Note: Check the GW Schedule of Classes website for class locations and the most up-to-date information at http://my.gwu.edu/mod/pws/

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

AMST 1000.10 – Human Minds and Artificial Intelligence
Jamie Cohen-Cole
T, 2:00-4:30 CRN: 84317
Where is the boundary between humans and robots? Is it that humans can bleed and robots can rust? Or is there something more important that gets to what is distinctive about humanity? Is it how we think, our intelligence, or our language? If so, then what happens when computers or robots speak and perform intelligent tasks? Focusing on questions such as these, this class looks at the history of computers, robots, and artificial intelligence. In tracking this history, we will see how the line between humans and machines has been in constant motion as what we believe and imagine about machines has affected what we know, imagine, and believe about the human mind. We will examine these themes by reading about computers, robots, and artificial intelligence in history and through the visions of the future given in science fiction stories and movies from Frankenstein to AI and I, Robot. Topics covered in this course include Charles Babbage’s analytical engine, the Turing Machine, cyberspace, and the origins, development, and criticism of research in artificial intelligence. Registration restricted to CCAS freshman. Department approval required to register.

AMST 1160.10 – Race, Gender, and Law
Jennifer Nash
MW, 9:35-10:25 CRN: 86573
This course studies the relationship between race, gender, and law by asking two intimately related questions: How does law protect citizens from race and gender based discrimination? How does law permit race and gender based discrimination? Over the course of the semester, we will read the foundational civil rights cases which have shaped our contemporary understanding of racial and gender equality, and we will become familiar with critical approaches to law (e.g. critical race theory and feminist legal theory). We will end the semester by turning our attention to ongoing debates in law and policy around: incarceration, the death penalty, domestic violence law, and sexual assault law. Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirement

AMST 1200.10 – The Sixties in America
Suleiman Osman
WF, 2:20-3:10 CRN: 85870
This course will examine American society, culture, and politics during the dynamic and contentious decade of the 1960s. Students will examine topics such as the civil rights movement, the student movement, the Vietnam War and anti-war movement, black power, the counterculture, feminism, the environmental movement, and the rise of the New Right. Students will also examine how the memory of the 1960s continues to shape debates about political activism, foreign policy, and cultural consumption today. Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirement
AMST 2010.80 – Early American Cultural History
Teresa Murphy
TR, 3:55-4:45 CRN: 84079
This course starts with the argument that understanding culture is key to understanding American history. Culture can refer to art and literature—some of which we will explore in class. However, culture can also refer to popular forms of expression, including the way people act. With this broader perspective, we will study some of the major scholarship addressing the evolution of American culture—from the Colonial period through Reconstruction. For example, we will look at what scholars have to say about why minstrel shows were popular and about how Indian captivity narratives were used to justify the conquest of the West. To shape our analyses, we will examine old newspapers, read popular literature, and explore the museums here in Washington, DC—then develop our own opinions and arguments as we engage in small group discussions and complete class assignments. This is an upper division course, but it is geared toward freshman and sophomores who are looking for a challenge. Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirement.

AMST 2350.80 – US Religion and Politics
Kip Kosek
TR, 11:10-12:00 CRN: 86716
This course explores the history of religion in American politics and public life. It addresses several key questions: Is the United States a religious nation, a secular nation, or some of each? When has religion promoted, or prevented, bigotry, conflict, and violence? What exactly do we mean by “separation of church and state?” In what ways has religion shaped the politics of gender and race? What is the relationship of religion to American democracy? The class analyzes a variety of historical events and trends, including the formation of the Constitution, the Civil War, immigration, World War II, the civil rights movement, the New Christian Right, and American Islam. Same as Hist 2350. Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirement.

AMST 2380.80 – Sexuality in US History
Chad Heap
TR, 2:20-3:10 CRN: 86726
This course examines the changing social organization and cultural meaning of sexual practices and desires in the US. Topics include the establishment of sexual norms in colonial America; the relationship between sex and slavery; the contested boundaries drawn between same-sex sociability and eroticism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; the relatively recent emergence of heterosexuality and homosexuality as predominant categories of sexual experience and identity; and the development of women’s liberation and lesbian, gay, queer and transgender politics. Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirement.

AMST 2520.80 – American Architecture 1600-1860
Richard Longstreth
MW, 9:35–10:50 CRN: 83645
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. Detailed examination is made of the contribution made by many celebrated figures in design, including Alexander Jackson Davis, Andrew Jackson Downing, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Robert Mills, Frederick Law Olmsted, William Strickland, and Richard Upjohn. At the same time, attention is given to broad tendencies in design and their effect upon rural and urban landscapes. The impact of peoples from Africa and the Caribbean, the British Isles, France, German states, the Netherlands, and Spain is examined during both the colonial and post-colonial periods. Lectures are profusely illustrated.

AMST 2730W.80 – World War II in History and Memory
Tom Guglielmo
TR, 12:45-1:35 CRN: 84691
This course will examine the history of Americans’ World War II experiences and how those experiences have been studied, understood, and “remembered”—officially, culturally, and personally. It focuses on six overlapping topics—soldiers, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Holocaust, women, Japanese American internment, and race relations. This course will satisfy a WID requirement. Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirement.

AMST 2750.80 – Latinos in the United States
Elaine Pena
MW, 3:45-5:00 CRN: 86553
The U.S. Census Bureau projects that Latinos will make up the majority in the United States by 2050. But who are Latinos? What does that term mean now and how has it changed over time? Can the term accurately reflect the various communities it seeks to represent? Returning to those questions throughout the semester, we will critically analyze the evolution of the term “Latino” and its impact on discussions of race, identity, and citizenship expectations in the United States. We will engage ethnographic and historical analyses, literary works, and films that explore Latino identity formation in geographic regions across the nation. One of the goals of this course is to not only identify how historical, political, and economic shifts have shaped the term Latino in the United States but also connect those processes to ongoing discussions of immigration reform and border security. This course fulfills critical thinking and cross-cultural perspective learning goals. Same as Anth 2750

AMST 3324.80 – US Urban History
Christopher Klemek
TR 11:10-12:25 CRN: 86554
History of American urban life and culture from the colonial era to the present focusing on transitions from pre-industrial to industrial and post-industrial forms. The social and spatial configuration of U.S. cities, and the urban politics of race, class, and gender. Same as Hist 3324.
AMST 3352W.80 – Women in the United States
Teresa Murphy
TR, 12:45-1:35 CRN: 84084
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. **This course will satisfy a WID requirement. Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirements.**

AMST 3360.80 – African American History since 1865
Erin Chapman
TR, 2:20-3:35 CRN: 86569
This course will investigate the major events and themes of African American history since the slaves achieved emancipation and began the long struggle toward full freedom in the United States. We will thus study late 19th century and 20th century U.S. history from the perspectives of African American men and women, focusing on the themes of gender, culture, class, racial identity, intra-racial conflicts and solidarity, and the evolving ideologies of the movement for racial advancement. We will cover the major eras of African American politics and cultural production, including education, religion, anti-lynching, the Great Migration, Garveyism, the New Negro Renaissance, the long history of Civil Rights, the Black Arts Movement, Black Power, and Black Feminism.

AMST 3900.10 – Critiquing Culture
Dara Orenstein
TR, 11:10-12:25 CRN: 85684
This seminar introduces students to major methods for understanding and interpreting cultural materials. We will explore how and why culture—particularly mass culture such as film, television, photography, music, fashion, and advertising—plays such a significant role in our lives. At various point in the semester, we will examine 1) the ways that we experience culture and ground our identities in it; 2) the ideological messages and stereotypes that circulate in cultural products; 3) the institutional, corporate and individual production of cultural products and spaces; and 4) the ways that different audiences interpret the culture they consume. This course is reading intensive and discussion-oriented. **Registration restricted to American Studies majors; minors admitted with permission of instructor.**

AMST 3901.10 – Examining America
Elaine Pena
MW, 12:45–2:00 CRN: 85685
This course invites students to examine America using international and transnational processes as optics. A wide array of experiences and itineraries, exchanges and networks, social movements and communities are today referred to as transnational. Whether transnational or international, the United States is deeply invested in maintaining those long-standing strategies of social reproduction and economic development. But does the cross-border flow of capital, people, ideas, and cultural values weaken or strengthen national character? Do those processes make the category of “nation” obsolete? Do they change the way we think about American racial politics, American industries, or what constitutes American religion? We will consider these questions using a variety of interpretive tools. We will also place those discussions within the broader field of American Studies to understand how scholarly debates have changed over time. **Registration restricted to American Studies majors;**
minors admitted with permission of instructor.

AMST 3950.10 – Cultures of Civil Rights and Black Power
Gayle Wald
TR, 12:45-2:00 CRN: 85608
This course will approach the study of the civil rights and black arts/black power eras through cultural representation, especially literature, television, and film. We will read fiction (e.g. Ann Moody's Coming of Age in Mississipi, Sam Greenlee's The Spook Who Sat by the Door, John Oliver Killens' Pulitzer-Prize nominated The Cotillian), memoirs and non-fiction (e.g., George Jackson's Soledad Brother, Nikki Giovanni's Gemini, Piri Thomas's Down These Mean Streets), and poetry; watch television shows (e.g., Soul!, Black Journal, Julia) and movies (e.g. Sounder, Buck and the Preacher); and think about significant musical events and performers (e.g., the 1972 Wattstax festival in Los Angeles, the 1974 Soul Power concert in Zaire). Through this immersion in the cultural practices of civil rights and black power, we'll attempt to get a handle on the complexity of this era and its representational legacies. Students will be expected to take a midterm and final, as well as write a paper based on original research.

AMST 3950.11 – Gender and Science
Jamie Cohen-Cole
TR, 11:10-12:45 CRN: 86578
This course provides an introduction to the study of the interaction of gender and science. Our culture is filled with numerous and often conflicting and stories about how science functions and how it has developed. Some stories explain that science objectively and impersonally discovers the truth about the natural world. Other stories note that science has not been so unbiased, that women have been excluded from participating in the science, and that ideas of sex and gender difference developed by the sciences have been biased. We will examine how such stories have developed in the history of the sciences and the role they play in the structure of science today.

AMST 3950.12 – Cultural Politics of US Music
Meghan Drury
MW, 9:35-10:50 CRN: 86579
This course will undertake critical analyses of popular music in the U.S. through examinations of sounds, lyrics, cultural representations, and identity politics. We will survey a wide range of genres and historical time periods, from blackface minstrelsy in the 1880s to hip hop and Spotify in the present. We will think about music as it relates to “social imaginaries” and sound or sonic production as a wider category of exploration. We will consider the significance of popular music both as an American industry and a cultural tradition. By listening to artists (e.g. Elvis, The Supremes, Céline Dion, Bikini Kill, Beyoncé, Kendrick Lamar, and others), watching films and Youtube videos, and reading scholarly literature on the subject, we will attempt to understand the complex ways that music impacts and intersects with American regional and ethnic communities. Students will be expected to conduct contextual analysis and write a final paper based on original research.

AMST 3950.13 – Reading the Environment: Popular Culture and the Politics of Sustainability
Shannon Davies Mancus
W/F, 11:10-12:25 CRN: 86580
This course will explore environmentalist narratives in popular culture engage in competing politics of sustainability across fictional and nonfictional discourses while exploring the following questions: how do mediums such as film, reality television, and pulp novels engage with
debates about, within, and against different forms of environmentalism? How have individuals used, incorporated, or resisted such environmentalist ideas? How are prevalent environmentalist narratives crafted in order to distinguish themselves against competing conceptions of the ways in which humans should interact with the environment? What do these competing environmentalist narratives ask us to think, feel, and do? In what ways are terms like “nature” and the “environment” constructed, and how do these constructions substantively change not only environmental imaginaries but lived experience? By examining diverse sources that run the gamut from congressional testimony to blockbuster films, radical fiction to public service announcements, and Walden Pond to South Park, we will contemplate how Americans creatively imagine and perform political positions.

AMST 3950W.80 – Race, American Medicine, and Public Health
Vanessa Gamble
MW, 12:45-2:00 CRN: 86871
This course focuses on the role of race and racism in the development of American medicine and public health by examining the experiences of African Americans from slavery to today. It will emphasize the importance of understanding the historical roots of contemporary policy dilemmas such as racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care. The course will challenge students to synthesize materials from several disciplines to gain a broad understanding of the relationship between race, medicine, and public health in the United States. Among the questions that will be addressed are: How have race and racism influenced, and continue to influence, American medicine and public health? What is race? How have concepts of race evolved? What are racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care? What is the history of these disparities? What factors have contributed to these disparities? How have African Americans, the medical and public health professions, and governmental agencies addressed disparities in health and health care? What have been the experiences of African Americans as patients and health care providers?

AMST 4500W.10 – Proseminar in American Studies
Jim Miller
W, 12:45-3:15 CRN: 83227
This research seminar explores historical accounts and fictional and contemporary representations of slavery, from Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" to Solomon Northup's "Twelve Years A Slave," the contemporary film version of Northup's narrative, other narratives, and primary sources. Each project will be expected to develop a carefully focused research paper on the topic, in its historical, cultural, and literary contexts. This course will satisfy a WID requirement. Registration restricted to American Studies majors only.

AMST 4500W.11 – Citizenship in American Life
Tom Guglielmo
R, 9:30-12:00 CRN: 83646
This research seminar explores the meaning of citizenship in American life. Students will spend the semester writing a substantial research paper on some aspect of this broad topic. The paper will be based on primary-source materials and grounded in relevant, existing scholarship. Possible projects might include the examination of the federal government's various attempts to define who is and is not a citizen; different practices or norms of citizenship among different racial, sexual, gendered, religious, immigrant, or class groups; modes of political activism or experiences of political inclusion or exclusion; and the social construction of exemplary or disobedient citizens. Importantly, each project will need to define and defend what, exactly, citizenship means in the social, political, and historical context they examine. This course will satisfy a WID requirement. Registration restricted to American Studies majors only.
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AMST 6100.10 – Scope and Methods: American Studies
Dara Orenstein
R, 2:00-4:00 CRN: 83228
This course is an intensive introduction to the history, debates, and methodologies that are central to the field of American Studies. Students will analyze key texts, explore ways to redefine the canon of American Studies scholarship, and begin to formulate ideas for future research. This course is restricted to graduate students in American Studies.

AMST 6190.10 – Race and Ethnicity in Twentieth-Century America
Suleiman Osman
W, 5:10-7:00 CRN: 86582
This graduate seminar will introduce students to scholarship on the history of race and ethnicity in the twentieth-century United States. Along with the most influential history books in the field, the course will also include works by novelists, film makers, social scientists, and cultural theorists that examine the process of racial formation in the United States over the past century. Registration restricted to graduate students.

AMST 6190.80 – Theory & Emotions
Jennifer Nash
M, 11:30-1:30 CRN: 85084
In 2008, Americans were captivated by a powerful call to embrace optimism: “hope.” A few months after President Obama’s election, many were describing a pervasive sense of disappointment that some critical theorists termed “political depression.” This course examines how affects -- including “hope” and “depression” -- are cultural formations. We will use the tools of critical race theory, feminist theory, and queer theory to examine varied affects including trauma, anger, love, and hope, and we will ask how those affects are culturally constituted and sustained. Over the course of the semester, we will explore questions including: What are the cultural politics of emotion? How does affect, as an analytic, help us think about publics, politics, histories, memory, and activism in new ways? How might affect allow us to understand race, gender, and sexuality in new ways? How can we respond to exhaustion, rage, apathy, or disappointment -- whether engendered by global politics, domestic politics, or academic politics -- in ways that are generative, creative, and enabling? Readings include works by: Patricia J. Williams, Avery Gordon, Susan Brison, Jose Muñoz, Saidiya Hartman, Audre Lorde, and Ann Cvetkovich. Registration restricted to graduate students.

AMST 6190.82 – Post WWII Jewish Life 1960-2015
Jenna Weissman Joselit
T, 5:10-7:00 CRN: 86526
This seminar explores the changing nature of Jewish life domestically as well as transnationally from the 1950s on through our own day. Training its sights on a diverse array of historical events and cultural phenomena, from the impact of the Holocaust and the rise of the State of Israel to suburbanization and technology, it looks at the ways in which contemporary Jews, especially those in the United States, reckoned with rupture, dissent and, above all, with freedom. Registration restricted to graduate students.
AMST 6431.80 – Gender, Sexuality, and American Culture II
Chad Heap
T, 5:10-7:00 CRN: 86846
This graduate seminar explores the usefulness of gender and sexuality as categories of analysis in American Studies. Focusing on the period since the Civil War, we will read broadly across the field of sexuality and gender studies in US social and cultural history, performance studies, ethnography, media and popular culture studies, and critical theory. We will examine the roles that gender and sexuality have played in shaping American culture from the late-nineteenth to the early-twenty-first century; the extent to which modernity and postmodernity gave rise to new categories of sexual and gender identity and experience; and the historically shifting meanings and cultural representations that have marked sexual difference. We will pay particular attention to the intersection of gender and sexuality with race, class, religion, citizenship, and the body; the spatial organization of gender and sexuality in relation to the city, the suburbs, the state, and globalization; and the role that cultural discourses and products—possibly including music, television, film, print media, stage performances, medicine, science, and the law—play in shaping the popular understanding of sexuality and gender and vice versa. Registration restricted to graduate students.

ENGL 6450.10 – Post-Soul Literature and Culture
Gayle Wald
M, 3:30-6:00 CRN: 86701
This course will offer students an overview of "post-soul" (sometimes "post-civil rights") African American literature and culture, circa 1980-2014. We will engage in a critical inquiry of the tricky notion of the "post" in post-soul, read scholarly debates about "post-soul" culture, and, especially, immerse ourselves in various literary works—primarily of fiction, but including poetry and drama. Authors might include: Danzy Senna (Caucasia), Suzan-Lori Parks (The America Play), Colson Whitehead (Sag Harbor or Zone One), Junot Díaz (Drown or The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao), Stew and Heidi Roedwald (Passing Strange), James McBride (The Good Lord Bird) and Barack Obama, Dreams from My Father. Where possible, we'll also consider the expression and exploration of "post-soul" identities and sensibilities in popular musical culture (e.g. Janelle Monae, Kanye West, Beyonce, Odd Future, the writings of Mark Anthony Neal, Kodwo Eshun) and, if time allows, film and online culture (Azie Dungy's "Ask a Slave"). We will be especially interested in the relation of post-soul to post-race discourse, to ongoing debates about modernity/post-modernity, and to questions of satire in relation to African American history and memory. Students with no previous experience in African American literary studies should consult the professor for a brief list of recommended summer reading. Registration restricted to graduate students.

AMST 6475.80 – US Urban History
Christopher Klemek
T, 4:10-6:00 CRN: 86585
History of American urban life and culture from the Colonial era to the present, focusing on the transitions from pre-industrial to industrial and post-industrial forms, the social and spatial configuration of U.S. cities, and the urban politics of race, class, and gender. Same as Hist 6475. Registration restricted to graduate students.

AMST 6495.80 – Historic Preservation: Principles and Methods
Richard Longstreth
MW, 4:10-6:00 CRN: 82045
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. Registration restricted to graduate students.

AMST 6709.80 – Interpretation in the Historic House Museum
Carol Stapp
T, 11:10–1:00 CRN: 84931
Enjoy first-hand encounters with an astounding array of museums through five class trips (including Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House and Woodlawn Plantation; the Woodrow Wilson House; George Washington’s Mount Vernon; Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens; and President Lincoln’s Cottage). You'll meet knowledgeable practitioners, who’ll give you a behind-the-scenes perspective on the challenges of interpretation—from living history to virtual visits—in America’s home-grown museum type. A short report focused on a National Park Service site (Arlington House or the Clara Barton National Historic Site) provides the groundwork for a field project in conjunction with the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. The field projects are presented to FDNHS staff members, who join us for a poster session at the end of the course. Registration restricted to graduate students. This class meets off-campus for at least six sessions. Please plan for sufficient travel time before and after class.

AMST 6710.10 – American Material Culture
Katherine Ott
W, 1:30–3:30 CRN: 82769
This class is an introduction to the major theories, issues, and diverse viewpoints and practices in the field of material culture. Material culture refers to the objects and artifacts that populate the tactile and visual environment. Material culture is a form of evidence poorly understood and often dismissed, yet it is the primary component of the sensory world – it is through objects and images that people learn about and integrate themselves into the human community. Material culture carries and creates meaning. Some artifacts, such as the refrigerator, the spinning wheel, and the contraceptive pill, initiate new systems and support cultural transitions. Other objects, such as a wedding ring or a judge’s gavel, convey complex symbolic meanings. Still others, such as photographs and clothing, create personal identity. We will study the range of these relationships with material things. Registration restricted to graduate students. The class is taught by a Smithsonian history curator and meets off-campus; contact Professor Ott at ottk@si.edu for location details.