

# AMST - AMERICAN STUDIES

## AMST101 Introduction American Studies (3 Credits)

Introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of American Studies by examining concepts such as culture, identity, cultural practices, and globalization, as well as theories underlying these concepts. Engages key themes, especially constructions of difference and identity, cultures of everyday life, and America and the world.

**Credit Only Granted for:** AMST101 or AMST201.

**Formerly:** AMST201.

## AMST120 Race, Gender, and the Global Economy (3 Credits)

An exploration of the building blocks of the global economy (e.g. free trade, financial institutions) in relation to racial and gender difference, hierarchies, and ideologies.

## AMST202 Cultures of Everyday Life in America (3 Credits)

Examine the structures and patterns of everyday life in the U.S., utilizing methods such as ethnography, oral history, survey research, and textual, visual, and material cultural analysis.

## AMST203 Popular Culture in America (3 Credits)

An introduction to American popular culture, its historical development, and its role as a reflection of and influence on our culture and society.

## AMST204 Film and American Culture Studies (3 Credits)

Exploration of the American film from a historical perspective, illustrating the motion picture's role as an institutional phenomenon, as a form of communication, and as a source of cross-cultural study.

## AMST205 Material Aspects of American Life (3 Credits)

Historical survey of American material culture. Ways of describing and interpreting accumulated material evidence (e.g., buildings, town plans) introduced by stressing relationship between artifact and culture.

## AMST207 Contemporary American Cultures (3 Credits)

World views, values, and social systems of contemporary American cultures explored through readings on selected groups such as middle-class suburbanites, old order Amish, and urban tramps.

## AMST212 Diversity in American Culture (3 Credits)

Exploration of the role of diversity in the shaping of American culture. Special emphasis will be placed on the multicultural origins of American popular and material culture, such as foodways and entertainment, and on the experience of "Americanization."

## AMST213 Heroes and Villains in American Film (3 Credits)

We will examine the complex, changing, and ever-present representations of heroes and villains in American film. Beginning with a foundational understanding of how heroes and, conversely, villains have been defined through classic Hollywood film, we will explore how these definitions have shifted throughout the 20th and 21st century in various narrative genres, including westerns, war films, film noir, fantasy, science fiction, and, of course, superhero movies. In particular, we will be focusing on how the hero and villain maintain or disrupt specific cultural ideologies concerning race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and ability. This course will examine how these various ideologies have evolved throughout the 20th and 21st century, impacting the ways in which heroes and villains are both represented in American film and perceived by diverse audiences. Finally, we will examine our own complicated and sometimes troubling identification with these heroes, even when they might stand in stark contrast to our cultural values and identities. Cross-listed with: FILM298V.

**Credit Only Granted for:** AMST213, HONR219F or FILM298V.

**Formerly:** HONR219F.

## AMST260 American Culture in the Information Age (3 Credits)

Examines the ways in which content and form of public information interact with the culture, families & individuals.

**Credit Only Granted for:** AMST260 or AMST298I.

**Formerly:** AMST298I.

## AMST262 Houses, Schools, and Prisons in American Life (3 Credits)

This interdisciplinary course explores the role of property, discipline, and punishment in American life. By exploring the ideological underpinnings in property, discipline, and punishment and their manifestations in houses, schools, and prisons we will explore how these entities reflect American society and its values.

## AMST269 Special Topics in Study Abroad II (1-6 Credits)

Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.

**Repeatable to:** 15 credits if content differs.

## AMST298 Selected Topics in American Studies (3 Credits)

Cultural study of a specific theme or issue involving artifacts and documents from both past and contemporary American experience.

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

## AMST298Q U.S. Latinx Literature and Culture (3 Credits)

Examines the poetry, prose, and theater of Latinx communities in the United States from their origins in the Spanish colonization of North America to their ongoing development in the 21st century. Considers how authors use literary form to gain insight into human experience, including mortality, religious belief, gender and sexuality, war and peace, family, language use, scientific inquiry, cultural tradition, ecology, and labor. Also studies how Latinx literary traditions have shaped and been shaped by broader currents in American literature, as well as what connections exist between Latinx literature and social and artistic developments in other parts of the world, particularly Latin America and the Caribbean. Authors may include Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, Eulalia Perez, Juan Nepomuceno Seguin, Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton, Jose Marti, Arthur A. Schomburg, Jesus Colon, Julia de Burgos, Cesar Chavez, Ariel Dorfman, Gloria Anzaldua, Junot Diaz, and Cristina Garcia. Cross-listed with: ENGL235.

**Credit Only Granted for:** ENGL235 or AMST298Q.

## AMST324 Growing Up Asian American: The Asian Immigrant Family and the Second Generation (3 Credits)

An interdisciplinary course examines the experiences of children of Asian immigrants in the U.S., focusing on intergenerational dynamics in the Asian immigrant family, their intersections with race, gender, class, sexuality, and religion, and how these shape second-generation Asian American life. Topics include identity and personhood, the model minority myth and education, work and leisure, language and communication, filiality and disownment, mental health and suicide. Cross-listed with: AAST394, IMMR394.

**Credit Only Granted for:** AAST394, AAST398E, AMST324, AMST328V, IMMR319G or IMMR394.

**Formerly:** AAST398E.

## AMST328 Perspectives on Identity and Culture (3 Credits)

Analysis of the cultural aspect of identity formation and the role of individual or community identities in cultural production. Examination of cultural texts such as film, literature, fashion, artifacts, archival records, architecture, monuments, sports, and paintings.

**Repeatable to:** 9 credits if content differs.

**AMST328V Growing Up Asian American: The Asian Immigrant Family and the Second Generation (3 Credits)**

An interdisciplinary course examines the experiences of children of Asian immigrants in the U.S., focusing on intergenerational dynamics in the Asian immigrant family, their intersections with race, gender, class, sexuality, and religion, and how these shape second-generation Asian American life. Topics include identity and personhood, the model minority myth and education, work and leisure, language and communication, filiality and disownment, mental health and suicide. Cross-listed with: AMST324, IMMR394.

**Credit Only Granted for:** AAST394, AAST398E, AMST324, AMST328V, IMMR319G or IMMR394.

**Formerly:** AAST398E.

**AMST340 Introduction to History, Theories and Methods in American Studies (3 Credits)**

Introduction to the process of interdisciplinary research, including research literatures, questions, first-hand sources and library and analytic methods in American Studies. Each student will craft a prospectus for original research.

**Prerequisite:** Must have completed AMST201; and 2 courses in AMST.

**Restriction:** Must be in American Studies program; and sophomore standing or higher.

**AMST369 Special Topics in Study Abroad III (1-6 Credits)**

Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.

**Repeatable to:** 15 credits if content differs.

**AMST386 Experiential Learning (3-6 Credits)**

**Restriction:** Permission of ARHU-American Studies department; and junior standing or higher.

**AMST388 Honors Thesis (3-6 Credits)**

Individual research, thesis and oral defense. The research project will be conducted under the supervision of a faculty member.

**Restriction:** Must be admitted to AMST honors program; and permission of ARHU-American Studies department; and senior standing.

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**AMST398 Independent Studies (1-3 Credits)**

Provides the student with the opportunity to pursue independent, interdisciplinary research and reading in specific areas of American culture studies.

**Restriction:** Permission of ARHU-American Studies department.

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**AMST418 Cultural Themes in America (3 Credits)**

Examination of structure and development of American culture through themes such as "growing up American," "culture and mental disorders," "race," "ethnicity," "regionalism," "landscape," and "humor."

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**AMST428 American Cultural Eras (3 Credits)**

Investigation of a decade, period, or generation as a case study in significant social change within an American context. Case studies include "Antebellum America, 1840-1860" and "American culture in the Great Depression."

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**AMST429 Perspectives on Popular Culture (3 Credits)**

Topics in popular culture studies, including the examination of particular genres, themes, and issues.

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**AMST450 Seminar in American Studies (3 Credits)**

Developments in theories and methods of American Studies scholarship, with emphasis upon interaction between the humanities and the social sciences in the process of cultural analysis and evaluation.

**Prerequisite:** AMST201 and AMST340; and 1 course in AMST.

**Restriction:** Senior standing; and must be in American Studies program.

**AMST498 Special Topics in American Studies (3 Credits)**

Topics of special interest.

**Repeatable to:** 9 credits if content differs.

**AMST498J Asian American Politics (3 Credits)**

Students will gain a greater understanding of 1) the role of Asian Americans in US politics, 2) the political attitudes and behaviors of Asian Americans and 3) how to conduct research on Asian American politics. Though the class will concentrate on Asian Americans, issues related to Asian American politics will be examined within the larger context of America's multicultural political landscape. Cross-listed with: AAST443.

**Credit Only Granted for:** AAST498T, AAST443, GVPT368C or AMST 498J.

**Formerly:** AAST498T.

**AMST499 Independent Studies (1-3 Credits)**

Provides the student with the opportunity to pursue independent, interdisciplinary research and reading in specific areas of American culture studies.

**Restriction:** Permission of ARHU-American Studies department; and must be in American Studies program.

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.