

FALL 2008

AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES

AMST 3700/01 – AMERICAN STUDIES

Tuesday Only – 5:00-7:45pm (Lands)

This course probes the cultural beliefs, practices and identities of America and Americans by examining a range of cultural productions, including children's fiction, material culture, songs and anthems, parades, sitcoms, and fan practices.

AMST 3740/01 – BLUES IN AMERICAN CULTURE

MW – 11:00am-12:15pm (Fay)

This course is cross-listed with ENGL 4560/01.

Blues is a major musical contribution of African-Americans to 20th century American culture and letters, essential for understanding a number of American literary works. As background to the assigned poetry and fiction, this course will examine the blues as feeling, as music, and as means of coping with the blues feeling. We will consider key blues musicians, blues history from rural blues to blues-rock, blues records (an audio CD set will be one of our texts), blues clubs, influences on jazz, key commentaries on the blues as they apply to our literary texts, as well as the relevant issues of race, gender, class and ethnicity.

AMST 3740/02 – THE FILM INDUSTRY IN AMERICAN CULTURE

Thursday Only – 2:00-5:00pm (Graham)

This class will examine the history, economics, and cultural influences of the film industry in America. We will discuss film techniques and genres and the role of particular filmmakers and eras of film history in shaping popular culture. We will also view and analyze selected films to ascertain their critical reception and impact on American society. Films may include *Apocalypse Now*, *Stagecoach*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Double Indemnity*, *TransAmerica*, and others.

AMST 3750/01 – QUEERING THE SOUTH

TR – 11:00am-12:15pm (Whitlock)

This course is cross-listed with GWST 3040/01.

Queering the South examines 1) queer representations in Southern spaces and 2) attributes of the South and "Southernness" found in a range of queer sources. Students will examine, disrupt, and challenge conventional images and portrayals of the Old and modern-day South through a postmodern, queer reading of multidisciplinary sources. From a critical reading of these sources, students will be encouraged to reconstruct the South as a place generative of non-normative subjectivities and sexualities. In addition, students will consider the implications of "Southern queerness" from the artists and writers whose work they encounter.

AMST 3750/02 – MISCEGENATION, MESTIZAJE, MESTIÇAGEM, MÉTISSAGE: RACIAL MIXTURE IN THE AMERICAS

Thursday Only – 5:00-7:45pm (Esplin)

In this course, we will follow a "Literatures of the Americas" or "Inter-American Literary Studies" model to trace how the theme of racial mixture has been portrayed throughout the Americas. We will look across and beyond the linguistic, geographic, and political borders that divide the American hemisphere to discover how authors (along with politicians and public intellectuals) from the Caribbean, the U.S. South, Spanish America, and Brazil disparately and similarly depict racial mixture, and we will interrogate these portrayals of mixture to reveal how they are connected to past and present anxieties about national identity.

AMST 3750/03 – GEORGIA CULTURES

Friday Only – 11:00am-1:45pm (Yow)

This course is cross-listed with ENGL 3350/01 AND HIST 3304/02.

An American Studies course in nature, Georgia Cultures combines Georgia history with Georgia literature. Majors of all disciplines and AMST minors are encouraged to enroll. The course will focus on Southern identity as shaped by history and myth. It will be text-driven with an examination of historical documents and monographs as well as novels, short stories, and film and documentary clips. Students will have the opportunity to express themselves through various writing assignments as well as discussions in the classroom and online through Vista. Students may take this team-taught course for English, History, or AMST credit. Contact Dr. Dede Yow, dyow@kennesaw.edu or Dr. Tom Scott, tscott@kennesaw.edu for more information.