

SPRING 2024

Course Descriptions

AMERICAN STUDIES

AMST 6401 - Literature and Culture of the Americas **Instructor: Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers**

In this interdisciplinary course, students learn about major transnational literary movements in the Americas, with an emphasis on understanding literature in a global context. Course readings and assignments provide an overview of important questions, methods, and theoretical approaches in contemporary American Studies literary scholarship as well as an advanced introduction to important literary works.

AMST 7000 - American Studies Scholarship **Instructor: Dr. Kate Schaab**

This course explores a variety of themes, theoretical influences, and methodological approaches currently alive in American Studies and its related disciplinary fields. Particular emphasis is placed on the current controversies and scholarship focused on race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. The course is organized around broad thematic concepts, with attention to global perspectives. The course introduces some basic conceptual building blocks in the field, and explores some of the historical development of American Studies.

AMST 7240 - Enterprise and Labor in American Culture **Instructor: Dr. Randy Patton**

This course will examine the history of enterprise and labor within their social and cultural contexts from an interdisciplinary perspective. The course will include an overview of the history of work and enterprise in the United States. Students will investigate business enterprise, work, production, and consumption as cultural phenomena. Topics may include: the emergence of the corporation; the labor movement and its cultural representations; enterprise and labor in film, television, literature, and popular culture; the work ethic as a cultural production; the history of corporate social responsibility; immigration and labor/enterprise; ethnic, racial, and gender diversity issues in American business and labor; exploration of labor and business concepts/issues through biography; the social/cultural impact of globalization; regional themes in labor and enterprise; American enterprise in the world. Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

AMST 7300 - American Cities, Suburbs, and Countryside **Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Hill**

Offers a thematic study of cultural, social, and economic patterns of the American metropolis using texts and methods from a variety of disciplines, such as history, literature, anthropology, and sociology. Students interrogate texts ranging from landmarks to literature, personal histories to government documents, advertising to architecture, to explore the shifting relationships between and ideas about American cities, suburbs, and countryside. Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

AMST 7700 - Practicum (Internship or Applied Research Project) **Instructor: Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers**

This course requires students to apply American Studies knowledge, concepts, and theory to practical issues, non-academic environments, or to new research questions. The practicum may be offered as an internship; applied research project; teaching practicum; or other applied experience as approved by the program director. This course may be repeated.

AMST 7901 - Capstone Literature Review and Proposal**Instructor: Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers**

In the first part of the American Studies capstone experience, students work with faculty advisors to review scholarly literature and write a research or project proposal. The research reviewed will consist of interdisciplinary scholarship from American Studies and related fields that investigates questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to review literature and develop a proposal related to their topic or project aims.

AMST 7902 - Capstone Experience**Instructor: Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers**

A major research project or a project using interdisciplinary methods from American Studies to investigate questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to carry out research related to their topic or project aims, and complete a product drawing on the content of program courses and integrating it with new, individualized study.