



DEPARTMENT OF
AMERICAN STUDIES

Fall 2024 Course Descriptions

AMST 1110.004 – Introduction to Environmental & Social Justice

Offered: Full Semester, MW 8:30-9:45am

Instructor: Hennessey Star, hstar@unm.edu

Description Forthcoming.

AMST 1120.002 – Intro to Gender, Sex & Empire

Offered: Full Semester, TR 11:00-12:15pm

Instructor: Daisy Atterbury, daisyatterbury@unm.edu

This course will historicize ways in which US imperialism has interacted with notions of gender and sexuality throughout the centuries, providing a genealogical analysis of gender and sexuality as those structures have been lived and understood in Western culture over the last couple of centuries. Together, we'll discuss theories of the intersectionality of identities and think about the relationships between sex, gender, sexuality, race, class, and nation. To interrogate the norms of whiteness, heterosexuality, middle-class, and U.S. nation state (particularly reigning discourses of citizenship, rights, and democracy) we'll look at postcolonial, racial, class, and LGBTQIA+ writing and analysis. This course will provide a strong foundation for the pursuit of studies in feminist, queer, critical race, and postcolonial theories.

AMST 1140.002 – Critical Race & Indigenous Studies

Offered: Full Semester, Online

Instructor: Alyosha Goldstein, agoldste@unm.edu

This course introduces students to the historical and contemporary politics of race and Indigenous self-determination in the context of what is currently the United States from the interdisciplinary perspective of American Studies. Beginning with the formative role of slavery and colonialism in the making of modern understandings of race and racial difference, this course focuses on race and colonialism as key organizing categories of U.S. social, legal, cultural, and political life. Throughout the course we will consider the interdependent, intersectional, and relational dynamics of social identities. We likewise examine how capitalism is a historically specific racialized and gendered social relation of inequality. Although our primary concern is the U.S. context, the course situates this context within the broader framework of global history and geopolitics in order to show how and why the U.S. cannot be studied and understood in isolation from the rest of the world. Course readings provide an analytic and

historical basis for addressing questions of power, inequality, identity, collective struggle, and social movements.

AMST 1140.003 – Critical Race & Indigenous Studies

Offered: Full Semester, Online

Instructor: Joselin Castillo, joscastillo@unm.edu

Description Forthcoming.

AMST 1140.005 – Critical Race & Indigenous Studies

Offered: Second Half, Online

Instructor: Alyosha Goldstein, agoldste@unm.edu

This course introduces students to the historical and contemporary politics of race and Indigenous self-determination in the context of what is currently the United States from the interdisciplinary perspective of American Studies. Beginning with the formative role of slavery and colonialism in the making of modern understandings of race and racial difference, this course focuses on race and colonialism as key organizing categories of U.S. social, legal, cultural, and political life. Throughout the course we will consider the interdependent, intersectional, and relational dynamics of social identities. We likewise examine how capitalism is a historically specific racialized and gendered social relation of inequality. Although our primary concern is the U.S. context, the course situates this context within the broader framework of global history and geopolitics in order to show how and why the U.S. cannot be studied and understood in isolation from the rest of the world. Course readings provide an analytic and historical basis for addressing questions of power, inequality, identity, collective struggle, and social movements.

AMST 1150.001 – Introduction to Southwest Studies

Offered: Full Semester, TR 5:00-6:15pm

Instructor: Ezekiel Acosta, eacosta3@unm.edu

Description Forthcoming.

AMST 1150.002 – Introduction to Southwest Studies

Offered: Full Semester, MW 8:30-9:45am

Instructor: Yessica Gonzales Rodriguez, glezyessica@unm.edu

Description Forthcoming.

AMST 310.001 – T: Breaking Bad TV Race & Gender

Offered: Full Semester, TR 9:30-10:45am

Instructor: Michael Trujillo, mltruj@unm.edu

This course examines American and Chicax representation and identity through a case study of the wildly popular and critically admired television series Breaking Bad. Themes include American national identity, masculinity, the US West, the Mexican-American borderlands, and New Mexican Chicanidad. All are analyzed through the cultural studies lens including the social categories

of race, gender, and the politics of representation. In this class, students will view the first two seasons of Breaking Bad including a small number of additional episodes, read related scholarly literature, and write a research paper focused on Breaking Bad and US identity and Mexican American issues.

AMST 330.001 – T: Queer Cinema

Offered: Full Semester, TR 4:00-6:45pm

Instructor: Eva Hayward, ehayward@unm.edu

Description Forthcoming.

AMST 330.002 – T: Queer Theories

Offered: Full Semester, TR 2:00-3:15pm

Instructor: Daisy Atterbury, daisyatterbury@unm.edu

The class will examine early foundations of queer theory and move into exploring queer of color, queer migration, queer diaspora, post-colonial queer and trans studies scholarship. We will familiarize ourselves with the core texts and key debates that have shaped queer theory and trace the expansion of the term “queer” from its early contestation with LGBTQIA+ identities and politics to its current use as a broad framework that designates non-normative modes of knowledge, cultural practices, and political activism. Central to our investigation are the intersections between queer theory, feminism and critical race theory. Weaving analyses of foundational queer and feminist texts, we will explore an expansive and radical contemporary queer politics. This class will ultimately engage theory by means of a rich philosophical and political interrogation of the meaning and content of “queer.”

AMST 350.001 – T: Race, Sex & Fashion

Offered: Full Semester, TR 12:30-1:45pm

Instructor: Francisco Galarte, galarte@unm.edu

Description Forthcoming.

AMST 370.001 – Indigenous Film

Offered: Full Semester, MW 5:00-6:15pm

Instructor: Ashik Istiak, aistiak@unm.edu

This course introduces students to Indigenous films, with a focus on U.S. based Indigenous filmmakers. The films we screen are representative of the genres that filmmakers engage as they challenge stereotypes that sustain racism and discrimination against Indigenous people and, simultaneously, their films are intended to celebrate Indigenous life and explore its complexities. We will explore genres, develop an appreciation for historical and cultural contexts of films, and consider how these films are forms of Indigenous resurgence. We will also learn the basics of media literacy and film analysis. Our key concepts include settler colonialism, decolonization, resurgence, tradition, and gender.

NO TEXTBOOKS REQUIRED.

ALL READINGS, VIDEOS AND FILMS ARE POSTED ON UNM LEARN.

AMST 385.002 – The Problem of America

Offered: Full Semester, T 4:00-6:30pm

Instructor: Alexander Pearl, apearl00@unm.edu

This seminar introduces American Studies majors and minors to interdisciplinary theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of “America.” We will focus on how ideas about race, ethnicity, class, Indigeneity, gender, sexuality, region, disability, and nationality have shaped contests over the meaning of citizenship and belonging. Further, through close analysis and classroom discussion of various research methodologies that employ primary source material such as historical documents, literature, ethnography, and visual and popular culture, this course gives students the tools to create their own interdisciplinary work.

The seminar will be framed around the following questions: What is distinct about interdisciplinary scholarship? What kinds of questions do interdisciplinary scholars ask and why? What does a comparative framework require and offer in terms of methodology?

AMST 502.001– Research Methods Practicum

Offered: Full Semester, R 4:00-6:30pm

Instructor: David Correia, dcorreia@unm.edu

Description Forthcoming.

AMST 530.001 – T: Feminist Politics

Offered: Full Semester, W 10:00-12:30pm

Instructor: Jennifer Denetdale, jdenet@unm.edu

Description Forthcoming.

AMST 530.002 – T: Fem Theory & Methodology

Offered: Full Semester, W 4:00-6:30pm

Instructor: Daisy Atterbury, daisyatterbury@unm.edu

As a core seminar for the Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, this course will provide a foundation in feminist theory and poetics with an attention to queer/trans feminisms and queer of color critique. We will emphasize contemporary debates and foundational theories that inquire into the social constructions of gender, race, and sexuality through theoretical treatises alongside visual culture and poetry and poetics. These texts will explore non-normative modes of knowledge, cultural practices, and political activism. Central to our investigation are the intersections between queer theory, feminism and critical race theory. Weaving analyses of foundational queer and feminist texts, we will explore an expansive and radical contemporary feminist politics. Potential readings include recent monographs by Amber Musser, Jennifer Nash and Bernadine Hernández, alongside contemporary poetry and experimental writing by Natalie Diaz, Mirene Arsanios and Simone White.

AMST 580.001 – Latinx Time

Offered: Full Semester, T 4:00-6:30pm

Instructor: Francisco Galarte, galarte@unm.edu

Description Forthcoming.