodernity; the impact of new technologies on culture; the importance of visual images in the 20th century; and debates about “high” and “low” culture. In the first half of the semester (1900-1945), topics range from amusement parks and silent film to the Harlem Renaissance and the Federal Theatre Project. In the second half (1945-2002), we will look at the rise of television, the Black Arts movement of the 1960’s, postmodern literature, the emergence of the internet, and the global impact of American culture. Overall, questions to be considered will include: what is “culture”? Who owns and defines the term? How does culture get produced, disseminated and consumed? How do we analyze the political impact of cultural products?

Discussion Sections:

AMST 181.81  STAFF
CRN# 85063  F 12:45 -1:35pm  MPA 302

AMST 181.82  STAFF
CRN# 85064  F 02:00-02:50pm  P 201

AMST 181.83  STAFF
CRN# 85065  T 10:00-10:50am  P 201

AMST 181.84  STAFF
CRN# 85066  T 11:00-11:50am  P 201

AMST 195.10  Independent Study
CRN# 82793
AMST 198.10 Nineteenth Century American Culture Murphy
CRN# 86245 T 01:00-03:15 P 201
Course Description:
This course will examine significant cultural developments in the United States during the nineteenth century. Culture will be analyzed in a social and historical context, with emphasis placed on major debates among scholars about meanings and construction of culture and cultures in nineteenth century America.

AMST 198.80 Music Cultures of Black America Lornell
CRN# 83674 TR 12:45-02:00pm 1957 E 211
Course Description:
This course introduces you to the wealth of African American music found throughout the United States. This semester we’ll pay particular attention to the important genres that have developed in the 20th century since the close of W.W. II. In addition you will be introduced to D.C.’s unique contribution to American culture. Through readings, lectures, video tapes, and musical examples, you will become aware not only of the historical development of the various genres of black American music but their distinctive musical characteristics, performance practices, and aesthetic values.

AMST 220.80 Fundamentals- Feminist Theory McLeer
CRN# 83248 W 06:10-08:00pm 1957 E 310
Course Description:

AMST 226.80 US Media & Cultural History STAFF
CRN# 85072 WF 09:35 –10:25am MPA 302
F 11:10-12:00pm P 201
Course Description:
Same as 181.80. See Document.

AMST 231.10 Scope & Methods- American Studies Mergen
CRN# 82816 T 06:10-08:00pm P 201
Course Description:
This seminar focuses on the history of American Studies and the theories and methods for the study of American culture, beginning with Alexis de Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America* (1835/40) and concluding with recent studies in literary history, ethnohistory, cultural history, material culture, political culture, popular culture, and the internationalization of American studies. Required of all MA candidates and first year PhD students without a Master’s in American Studies. This is a reading not a research course, but students will prepare papers for class discussion, write brief reviews of some of the assigned readings, and a 10-15 page essay on a topic raised by the readings such as American identity, democracy, frontier, individualism, multiculturalism, or materialism.
AMST 250.10  American Material Culture  Mayo
CRN# 82794  M 02:10-05:00pm  GOV 312

Course Description:
This seminar is concerned with the use of objects in historical research. Material culture is a synthesis of theories and methods from art and architectural history, anthropology and archaeology, the history of technology, decorative arts, geography, folklife, environmental history, and cultural history. Readings include Thomas Schlereth, Material Culture Study in America and Ann Smart Martin & J. Ritchie Garrison, American Material Culture and other articles as assigned. Visits to exhibits and memorials will also be assigned. Students will be expected to prepare for each class discussion. At least one full-day field trip will be arranged. Studies are required to write three short (7-10 page) papers on an object or collection of objects. At least one paper must involve a discussion with a curator or museum specialists. Smithsonian staff members are extremely busy, please plan ahead. (You may request a copy of Smithsonian Opportunities for Research and Study [to identify collections and curators] from the Office of Fellowships. www.si.edu/research+study One paper may be an exhibit review.

AMST 251.1  Museum Research and Education  STAFF
CRN# 82795

AMST 252.10  Mat. Cult. & 20th Cent. Consumer Society  Nickles
CRN# 84549  R 10:00-11:50am  STHN

Course Description:
This graduate seminar is an object-based study of a diverse range of durable goods from textiles to Tupperware considered within the historical development of a mass consumer society in America over the past century. Through an examination of museum objects, readings, and discussion, the class will engage in a debate at the center of interdisciplinary consumer culture scholarship: how do people use goods to express identity; maintain or contest race, class, and gender hierarchies; and promote social change?

AMST 256.80  Folklore Theory  Vlach
CRN#  84295  T 03:30-06:00pm  P 201

Course Description:
This course presents a survey of the intellectual history of the development of the academic field of folklore and folklife study in the United States. We will trace the rise of interpretation starting in the second half of the nineteenth century and concluding with contemporary times. The class will be conducted in a semi-seminar fashion. The instructor will lecture for the first half of each class meeting with discussion being led by a designated students or students for the second half. Student discussions will focus on the biographical profiles of key figures whose careers are emblematic of a particular interpretive techniques or positions. As can be seen from the syllabus, these individuals include many of the outstanding leaders in the fields of literature, social science, and museum work. In addition to participation in class discussions, students will be expected to write a seminar paper (20-25 pages) on some aspect of American folklore scholarship and practice. The specific topic will be selected in consultation with the instructor.
AMST 270.80          Theory & Practice – Public History          Horton
CRN# 85084           W 02:10-04:00pm          P 201

Course Description:
Recent discussions over exhibitions at the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, Colonial Williamsburg and several historic sites of the National Park Service illustrate some of the challenges and difficulties of doing public history. This graduate seminar in Public History will focus on the debates and controversies surrounding public exhibitions and the disputes over "revisionist history" which have made their way even into the halls of Congress. We will also discuss the role of scholars inside and outside the academy in educating the public in the places where the majority of American people learn. Among the topics we will consider will be the political and social consequences of the recent "Culture Wars," the efforts of private corporations, like the Disney Corp., to build history theme parks and to interpret American history for the general public, public disputes over the symbols of the Civil War, and the growing popularity of historical film presentation like the Ken Burns documentaries and historical programming on the History Channel. We will also focus on a new PBS series on the history of slavery and the difficulties of bringing such a contentious presentation to public TV. Students will become familiar with the theoretical and practical arguments over public history and have the opportunity to participate in exhibit evaluation at the Smithsonian and at various sites of the National Park Service.

Class requirements will include class presentations by students, exhibition reviews and a research paper. Representatives from a range of public history institutions and agencies will participate in the seminar, providing students with first-hand accounts and inside information about their particular field.

AMST 271.80          Rdgs/Rsrch: US Social History          Heap
CRN# 86542           W 06:10-08:00pm          P 201

Course Description:
This graduate-level readings seminar introduces students to the methodology and historiography of U.S. social history. Reading selectively from scholarship, we will examine how ordinary Americans experienced many of the major social transformations of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In particular, we will be concerned with the different ways that historians have conceptualized and interpreted how, why and with what consequences Americans have historically structured their lives and communities. The course is designed to provide students with a historiographical, methodological and theoretical background for their own research projects. Students planning to take the follow-up research seminar (AMST 272) in the spring semester will be asked to write and defend a proposal for their own research project before the end of the semester; the project will be completed during the spring semester. Students who wish to take only the fall semester readings course will be required to write a final historiographical essay.

AMST 277.8          Historic Preservation Prin/Methods          Longstreth
CRN# 86251          MW 04:10-06:00pm          P 201

Course Description:
This course addresses the scope and purpose of the preservation movement in the U.S., focusing on developments since the 1960s. Topics investigated include the development of ideas and approaches to preservation at home and abroad since the late 18th century; the legal
framework developed at the national, state, and local levels to foster preservation; the nature of
an dynamics between public- and private-sector preservation organizations; and key facets of
the research process essential to determine significance and set priorities to protecting historic
properties.
Throughout the course, both pragmatic and conceptual aspects are explored, as are the
implications of preservation practice on broader realms, ranging from our attitudes toward the
past to the tangible benefits for a community or business. Preservation must be a practical line
of work imbued with political, technical, and economic expertise, but its ultimate worth is as a
form of cultural expression.
Classroom lectures and discussions are supplemented by visits from a number of prominent
figures in the field – both nationally and locally – who afford behind-the-scenes insight current
initiatives and challenges.

AMST 280.10  Field Methods: Arch Documents  Ridout
CRN# 86254  R 04:10 -06:00pm  P 201
Course Description:
In-depth thematic study of the cultural landscape, focusing on the basic field techniques and
skills necessary to analyze and interpret accurately the fabric of historic buildings and their
settings. Additional attention given to major thematic issues of both rural and urban landscapes.
Topics considered include housing, agriculture, industry, and the architectural legacy of
African American culture. A variety of building types and complexes are examined firsthand,
with emphasis on the broader issue of interplay between natural and cultural landscapes.
Intensive study is conducted on a single site, with members of the class divided into recording
teams. Research methods based on building fabric and the physical landscape are the primary
focus; work in the field constitutes a major component of the course. Schedule will include four
one-day field trips on Saturdays or Sundays as selected by class members.

AMST 284.10  American Visual Studies- Introduction  Goodyear
CRN# 84050  M 06:10-08:00pm  P 201
Course Description:
This reading seminar serves as an introduction to American visual studies, paying particular
attention to the field’s theories and methods. Though a variety of historic periods will be
considered, the course will be structured around an examination of different visual documents
and the often divergent ways in which scholars have looked at them. The course is also
designed to provide graduate students with an introduction to some of the classic primary and
secondary sources in American visual studies. In the process of investigating these texts, we
will address larger cultural issues, such as identity formation and cultural hierarchies in
America. Each week we will focus on a particular primary document. The course aims to
provide students with a broad foundation in understanding the many strategies used in reading
visual documents. As such, class discussions will focus as much attention on the ways of
reading a text, as it will on the text itself and the period from which it comes.
Course Description:
An interdisciplinary course integrating policies and practices in museum education with current scholarship in a variety of academic fields of study. The class visits and analyzes about a dozen DC-are museum (from the DAR Museum, Hillwood Museum and Gardens, to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Pope-Leighey House), with an emphasis on National Park Service sites.

AMST 289.10  
Social History to Civil War  
STAFF  
WF 11:10-12:00pm  
F 12:10 – 1:00pm  
MPA 302  
P201

Course Description:
Same as 171.80. See Document.

AMST 295.10  
Independent Study  
Mergen

AMST 299.10  
Thesis Research  
Mergen

AMST 300.10  
Thesis Research  
Mergen

AMST 394.10  
Advanced Reading and Research  
Mergen

AMST 395.10  
Dissertation Research  
Mergen

AMST 398.10  
Advanced Reading and Research  
Mergen

AMST 399.10  
Dissertation Research  
Mergen

AMST 801.10  
US/M East Cultural Encounters  
McAlister  
TR 2:20- 3:35pm  
MON B08

Designated for Freshmen

AMST 801.11  
How The World Views the US  
Mergen  
MW 09:35-10:50am  
P 201

Designated for Freshmen