



DEPARTMENT OF
AMERICAN STUDIES

Fall 2020 Course Descriptions

AMST 1110 002: Intro Environmental & Social Justice

Offered: Online /Full term

Instructor: Melissa Bendt 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: Online /2nd half

Instructor: Staff

This course focuses on the interdisciplinary study of the construction of gender as a category. Readings will span cross-cultural and historical materials, including literary, artistic and popular representations of masculinity and femininity in America

AMST 1130 002: Intro American Popular Culture

Offered: TR 0930-1045 /Full term

Instructor: Alana, Bock, 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 expressive forms including punk, Riot Grrrl, teen magazines, fandom, high school proms, quinceaneras, the comedy of Dave Chappelle, branding, techno music, and Indigenous performance.

AMST 1140 001: Intro Race Class & Ethnicity

Offered: MWF 1000-1140/ 2nd half term

Instructor: Joshua Heckman, 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 1140 004: Intro Race Class & Ethnicity

Offered: TR 1400-1515/ Full term

Instructor: Alyosha Goldstein, 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 semester we will consider the interdependent, intersectional, and relational dynamics of race, class, and ethnicity rather than approach each as discrete or stand-alone categories

AMST 1150 020: Intro Southwest Studies

Offered. Online/Full term

Instructor: Kara Roanhorse, 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 1150 021: Intro Southwest Studies

Offered. Online/2nd half term

Instructor: Jennifer Marley, jenm11@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 310 001: T: Interpreting Women's Hist

Offered: M 1600-1830/ Full term

Instructor: Elizabeth Stone, eastone@unm.edu

This course will engage students in the work of employing feminist and intersectional lenses in the context of public, informal education that centers women's lives. Museums and historic sites are one of many spaces in which both adults and children learn about their local histories and communities. As such, they are powerful sites where identity and belonging are constructed and contested. In this course, students will first survey representations of people at work in public spaces, identifying who is and is not represented, and examining the roles of gender, race, class, and time. We will read key work in critical pedagogies of informal learning (ex: Freire, Simon, Moore, Lonetree, Trivedi). Using these tools, students will review interpretive materials at Gutierrez-Hubbell House (GHH) and will identify spaces

and narratives as their focus of work. Students will work in small groups to do the research, writing, design, and community conversation required to create engaging public materials that center the experiences of women of color in historical context. Outcomes of this work will be incorporated into GHH exhibits, museum guide training, public programs, p12 educational programs, and strategic planning and will thus have a long-term, significant impact toward centering women's histories at the site.

AMST 320 001: T: Climate Crisis: Culture and politics

Offered: TR 1100-1215/ Full term

Instructor: Axel Gonzalez, axgonzalez@unm.edu

In October of 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the key international body entrusted with assessing climate science and advising policymakers, issued a dire report that showed that the world's nations have until 2030 to make drastic changes to our energy infrastructure if we are to have any hope of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. While the 2015 landmark Paris Agreement that most nations agreed to called for limiting warming to 2° C above pre-industrial levels, the IPCC report maintains that the difference between 1.5° and 2° is a life-and-death matter. At 2° some low-lying island nations might become uninhabitable while at 1.5° more might survive; at 2° coral reefs would almost entirely disappear while at 1.5° 10-30% might survive. In short, a warming of 2° C or greater would be catastrophic and the clock is ticking.

What is driving the climate crisis? In other words, who or what is to blame for the situation we find ourselves in? It is clear that while wealthy nations, such as the nations of North America and Europe, are much more responsible for greenhouse gas emissions than the poorer nations of the Global South, it is the countries of the Global South that are experiencing the worst of its effects. How did this moment come to be? This course asks critical questions about the economic and political forces driving the climate crisis, about the historical roots of the crisis, and, perhaps most importantly, about the possible pathways out of the crisis. We will confront the competing visions for climate mitigation and adaptation advanced by the industrialized North and countries of the Global South in international climate negotiations. We will also look to film, art, literature, and social movements to understand how artists and activists understand the climate crisis and envision climate justice. In short, this much is clear: in order to stop climate change, we must stop extracting fossil fuels from the ground and setting them on fire. How do we get there?

AMST 320 001: T: Nuclear New Mexico

Offered: TR 1230-1345/ Full term

Instructor: Eileen Shaughnessy. 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 330 001: T: Women's Rights are Human Rights

Offered: TR 1230-1345/ Full term

Instructor: Tiffany Florvil , tflorvil@unm.edu

When then First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton delivered a speech, entitled “Women’s Rights are Human Rights,” at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China in 1995, she drew on a long tradition of recognizing the dignity and humanity of women. She also explained how women’s efforts to secure civil, political, economic, and social rights predated that significant moment. This course focuses on those previous efforts to achieve women’s rights along with other human rights goals and movements. While this is particularly important given the centennial of U.S. women’s suffrage, the course will pursue other geographic contexts to offer a more critical perspective of these efforts to push for citizenship and rights by examining women across the globe. It explores women’s and their allies’ efforts to secure, maintain, transform, and contest their treatment and agitate for equitable legislation that acknowledged their personhood and agency. Exploring multiple international, imperial, national, and local contexts and spaces and using a range of sources, the course will chart the emergence and evolution of women’s rights, including the actors, discourses, practices, and movements. The course will also unpack the relationship between rights and citizenship, belonging, identity/subjectivity, and politics and how rights impact particular groups (sexes, genders, classes, races/ethnicities, etc.). Students will grasp an understanding of the utility of women’s rights in international campaigns for justice, equality, and dignity and acknowledge continuities and discontinuities with the past and present

AMST 330 002: Queer Theories

Offered: T 1600-1830/ Full term

Instructor: Amy Brandzel, brandzel@unm.edu

“We’re Here! We’re Queer! GET USED TO IT!” This is one of the infamous chants from 1990’s queer activists and part of their controversial, “in your face” political strategy that took the epithet “queer” and turned it into a movement and an academic field called Queer Studies.

Queer Studies is an area of study concerned with how hegemonic structures of regulation, morality, and normalization create violence. As UC Irvine’s Queer Theory program explains, “Queer Studies focuses on the study of how norms are produced and come to be taken for granted, and, conversely, how they are destabilized either through their own internal contradictions or through the interventions of activists seeking social justice.” And, importantly, when queer theory is done well, it is not just concerned with norms of sexuality, but all types of norms that can create violence, pain, and suffering. In this course, we will be learning about how norms of sexuality, gender, race, Indigeneity, class, nation, empire, and more, are created, sustained, work together, and, potentially, how they can be disrupted, dismantled, or even undone. In this way, current queer theory continues the queer activist practice of irreverence by making “queer” into a verb, as in the sense that queer studies is invested in finding ways to “queer” (as in make strange, denaturalize, make odd) the various norms that are all around us. This class will touch on some of the early foundations of queer theory and use that foundation as a springboard to explore more recent sub-fields of queer studies: queer of color critique, queer migration, queer diaspora, postcolonial queer, and queer Native studies scholarship

AMST 330 003: T: Fem Flappers Women in 1920s

Offered: TR 0900-1045/ Full term

Instructor: Andrea Mays, amays@unm.edu

Feminist, Flappers Women in 1920s This Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies course examines the myths, culture and politics surrounding wo/men’s lives in the U.S. (and Paris some) during the 1920s.

Works examined include, but are not limited to, the prose works of Zelda Fitzgerald and Nella Larsen, the essays and poetry of Gertrude Stein, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Dorothy Parker. This rich and complex period of U.S. History between World War I and World War II was a time of profound social change in American life shaped by war, Progressive Era Politics, and transformations in women's personal, professional and creative lives emerging out of nineteenth century struggles for women's suffrage, and transformations in women's lives as they moved from the realm of domesticity into the public sphere of twentieth century American politics. This course will consider the key issues of women's actual lives in the 1920s in relation to the myths created about them, which have often been romanticized in fine art, literature and contemporary political visual culture.

AMST 330 004: T: Latinx Sexualities

Offered: TR 1400-1515/ Full term

Instructor: Francisco Galarte, galarte@unm.edu

This course focuses on the study of cultural production, history and politics related to Latinx Sexualities. In this interdisciplinary course students will be introduced to key theoretical concepts in queer theory, transgender studies and Chicana/Latina studies. The course will focus on the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, class and ability as they appear in historical record, cultural texts and social movements. Students will be exposed to various disciplinary approaches used by scholars of gender and sexuality in Chicana/Latina studies, these approaches included: archival research, oral history, testimonio, literary analysis and ethnography. The course is structured to focus on both US Chicana/Latina populations, diasporic communities and the Américas, giving students the skills to think comparatively and hemispherically about race, gender and sexuality. Regions of focus include San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, US/Mexico Borderlands, Cuba, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Central America and Chile. Key issues that are examined are: historie(s) of sexuality, transgender politics, HIV/AIDS activism, lesbian feminism and activism, GLBT print culture, drag culture, bar culture, gay Chicano/Latino arts and activism, riots, protest, performance, migration, memoir, literature and more

AMST 341 001: T: Indigenous Film

Offered: TR 1230-1500/ Full term

Instructor: Jennifer Denetdale, jdenet@unm.edu

This course introduces students to the world of Indigenous films, beginning with representations of Indians and how these images are sources of on-going stereotypes and simultaneously, images that Indigenous filmmakers challenge and by creating Indigenous-centered films as sources of Indigenous resurgence. 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 included representations, settler colonialism, decolonization, resurgence, tradition, and gender.

No textbooks required, all reading and film reviews are posted on UNM Learn.

AMST 346 001: T: Religion in New Mexico

Offered: TR 0930-1045/ Full term

Instructor: Kathleen Holscher, kholscher@unm.edu

Course Description: Unavailable

AMST 385 001: The Problem of America

Offered: M 1600-1830/ Full term

Instructor: Staff

This seminar introduces students 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.

AMST 500 001: American Culture Study Seminar

Offered: T 1000-1230/ Full term

Instructor: Alyosha Goldstein, agoldste@unm.edu

The proseminar examines the formation of the field of American Studies. Over the course of the semester, the first-year cohort of students work to develop a shared frame of reference for the multiple ways in which American Studies scholars utilize, reimagine, and/or challenge the interdisciplinary range of texts that circulate as touchstones for the field. The proseminar introduces students to the intellectual questions and problems that have shaped the field historically, as well as providing an opportunity to engage recent innovative texts that extend and/or critically rethink aspects of American Studies and related scholarship. Readings and course discussion are intended to provide students with knowledge of the multiple disciplinary perspectives and thematic fields most relevant to the specific formation of American Studies at UNM.

AMST 502 001: Research Methods Practicum

Offered: W 1000-1230/ Full term

Instructor: Rebecca, Schreiber, rschreib@unm.edu

This seminar critically examines the methods and means by which scholars conduct research and make arguments, focusing on how scholarship is shaped by institutional and disciplinary conventions and the production of knowledge. The course is comprised of two primary components -- an introduction to various methods and the practices of research and a broad array of readings that facilitate our inquiry into methodology. Students will be challenged to define their interests, to clarify their investment in particular projects, and to situate their approaches within the existing scholarship.

AMST 530 001: T: Octavia Butler: Myth & Magic

Offered: R 1600-1830/ Full term

Instructor: Andrea Mays, amays@unm.edu

Octavia E. Butler is arguably one of the most complex, innovative and important writers of the 20th Century, and among the most widely recognized and awarded science fiction writers of her generation. Butler’s exceptional talents, her novelistic skill and her imaginary scope earned her the first ever MacArthur ‘Genius’ Award given to a science fiction writer. This course will examine the books, criticism, and scholarship of Butler’s literary and cultural legacy. Students will be asked to read Butler across fields of Literary, Cultural, Critical Race, Feminist and American Studies scholarship in search of the meaning, and the monumental inheritance, of Butler’s cannon, her worlds and her prescient assessment of the often dystopic and indomitable human condition.

AMST 556 002: T: Critical Indigenous Studies

Offered: W 1600-1830/ Full term

Instructor: Jennifer Denetdale, jdenet@unm.edu

This course introduces students to Critical Indigenous Studies from an interdisciplinary approach where we will explore theory and practice that moves across Native Studies, American Studies, Indigenous feminisms, gender & sexuality, and across national boundaries.

AMST 558 001: T: Mexican American

Offered: M 1000-1230/Full term

Instructor: Michael Trujillo, mltruj@unm.edu

Course Description: Unavailable