AMST 1000.10 – Food Politics
Phyllis Palmer
F, 1:00–4:00
“Expressing preferences in how we shop for food might well be a way for an urban society to practice a land ethic. What is needed for this experiment to succeed is the development of a new kitchen literacy that encompasses awareness that what we eat is linked to real people and real places. It must include a practical understanding of how to decipher the full range of information offered up on food labels....But it must also encompass a broader understanding of how our culture and out politics affect the people and land that supply our food.” Ann Vileisis, *Kitchen Literacy* (Island Press, 2008). This course follows on Ann Vileisis’ argument that understanding what we eat may enable us to make consumer decisions that support more sustainable use of natural resources, fairer treatment of farmers and workers, healthier eating habits, and more generally nurturing food environments. The course relies on an American Studies approach of cultural analysis, focusing on films, advertisements, web sites, public ad campaigns, academic writings, and social media, to examine how researchers, corporations, farmers and farm workers, and civic groups make claims for the benefits or harms of globalized, industrial food production. The course counts for CCAS Civic Engagement requirement, and students will work in teams to analyze a significant food issue, propose actions, and present their findings to appropriate groups as well as to the class. For our own health, we will be making weekly snacks from locally-produced and/or sustainably-grown foods and learning about cooking as a path to better eating. *Registration restricted to CCAS freshman.*

AMST 2011.80 – Modern American Cultural History
Kip Kosek
TR, 9:35-10:25
This course examines the history of the United States from Reconstruction to the present using culture as its central organizing concept. We will define culture broadly to encompass customs, beliefs, and practices, as well as more specific forms of literary and artistic expression. Central themes include: the rise of consumer culture; the role of mass media in shaping a national culture; the impact of cultural values on the physical landscape; changes in racial formations and ethnic affiliations; cultural meanings of gender identities; and the political significance of cultural conflict. We will also consider transnational influences on American culture and, conversely, the effects of American culture abroad. The course draws on many different kinds of primary sources, including memoirs, short stories, films, political speeches, music, photographs, and television shows. In addition, we will read analyses of culture from a variety of scholars and develop our own interpretations. *Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirement.*

Christopher Klemek
MF 1:00-2:15
AMST 2120W.80 – Freedom in American Thought and Popular Culture  
Elisabeth Anker  
MW 2:20-3:10  
America was founded on the premise of providing freedom to its people. But what, exactly, is “freedom”? Is it doing what you want or is it participation in politics? Is it about escaping domination or does it require sharing power? These questions have been debated in America since its founding. The course will examine varied answers to these questions provided by American thought and popular culture. We will intertwine the study of theoretical texts with cultural analysis to examine authors from Jefferson to Thoreau, speeches from Martin Luther King to George W. Bush, films from *High Noon* to *Minority Report*, and the video art of Jeremy Blake. Together, we will explore how concepts of freedom and anxieties over freedom’s possibility take cultural form. While we may not settle the question of what freedom is or how to produce it, we will learn both to appreciate its complexity and to critically engage its operations in American public life. *This course satisfies a WID requirement. Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirements.*

AMST 2125.80 – Varieties of Feminist Theory  
Jennifer Nash  
MW, 2:20-3:35  
It is now commonplace to talk about feminism in the plural. But what does this move towards talking about feminisms -- or feminist theories -- actually mean? This course is an exploration of the varieties of ways that feminists engage in theory-making, and the strategies they use to connect their theories to a pursuit of social justice. Over the course of the semester, we will become familiar with a host of feminist projects including: dominance feminism, critical race feminism, third wave feminism, sex positive feminism, black feminism, and post colonial feminism. As we read a wide array of feminist texts, we will ask how feminism maintains its cohesiveness in the face of so much divergent theory-making, and how feminism can continue to organize - and theorize - across difference.

AMST 2380.80 – Sexuality in US History  
Chad Heap  
WF, 12:45–1:35  
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 requirements.*

AMST 2490.80 – US Middle East Cultural Encounters  
Melani McAlister  
TR, 2:20-3:10  
This course examines a range of cultural forms that have connected, or disconnected, people in the United States and those in the Middle East (primarily the Arab world, but including also Israel and Iran). The course is not a history of US-Middle East politics, though that history will be relevant to our discussions. It focuses instead on the ways that cultural products and experiences have mattered, with attention to films, music, literature, news accounts, and travel. We will pay closest in the role of culture in constructing US images of the Middle East, but we will also look at the ways that people in the Middle East have imagined the United States. *Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirements.*
AMST 2490W.10 – The African American Experience
Calvin Warren
TR, 3:55-4:45
From the auction block to the White House, African Americans have played a central role in shaping democracy and national culture. This course will provide a survey of the historical, political, and cultural dimensions of the African American experience in the U.S. The course will be organized chronologically and thematically and will cover topics such as American slavery, medical experimentation, Hurricane Katrina, aesthetics, hip-hop, and Afro-futurism. We will grapple with important ethical, political, and philosophical questions that the African American experience raises. For example, what does it mean to be human? How does race complicate ideas of beauty? We will use multi-disciplinary strategies of reading and interpretation to examine the continuity, and rupture, of historical experiences. The course will use primary historical documents, literature, film, and secondary critical sources to investigate the contours of this experience. This course satisfies a WID requirement. Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirements.

AMST 2490W.80 – Science, Politics, and Society in Modern America
Jamie Cohen-Cole
MW, 11:10-12:00
This course examines the history of science and technology and their role in political and social life from the late nineteenth century to the present as well as the ways in which the science depended on historical developments. Among the questions we will consider are: How has society, culture, and politics developed and changed because of technical developments ranging from electricity to the automobile, the internet, and biotechnology? What difference did technologies like nuclear weapons and computers make to the Cold War? How has social science work from SAT tests to economic modeling shaped political culture and defined meritocracy? How have new scientific conceptions of the environment, of race and gender, of the market, and of modernity been impacted by new meanings of citizenship, democracy, and the nation state? How have struggles over science from evolution to global warming shaped our political culture? This course satisfies a WID requirement. Students must also register for a discussion section to satisfy the course requirements.

AMST 2521.80 – American Architecture 1860-Present
Richard Longstreth
MW, 12:45–2:00
This course examines selected aspects of the built environment in the United States from the Gilded Age to the eve of World War II. Stylistic properties, functions, common tendencies of design, technological developments, and urban 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 changing, multifaceted nature of eclecticism; the exponential growth of metropolitan areas; the emergence and development of tall commercial buildings; the rise of a comprehensive approach to planning; the enduring importance of the single-family house; evolving views of nature and landscape design; the pursuit of fantasy and reality in design; the impact of mass transportation systems and motor vehicles on the landscape; the reluctant acceptance of modernism; and the varied impacts of technology. Detailed examination is made of the contribution made by many celebrated figures in design, including Daniel Burnham, Frank Furness, Charles and Henry Greene, Irving Gill, Richard Morris Hunt, Charles McKim, Richard Neutra, Henry Hobson Richardson, John Wellborn Root, R. M. Schindler, Gustav Stickley, Stanford White, and Frank Lloyd Wright. At the same time, attention is given to broad tendencies in design and their effect upon suburban and
urban landscapes. The impact immigrants and new ideas from abroad is examined throughout the decades covered. Lectures are profusely illustrated.

**AMST 3353.80 – Women in the United States**
Cynthia Harrison
TR, 2:20-3:35
This course will examine the experience of women in their social, economic, and political roles to understand how gender shapes experience. The exploration will include the impact of class, region, race, and ethnicity on women and on gender roles and the effect of the changes in women’s roles on men.

**AMST 3811.80 – Historical Archaeology**
Pamela Cressey
M, 3:30-6:00
The course examines both the process and findings of historical archaeology, the study of the modern world from the 15th century using the material remains of the past. The steps of the investigative process are explored using case study and contemporary analogy approaches. Topically, historical archaeology deals with land and underwater sites and deals with early European settlement and its effects on Native American people, the expansion of the frontier, urbanization and industrialization. Special emphasis is placed on African American studies in historical archaeology; a class project provides the opportunity for historical research with public archaeology applications. Archaeological ethics, preservation, curatorial issues and interaction with the public are also discussed.

**AMST 3900.10 – Critiquing Culture**
Melani McAlister
TR, 11:10-12:25
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 only.

**AMST 3901.10 – Examining America**
Elaine Peña
TR, 12:45-2:00
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. Previously, however, they may have been categorized as international. 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—social histories, cultural studies, and ethnographic analyses. We will also place these discussions within the broader field of American Studies to understand how scholarly debates have changed over time. Registration restricted to American Studies majors only.
AMST 3950.80 – Jews and US Political Tradition
Lauren Strauss
TR, 12:45-2:00
The extent of Jewish participation in the American political process far outweighs the relative number of Jews in the population. Yet, the contemporary activism of Jews as elected officials, leaders of political organizations, activists, and outspoken journalists is consistent with a tradition of civic involvement from the earliest days of Jewish settlement in America. In this course, we begin with a brief overview from the Colonial era through the 19th century, and then focus on the watershed politics of the 20th and early 21st centuries, from labor strikes to landmark legal cases and the struggles for minority and women’s rights. Our dialogue also includes the growing number of Jewish elected officials and Jews active in politically conservative organizations. Most importantly, we address the question of what it means to be a Jew in a society that offers the greatest freedoms – and temptations to assimilate – of any country that the Jewish people has ever inhabited.
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/

AMST 6110.10 – Cultural Theory: Rethinking Humanism
Calvin Warren
R, 12:00–1:50
Is the “human being” a necessary starting point for critical inquiry, or has it outlived its usefulness? Can humanism provide the conceptual resources to understand violence, social death, and terror? Does humanism preserve economies of misery and (re)produce forms of political exclusion? What alternative methodologies and political visions are possible? This graduate seminar will grapple with these difficult questions and examine the humanistic foundations of cultural theory. The course is designed to familiarize participants with the humanism/anti-humanism debates that occurred in postwar French thought and to introduce contemporary critiques of humanism in cultural theory. Through a rigorous engagement with theoretical texts and cultural objects (e.g. film, photography, and literature), we will rethink the value of humanism in our academic work and reconsider the future of the “human being.” Readings will include theoretical texts by Michel Foucault, Louis Althusser, Jacques Derrida, Frantz Fanon, Giorgio Agamben, Slavoj Zizek, Ronald Judy, Frank Wilderson, Susan Sontag, Donna Haraway, and Judith Butler, among others. Registration restricted to graduate students only.

AMST 6190.11 – Capitalism and Neoliberalism
Elisabeth Anker
M 10:00-11:50
What are the political and cultural practices that have shaped the economic ordering of social life? This class will examine the history, theory, cultural production and political imaginary of capitalism, including recent global shifts organized under the term neoliberalism. We will examine topics of labor, consumption, free trade, liberalism and neoliberalism, the racial and gendered stratification of work and welfare, religion and capitalism, the American Dream, the current financial crisis, the financialization of political life, and the marketization of leisure. Readings will draw from cultural history, critical and political theory, and economics, and will include Marx, Adam Smith, Max Weber, Theodor Adorno, Milton Friedman, David Harvey, Michel Foucault, Lizbeth Cohen, Suleiman Osman, Wendy Brown, Aihwa Ong, Lauren Berlant, Stuart Hall, and others. Registration restricted to graduate students only.

AMST 6190.12 – Preservation and Public Policy
De Teel Tiller
T, 2:10–4:00
This class builds professional skills in heritage public policy criticism. Through readings, written analyses, and discussions, students develop critical assessment skills by analyzing selected past, current and evolving U.S. heritage laws, regulations, and administrative procedures at the local, state, tribal, and national levels. Oftentimes this is accomplished through comparative analyses with international counterparts. Understanding better the key attributes that make for effective heritage public policy and applying these critically through comparative analysis of existing heritage policy practices provides important professional skills. The class explores such important questions as: what are the policy goals; how do you measure success; what is the cost; what is the public benefit; who are the constituents; what are their interests; what public support is there; and, what opposition exists and why? Of paramount importance is the idea that every heritage law or public policy has multiple and often conflicting points of special interest, view, and support / opposition. And that the most effective public policy is one that
anticipates these, or changes with them, ensuring the optimum public benefit and effectiveness all the while preserving our nation’s heritage patrimony for future generations. Topics to be explored include: is heritage an appropriate interest of the state; cultural biases in current heritage public policies; the influence of growing cultural diversity on heritage public policies; and, analyses of current heritage policy issues before the Congress and the American people today. Registration restricted to graduate students only.

AMST 6190.80 – Science and Social Identity in the 20th Century
Jamie Cohen-Cole
W, 5:10-7:00
This seminar examines evolving understandings of social identity in America. Drawing on secondary sources and historical primary texts of social theory, and of social and biological science this course will focus on how Americans have constructed, studied, and shaped their identities. How has this process of identity formation defined Americans as similar to or different from one another? How have scientific and technological changes reinforced or challenged existing social categories? Topics include: popular psychology; ideas of mass society conformity and identity; the role of race, class, gender, and sexuality in constituting selfhood; and the shaping of identity by computer technology and psychotropic drugs. Registration restricted to graduate students only.

AMST 6190.81 – Jewish Life in Contemporary America
Jenna Weissman Joselit
W, 5:10-7:00

AMST 6195.10 – Research: Cultural Production
Elaine Peña
T, 4:10-6:00
This graduate research seminar addresses the backstage logistics of cultural production. Using a combination of archival and ethnographic methods, participants will spend the semester honing in on the political, economic, and geographic underpinnings of their objects of study (i.e. cultural acts, texts, artifacts, ideas, images, etc.). We will spend class time crafting research questions, conducting literature reviews, identifying sources, acquiring evidence, and drafting papers. The goal of this course is to produce an article-length (20-25 page) essay. Students should come prepared to discuss potential research topic ideas during our first session. Registration restricted to American Studies graduate students only.

AMST 6195.11 – Research: Culture of Consumption
Teresa Murphy
F, 10:00–11:50
This is a graduate research seminar in which students will produce papers around topics that in one way or another investigate the culture of consumption in the United States. Students might approach this topic by asking questions concerning the growth of capitalism, the relationship of consumerism to democracy or nationalism, the way in which consumerism affects transnational relationships, the way in which social identities (racial, ethnic, gendered) are formed through consumption, as well as the way in which religion is experienced through consumer activities. Students might draw upon archival materials as well as sources from material culture or other forms of media from print to internet. We will read key theoretical pieces as well as exemplary articles on this issue. Students will then engage in individual research projects of their choosing that in some way address important scholarly issues related to this topic. Students may focus their research on any time period and use any methodology that is deemed appropriate, but all students will be expected to engage in primary source research. We will focus on individual research and writing, as well as on reading and commenting on each other’s work. Students will learn how to produce a proposal, a bibliographic essay, and a final research paper. Registration
AMST 6480.80 – Theory and Practice - Public History
Joan Zenzen
T, 12:00-1:50
This graduate seminar in Public History will explore the theoretical and practical work of historians within and outside of the academy engaged in educating the public in the places where the majority of people learn history: museums, historic sites, heritage trails, theme parks, television and radio programs, websites, wikis and podcasts. It will be attentive to the challenges in representing “difficult” subjects like slavery, the Civil War and the atomic bomb, as well as the challenges to professional historians as the primary producers of history. Among the topics we will consider will be the ways the general public learns about and conceptualizes history, the use of history in urban revitalization efforts, the coupling of sustainability and history and the popularity and impact of new media and technology on history. Students will become familiar with the theoretical and practical dimensions of public history. Registration restricted to American Studies graduate students only

AMST 6496.80 – Seminar in American Architecture: The Post WWII Landscape
Richard Longstreth
M, 3:00–6:00
During the fifteen-year period after World War II, the shape and character of the American landscape experienced profound changes. The highly centralized organization of cities that had dominated growth patterns since the early republic began decisively to shift to more diffuse patterns. Industrial production became ever more scattered and relied on sophisticated technological processes. Corporate offices likewise were relocating into what were formerly considered rural or quasi-rural sites. Retail activities regrouped along arteries far removed from the city center. Suburban residential development occurred at an accelerated pace and for the first time lay within reach of a major segment of the populace. At the same time, the urban core was experiencing accelerated decay and became subject to massive clearance programs. Central and outlying sections alike were shaped and reshaped by massive highway construction programs. A variety of renewal programs captured the limelight, but few proved effective in reversing the prevalent trend. Design was also experiencing significant changes. Only recently cast as extreme and freakish, avant-garde modernism rose to the fore in architectural training and also in building campaigns for commerce, industry, and education. The United States now led the world in fostering a rich spectrum of approaches to design that made the environment of preceding decades seem markedly dated. Among other topics explored are the impact of widespread motor vehicle use on the metropolis, the rise of a mass consumer market for goods and housing, fundamental shifts in popular taste, critical views of the city, and the undercurrent of persistence in traditional patterns of settlement. Participants may choose from a wide range of topics concerning architecture, landscape, urbanism, as well as cultural, economic, social, and technological factors that have an impact on the built environment for their research paper. Registration restricted to graduate students.

AMST 6562.80 – Folklore Theory
James Deutsch
T, 6:10-8:00
This graduate-level seminar will survey the intellectual history of the academic field of folklore and folklife study in the United States. It will trace the rise of interpretation starting in the second half of the nineteenth century and conclude with contemporary times. Student presentations and discussions will focus on key figures in folklore theory whose careers illustrate particular interpretive techniques and positions. In addition to participation in class discussions, students will 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. Registration restricted to American Studies graduate students only.
Over the course of the last 170 years, photography has emerged as the dominant visual medium in American society. Photographic images have played a central role in mediating our understanding of the different social, political, and cultural landscapes in America. This graduate seminar will consider the many ways in which photography has been practiced by individuals, theorized by visual culture scholars, and incorporated into American life. We will look especially at the unique nature of the medium and interrogate the different traditions and usages that have grown up around it. Readings will comprise a selection of recent books on the theory and practice of photography in America. Students will be required to complete two writing assignments. The first assignment is a five-page critical review of the book you chose to report on. This essay will be due one week after your in-class report. It is expected that this essay will be more than a summary of the book’s contents, but will be rather a paper that interrogates its methods and conclusions. Each student will also research and write a 15 to 20 page essay on an original topic in this field. During the final three weeks of the semester, students will have an opportunity to present their research to the class. Registration restricted to graduate students.