

SUMMER 2025

Undergraduate Course Descriptions

AMERICAN STUDIES

AMST 1102 - American Identities
Instructor: Dr. Rodolfo Aguilar

Online Asynchronous

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 3710 - U.S. in the World
Instructor: Dr. Rodolfo Aguilar

Online Asynchronous

Why study America in a global context? The United States of America constantly reinforces its geographic borders with the restriction of foreign bodies and ideas. Yet, the United States penetrates countries abroad with its military operations, and soft power. While raw materials, manufactured goods, and immigrants arrive daily to American shores to sustain U.S. consumers’ demands, U.S. cultural symbols, cultural products, institutions, and notions of American exceptionalism are exported for circulation on a global scale. In the course, we will explore how local, national, and international understandings of America are intertwined and how these connections position the U.S. in a global framework, which allows for the study of imported and exported ideas of “Americanness.”

FALL 2025

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 3680 - Fan Studies
Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Hill

Online Synchronous
Tuesdays 2:00PM - 3:15PM

This interdisciplinary course explores the culture and societal impact of participatory media audiences, commonly known as “fans.” Drawn from the word “fanatic,” the fan has often been cast in a negative light, but fans are also integral to media marketing and are increasingly prominent in popular culture. From Beatlemania to the Big Bang Theory, fans are not only consumers, but also the subjects of representation in popular media. As a result of this increasing media influence, there is now a considerable body of scholarly literature on the worlds of fans or “fandom.” In this course, students will engage with a selection of classic and contemporary works in fan studies from a variety of academic disciplines, applying concepts and methods learned in the course to the study of specific fan cultures in order to understand the impact of fandom on culture and society.

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.

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Graduate Course Descriptions AMERICAN STUDIES

AMST 7210 - Historical Period
Instructor: Dr. Randy Patton

Online Asynchronous

(The United States in the Era of the Cold War, 1945-1989) This course examines US politics, culture, economic development, and social change in the post-World War II period, with a special emphasis on the home front of this undeclared conflict. Topics will include the evolution of US political parties, the Civil Rights Movement, the labor movement, the Cold War economy. American popular culture, particularly cinema and television, will also receive special attention. The course will examine the ways in which the Cold War shaped postwar America and the ways that the US state/economy and US culture influenced the world.

AMST 7410 - Literature and Performance in American Culture
Instructor: Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers

Online Asynchronous

This course will focus on depictions of race, gender, and Otherness in American science fiction. Theorist Darko Suvin has proposed that the aliens in science fiction “are a mirror to man just as the differing country is a mirror for his world. But the mirror is not only a reflecting one, it is also a transforming one. Drawing on Suvin’s idea that science fiction has the capacity to transform its readers, we will explore texts that both reflect and challenge American cultural norms. The course will focus on modern and contemporary works in multiple forms, including novels, short stories, film, and television. We will place these primary texts in conversation with relevant discussions in American studies, ethnic studies, gender studies, and Indigenous studies. Authors may include Octavia Butler, Ursula K. Le Guin, Philip K. Dick, Nalo Hopkinson, and Louise Erdrich.

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Graduate Course Descriptions AMERICAN STUDIES

AMST 6201 - History and Culture of the Americas
Instructor: Dr. Rodolfo Aguilar

Online Synchronous
Tuesdays 6:00PM - 7:20PM

In the contemporary age of globalization, nations reify their sovereignty on the world stage. American Studies scholars, on the contrary, theorize convergences across the Americas due to migration, empire, economic integration, and cross-flow cultural processes. This course will study the “Americas” rather than simply the United States of America with the help of hemispheric American Studies scholarship. We will borrow from history, literary studies, political economy, personal memoirs, cultural studies, sociology, and anthropology. Assigned readings will include scholars from Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States to better grasp a broader context of our hemisphere.

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

Online Synchronous
Thursdays 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 7450 - Americal Visual Culture**Online Asynchronous****Instructor: Dr. Sergio Figueriredo**

What about “America” can we understand through its visual culture? What makes American visual culture distinct from other visual cultures? Undoubtedly, there are diverse visual cultures across the Americas, and none that could possibly serve as a monolith of a single American visual culture or a narrative that could be considered “grand.” The aim of this graduate seminar, then, will be to prepare students with methods for studying, analyzing, critiquing, and creating visual artifacts. We will do so through the lens of visual rhetoric, the instructor’s primary of expertise, and the methodologies that have been developed within that disciplinary focus.

AMST 7510 - Passages to America**Online Synchronous****Instructor: Nathalia Jaramillo****Wednesdays 6:30 -7:25PM**

The course examines the history of immigration in the U.S. and the central ideas and issues that frame immigration debates in the past and present. Students will analyze historical and fictional texts that describe the immigrant experience in the U.S. Topics such as nativism, borderlands, and immigration policy will be covered in course readings. Special consideration will be given to U.S.-Mexico and Central American immigration debates.

AMST 7901 - Capstone Literature Review and Proposal**Online Synchronous****Instructor: Dr. Letizia Guglielmo****Tuesdays 5:30 -6:45PM**

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 Synchronous****Instructor: Dr. Letizia Guglielmo****Tuesdays 5:30 -6:45PM**

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.