

# TWO YEAR COURSE PROJECTIONS

## Course Descriptions M.A. in AMERICAN STUDIES

### FALL 2026 OFFERINGS

#### **AMST 6201: History and Culture of the Americas**

**Instructor: Dr. Nathalia Jaramillo**

This interdisciplinary graduate course covers the history and cultural interaction of the United States and the Americas, with attention to relationships between policy, labor dynamics, and cultural expressions across the Americas, as well as theoretical frameworks common in transnational study of the US and the Americas. Topics covered may include the Atlantic slave trade; culture and history of migrant labor; Indigenous studies; and history and culture of transnational social movements in the Americas.

#### **AMST 7000: American Studies Scholarship**

**Instructor: Dr. Kate Schaab**

This course introduces major concepts and frameworks drawn from the history and current practice in American Studies scholarship to ensure you have a broad understanding of contemporary scholarship and where it fits within the history and evolution of the field. While not exhaustive, this course features six major points of interest within American Studies scholarship. Our major goals are to learn to evaluate scholarship in historical context, track the development of the field, and enhance your ability to formulate questions, analyze arguments, make connections, and produce and share knowledge. Our work this semester will help you consider how your scholarly interests fit into American Studies.

#### **AMST 7210: Historical Period**

**Instructor: Dr. Lauren Thompson**

This course examines U.S. politics, law, culture, and social change in the World War I era. Topics will include delving into the period's histories of voting rights, movements for public and reproductive health, the formation of nascent civil liberties law, immigration, and eugenics. Students will investigate how the forces shaping this period set the course for an emergent modern America. We will examine scholarly sources, as well as primary

historical sources, literature, art, and poetry to understand the forces shaping America during the war and its aftermath.

**AMST 7520: America in Transnational Context**

**Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Hill**

This course examines interactions between Americans and other international groups through the events of the 2007-2009 Great Recession and social movements of the 2010s-2020. Movements explored include the Arab Spring, Occupy, Extinction Rebellion, Indigenous sovereignty movements, and a variety of populist movements emerging on the left and right. Over the course of the semester, students will consider the extent to which current social movements can be considered transnational in scope, explore the role of social media and popular discourse in influencing policymakers, and study international communication networks among social movement activists.

**AMST 7901: Capstone Literature Review and Proposal**

**Instructor: Dr. Letizia Guglielmo**

In the first part of the American Studies capstone experience, students work with faculty advisors to review scholarly literature and write a research or project proposal. The research reviewed will consist of interdisciplinary scholarship from American Studies and related fields that investigates questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to review literature and develop a proposal related to their topic or project aims.

**AMST 7902: Capstone Experience**

**Instructor: Dr. Letizia Guglielmo**

A major research project or a project using interdisciplinary methods from American Studies to investigate questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to carry out research related to their topic or project aims, and complete a product drawing on the content of program courses and integrating it with new, individualized study.

## **SPRING 2027 OFFERINGS**

**AMST 6401: Literature and Culture of the Americas**

**Instructor: Dr. Griselda Thomas**

In this interdisciplinary course, students learn about major transnational literary movements in the Americas, with an emphasis on understanding literature in a global

context. Course readings and assignments provide an overview of important questions, methods, and theoretical approaches in contemporary American Studies literary scholarship as well as an advanced introduction to important literary works.

### **AMST 7100: American Studies Methods**

**Instructor: Dr. Rudy Aguilar**

Introduces students to current methods in American Studies research and public practice. The course focuses on core concepts, objects of analysis, and evolving research practices used for working in American Studies. While critiquing notable examples from the field, students consider various dynamic professional contexts for “doing” American Studies, such as professional organizations and journals, classrooms, the workplace, public settings, and other diverse communities outside the university.

### **AMST 7230: Public History and Culture**

**Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Hill**

Public History and Culture examines the popular uses and presentations of the American past. Exploring historical memory’s role in American culture, the course draws on a range of methods (e.g., site visits, research in popular publications, study of historical documentaries) to critique ways that the past is recorded and transmitted. Course content may include a rationale and debate about defining the parameters of the historical division, as well as an emphasis upon the significance of artifacts, lore, written and oral commentary of the period, and the language that both constructs and vivifies the meanings of past. This course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

### **AMST 7410: Literature and Performance in American Culture**

**Instructor: Dr. Charles Parrott**

Examines the history and cultural work of literary production and of performance as social practices that can be studied in regional, national, and international American contexts. This course draws its readings from both “literary” and “popular” culture publications. Students may explore both benchmark moments in American literary production (e.g., the publication of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*) and performance history. They may also examine important longer-term movements in the field of American literature and dramatic performance (e.g., the formation of “American Literature” as a school discipline, developments in publishing, key moments in theater history); and/or approaches for linking history-making and cultural memory to performance texts. This course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

**AMST 7901: Capstone Literature Review and Proposal**  
**Instructor: Dr. Letizia Guglielmo**

In the first part of the American Studies capstone experience, students work with faculty advisors to review scholarly literature and write a research or project proposal. The research reviewed will consist of interdisciplinary scholarship from American Studies and related fields that investigates questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to review literature and develop a proposal related to their topic or project aims.

**AMST 7902: Capstone Experience**  
**Instructor: Dr. Letizia Guglielmo**

A major research project or a project using interdisciplinary methods from American Studies to investigate questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to carry out research related to their topic or project aims, and complete a product drawing on the content of program courses and integrating it with new, individualized study.

## **SUMMER 2027 OFFERINGS**

**AMST 6401: Literature and Culture of the Americas**

In this interdisciplinary course, students learn about major transnational literary movements in the Americas, with an emphasis on understanding literature in a global context. Course readings and assignments provide an overview of important questions, methods, and theoretical approaches in contemporary American Studies literary scholarship as well as an advanced introduction to important literary works.

**AMST 7420: American Popular Culture**

This course examines the role of popular and mass culture in the Americas by beginning with the premise that popular culture is an important site of expression, social instruction, and cultural conflict, and thus deserves critical attention. Students may examine theoretical texts as well as primary sources, and the course may include a focus on global consumerism in America as well as Americanized sites. The course may survey a range of popular texts, such as mass culture events (e.g., sports), advertising, popular music, and theme parks, and place these expressions of mass culture in political, economic, and social contexts. Alternatively, an offering may focus on a particular popular culture product (e.g., bestsellers; popular music) in depth. This course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

### **AMST 7330: Identities and Social Groups**

Examines the social construction of individual identities and social groups in American culture. Students survey and critique a range of texts expressing and representing the formation of identity constructions around such categories as race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, class, and sexuality. Students consider the various social forces that shape (and sometimes resist) various views of American identity both within and outside the U.S. and the Americas. This course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

### **AMST 7901: Capstone Literature Review and Proposal**

In the first part of the American Studies capstone experience, students work with faculty advisors to review scholarly literature and write a research or project proposal. The research reviewed will consist of interdisciplinary scholarship from American Studies and related fields that investigates questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to review literature and develop a proposal related to their topic or project aims.

### **AMST 7902: Capstone Experience**

A major research project or a project using interdisciplinary methods from American Studies to investigate questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to carry out research related to their topic or project aims and complete a product drawing on the content of program courses and integrating it with new, individualized study.

## **FALL 2027 OFFERINGS**

### **AMST 6201: History and Culture of the Americas**

This interdisciplinary graduate course covers the history and cultural interaction of the United States and the Americas, with attention to relationships between policy, labor dynamics, and cultural expressions across the Americas, as well as theoretical frameworks common in transnational study of the US and the Americas. Topics covered may include the Atlantic slave trade; culture and history of migrant labor; indigenous studies; and history and culture of transnational social movements in the Americas.

### **AMST 7000: American Studies Scholarship**

This course introduces major concepts and frameworks drawn from the history and current practice in American Studies scholarship to ensure you have a broad

understanding of contemporary scholarship and where it fits within the history and evolution of the field. While not exhaustive, this course features six major points of interest within American Studies scholarship. Our major goals are to learn to evaluate scholarship in historical context, track the development of the field, and enhance your ability to formulate questions, analyze arguments, make connections, and produce and share knowledge. Our work this semester will help you consider how your scholarly interests fit into American Studies.

### **AMST 7470: American Popular Music**

This course examines the role popular music plays in the everyday lives of people across the globe. The ever-growing use of technology has made popular music readily available at rapid speeds to large masses. Yet, accessibility does not always guarantee equal participation of subordinate groups in all music genres. This course will explore the contradictions often found in music and societies overall. It will introduce graduate students to the pressing theories surrounding the politics of popular music to examine how this medium of popular culture simultaneously generates excitement and anxiety across local and national boundaries.

### **AMST 7200: American Social Movements**

This course examines the history of and relationship between selected cultural movements through an interdisciplinary lens. The course analyzes the evolution and conduct of movements, as well as the evolution of academic inquiry and understanding of these movements. The course emphasizes the connections between American cultural movements and those in other parts of the world. Topics discussed may include, but are not limited to, the abolitionist, labor, civil rights, American Indian, environmentalist, women's, anti-war, reproductive rights, gay and lesbian, and anti-globalization movements among others. Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

### **AMST 7901: Capstone Literature Review and Proposal**

In the first part of the American Studies capstone experience, students work with faculty advisors to review scholarly literature and write a research or project proposal. The research reviewed will consist of interdisciplinary scholarship from American Studies and related fields that investigates questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to review literature and develop a proposal related to their topic or project aims.

## **AMST 7902: Capstone Experience**

A major research project or a project using interdisciplinary methods from American Studies to investigate questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to carry out research related to their topic or project aims and complete a product drawing on the content of program courses and integrating it with new, individualized study.

## **SPRING 2028 OFFERINGS**

### **AMST 6401: Literature and Culture of the Americas**

In this interdisciplinary course, students learn about major transnational literary movements in the Americas, with an emphasis on understanding literature in a global context. Course readings and assignments provide an overview of important questions, methods, and theoretical approaches in contemporary American Studies literary scholarship as well as an advanced introduction to important literary works.

### **AMST 7100: American Studies Methods**

Introduces students to current methods in American Studies research and public practice. The course focuses on core concepts, objects of analysis, and evolving research practices used for working in American Studies. While critiquing notable examples from the field, students consider various dynamic professional contexts for "doing" American Studies, such as professional organizations and journals, classrooms, the workplace, public settings, and other diverse communities outside the university.

### **AMST 7450: American Visual Culture**

Examines the history and cultural influences of visual culture in American life and the impact of U.S. visual culture in a global context. Emphasis is on the aesthetic, economic, and technological aspects of the film industry and/or visual culture more broadly. Course content may deal with: the history of film, television, photography, painting, sculpture, and/or architecture; the role of particular visual artists, film-makers or producers in shaping popular culture; tensions between high art, popular and commercial culture; or the role of visual culture in the American landscape. Students read from the texts to gain historical perspective, see documentary films dealing with film, the visual arts or landscape, analyze selected works, and consult reviews to ascertain the works' critical reception and impact on the community. The course may involve visits to off-campus sites. This course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offerings.

### **AMST 7510: Passages to America**

Students enrolled in Passages to America examine forced and voluntary migration and immigration in the historical development of American culture. The varied experiences of these individuals and their families are discussed in the context of such topics as racial and ethnic group relations, nativism, and social class formation. We examine power relations between dominant and subordinate groups, along with debates over citizenship, Americanization policies, and legal/illegal immigration. Finally, students analyze the cultural concepts of assimilation, pluralism, and multiculturalism that frame these debates. This course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

### **AMST 7901: Capstone Literature Review and Proposal**

In the first part of the American Studies capstone experience, students work with faculty advisors to review scholarly literature and write a research or project proposal. The research reviewed will consist of interdisciplinary scholarship from American Studies and related fields that investigates questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to review literature and develop a proposal related to their topic or project aims.

### **AMST 7902: Capstone Experience**

A major research project or a project using interdisciplinary methods from American Studies to investigate questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to carry out research related to their topic or project aims, and complete a product drawing on the content of program courses and integrating it with new, individualized study.

## **SUMMER 2028 OFFERINGS**

### **AMST 6201: History and Culture of the Americas**

This interdisciplinary graduate course covers the history and cultural interaction of the United States and the Americas, with attention to relationships between policy, labor dynamics, and cultural expressions across the Americas, as well as theoretical frameworks common in transnational study of the US and the Americas. Topics covered may include the Atlantic slave trade; culture and history of migrant labor; indigenous studies; and history and culture of transnational social movements in the Americas.

### **AMST 7300: American Cities, Suburbs, and Countryside**

Offers a thematic study of cultural, social, and economic patterns of the American metropolis using texts and methods from a variety of disciplines, such as history, literature, anthropology, and sociology. Students interrogate texts ranging from landmarks to literature, personal histories to government documents, advertising to architecture, to explore the shifting relationships between and ideas about American cities, suburbs, and countryside. Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

### **AMST 7240: Enterprise & Labor in American Culture**

This course will examine the history of enterprise and labor within their social and cultural contexts from an interdisciplinary perspective. The course will include an overview of the history of work and enterprise in the United States. Students will investigate business enterprise, work, production, and consumption as cultural phenomena. Topics may include: the emergence of the corporation; the labor movement and its cultural representations; enterprise and labor in film, television, literature, and popular culture; the work ethic as a cultural production; the history of corporate social responsibility; immigration and labor/enterprise; ethnic, racial, and gender diversity issues in American business and labor; exploration of labor and business concepts/issues through biography; the social/cultural impact of globalization; regional themes in labor and enterprise; American enterprise in the world. This course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

### **AMST 7901: Capstone Literature Review and Proposal**

In the first part of the American Studies capstone experience, students work with faculty advisors to review scholarly literature and write a research or project proposal. The research reviewed will consist of interdisciplinary scholarship from American Studies and related fields that investigates questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to review literature and develop a proposal related to their topic or project aims.

### **AMST 7902: Capstone Experience**

A major research project or a project using interdisciplinary methods from American Studies to investigate questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to carry out research related to their topic or project aims and complete a product drawing on the content of program courses and integrating it with new, individualized study.