OFFERED SPRING 2011

Undergraduate

ASTD 322 - The Urban Crisis

This course examines the political, cultural, economic, and demographic transformations that have remade U.S. cities and their metropolitan areas in the decades since World War II. Over the course of the semester, students will investigate the history and legacy of urban problems such as racial segregation and poverty, white flight and suburban sprawl, public housing and urban renewal, riots and insurrections, job loss, and industrial change. Participants will also consider a number of the approaches developed by planners, policymakers, social activists, and ordinary residents to address these challenges, as well as several examples of how Americans have tried to make sense of the changing urban landscape in the realms of art, literature, popular culture, and social criticism. Along the way, participants will regularly engage with the city around them, pausing frequently to consider local examples, spaces, and issues in greater depth.
ASTD 393 01 - Special Topics: Studies in American Photography

What can American photographs tell us about the past and the present, and about how Americans have thought about themselves and others? What can we learn from archives, the media, family albums, photography blogs, and facebook snapshots about the role of photographs in crafting individual and collective identities? From the Civil War to Abu Ghraib, and from the daguerrotype to digital media, this course introduces students to critical methods in studying American photography. We will examine the cultural and political work photographs perform at particular historical moments and explore the larger discourses they participate in. Topics include the history of photography, the work of documentary photographers, and the interpretation of photographs as a primary source in historical study and as an aesthetic object in contemporary art. We will also visit several St. Louis cultural institutions to learn first-hand how different professions use photographs on a daily basis.

ASTD 393 02 - Fashion Matters: Clothing and Culture in American Society

This course examines the dynamic relationship between clothing and culture in American society. Rather than moving chronologically from the past to the present, we begin with a narrow focus on the materiality of clothing and then trace the ideas, values, and uses of clothing by individuals and its broader social and cultural contexts. We consider ideas about identity and values rooted in clothing, discuss the social and cultural debates that both form and are formed by fashion, and grapple with issues of power, authority, and oppression as they are expressed through clothing. Throughout the course, we engage with different primary sources and use the diverse approaches of American Studies to contribute to our knowledge of matters of fashion. We also debate both historic and contemporary issues of clothing in order to understand how clothing shapes our assessments of other people and public attitudes and policies towards cultural and religious groups. This culminates in a final project in which you interrogate a piece or style of clothing of your choice as a site of ideas, values, identity, cultural debates, or power relations to show that indeed, fashion matters.
ASTD 393 03 - Country Music and American Culture

Marxist cultural historian Walter Benjamin believed that politics and art should be kept separate, while his fellow peer Theodor Adorno believed that popular music could never politically, culturally, or socially important. Is this true? Can popular music ever be "significant?" Is music ever a useful or appropriate medium for political commentary? If so, what makes it an attractive medium?

In this course, we will examine one genre of American popular music: country music as a broadly defined genre. We will examine the history of the genre and its role in 20th century American culture. The goal of the course is not to convert students to avid country music fans; rather, the intent is to question the existing discourse that places popular music on a lower level than other art forms and to examine the significance of the music from a multidisciplinary approach.

ASTD 393 04 - Congress, Courts and the Classroom: The Politics of American Education

What are the forces that shape public education in America? How do the agendas and actors at the local, state, and federal levels affect the daily lives in America's schools and the opportunities that are available to America's school age children? How are these actors in conversation or conflict with each other? This course will investigate the role of politics in American public education through considerations of the purposes of schooling in America, issues of control and governance, and recent reform efforts.

Graduate

ASTD 510 - Perspectives in American Studies

Survey of theoretical frameworks for the interpretation of American culture over time. Examines the intersection of history and theory in the interdisciplinary study of the American experience from colonial encounters to the present. Critical readings in Marxism, feminism, semiotics, post-structuralism, post-colonialism, race theory, and queer theory. Offered every year.
ASTD 525 - Tocqueville's America

This course studies the culture of pre-Civil War America with emphasis on the 1830's and 1840's. The central text is Tocqueville's Democracy in America through which the course investigates his perspectives on American culture. Other assigned readings help the student to understand the politics and culture of this era in more detail. Offered occasionally.

ASTD 593 01 - Over There: The Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in U.S. Film and Media

This course examines representations of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in U.S. film and media, ranging from news coverage to Hollywood and independent films to television series. Our analysis focuses on the roles of gender, class, race, ethnicity, and sexuality in the construction of war narratives. How do these narratives create, contest, challenge, and change public understandings of the nation, its values, and its place in the world? What perspectives and interpretations - foundational myths, oppositional readings - do they enable, mobilize, limit, and foreclose? What are the political consequences of the visual and aesthetic production of the body - the national body, the soldier's body, the enemy's body, the civilian's body, the injured and disabled body, the dead body - for constituting notions of human life? The broader goal of the course is to explore how American Studies scholarship has engaged with the wars, and to probe interdisciplinary methodologies and theoretical approaches that link the current wars with larger issues in the study of U.S. history, culture, and society: violence and the state, foreign policy and culture, historical memory, the politics of representation, citizenship and nationalism, the role of the rhetoric of war and of consensus and dissent in public discourse, and the militarization of culture, society, and academic knowledge. Course readings include theoretical texts by Paul Virilio, Judith Butler, Jean Baudrillard, and Elaine Scarry. Weekly film screenings outside of class.

ASTD 644 - From Satchmo to Strangelove: Cold War Cultural Politics and the "American Century"

This graduate seminar explores the culture of the Cold War era in the United States from 1947 to 1963. In particular, participants will examine the ways in which political and international forms of conflict shaped American society in areas ranging from shifting gender configurations to new forms of youth culture, artistic ideologies to the transformation of metropolitan space, evolving racial formations to the politics of mass culture. Weekly preparation involves careful work with an array of primary documents in order to test and complicate the narratives found in the secondary readings. By semester's end, participants will have acquired not only a solid understanding of the period's cultural history, but also a set of theoretically informed strategies for performing close analysis of cultural texts in a variety of genres.
OFFERED FALL 2010

Undergraduate

ASTD 202 - Investigating America

This course introduces students to the discipline of American Studies. Organized around a theme, the course engages students in the interdisciplinary study of American culture by allowing them to approach a single set of questions from a variety of perspectives, combining the vantage points of the historian, the social scientist, the literary scholar, and others. This year's theme, Mobility & the Work Ethic, focuses on particular events and ideas in American history and culture (such as the frontier, immigration, segregation, and the home) and asks students to explore how American ideals of hard work and economic individualism have shaped the course of geographic migration, social mobility, and shifting identities.

ASTD 360 - History and Fiction

This course interrogates the boundary between history and fiction. The course considers examples of historical fiction, and more broadly, asks literary questions of "historical" texts, and historical questions of "literature" for the purpose of deepening our understanding of both history and fiction.

ASTD 393 01 - Introduction to Museum Studies

What can historic house museums, city zoos, national art galleries, and tribal museums tell us about how Americans have thought about themselves and the world around them? In this class, we will study the history, politics, and design of museum collections and exhibitions. We will trace museums' development from private cabinets of curiosity (such as the art collections of Asian royalty and the zoos of European princes) to public educational institutions in the nineteenth century. We will analyze museum exhibition
trends in the context of changes in the natural and social sciences. We will especially focus on the politics of display, that is, how museum objects project and interpret ideas about cultures and nature, and how people have fought against these interpretations. We will explore these topics through scholarly writings, visual and material culture studies, and visits to local St. Louis institutions.

**ASTD 393 02 - Animals in American Culture**

What is the animal in American culture? How is it constructed, utilized, viewed, loved, hated, killed, eaten, depicted and represented in our culture? This course will introduce the interdisciplinary field of Animal Studies and explore species-based ideologies behind our cultural attitudes. The content and activities of this course will work to foster an understanding of the complex relationship between animals and humans in American culture with the end goal being to critically examine the way we think about animals. We will study animals in culture through a variety of sources such as articles, films, advertisements, music and visual images.

**Graduate**

**ASTD 550 - The Practice of American Studies**

The goal of this course is to prepare graduate students to become practicing members of the interdisciplinary humanities community, whether inside or outside of the higher-education industry, and to enable them to engage thoughtfully and critically with the social, political, and economic forces currently reshaping the various institutions in which humanities labor takes place. Over the course of the semester, participants will learn and practice a variety of practical skills, cultivate a broadened awareness of professional options available to them, and consider contemporary debates over an array of issues in higher education, including academic freedom, institutional governance, labor practices, evolving curricula, and political engagement.

**ASTD 693 - Orientalisms in American Culture**

This course explores the role and significance of American constructions of the "Orient" and the "Oriental" in shaping national, racial, gender, sexual, and religious identities. What is the relationship between the Orientalist discourse, national identity, cultural representations, and U.S. foreign policy? We will study "The East" - generally referred to as the Middle East and Far East - as geographical, political, ideological, and cultural construct. Starting with Edward Said's groundbreaking book Orientalism, we will engage with recent American Studies scholarship that uses and expands this theoretical framework to investigate the many different representations, meanings, and functions of Orientalism in America from colonial times to the present, with the focus on 19th and 20th century cultural histories. We will explore how - and why - American notions of the "Orient" and the "Oriental" were created, used, and modified in changing historical and cultural contexts. We will also test Orientalism as concept and theory for its usefulness,
and its limitations, in studying U.S. relations with other parts of the world. What alternative theoretical models enable us to look and see, as cultural historian Melani McAlister suggests, "beyond Orientalism"?

**ASTD 593 01 - Public Art and Memory**

The public outcry over the NEA's support of the artist Robert Mapplethorpe in the 1980s. The debates over Maya Lin's use of modernist art for the Vietnam Veterans memorial in DC. Conflicts over murals and sculpture in public spaces as different as the US Capitol building and the streets of LA. This course will explore all these issues through its investigation of the politics and aesthetics of public art. We will examine public art from the perspective of the producers, including official sponsors and the artists themselves, as well as the different audiences that response and engage with the pieces. We will use public art to explore tensions in American culture over issues of taste, authority, and identity. Specific topics include commemoration and remembrance, tourism, landscape design and earthworks, neighborhood murals, 19th-century civic art movements, and 20th-century federal government-sponsored art programs. The class will also explore the local public art movement here in St. Louis. The objectives of the class are to have students learn to use art and landscape as sources to explore larger political and community issues, to understand that ways history and art have been used to create, perpetuate, or fight for a national and civic identity, and to interpret and identify different artistic styles.

**ASTD 593 02 - Mythbusting & Mythmaking in Recent American Studies Scholarship**

It is widely known, if not always well understood, that many full-blown myths circulate in American culture, and that these mythic discourses often serve to obscure people's view of the histories for which those myths are substitutes. What's less well known is the precise role of academic scholarship in the career of such myths-sometimes in uncovering them, and sometimes in propping them up. In this seminar we will examine two areas of American mythmaking, one that surrounds the Vietnam War, and another concerning the Civil War and its aftermath. In addition, we will take a few detours to briefly visit other precincts of Mythland; and students will identify one mythic construct and carefully critique it with their own scholarship.

**ASTD 612 - Dissertation Colloquium**

Dissertation Colloquium is designed as an intensive writing seminar for advanced graduate students. Early in the semester we will discuss specific forms of academic writing that you will be likely to perform at some point in your graduate career, such as portfolio papers, literature reviews, dissertation proposals, conference papers, academic articles, and dissertation chapters. We will spend the rest of the semester engaged with your own and your colleagues' writing.
OFFERED SPRING 2010

Undergraduate

ASTD 393 01 - From TV to Twitter: The Social Construction of Digital Identity in the United States

It is impossible to imagine the construction of nation, race, gender, sexuality, and class identities in the 20th and 21st centuries without confronting the major telecommunications developments of the past one hundred years-radio, television, cell phones, and the internet. Indeed, their effects and processes have become so visible and vocal as to have perhaps become a type identity in its own right. This course uses the major telecommunications and transportation technologies of the 20th century as a lens for understanding the construction of US national identities. We will pay particular attention to the technological significance of such landmark moments as the March on Washington, the JFK assassination, the Challenger disaster, 9/11, and the Obama inauguration. Throughout, the major and recurring questions will consider how (or if) these technological innovations participate in the social construction of "digital" identity.

ASTD 393 02 - Over There: The Iraq War in U.S. Film and Media

This course examines the many and diverse visual representations of the Iraq war in Hollywood and independent films, television series, documentaries, and in news media coverage. It focuses on the representations and experiences of Iraqis, U.S. soldiers, and their families at home, and asks larger questions about national identity and war, history and culture, and issues of gender, race, ethnicity, and class in war narratives.

ASTD 393 03 - Gay Right Movement in U.S. Politics

ASTD 322 - The Urban Crisis

ASTD 410 - Senior Seminar

This course is designed to guide students through researching and writing a senior thesis and, in the process, teach them how to be good critics. The senior thesis is embodiment of the knowledge and training students have garnered in their undergraduate education in American Studies. When completed, it should be a strong expression of students' analytical and writing skills, which will be useful for whatever career they plan to pursue. In the class, students focus on the step-by-step process of producing a 30- to 40-page research paper, read and discuss practical guides to research and writing, and use the classroom as a forum to critique individual projects. Each student plays a vital role in the development of each other student's work. At the end of the course, students will have honed their research and writing skills, developed
strong techniques for critiquing their peers' work, and produced a research paper that they can use as a writing sample as they pursue their future endeavors.

**Graduate**

**ASTD 510 - Perspectives in American Studies**

This course introduces students to critical theories and methodologies that have shaped the interdisciplinary practice of American Studies. We will read works that have informed American Studies scholarship and examine how scholars have interpreted, used, and modified these theories and approaches in monographs and articles. Students will reach a critical understanding of major texts by influential progenitors of theoretical and methodological approaches that are used in American Studies as well as related disciplines. They will also master the appropriate format of advanced critical writing, and critically engage specific methodological (in contrast to theoretical) approaches to American culture and history.

**ASTD 615 - Visual Culture Theory**

This course provides an introduction to the theoretical frameworks, methodologies, and cultural practices that have defined visual culture studies as an interdisciplinary field. We will work with key texts in visual culture theory and cultural studies as well as with American Studies scholarship informed by these models. Using a wide variety of visual media, including photography, film, television, art, and digital media, we will explore critical perspectives in the production, interpretation, and consumption of images. Concepts and issues to be discussed include visuality and spectatorship, the politics of representation, the creation of meaning in different social and cultural contexts, and the relationship between visual technologies and globalization.

**ASTD 593 02 - Jazz, Cities, and Social Movements**

This graduate seminar explores two sets of relationships: that between jazz music and particular cities, districts, and spaces; and that between jazz communities and an array of historical movements in the realms of social activism, popular culture, and identity. Focusing on specific musical communities' engagements with debates over race, space, gender, artistic hierarchies, and economic structures, the readings and class sessions will provide a broad-ranging overview of a number of major issues in twentieth-century U.S. urban geography and cultural politics. Students will examine texts by scholars in fields such as American Studies, musicology, and history; no formal musical background is required for enrollment.

**ASTD 693 - Telegraph to Twitter: The Social Construction of Digital Identity**

It is impossible to imagine the construction of nation, race, gender, sexuality, and class as identities in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries without confronting the major
telecommunications and transportation developments from the Industrial Revolution forward—railroad, telegraph, automobile, airplane, radio, television, cell phones, and the internet. Indeed, the effects and processes of these technologies have become so visible and vocal as to have perhaps contributed to the formation of an entirely new identity construct in its own right—the digital identity. This course uses the major telecommunications and transportation technologies of this period as a lens for understanding the construction of digital identity. Throughout, the major and recurring questions will consider how (or if) these technological innovations participate in the social construction of "digital" identity. Along the way we will pay particular attention to the technological significance of such landmark moments as the Lincoln inauguration, the March on Washington, the JFK assassination, the Challenger disaster, 9/11, and the Obama inauguration.

**ASTD 593 - Introduction to Material Culture Studies**

In this class, students will study the theory and practice of material culture studies. Students will learn how to use objects as sources for historical and cultural analyses and how to decipher ideas and meanings embedded in a variety of artifacts, from souvenirs to plastic pink flamingos. We will especially focus on museum objects, examining how an object—or set of objects—can communicate history and cultures to the public, and how an object is transformed from mundane houseware to a precious icon when placed within an exhibit case. Students will put theory to practice by working with and analyzing material objects and exhibitions for their class assignments. Class field trips will be scheduled throughout the term.

**OFFERED FALL 2009**

**Undergraduate**

**ASTD 201 - The American Experience**

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary study of American culture by exploring one central theme: the role of the U.S. in the world. How can we think about American experiences in a global context, beyond U.S. borders? Whose American experiences? How do Americans' definitions of themselves as individuals and as members of diverse communities and of a nation change over time, because of and in response to experiences with different cultures, countries, and peoples? What is the impact of U.S. cultural and military power on the world, on people's lives? How have American experiences abroad shaped, and changed, American culture and perspectives? This course engages with these questions by exploring the diverse encounters between America/Americans and the world from the mid-19th century to the present, ranging from war and occupation to the media, fast food, and Hollywood films. We will focus on the role and significance of culture in constructing and projecting American national identity and American values and ideas both at home and abroad.
ASTD 310 - American Decades: Culture of the Cold War: 1947-1963

This course explores the culture of the Cold War in the United States from 1947 to 1963. In particular, it examines the ways in which political and international forms of conflict shaped American society in areas ranging from shifting gender configurations to new forms of youth culture, from artistic ideologies to the transformation of urban and suburban space, from evolving racial formations to the politics of mass culture.

ASTD 425 - American Mosaic: Race in American Society

African Americans. American Indians. Hispanic Americans. Euro-Americans. Asian Americans. Instead of studying American cultural diversity in terms of what sets people apart, this course will focus on the ties that bind them, the ways they come together rather than they differ. We will study Indian cowboys, black pioneers in the American West, a black man who writes about his white Jewish mother, and artists whose work defies racial categories in order to problematize cultural stereotypes and boundaries. Through a rich variety of scholarly works, art, literature, and material sources, this course critiques how Americans have constructed cultural identities, the flexibility of these identities, and how these identities have shaped people's everyday lives. Students study these cultural encounters through the lens of the body, history and memory, work and play, and communities.

ASTD 479 - Autobiography

At first glance, autobiography presents itself as the most easily identifiable genre-i.e., as the factual narrative of a life told by the self living it. As such, it appears to distinguish itself from scholarship, poetry, fiction, film, audio recordings, comic books, and other more troublesome genres and media. This course aims to interrogate this easy assumption about autobiography through an interdisciplinary examination of the autobiographical impulse in the 20th century United States. We will examine this impulse and its relationship, both textual and formal, to the developing 20th century technologies of mass communication and transportation. While our primary disciplinary lens will be literary, we will draw regularly from the work and methodologies of cultural studies and history to understand how our impulse to tell self-reflective stories about ourselves becomes changes, in terms of both form and medium, over the course of the 20th century.

Graduate

ASTD 500 - Introduction to American Studies

This course offers graduate students an advanced introduction to the interdisciplinary field of American Studies. The readings begin with some primary American documents before undertaking a survey of the historical development of American Studies as an
academic field of inquiry. Through these readings we will discover and discuss some of its characteristic methods, themes, and controversies. Additional assignments will introduce students to other important primary texts, documents, and artifacts. At the end of the semester, students will have developed an understanding of both the assigned primary texts and scholarly monographs. Students will also be able to discuss these texts in relationship to the development of the field of American Studies. Although not counted towards the course grade, first-year American Studies graduate students will complete a year-end written exam on material covered in ASTD 500 and ASTD 510.

ASTD 523 - Cultures of the American South

Using fiction, film, history, literary criticism, music, and autobiography, this course identifies and investigates elements of the South's distinctiveness, as well as the relation between the region and the nation of which it forms a part. Specific topics include Southern fiction, race and slavery, and images of the South in American cultural expression. Books with titles like Tell about the South: The Southern Rage to Explain and What Made the South Different? testify to the widespread perception that the South constitutes a distinctive region. Why, how, and with what results are some of the questions we will address in this seminar. The course objectives are as follows: to provide a historical survey of the South's social, economic, and cultural development, especially since 1865; to address the question of Southern distinctiveness through fiction and history by black and white Southerners; to examine American race relations in a specific regional context; to appreciate the variety of cultures that flourish in the region; to expand disciplinary competencies by approaching different kinds of texts with methods appropriate to them.

ASTD 540 - Metropolitan American

Introduction to the study of American urban and suburban life. Course examines American cities, their cultures, and their built environments as these change over time. Students engage scholarship, develop visual literacy for "reading" the metropolis, and analyze the ways in which built environments shape and reflect American cultural meaning.

ASTD 593 - Visions of Empire

This course examines how American Studies has addressed the role and impact of U.S. imperialism both within and outside of U.S. borders. In what national and transnational spaces do U.S. imperial relations and cultures unfold? What is the relationship between national identity discourse and racial formations at home and imperial domination abroad? We will explore the multiple forms in which the U.S. empire has manifested and materialized itself from the 19th century to the present: from continental and overseas territorial conquests to literary texts and other cultural representations. This approach to U.S. economic, cultural, political, and military power is theoretical, historical, and cultural, and above all interdisciplinary. We will read works on empire and imperialism
by Edward Said, Albert Memmi, Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, David Harvey, Ann Laura Stoler, and Arundhati Roy, but focus primarily on cultural histories that investigate the discourses on race, gender, and sexuality that U.S. imperial practices were steeped in and sustained. We will particularly explore what might be called the visual culture of empire by studying film, photography, advertisements, exhibitions, and performances as projection sites for imperial ambitions, projects, and anxieties. Throughout the course, we will ask what analytical tools and critical reading practices we can employ when empire, despite its forceful global and domestic workings, remains unseen, invisible, elusive.

ASTD 693 - Edibles are Good to Think With: American Food and Culture

Food is more than something we eat. Finding food is a basic human necessity but making food choices is more complex. Eating is biological and cultural, personal and political. Although we might lose some of the connections when we revamp, repackage, and consume a product of nature, we, nevertheless, connect ourselves to a particular country, region, landscape, economy, and producer. In turn, we also link ourselves to other consumers, their ways of life and their values. This class will study culture through food production and consumption, investigating American foodways through themes such as labor, environment, gender, ethnicity, globalization, identity and power. We will analyze scholarly and popular works that approach food through the lens of semiotics, structuralism, post-structuralism, revisionist history, and Marxism, and ones that celebrate the pleasures of cooking and eating food. The course's goal is to teach students about the meaning of food and how the simple act of eating can reveal interconnections among so many diverse aspects of society and the environment. Another goal is to introduce students to foodways as a fun, accessible yet deeply penetrating tool they can add to their methodological approaches for studying history and cultures. And, finally, as a readings class, by its completion students will be well-versed in major approaches and works in the diverse field of food studies.

OFFERED SPRING 2009

Undergraduate

ASTD 202 - Investigating America

Introduces methods of interdisciplinary inquiry and original research in primary and secondary sources. Develops library, bibliographic, archival, and writing skills, building to an independent research project.

ASTD 322 - The Urban Crisis

This course examines the roots and dimensions of the urban crisis that has transformed American metropolitan areas since World War II. Students investigate major urban
problems such as racial segregation and poverty, white flight and suburban sprawl, public housing and urban renewal, riots and insurrections, job loss, and industrial change.

**ASTD 393 01 - Sports in American Culture**

Americans often consider sports as simply a form of leisure and entertainment, but many of our culture's characteristics and conflicts play out in the field of sports. Using sports history, advertisements, photographs, and films, and focusing specifically, but not exclusively, on boxing and baseball, the course explores larger themes in American culture, such as nationalism and racism, notions of masculinity and femininity, and labor and capitalism, to gain a new understanding and different perspective of the way we look at sports and American culture.

**ASTD 393 04 - Immigration Nation: The Latino/a Experience in the United States**

This course examines the recent debates on immigration, with specific emphasis on Latino/a communities in the U.S. Using cultural studies, history, sociology, literature, and film, we will explore how race, ethnicity and class have shaped Latino/a experiences in the country. We will also learn about how negative representations of Latinos/as in culture impact our thoughts on fair immigration reform.

**ASTD 410 - Senior Seminar**

This course brings the major to a coherent end, through which students gain a broad understanding of the field and their path within it. Readings will concentrate on the development of major American Studies questions. The seminar will serve as a workshop for the independent senior projects.

**Graduate**

**ASTD 510 - Perspectives in American Studies**

This course introduces students to critical theories and methodologies that have shaped the interdisciplinary practice of American Studies. We will read works that have informed American Studies scholarship and examine how scholars have interpreted, used, and modified these theories and approaches in monographs and articles. Students will be able to identify, understand, and critique theoretical concepts and methods, and to situate American Studies books and articles not only in terms of their content and topics, but also in terms of their methodologies and theoretical and ideological underpinnings. We will focus on the major disciplinary contexts (literature, history, and cultural studies) from which American Studies draws its interdisciplinary methods and engage with selected writings by thinkers whose work provide many of the foundations of current scholarship in American Studies: Marx, Freud, Gramsci, and Foucault. Students will be able to contextualize the wide range of perspectives available to American Studies.
scholars, and learn how to make methodological choices that will best accommodate their individual research interests and projects.

**ASTD 537 - Literature of the Middle Passage**

Undoubtedly, all who experienced the Middle Passage were change irreversibly. This course explores how this passage participated in the invention of both blackness and whiteness. Topics include the ongoing importance of the transatlantic experience to current American discussions of race, culture, migration, exile, holocaust and memory, and nation and citizenship.

**ASTD 612 - Dissertation Colloquium**

This course is designed to facilitate the dissertation-writing process. Seminar discussions will focus on peer review of student generated works-in-progress. Required of all Ph.D. students.

**ASTD 693 01 - "We Are the World"? U.S. History, World History, and American Studies Practices**

This course invites and encourages students to rethink America in global perspective and introduces them to the practice of globalizing U.S. history. We will study foundational texts by historians who have sought to integrate global perspectives into the study of American history. What are the alternatives to framing histories in conventional, nation-based narratives? How does the study of broader global events and forces, and of the entanglements, interactions, and encounters with other nations, peoples, places, and movements that have shaped our past help us better understand our present? What are the consequences, and the limitations, of dominant national histories: of the narratives we tell of ourselves, to ourselves, and to others? We will interrogate concepts, themes, and categories that structure the study of American history, such as Atlantic World, nation, diaspora, empire, migration, transnationalism, and exceptionalism, and investigate the constructed geographical and temporal boundaries of dominant U.S. historiography. We will also explore new frameworks and methodologies available to American Studies scholars, and pay particular attention to recent scholarship that seeks to situate the study of American history, society, and culture in transnational contexts. How can we, as American Studies scholars, break through, to borrow historian Thomas Bender's words, "the unitary logic of national history"?

**OFFERED FALL 2008**

**Undergraduate**

**ASTD 201 - The American Experience**
This course will focus on different important themes in American life and thought and on the methods and materials for determining those themes and their significance

**ASTD 340 - Religion & American Culture**

This course uses historical, literary, and popular culture sources to explore the relationship between religious beliefs, values, and practices and American cultural formation. Topics may include church and state, social questions, and lived religious experience. The course will emphasize but not restrict itself to Christian traditions.

**ASTD 393 02 - Special Topics: Immigration Nation: An Exploration of the Latino/a Experience in the United States**

This course examines the recent debates on immigration, with specific emphasis on Latino/a communities in the U.S. Using cultural studies, history, sociology, literature, and film, we will explore how race, ethnicity and class have shaped Latino/a experiences in the country. We will also learn about how negative representations of Latinos/as in culture impact our thoughts on fair immigration reform.

**ASTD 393 03 - Women in American Politics: An Historical Perspective**

**ASTD 493 01 - American Political Thought**

From 1765 to the present. Eighteenth century consensus, nationalism versus sectionalism, nineteenth century reform movements, pragmatism and progressivism, current liberalism and conservatism.

**ASTD 493 02 - Hollywood Goes East: The Middle East and Asia in U.S. Film**

This course uses Hollywood film - from silent film to contemporary blockbusters - as a medium to examine how U.S. culture has imagined and constructed the "East" (the "Far East" and "Middle East"). We will explore the changing representations, meanings, and functions of these world regions for the formation of U.S. national, racial, gender, and religious identities. This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary study of American culture by providing the tools to analyze film and its cultural and historical contexts.

**Graduate**

**ASTD 515 - Early American Photography**

Introduces students to early American photographers, diverse photographic trends and technologies of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the visual culture
analysis of major scholars in American Studies. Critical attention to representations of race and gender is emphasized throughout.

**ASTD 550 - Practice of American Studies**

Facilitates sound professional development to accompany graduate work in American Studies. Students analyze universities as diverse social institutions, review key aspects of academic labor, examine the purposes and stages of graduate training, and survey the broad range of professional options available with the M.A. and the Ph.D.

**ASTD 593 01 - Public Art and Public Memory**

The public outcry over the NEA's support of the artist Robert Mapplethorpe in the 1980s. The debates over Maya Lin's use of modernist art for the Vietnam Veterans memorial in DC. Conflicts over murals and sculpture in public spaces as different as the US Capitol building and the streets of LA. This course will explore all these issues through its investigation of the politics and aesthetics of public art. We will examine public art from the perspective of the producers, including official sponsors and the artists themselves, as will as the different audiences that response and engage with the pieces. We will use public art to explore tensions in American culture over issues of taste, authority, and identity. Specific topics include commemoration and remembrance, tourism, landscape design and earthworks, neighborhood murals, 19th-century civic art movements, and 20th-century federal government-sponsored art programs. The class will also explore the local public art movement here in St. Louis. The objectives of the class are to have students learn to use art and landscape as sources to explore larger political and community issues, to understand that ways history and art have been used to create, perpetuate, or fight for a national and civic identity, and to interpret and identify different artistic styles.

**ASTD 655 - American Intellectuals in a Dynamic Culture, 1870-1920**

This course deals with topics related to the ideas that inform American culture through history. Topics vary: e.g. pragmatism, Dewey, Emerson, history and philosophy of American education.

**ASTD 670 - American Political Thought**

This course focuses on selected ideas, issues, and institutions that have been central to the U.S. Constitution and the practice of American constitutionalism, from the founding era to the present. Readings emphasize seminal works in American political thought, which are supplemented by historical accounts, illustrative literature, and contemporary analyses.

**ASTD 693 01 - Nature and the City**