

**SUMMER 2024**

## **Undergraduate Course Descriptions**

### **AMERICAN STUDIES**

**AMST 1102 - American Identities**  
**Instructor: Dr. Rodolfo Aguilar**

**Online Synchronous**  
**MTWR 11:00AM - 1:45PM**

This course explores what it means to be “American.” Examining “American Identities” from local and global perspectives, and through a variety of disciplinary frameworks, this course focuses on the diverse forms of “American Identity,” as well as the social and cultural histories that have shaped these identities. Students examine their own and others’ identities. Students gain knowledge and skills related to intercultural relations through various methods that include research, reading, writing, performance, and class activities.

**AMST 3730 - Introduction to Native American Studies**  
**Instructor: Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers**

**Online Asynchronous**

This course introduces students to Native American cultures, history, and contemporary issues, with an emphasis on multidisciplinary approaches to the field. We’ll prioritize the voices of Indigenous writers, artists, and scholars as we learn about a wide range of topics, including Native American history, questions of tribal identity and belonging, and contemporary Indigenous arts and activism.

**FALL 2024**

## **Undergraduate Course Descriptions**

### **AMERICAN STUDIES**

**AMST 1102 - American Identities**  
**Instructor: Various**

**Available Face-to-Face, Hybrid**  
**and Asynchronous Online**

This course explores what it means to be “American.” Examining “American Identities” from local and global perspectives, and through a variety of disciplinary frameworks, this course focuses on the diverse forms of “American Identity,” as well as the social and cultural histories that have shaped these identities. Students examine their own and others’ identities. Students gain knowledge and skills related to intercultural relations through various methods that include research, reading, writing, performance, and class activities.

**AMST 3780 - American Cultural Movements**  
**Instructor: Dr. Letizia Guglielmo**

**Online Asynchronous**

Examines the history of and relationships between selected cultural movements in the United States through an interdisciplinary lens. Drawing primarily on historical resources and cultural texts, the course analyzes the evolution and conduct of movements or of a particular major movement, as well as the evolution of academic inquiry and understanding of these movements. In this section, students will explore the cultural history of and rhetorical strategies and practices of key figures in the abolitionist and women's suffrage movements. Analyzing the intersections of gender, race, and class, students will examine key figures’ ability to effect change and the movements’ enduring influence.

# Graduate Course Descriptions

## AMERICAN STUDIES

**AMST 7200 - American Social Movements**  
**Instructor: Dr. Katharine Schaab****Online Asynchronous**

AMST 7200 examines the evolution of various women's and feminist movements around the world including their priorities, challenges, and successes. Drawing upon a range of sources and the work of activists and scholars, we will consider the formation, expansion, and intersections of select movements and how transnational feminism has reshaped feminist geopolitics. Further, we will discuss the role of women's and feminist movements in shaping political and cultural discourses on human rights around the world.

**AMST 7700 - Practicum (Internship or Applied Research Project)****Online Asynchronous****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 fosters the ability to (1) read and think critically while using diverse methods to study American cultural products and practices, (2) communicate effective analysis of American culture both orally and in writing, and (3) analyze and critique relationships between cultural products and social values. The practicum may be offered as an internship; applied research project; teaching practicum; or other applied experience as approved by the program director.

**AMST 7901 - Capstone Literature Review and Proposal****Online Asynchronous****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****Online Asynchronous****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.

**FALL 2024**

## **Graduate Course Descriptions**

### **AMERICAN STUDIES**

**AMST 6201 - History and Culture of the Americas**  
**Instructor: Dr. Nathalia Jaramillo**

**Online Asynchronous**

This interdisciplinary graduate course covers the history and cultural interaction of the United States and the Americas, with attention to relationships between policy, labor dynamics, and cultural expressions. Students will conduct an individual research project on the topic of their choice. Previous projects include: Operation Pedro Pan and the Evacuation of Cuba's Children; Blackness in Brazil; and Urbanization in the City of Angels. Students are exposed to a wide variety of readings and are encouraged to pursue their interests when applying an interdisciplinary lens to their research.

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

**Hybrid Online Synchronous**  
**Tuesdays 6:00 -7:40PM**

AMST 7000 introduces major concepts, theories, debates, and thinkers that shape(d) American Studies scholarship. Through this course, we will investigate six major points of interest within American Studies scholarship (ranging from "Violent Projects" to "Centrality of Difference" and "Cultural Production & Consumption") which will help guide our understanding of the field's history and evolution. AMST 7000 is designed to help you consider how your scholarly interests fit into American Studies as you develop your ability to formulate questions, analyze arguments, make connections, and produce and share knowledge.

**AMST 7420 - American Popular Culture**  
**Instructor: Dr. Rodolfo Aguilar**

**Hybrid Online Synchronous**  
**Thursdays 6:00 -7:40PM**

How do musical identities take shape? What is the power in identifying with music genres? This course examines the role popular music plays in the everyday lives of people across the globe. In this course, we will explore issues of race, globalization, class, gender and sexuality, nationalism, and migration. The ever-growing use of technology has made popular music readily available at rapid speeds to large masses. Yet, accessibility does not always guarantee equal participation of subordinate groups in some music genres. Our course will explore the contradictions often found in music and societies overall. For example, what does hip-hop look like if we center women's voices, why do many Latina/o/x populations embrace English-speaking British post-punk sounds over regional Mexican music, or why has Country music had few successful Black artists? We will read texts like *A Kiss Across the Ocean* (2022), *Chronicling Stankonia* (2021) and *Country Soul* (2015). The course will introduce graduate students to the pressing theories surrounding the politics of popular music to examine how this medium of popular culture simultaneously generates excitement and anxiety across local and national boundaries.

**AMST 7520 - America in Transnational Context**  
**Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Hill**

**Hybrid Online Synchronous**  
**Mondays 7:00 -8:40PM**

This course examines interactions between Americans and other international groups through the events of the 2007-2009 Great Recession and social movements of the 2010s-2020. Movements explored include the Arab Spring, Occupy, Extinction Rebellion, Indigenous sovereignty movements, and a variety of populist movements emerging on the left and right. Over the course of the semester, students will consider the extent to which current social movements can be considered transnational in scope, explore the role of social media and popular discourse in influencing policy-makers, and study international communication networks among social movement activists. Among the core readings will be David McNally, *Global Slump*; Zeynep Tufekci, *Twitter and Tear Gas*; Gilbert Achcar, *Morbid Symptoms*; Michael Gould-Wartofsky, *The Occupiers*, and Keeanga Yamahtta Taylor, *From Black Lives Matter to Black Liberation*.

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

**Hybrid Online Synchronous**  
**Wednesdays 6:00 -7:20PM**

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**

**Hybrid Online Synchronous**  
**Wednesdays 6:00 -7:20PM**

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.