



DEPARTMENT OF  
AMERICAN STUDIES

## Spring 2021 Course Descriptions

**AMST 1110 001: Intro Environmental & Social Justice**

**Offered: MWF 0900-0950 Remote Scheduled /Full term**

**Instructor:** Melissa Bendt [mbbendt@unm.edu](mailto:mbbendt@unm.edu)

An introduction to the theories of the environment, theories of justice in the context of environmental policy and planning and to histories of poor peoples' struggles around the unequal distribution of toxic waste

**AMST 1110 002: Intro Environmental & Social Justice**

**Offered: Remote Arranged /1<sup>st</sup> half**

**Instructor:** David Correia [dcorreia@unm.edu](mailto:dcorreia@unm.edu)

An introduction to the theories of the environment, theories of justice in the context of environmental policy and planning and to histories of poor peoples' struggles around the unequal distribution of toxic waste

**AMST 1110 003: Intro Environmental & Social Justice**

**Offered: Remote Arranged /2<sup>nd</sup> half**

**Instructor:** David Correia [dcorreia@unm.edu](mailto:dcorreia@unm.edu)

An introduction to the theories of the environment, theories of justice in the context of environmental policy and planning and to histories of poor peoples' struggles around the unequal distribution of toxic waste

**AMST 1130 001: Intro American Popular Culture**

**Offered: TR 1100-1215 Remote Scheduled /Full term**

**Instructor:** Alana, Bock, [ajbock@unm.edu](mailto:ajbock@unm.edu)

This course considers a range of theoretical approaches to the study of popular culture, including cultural studies and feminist theory as well as key concepts and key debates in the study of popular culture. It explores the ways popular culture is implicated in the formation of social determinants such as race, gender, class, and sexuality and conversely, how these social determinants are implicated in the formation of popular culture. The course also considers the ways in which popular culture serves as a site of ongoing political struggle. The aim of the course is to provide students with a critical vocabulary to make sense of the broader significance and relevance of popular culture—how and why popular culture matters. To accomplish this, we will investigate a number of popular culture examples including the punk movement, youth cultural production and branding, Black science fiction, sport mascots, the Riot Grrrl movement, body positivity, Indigenous pop music, and social media.

**AMST 1140 001: Intro Race Class & Ethnicity****Offered: Remote Arranged/ 2<sup>nd</sup> half****Instructor:** Alyosha Goldstein, [agoldste@unm.edu](mailto:agoldste@unm.edu)

This course introduces students to the historical and contemporary significance of race, class and ethnicity 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, class, ethnicity, and gender 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 race, class, and ethnicity rather than approach each as discrete or stand-alone categories. 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 002: Intro Race Class & Ethnicity****Offered: TR 1800-1915 Remote Scheduled/ Full term****Instructor:** Joshua Heckman, [heckmanj@unm.edu](mailto:heckmanj@unm.edu)

“Introduction to Race, Class, Ethnicity” offers students an intersectional analysis of how race formed in America, how it relates to class and ethnicity, and how it has been embedded in various social structures and law. Moreover, students will examine some contemporary social movements, on the part of women of color, indigenous activists, and African American radicals, to challenge racial and class formations in the U.S. The course is organized around six units: What is Race?; Racial Privilege and Whiteness; Race and the Law; Settler Colonialism and Race; Women of Color/Third World Women Feminism and Queer of Color Critique; and Race, Labor and Capital.

**AMST 1150 001: Intro Southwest Studies****Offered: TR 0930-1045 Remote Scheduled/Full term****Instructor:** Michael Trujillo, [mltruj@unm.edu](mailto:mltruj@unm.edu)

This course introduces the complex histories, social issues, and cultural experiences of peoples of the southwestern United States. Course materials and discussions also demonstrate the possibilities of interdisciplinary study of regional American culture. It is multicultural in content and multidisciplinary in methodology. We will examine cross-cultural relationships among the peoples of the Southwest within the framework of their expressions and experiences in art, culture, religion; social and political economy

**AMST 1150 002: Intro Southwest Studies****Offered. Remote Arranged/2<sup>nd</sup> half****Instructor:** Kara Roanhorse, [roanhorse@unm.edu](mailto:roanhorse@unm.edu)

This course introduces the complex histories, social issues, and cultural experiences of peoples of the southwestern United States. Course materials and discussions also demonstrate the possibilities of interdisciplinary study of regional American culture. It is multicultural in content and multidisciplinary in methodology. We will examine cross-cultural relationships among the peoples of the Southwest within the framework of their expressions and experiences in art, culture, religion; social and political economy

**AMST 320 001: T: Nuclear New Mexico****Offered: TR 1530-1515 Remote Scheduled/ Full term****Instructor:** Eileen Shaughnessy, [eileens@unm.edu](mailto:eileens@unm.edu)

As the birthplace of the bomb and also as a main-player in the current nuclear weapons industry, New Mexico is a rich source of study for all things “nuclear.” In this course, we will explore multiple aspects of nuclearism in the Southwest, including environmental justice issues, environmental racism, radioactive colonialism, atomic tourism, and the global implications of “the bomb.” How does the ubiquitous presence of nuclearism in the Southwest impede our ability to live sustainably? What social justice concerns must we confront and what communities most bear the brunt of those concerns? We will take an interdisciplinary and critical approach to answering these questions and more throughout this course

**AMST 320 002: T: US War on Terror****Offered: TR 1400-1630 Remote Scheduled/ Full term****Instructor:** Axel Gonzalez, [axgonzalez@unm.edu](mailto:axgonzalez@unm.edu)

This course examines the history, politics, and cultural production of the U.S. War on Terror, a conflict that began following the end of the Cold War and continues today (although officially the war has ended). The War on Terror describes an historical moment in which definitions of U.S. nationalism, legality, and territory are undergoing transformation. We will explore how the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 redefined U.S. engagements in the world, as well as counterinsurgency efforts in the U.S. We will explore the deadly consequences of the War on Terror on so-called enemy combatants in Yemen, Pakistan, and those detained in Guantanamo Bay. Our discussion concludes with a consideration of how the War on Terror has “come home” in the form of increasingly militarized American urban policing.

**AMST 330 001: Transgender Studies****Offered: R 1600-1830 Remote Scheduled/ Full term****Instructor:** Amy Brandzel, [brandzel@unm.edu](mailto:brandzel@unm.edu)

This course examines the emerging field of Transgender Studies in the U.S, a field that centers transgender scholarship, trans-identified scholars, and trans people’s experiences. The “trans” in transgender studies not only refers to a specific identity and political collective, it also reflects the potential transgressive movement across all sorts of boundaries within the field. Through the optic of trans-, this field offers innovative analyses of sex, gender, identity, and the body and their normative enforcements in theory, culture, science, and law. And more recently, the field has turned its attention towards analyzing operations of colonialism, empire, white supremacy, and other systems of oppression. Due to the current pandemic, this class will meet online once per week (zoom attendance is required), and we will make sure we take care of each other while we learn from transgender scholars and activists on how to survive and thrive during difficult times.

**AMST 340 001: T: Country Music & Cultural Politics****Offered: TR 0930-1045 Face to Face + Remote Scheduled/ Full term****Instructor:** Dr. Kristina Jacobsen [kmj23@unm.edu](mailto:kmj23@unm.edu)

Examine intersections of “race,” social class and gender through the lens of American country music. Investigation of country music from an anthropological and ethnomusicological perspective, utilizing recordings and live performances to put scholarship on country music into conversation with social theory and literature on social class, space/place, and racial identities.

**AMST 350 001: T: Black Women in Cultural Production****Offered: TR 1600-1830 Remote Scheduled/ 2<sup>nd</sup> half****Instructor:** Andrea Mays, [amays@unm.edu](mailto:amays@unm.edu)

This upper division, seminar-styled course challenges students to carefully read, examine and investigate the creative, social and political influences that have shaped, theater, cinema, fine art painting, and literature created by women of African descent. Though the works considered in this course are primarily authored by women of African descent from the U.S., students will also read works by Black British writers, and women from African and Caribbean countries. The works considered will also include, but are not limited to, literary, art, and film criticism. Questions considered include: What factors have shaped the structures of production and consumption surrounding works by Black women? How have Black women's creative work been considered compared to their contemporary male and non-Black counterparts? What factors have shaped the social, political, and creative contours of works produced by Black women?

**AMST 358 001: T: Mexican American****Offered: TR 1230-1345 Remote Scheduled/Full term****Instructor:** Michael Trujillo, [mltruj@unm.edu](mailto:mltruj@unm.edu)**Description:** Forthcoming**AMST 485 001: Senior Seminar in U.S. Culture****Offered: M 1400-1600 Remote Scheduled / Full term****Instructor:** Rebecca Schreiber, [rschreib@unm.edu](mailto:rschreib@unm.edu)

This is the capstone course for the American Studies major, although it is open to American Studies minors and other students who want to write a senior thesis. It is meant to give students an opportunity to synthesize what they have learned in their American Studies courses and related classes. It is also a chance for students to do their own, original work on a topic that matters to them. We will work together to develop and strengthen skills in research, analysis, and writing, but the major part of the seminar is the work they will do to produce a 20 page original senior thesis.

During the semester we will meet during our regular class hours each week to work in small groups helping each other with questions and problems in the writing process. Each student will be asked to share drafts of their written work at each of these meetings. At the end of the semester students will complete their thesis project and give a presentation on their work as part of an American Studies thesis symposium.

**AMST 501 002: Theories & Methods in AMST****Offered: R 1400-1630/ Full term****Instructor:** Jennifer Denetdale, [jdenet@unm.edu](mailto:jdenet@unm.edu)

This seminar introduces students to the critical intellectual genealogies, theories, and methods that inform contemporary American Studies scholarship. Readings establish connections between key historical intellectual interventions that have served as the ongoing basis of critical inquiry and innovative contemporary scholarship that engages, reimagines, and rethinks these preceding analytics.

This seminar is the second course in the required sequence of the American Studies core graduate curriculum. Our focus this semester includes critical transnationalism, histories of capitalism, imperialism, Marxist theory, racial capitalism, women of color feminism, queer of color critique, critical ethnic studies, and Indigenous theory.

**AMST 517 001: The Politics of Visual Culture****Offered: W 1000-1230 Remote Scheduled / Full term****Instructor:** Rebecca Schreiber, [rschreib@unm.edu](mailto:rschreib@unm.edu)

This graduate seminar explores theories and methodologies employed by scholars working in the field of visual culture studies. During the past few decades, visual culture has emerged as an expansive interdisciplinary field of study, encompassing subjects and strategies as well at home in the fields of American Studies, Critical Ethnic Studies, and Critical Indigenous Studies, as in film/media studies and art history. Our focus will be on the visual as an arena in which cultural meaning is constituted and power relations played out. The readings in the course have an intersectional approach, as we will examine how race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and other forms of identity inform the experiences of those whose cultural work we analyze. Within this general framework, we will focus on forms of visual culture from the late 19th century to the present, tracing the rise of mass media and image-based popular culture in the United States. The readings are representative of recent scholarship in the field, including studies of photography, film, and performance.

We will be reading articles and books by Diana Taylor, Ramón Rivera-Servera, Nicholas Mirzoeff, Jennifer González, Leticia Alvarado, Shawn Michelle Smith, Leigh Raiford, Anna Pegler-Gordon, Michelle H. Raheja, Curtis Marez, and Uri McMillian.

**AMST 519 001: T: The Politics of Care****Offered: T 1600-1830 Remote Scheduled / Full term****Instructor:** Melanie Yazzie, [myazzi02@unm.edu](mailto:myazzi02@unm.edu)

Nurses and mutual aid workers stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic to take care of people when it became apparent that capitalist nation-states were failing. Caretakers remind us that caretaking affirms human life against a system that abandons and exploits it. In this seminar, we will take our cue from COVID-19 caretakers to examine the politics of care as it intersects with global capitalism, settler colonialism, imperialism, queer politics, feminism, fascism, and liberatory projects for decolonization and abolition. We will draw from a broad array of scholarly and activist sources to examine caretaking as a politics, theory, and practice that shapes history and our concepts of the future.

**AMST 520 001: T: Queer & Trans of Color Critique****Offered: W 1600-1830 Remote Scheduled / Full term****Instructor:** Francisco Galarte, [galarte@unm.edu](mailto:galarte@unm.edu)

What are the foundational objects, questions, and debates within queer and trans of color critique? How do queer and trans of color critique and activism interface? This course offers an in-depth exploration of the field of queer of color critique and the emerging field of trans of color critique, emphasizing close, critical reading of scholarly and artistic texts—especially novels, performance art, music, and films. We will trace the development of the term “queer of color critique,” and “trans of color critique” the history of queer and trans of color theory, foregrounding its emergence within and indebtedness to foundational women of color feminist texts and trans of color texts theorizing interlocking oppressions, intersectionality, and the racialized sexual regulation of social formations. For example, we will read essays, manifestos, and poems by The Combahee River Collective, Barbara Smith, Audre Lorde, Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. We will then read canonical essays by a variety of queer of color and trans of color theorists, among them José Esteban Muñoz, Roderick Ferguson, Kara Keeling, C. Riley Snorton, micha cárdenas, Jian Neo Chen, and Jasbir Puar and use these essays as frameworks for analyzing performance art, film, literary texts and archival primary sources. Ultimately, the course

considers how queer of color and trans of color critique intersect with and interanimate one another, challenging dominant discourses of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the process.