American Studies
Fall 2017 Courses

FOUNDATION COURSES:
- AMER 0012-01 Race In America ~ Jean Y Wu
- AMER 0015-01 (REL 0042-01) Religion & Politics in American History ~ Heather D Curtis

SPECIAL TOPIC FOUNDATION COURSES:
- AMER 0010-01 Racial Politics & Urban Space ~ Tom Abowd
- AMER 0010-02 (SOC 0001-01) Introduction to Sociology ~ Pawan Dhingra

MID-LEVEL COURSES:
- AMER 0030-01 (SOC 0070-01) Immigration, Race, and American Society ~ Michelle Holliday-Stocking
- AMER 0031-01 (HIST 0031-01) Rise of the Modern Woman ~ Virginia G Drachman
- AMER 0044-01 (HIST 0022-01) The Changing American Nation ~ Reed T Ueda
- AMER 0047-01 (ENG 0023-01) American Literature To 1855 ~ Nathan Wolff
- AMER 0048-01 (PS 0011-01) Introduction to American Politics ~ James M Glaser
- AMER 0049-01 (SOC 0011-01) Racial And Ethnic Minorities ~ Orly Clerge
- AMER 0050-01 (SOC 0035-01) Social Movements ~ Brett Nava-coulter
- AMER 0051-01 (SOC 0060-01) Social Inequalities/Social Justice ~ Meghan Doran
- AMER 0052-01 (SOC 0141-01) Medical Sociology ~ Caitlin Slodden

MID-LEVEL SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES:
- AMER 0094-01 Issues in Native American & Indigenous Studies ~ STAFF
- AMER 0094-02 Mass Incarceration & the Literature of Confinement ~ Hilary Binda
- AMER 0094-04 (0061-01) American Fiction 1900-Present ~ Ichiro Takayoshi
- AMER 0094-05 (0074-01) Literature of the Jazz Age ~ Ichiro Takayoshi
- AMER 0094-06 American Orientalism ~ Thomas Abowd
- AMER 0094-07 (SOC 0188-01) The Masculine Mystique ~ Freeden Oeur
- AMER 0094-08 (WGSS 0073-01) Introduction to Queer Studies ~ Kareem Khubchandani

UPPER LEVEL COURSES:
- AMER 0100-01 American Studies Theories &Methods ~ STAFF
- AMER 0155-01 (ENG 0155-01) American Women Writers ~ Christina Sharpe

INTEGRATIVE SEMINARS:
- AMER 0172-01 American Highways, Routes & Roots ~ Ronna Johnson
- AMER 0182-01 Asian America ~ Jean Wu
- AMER 0187-01 (FAH 0086-01) Latina/o/x Presence in Art and Visual Culture ~ Adriana Zavala

UPPER LEVEL SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES:
- AMER 0194-02 (REL 0106-01) Religion, Violence & Sexuality ~ Elizabeth Lemons
- AMER 0194-03 (ENG 0191-02) Queer Diasporas ~ Christina Sharpe
• AMER 0194-04 (ENG 0188-01) Slave Revolts & Maroons ~ Greg Thomas
• AMER 0194-05 (ENG 0191-03) Anti Colonial Mode of Thought ~ Greg Thomas
• AMER 0194-06 (ENG 0159-01) Contemporary Jewish Fiction ~ Jonathan Wilson
• AMER 0194-07 (MUS 0185-01) Studies in Women in Music: Black Divas ~ Stephan Pennington
  (This course does not fulfill the History requirement in American Studies)
• AMER 0194-08 (HIST 0128-01) The Civil Rights Movement ~ Kerri Greenidge

STANDARD COURSES:
• AMER 0099-01 Internship-American Studies ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)
• AMER 0193-01 Independent Study ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)
• AMER 0198-01 Senior Special Project ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)
• AMER 0199-01 Senior Honors Thesis A ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)
• AMER 0199-01 Senior Honors Thesis B ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)
Course Descriptions

AMER 0010-01 Special Topic Foundation Course: Racial Politics and Urban Space in the United States ~ Thomas Abowd
MW | 01:30PM-02:45PM
This course will highlight the radical changes that US urban centers have undergone historically and the role that race, racism, and racial politics have played in these transformations. As global and national economic trends and capitalist modernity began to make city life the majority experience in the US in the late 19th Century, a range of formidable forces intersected in the construction of these expanding places. Participants will examine these shifting and fluid racial and racialized realms not simply as cartographic places frozen on maps but also as ideas and myths that have helped construct US nationalism. How can the history of racism in this country be understood through both the actions of urban-based social movements as well as policing technologies and governing assumptions that have made racial segregation and racial violence possible? This course will feature examinations of Boston, New York, Detroit, Chicago, and Los Angeles, to name but a few.

AMER 0010-02 (SOC 0001-01) Intro to Sociology ~ Pawan Dhingra
MW | 10:30AM-11:45AM
Sociology is the systematic study of human social behavior. Sociologists examine not only how social structures shape our daily interactions, but also how society constructs social categories and cultural meanings. While there is no way that a single semester can expose you to the entire discipline of sociology, this course will introduce you to the major theoretical perspectives, concepts, and methodologies used in contemporary sociology to observe and analyze interaction in large and small groups. For instance, we will examine important issues such as how societies maintain social control, set up stratification systems based on race, class and gender, and regulate daily life through institutions such as families, education, and labor markets. The single overarching purpose of this course is to make you more interested in and critical of the world around you. A secondary purpose is to inspire you to take more sociology courses while you are here at Tufts, so you can focus on some of the specific sociological topics you like most in greater depth. Ones that we will cover (in order) include culture and media; socialization; networks and organizations; crime and deviance; social class, race, gender, and health inequalities; family; education; politics and authority; and work. No prerequisites required.

AMER 0012 Race in America ~ Jean Wu
R | 4:30-7:15PM
"In 1903, the famous African American scholar and activist W.E.B. DuBois said, "The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line." Many people today believe that race will continue to be "the" issue of the 21st century. In this course, we will examine the meanings of race in modern America, analyze the root causes and consequences of racist ideologies, and discuss current and future activist approaches to the issues raised by racist theories and practices. Our study will be multicultural in focus, with attention being given to Asian American, Native American, African American, European American, and Latino/a perspectives. Questions we will ask will include: How is race defined in the USA? Who defines it? How is it experienced? Who experiences it? What is its role in our lives as individuals, members of groups and of society at large? The course will be interdisciplinary, emphasizing in particular social science and arts/humanities approaches; and active student participation will be an important component. Note: This course is high-demand AMER majors have priority; please contact Professor Wu at Jean.Wu@tufts.edu to be added to the roster.
AMER 0015-01 (REL 0042-01) Religion & Politics in American History ~ Heather D Curtis
MW | 10:30AM-11:45AM
"In God we Trust," "One Nation Under God," "God Bless America": phrases like these alert us to the ongoing influence of religion in American public life. This course explores the role of religion in shaping American civic engagement and political activity from the 17th century to the present, aiming to put contemporary events in broader historical context. Key topics and themes include: the relationship between church and state in the colonial period; faith and the founders; religion and social activism in the antebellum era (especially anti-slavery and 3 women's rights); religion, race and civil rights; religious "outsiders" and American politics (particularly Mormons, Catholics, and Muslims); spirituality and social protest in the 20th century (pacifism; feminism; and economic reform); the rise of the religious right; religion and American politics post-9/11; and the upcoming presidential election. This course counts toward the Humanities or Social Sciences distribution requirement.

AMER 0030-01 (SOC 0070-01) Immigration, Race, and American Society ~ Michelle Holliday-Stocking
TR | 10:30AM-11:45AM
The United States in this course is used as a lens for understanding the movement of people across nation-state boundaries and their settlement in various receiving societies. Why people migrate across international borders; the ability of the nation-state to control migration flows; assimilation and incorporation of foreign “outsiders” into American social life; ways that migrants build and sustain lives across international borders; and challenges to two traditional types of membership: race and ethnicity, and citizenship and national belonging, will be explored.

AMER 0031-01 (HIST 0031) Rise of the Modern Woman ~ Virginia Drachman
MW | 01:30PM-02:45PM
Women's struggles for equality in American society from the 19th century through World War II. Examination of women's drive for suffrage and political rights, access to higher education, and entry into medicine, law, and business. Focus on the tension between equality and equity and origins of tension between private and public life. Attention to diversity, including race, class, and ethnicity, in women's experiences.

AMER 0044-01 (HIST 0022-01) The Changing American Nation ~ Reed T Ueda
M | 09:00AM-11:30AM
Population, society, and politics in U.S. History. Evolution from a former colony in the Atlantic World to a trans-continental industrialized urban nation - a globalized country on the Pacific Rim.

AMER 0047-01 (ENG 0023-01) American Literature: First Contact to 1855 ~ Nathan Wolff
TR | 10:30-11:45AM
From the beginning, American literature has been multicultural, artistically diverse, and filled with debates about human rights, religion, gender equality, economics, race, personal freedom, and how to live in relationship with the earth. Bringing together Native American, white European American, African American, Latino/a, and Asian American voices, this survey mixes canonical and less well-known texts. We'll read work by familiar writers such as Anne Bradstreet and Nathaniel Hawthorne as well as work by equally important but often less-familiar writers such as Handsome Lake, David Walker, William Apess, and Chinese merchants in California. We will think about the construction of literary history and the politics of representation. Who gets to speak? Write? Read? Who does not? Why does this matter in 2017? The class will include active class discussion and two field trips, one to the only known slave quarters still standing in New England, the other to the woods. There will be two papers and a final exam.
A study of governmental politics, functions, and programs. Emphasis given to political behavior, both at the mass level and in institutions. Survey of public opinion and political culture, parties, and elections. Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, the federal courts, and interest groups.

This course provides an introduction to theoretical, historical and contemporary sociological perspectives on race, racism and ethnicity. The course will help you think critically about issues related to race and ethnicity in American society and globally. These issues include racial and ethnic inequality, discrimination, racial stereotyping, racial identity, assimilation, multiculturalism and postracialism. There is a special focus on the history and current situation of white-black relations, social movements such as the Civil Rights Movement and #BlackLivesMatter, and recent public policy debates. No prerequisites.

This course will study various social movements (from Abolitionists to Occupy Wall Street) and the elements that combine to spark such movements. We will also discuss what constitutes a movement: is it a protest, rally or riot, or a series of all? What motivates people to organize into action? How are movements buoyed or repressed? Do social movements actually work, or are they all for naught? How is (or isn’t) the movement of the group controlled? How do you measure a movement’s success and its effect on society as a whole? Prerequisite: SOC 01 or 10 or other introductory-level social science course.

Though sociological and anthropological research shows us that we can expect some degree of inequality in our social life, this does not mean we need to normalize and accept all inequality. This course is a critical exploration of social inequality in the United States along the highly salient axes of race, class, and gender, asking what is the nature of these inequalities, why do they exist/how are they reproduced, and how are they experienced in everyday life? Throughout we will consider inequality as an issue of social justice, and will explore efforts to reduce and mitigate inequalities. We will start with an introduction to sociological thought around both inequality and justice. We will then look at the nature of class, race, and gender inequality in the US today. The remainder of the course will focus on the causes and consequences of these intersecting inequalities within various social institutions, including education, incarceration, work, and neighborhoods. We will draw on local social justice efforts as we examine efforts to address inequality. No prerequisites.

This course offers an introduction to health, illness, and health care in America. In this course we will examine topics such as the subjective experience of health and illness; political, economic, and environmental circumstances that threaten health; the organization and structure of health organizations; and the social and cultural effects of medical practice. Using a critical perspective, this course will encourage students to situate health and illness in the larger social landscape, taking into account how social institutions like politics, the economy, and culture impact our health and well-being. The course is divided into two parts. The first section looks at the social production of disease and
illness, while the later section examines the social institutions created to treat it. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

**AMER 0094-01 Issues in Native American & Indigenous Studies ~ STAFF**
**TR | 03:00PM-03:50PM**
Is the United States a colonial formation? What does the US look like, if we center the history of its occupation of Indigenous land and communities? Does it change how we think about culture, community, and territory as they shape the American political project? Can attention to Indigenous thought and experience open new possibilities for engaging or resisting that project?
This course will examine basic tenets of American political life—sovereignty, rights, property, family, militarism—both as technologies of colonial power and as tools of Indigenous resistance. Students will work collaboratively around terms, questions, and texts that are essential to the emerging field of Critical Indigenous Studies. We'll ask how coloniality reframes American environmentalism, violence, and capitalism. But also how Indigenous social and intellectual life suggests alternative forms of political action, gathering, and invention. We'll study 20th and 21st century Indigenous cultural theory, case law, poetry, novels, and visual art, and create opportunities for students to open links of their own, between Critical Indigenous Studies and other fields of study.

**AMER 0094-02 Mass Incarceration & the Literature of Confinement ~ Hilary Binda**
**W | 08:30AM-11:30AM**
Supported by the Tisch College of Civic Life, this course facilitates learning about deep differences while enabling the creation of human bonds and bridges through shared experiences and shared acts of interpretation and imagination. This seminar on the literature of incarceration will meet most weeks at the state prison in Shirley, MA; for those who do not drive, the Tisch College van will provide transportation from the Medford Campus. When not meeting at the prison, this class will meet on the Medford campus. The Literature of Confinement will be composed of Tufts students and incarcerated students in equal numbers. Together, we will read, discuss, and write on literary and sociological texts directly and indirectly pertaining to the experience of confinement – understood in different senses – as well as mass incarceration. Inside and outside students will work in small groups to complete an interdisciplinary project of the group’s invention and design. Throughout the semester, students will learn about the structuring ideologies of race, class, gender-sexuality, and education in relation to the US criminal justice system. Through a weekly focus on interactive learning across cultural, social, and literal barriers and on self-reflection, and because the course incorporates literary texts, students will develop qualitative knowledge about confinement, power, and resistance in the face of social injustice and structural inequalities. Texts may include, among others: The Book of Jonah, Melville’s “Bartleby the Scrivener,” Kafka’s “In the Penal Colony,” August Wilson’s Fences, Suzan-Lori Parks’s TopDog/Underdog, Henrik Ibsen’s A Doll’s House, Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper,” Toni Morrison’s The Bluest Eye, Michelle Alexander’s The New Jim Crow, James Forman’s “Beyond the New Jim Crow,” Stormy Ogden’s “The Prison-Industrial Complex in Indigenous California,” essays from Julia Sudbury’s Global Lockdown, and Lisa Neve’s “Challenging the Criminalization of Women Who Resist.”
Signature Required – please email the faculty member as soon as possible to set up required in-person conversation if you are interested: hilary.binda@tufts.edu. Class size limited.

**AMER 0094-04 (ENG 0064-01) American Fiction 1900-Present ~ Ichiro Takayoshi**
**MW | 3:00-4:15PM**
A seminar focusing on U.S. prose fiction since World War II. Readings will include representative works by Ralph Ellison, Saul Bellow, Vladimir Nabokov, Jack Kerouac, John Barth, Thomas Pynchon, Philip K.
Dick, Cormac McCarthy, Toni Morrison, Don DeLillo, Marilynne Robinson, and Philip Roth. **Requirements:** attendance, presentations, and three short papers. **This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.**

**AMER 0094-05 (0074-01) Literature of the Jazz Age ~ Ichiro Takayoshi**

This course surveys the works of U.S. literati responding to the technological, economic, and social conditions of modernity. By radically renovating traditional literary forms, many key writers of the time searched for a matching representation for the novelties and complexities of modernity—most notably, total war, urbanization, the arrival of new immigrants, the crisis of public trust in the objectivity of news media, cinema, the jazz age, Fordism, the discovery of the anthropological notion of “culture,” and the popularization of Freudianism. Our main object is to understand the origins, purposes, and effects of the wild spirit of experimentalism that suffused their work. For representative poetry, we will consider the works of T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Hart Crane, Dorothy Parker, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Langston Hughes and others; for drama, the plays of Elmer Rice and Eugene O’Neill; for narratives, the novels and short stories of Faulkner, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Toomer and Cather. **This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.**

**AMER 0094-06 American Orientalism ~ Thomas Abowd**

This course explores the intersections of culture, race, and imperialism and will examine US representations of and engagements with the Middle East over the last 50 years. Participants will study American power at home and abroad and some of the racial and gendered assumptions crucial to it in the diverse realms of culture. We will explore the production of various "truths" about Middle Eastern peoples, places, religions, and societies manufactured in governing circles, literary spheres, Hollywood and television, and institutions of US higher education. As Native American populations continued to be dispossessed in the early 20th Century and as American power abroad began to intensify after WWI, the US began to establish its authority in the Middle East. This course will trace some of the lineages of racism and empire through an examination of a range of writers, including Mark Twain, Herman Melville, Edward Said, Melanie McAlister, Ella Habiba Shohat, Timothy Mitchell, Lila Abu Lughod, and others. All majors and levels are welcome!

**AMER 0094-07 The Masculine Mystique ~ Freeden Oeur**

What does it mean to be a man? This upper-level seminar will examine masculinity—in the U.S. and abroad—as a dynamic historical and social construct at the interactional, institutional, and macro levels. We’ll consider how and why the study of men and masculinities emerged, and ask why a critical study of masculinity is needed today. Using texts, film, and current events, we’ll examine how the meanings of manhood have evolved over time, what about manhood has been resistant to change, and how institutions and actors challenge and destabilize masculinity. Specific topics include frontier masculinities and the intersections of manhood and civilization, how US presidents embody hegemonic masculinity, efforts by elementary schools to teach a fluidity of gender and masculinity, racial capitalism and state violence against boys of color, and transgender and queer masculinities. Assignments include several essays, group-led discussions, and a research paper.

**Prerequisites:** Junior standing, at least two previous courses in sociology, or permission of instructor.
AMER 0094-08 (WGSS 0073-01) Introduction to Queer Studies ~ Kareem Khubchandani  
MW | 10:30AM-11:45AM  
Introduction to the interdisciplinary field of queer studies through an examination of key texts and practices. Course will interrogate notions of normality; binary systems of sex, gender, and sexuality; and cultural representations of personhood, citizenship, and family. It will examine the application of queer theory in fields such as economics, anthropology, literature, cultural studies, and film studies. Of particular concern will be ways gender and sexuality intersect with race, ethnicity, nationality, and class.

AMER 0099 Internship in American Studies ~ Staff  
Students who wish to do internships under American Studies should enroll in AMER 0099 for their internship for course credit. Normally, these internships are for American Studies majors. Internships are available in a wide range of public and private organizations and institutions (e.g., media, museums, social service agencies). In most cases, the student will make the arrangements with the organization so that one person will be supervising the student and overseeing the internship work. It is expected that the student will be working a minimum of 12 hours per week. The supervised fieldwork will provide the student with the opportunity to better understand the work environment and issues facing the particular organization. The student should meet approximately three times with the Director of American Studies (or another Tufts faculty member) to discuss the fieldwork, goals, and effectiveness of the organization. (E-mailing the director or faculty member several times during the semester is an acceptable alternative to meeting in person.) If a student wishes to receive a letter grade instead of Pass/Fail, he/she must keep a journal, and write a 10-page paper which will be submitted for a grade to the Tufts faculty member overseeing the internship. Note: Complete and submit a one-on-one form to Student Services.

AMER 0100-01 American Studies Theories &Methods ~ STAFF  
M | 06:00PM-09:00PM  
American Studies is known as a home for critical thinking about structures of power and privilege, and dynamics of race, class, gender, and sexuality. This course introduces students to core methods and theories of American Studies. We will trace the field's development from its beginnings in the 1930s to the present. Students will study the field's relationship to twentieth century social movements and related theoretical categories. Finally, students will learn techniques of archival research and of literary and cultural criticism underlying interdisciplinary methods in American Studies.

AMER 0155-01 (ENG 0155-01) American Women Writers ~ Christina Sharpe  
MW | 10:30-11:45AM (Post 1860)  
What is American Women's writing? Who is an American Woman writer? The texts in this course will emphasize the heterogeneity of American women's writing by reading a variety of texts that trace and retrace the contours and concerns of race, nation, belonging, and representation from the end of the nineteenth-century to the present. Texts may include but are not limited to: Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*; Nella Larsen's *Quicksand* and *Passing*; Sui Sin Far's *Mrs. Spring Fragrance and Other Stories*; Toni Morrison's *Beloved*; Helena Maria Viramontes's *Under the Feet of Jesus*; excerpts from Anna Julia Cooper's *A Voice From the South*; Dorothy Allison's *Bastard Out of Carolina*; Dionne Brand's *In Another Place, Not Here*; Alison Bechdel's graphic novel/comix *Fun Home*; feminist manifestos, polemics, and more. This is a seminar. Class will be run on a discussion basis and active student participation is required. In addition to reading novels we may also view film and other visual arts as we think through "American women writing" and the practice, poetics, and politics of representation. *This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.*
AMER 0172-01 American Highways, Routes & Roots ~ Ronna Johnson  
TR | 04:30PM-05:45PM  
This multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary course studies the American Sixties through film, literature, music, and nonfiction writing, including memoir, manifesto, letters and journalism. Although called the Sixties, this time of civil dissent, social unrest, domestic violence, international war and change properly encompasses a wider era, from 1954 and Brown v. Board of Education, to 1975 and the end of the Vietnam War, and this broader interval will form the period of our study.

AMER 0182-01 Asian America ~ Jean Y Wu  
T | 04:30-7:15PM  
What is Asian America? Where did the term come from? What is Asian America's relationship to America? Who is considered an Asian American? Who gets to decide? What is Asian American history, identity, culture, and politics? This multidisciplinary course explores the definition of Asian America, its history, and some of its contemporary issues. We will examine the reasons for why Asians are in America; the role of Asian Americans in the development of American society; their responses to America's reception of them; their relationship to American foreign policy regarding Asia; their position in the context of American race relations; current Asian immigration and settlement; the process of developing Asian American identities and cultures; the status of contemporary Asian American communities; and some critical Asian American issues. Though Asian Americans have a long history in America and also are one of the fastest growing racial minority groups in the country, why do Asians in America continue to be perceived as "foreigners," "aliens," and the inassimilable ?yellow peril?? Then again, why do these ?potentially dangerous aliens? continue to be held up as the ?model minority? to the rest of society? What can we learn about America itself by studying the Asian experience within it?  
Note: This course is high-demand; please contact Professor Wu at Jean.Wu@tufts.edu/to be added to the roster.

AMER 0187-01 (FAH 0086/0186) Latina/o/x Presence in Art and Visual Culture~ Adriana Zavala  
TR | 10:30-11:45am  
This course offers a critical introduction to U.S. Latinx art and artists (those of Latin American descent born or living in the United States). It traces the contours of this art history in relation to contemporary cultural and socio-political debates and also considers how art by U.S. Latinx artists puts pressure on mainstream paradigms of “American” and “global” contemporary art history. Emphasis will be given to artists associated with particular social movements and communities, e.g. Chicana/o, Nuyorican/mainland Puerto Rican, Cuban-American, and Dominican-American, but throughout we will consider the intersectionality within and between these communities and other historically underrepresented groups. Our study of Latinx visual art will be contextualized in terms of representation across a wide range of fields and media, including literature, cinema, and popular media, as well as shifting demographics and ongoing debates about civil rights, immigration, contemporary politics, and national security. Key topics include the politics of representation and culture-war debates about visual art as a vehicle of resistance and for affirming non-normative identities, the role of race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class in relation to creative expression and art world representation. (This course fulfills the post-1700 requirement for the Art History major; the Hispanic and Diaspora culture option; and the World Civ requirement.)

AMER 0193 Independent Study ~ Staff  
Students wishing to do an independent study project related to their cluster topic before initiating their SSP/HT must find an adviser and sign up for No more than one Independent Study course can count towards the cluster.
AMER 0194-02 (REL 0106-01) Religion, Violence & Sexuality ~ Elizabeth B Lemons  
TR | 12:00PM-01:15PM  
This course will analyze representative ethical and theological positions on current issues related to violence/nonviolence and sexuality in the U.S. We will look at the treatment of these issues in a variety of contemporary religious and secular traditions. Topics include responses to war, terrorism, structural oppressions (such as racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism), and sexual violence, as well as controversies around reproductive rights and same sex marriage. This course counts towards the Humanities distribution requirement.

AMER 0194-03 (ENG 0191-02) Queer Diasporas ~ Christina Sharpe  
M | 1:30-4:00PM  
In 2000 David Eng published an article on Deann Borshay Liem’s First Person Plural (2000) her documentary on her transracial, transnational adoption. Eng argued that it might be useful to think through diasporas “not in conventional terms of ethnic dispersion, filiation, and biological traceability, but rather in terms of queerness, affiliation, and social contingency.” In this course we will do both: we will trace out new forms of contingent kinships and we will think through racial diasporas and the ways that some racialized groups have been positioned as always already queer in the spaces—through diasporic dispersal—that they have come to occupy. We may read and view work by Lorraine Hansberry, David Eng, Monique Truong, Piri Thomas, Cherrie Moraga, James Baldwin, Isaac Julien, W. E. B. DuBois, Dionne Brand, Jose Munoz, Cathy Cohen, Lisa Lowe, Jacqueline Goldsby, Robert Reid-Pharr, Gertrude Stein, Toni Morrison, Shane Vogel, Nella Larsen, Fae Myenne Ng, Omise’eke Natasha Tinsley, Claude McKay, & James Weldon Johnson. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

AMER 0194-04 (ENG 0188-01) Slave Revolts & Maroons ~ Greg Thomas  
TR | 12:00-1:15PM  
This course will focus on the texts, traces and testimonies of African insurrection in the Americas during the official period of “chattel slavery,” hemispherically. On the one hand, we will study what we have learned to refer to as “slave revolts,” the uprisings of those who resisted and refused enslavement and therefore organized themselves to overthrow “slavery” – daily, historically. On the other hand, we will study the practice of “maroonage” - or the “Maroons” who would escape enslavement, set up alternative African communities elsewhere (typically in the mountains or “hills,” not infrequently with “Indians” or indigenous peoples), while at the same time returning to plantations to register their opposition to enslavement as well. In the end, students should come to develop a critical familiarity with literary-critical discourses of slavery and anti-slavery; to expand their knowledge of maroonage and its relationship to uprisings; and, finally, to manifest a cultural literacy or counter-literacy from Haitian Revolution to Nat Turner, Stono and Denmark Vesey in the U.S. South to rebellions in Cuba and Bahia, Brazil, for example. We should all also pose and answer a number of crucial critical questions, such as: How does this literature of “slave revolts,” these texts of “grand maroonage” recast the fundamental assumptions of “literature” as well as “history,” “culture” and “politics,” among other things, both then as well as now? This course fulfills the pre-1860 requirement.

AMER 0194-05 (0191-03) The ANTI-Colonial Mode of Thought ~ Greg Thomas  
TR | 3:00-4:15PM  
When current academic theories speak of colonialism at all, they tend to speak of “post-colonialism” or “post-coloniality” and thus help to conceal the current phase of colonial or neo-colonial empire. This course will examine the critical-intellectual politics of ANTI-colonialism – past, present and future-oriented – with a focus on selected figures, positions and movements. We will address a series of questions: What is the relationship here between theory and practice, thought and struggle? What sort
of ideas emanating from beyond the West (Europe or Anglo-North America) have been recently and historically suppressed? Why? How does Africa in particular signify in this particular space, globally and internationally? Why? What various affinities and solidarities emerge from continental and diasporic time-spaces of Africa, Asia and the Americas as well as Palestine? Text-wise, we may look at the work of Frantz Fanon, Malcolm X and Walter Rodney; Ho Chi Minh, Mao, Trinh T. Minh-ha and H.L.T. Quan; Vijay Prashad, Arundhati Roy and Edward Said; Haile Gerima and Djibril Diop Mambéty; “Che” Guevara, Anibal Quijano, Eduardo Galeano and Cherrie Moraga; Jack Forbes, Ward Churchill, Chryostos and Leslie Marmon Silko; Cheikh Anta Diop, Ifi Amadiume and Ayi Kwei Armah. The “ANTI-colonial mode of thought” will be engaged to think critically about not only the literary culture but geopolitics, economics, psychologistics and body politics of colonial or neo-colonial Western empire. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

AMER 0194-06 (ENG 0159-01) Contemporary Jewish Fiction ~ Jonathan Wilson
MW | 10:30-11:45AM
A look at novels and stories by authors, both new and established, whose work has reflected, challenged, shaped and altered not only contemporary Jewish consciousness but also the broad shared culture that the writers inhabit. We'll read fiction by Molly Antopol, Rebecca Schiff, Tova Mirvis, Justin Taylor, Saul Bellow, Philip Roth and others. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

AMER 0194-07 (MUS 0185-01) Studies in Women in Music: Black Divas ~ Stephan Pennington
W | 9:00-11:30AM
The Diva, stemming from the word divine, has long served as a powerful figure of adoration and identification for a number of disenfranchised groups, especially women and sexual and racial/ethnic minorities. In the emerging field of Diva/Star Studies, however, African American Divas have received little focus. This course examines the figure of the American Black Diva in culture and scholarship from Opera to Hip Hop using a variety of theoretical lenses from queer theory to black feminist thought. There are a number of issues this course will focus on: an exploration of the use of the Diva for the articulation of individual and communal identity, the function of the Star/Diva in society, the complexities of presentation and representation in personal and professional Diva narratives, the possibilities and limits of fame as a means of personal empowerment and political change, the way race inflects these issues differently, and finally the way in which detailed engagement with the musical performances of Black Divas across time and place can deepen our understanding of what it means to be or to love any given sort of Diva.

AMER 0194-08 (HIST 0128-01) The Civil Rights Movement ~ Kerri Greenidge
TR | 12:00-1:15PM
Examines the modern Civil Rights Movement in the United States and its impact on race relations, politics, society, and culture. Topics discussed during the semester include debates over non-violence vs. self-defense; integration vs. separatism; protest vs. politics; Martin Luther King vs. Malcolm X. The movement’s geographic, racial, and ideological diversity will also be explored, as will the evolution from civil rights to Black Power.

AMER 0198-01: Senior Special Project | Staff
The Senior Special Project (SSP) will include the preparation of an analytic essay, a research paper, or a project such as an oral history, a life story, a film, or a play. The SSP may also be based, in part, on a documented internship, or on leading an Exploration. The SSP should utilize more than one disciplinary approach and should seek to develop connections and integration among the disciplines employed. Detailed information is available in the American Studies office. The completed project should be given
to your readers no later than Thursday, December 7, 2017. Your final manuscript should be free of misspellings and/or typographical errors. The oral defense of your SSP should be completed no later than Thursday, December 14, 2017. You must submit an electronic copy of your SSP to the American Studies Office no later than Wednesday, December 20, 2017, one day before the end of final exams. It is your responsibility to meet these deadlines, which will allow for relatively minor revisions, if necessary. 

Note to Seniors: please remember to fill out the American Studies Grade Sheet. Pre-reqs: Seniors only

AMER 0199 Senior Honors Thesis A ~ Staff

This Senior Seminar, which provides support and guidance for seniors in the process of completing their Honors Thesis, is open only to American Studies majors with permission to continue their Senior Honors Thesis research into the spring. Participation in the seminar is required for all American Studies seniors undertaking the Senior Honors Thesis. For seniors expecting to graduate in May 2018, the completed thesis manuscript should be submitted to readers by Thursday, April 26, 2018. The oral defense should be arranged by the student and his or her committee to be completed no later than Thursday, May 3, 2018, at which time it will most likely be graded. The final Honors Thesis manuscript should be free of errors. Remember, it is the student's responsibility to meet these deadlines and to file a copy with Digital Collections & Archives in Tisch Library and email a final hard-copy to the American Studies office no later than Thursday, May 10, 2018. Note to Seniors: please remember to fill out the American Studies Grade Sheet