

American Studies

Spring 2018 Courses

Foundation Courses:

- AMER 0010-01 Human Rights in the U.S. ~ Tom Abowd
- AMER 0010-02 Global Indigeneity and American Empire ~ Kyle Kamaiopili
- AMER 0014-01 Intro to Sociology ~ Pawan Dhingra

Mid-level Courses:

- AMER 0089-01 (ENG 0089-01) Feminism in 20th Century US Literature and Culture ~ Ronna Johnson
- AMER 0094-01 (SOC 0030-01) Sex and Gender in Society ~ Freeden Oeur
- AMER 0094-02 (AFR 0047-01) Black Is: A History of African-Americans, Immigration, and Black Identity ~ Kerri Greenidge
- AMER 0094-03 (SOC 0094-16) The American Labor Movement ~ Cedric de Leon
- AMER 0094-04 (VISC 0145) Literature of Confinement ~ Hilary Binda
- AMER 0094-05 (HIST 0036) Communities and Diversity in U.S. History ~ Reed Ueda
- AMER 0094-06 (ED-0001-01) School and Society ~ Steve Cohen
- AMER 0094-07 (AAST 0094-01) The Forgotten Asians of the Americas ~ Rupa Pillai

Integrative Seminars:

- AMER 0173-01 Justice in 1960s American Counterculture ~ Ronna Johnson
- AMER 0180-01 The Middle East in the American Imagination ~ Tom Abowd
- AMER 0180-02 Indigenous Ethnography ~ Jami Powell
- AMER 0180-03 (HIST 0193-01) Family Histories and American Culture ~ Kendra Field
- AMER 0180-06 Racing Research: The Politics of Knowledge Making ~ Jean Wu

Upper-level Courses:

- AMER 0118-01 (REL 0118) (Mis-)Translating Vodun ~ Elana Jefferson-Tatum
- AMER 0141-01 Innovative Social Enterprise ~ Staff
- AMER 0150 (ENG 0150) Emerson, Fuller, Thoreau, Whitman ~ Nathan Wolff
- AMER 0194-01 (AFR 0147-03) FANON and Black (Textural) Revolution ~ Greg Thomas
- AMER 0194-02 (ENG 0192-01) Imagining Slavery and Freedom ~ Christina Sharpe
- AMER 0194-03 Public Amnesias and Their Discontents: Theories and Practices of Remembering and Forgetting ~ Diane O' Donoghue
- AMER 0194-04 (HIST 0173-01) Indigenous Peoples of North America ~ James Rice
- AMER 0194-06 (SOC 0149) Racial Identity in Historical Perspective ~ Orly Clerge
- AMER 0194-07 (SOC 0188-07) Race and Politics ~ Cedric de Leon
- AMER 0194-08 (SOC 0188-09) Youth of Color ~ Orly Clerge
- AMER 0194-10 (PS 0119-01) American Racial Politics ~ Natalie Masuoka
- AMER 0194-11 (ED 165-01) Feminist and Gender Theories ~ Sabina Vaught

Standard Courses:

- AMER 0099 Internship-American Studies ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)
- AMER 0193 Independent Study ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)
- AMER 0199 Senior Honors Thesis B ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)

Course Descriptions

AMER 0010-01 Human Rights in the U.S. ~ Tom Abowd

MW | 10:30-11:45am

This interdisciplinary course will explore a range of topics related to human rights in the United States. We will examine debates about human rights across various fields of studies and at particular historical moments. Participants will, for instance, examine human rights concerns in related to genocide, slavery and Jim Crow, the privatization of prisons, racial politics and urban space, gender-based forms of violence, and the politics of labor and the machinations of capital—regional and global—that impinge on the rights of workers. It will be one of the crucial challenges of this course to look critically at some of the taken-for-granted ideas about rights discourse and security, notions of freedom and liberty, and discipline and punishment. Visual culture, ethnographic films, and documentary films will be important parts of this course. By exploring themes of power and resistance, we will acquire insights into how people and communities in various places make sense of their lives and strive for justice. In doing so, the course will seek to discover the richness of human diversity and the human potential for political and social transformation.

AMER 0010-02 Global Indigeneity and American Empire ~ Kyle Kamaiopili

TR | 10:30-11:45am

This course serves as an introduction to the field of comparative global Indigenous Studies. Foregrounding issues facing and presented by Indigenous peoples from around the globe—from our current emplacement on the ancestral lands of the Massachusetts and Wampanoag peoples to the Kanaka Maoli of Hawai'i to the Maori in Aotearoa/New Zealand—this class will examine conceptions of indigeneity, settler colonialism, American imperialism, sovereignty, decolonization, environmental racism and justice, and land rights through the political and creative expressions of these peoples, and will provide students with a broad and nuanced understanding of their relation to and emplacement within a struggle between systems of settler-colonial oppression and Indigenous resurgence.

AMER 0014-01 (SOC 0001-01) Intro to Sociology ~ Pawan Dhingra

MW | 1:30-2:45pm

Sociologists address questions such as why do some students succeed at school while others fail; how do groups develop certain cultures; why are there class, gender, and racial inequalities; how does socialization take place; what role does religion play in our society; etc. This course introduces students to sociological topics and to the dominant theories and methods used to make sense of such social phenomena. Students are encouraged to bring their own sociological insights to class as we challenge common assumptions of these major issues that refer to all of us.

AMER 0089-01 (ENG 0089-01) Feminism in the 20th Century US Literature and Culture ~ Ronna

Johnson

TR | 4:30-5:45PM

This course examines how the postwar U.S. women's movement for equality, born of the mid-twentieth century antiwar and civil rights movements, made civic, legal and ethical changes that are expressed in representations of women in literature and film, in mass and high cultures, and in women's experiences across race, class, ethnic, and sexual lines. We will study novels, poetry, and essays, as well as films, to explore the impact of second wave feminism on discourses of gender and women's sexuality. The course

will cover critiques made by feminist writers with a view to understanding a central insight of feminism, that forms of knowing are not universal but culturally constructed, contextual, mutable; gendered. Second wave feminism coincided with and helped bring into being postmodernism in U.S. arts and culture. Our study questions how feminism is postmodern and speculates on how postmodernism is in part a feminist production; how the emergence of the postmodern fits with recognitions about gender and liberations of sex and sexualities in the postwar U.S. women's movement.

Readings and screenings will include: Alix Kates Shulman, *Memoirs of an Ex-Prom Queen*; Alison Bechdel, *Dykes to Watch Out For*; Chuang Hua, *Crossings*; Joan Didion, *Play It As It Lays*; Rita Mae Brown, *Rubyfruit Jungle*; Bonnie Bremser, *Troia: Mexican Memoirs*; Toni Morrison, *Sula*. *Thelma and Louise* dir. Ridley Scott; *Revolutionary Road*, dir. Sam Mendes; *The Stepford Wives*, dir. Bryan Forbes. Poetry and essays by Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde, Diane di Prima, Sonya Sanchez and Nikki Giovanni; essays by Kate Millett, Valerie Solanas, bell hooks, Danzy Senna, Alice Walker, Cherry Moraga, Gloria Anzaldua, and Shulamith Firestone. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

AMER 0094-01 (SOC 0030-01) Sex and Gender in Society ~ Freeden Oeur
MW | 10:30-11:45am

What are sex and gender? How are they related? This course invites students to address these questions through a sociological lens. We will consider various approaches to studying gender: gender as an accomplishment and a feature of micro-interactions; how gender embeds laws and regulations, institutions such as families, schools, and the economy; and how gender is expressed through configurations of femininity and masculinity. Throughout the course, we will be attentive to how gender signifies power, and how it shapes and is shaped by other markers of difference, including race, sexuality, age, and disability. By exploring gender as a dynamic process, we will investigate how gender is oppressive and transformative; marginalizing and transgressive; and a site of both labor and pleasure. No prerequisites.

AMER 0094-02 (AFR 0047-01) Black Is: A History of African-Americans, Immigration, and Black Identity
~ Kerri Greenidge
TRF | 12:00-1:15pm

A History of African-Americans, Immigration, and Black Identity: This course explores the history of racial identity, and American racial politics, through the long, often complicated relationship between American immigrants from across the African diaspora, and African-Americans. Through literature, history, and cultural study, this course allows students to think critically about the historical definition of "blackness" beyond the accepted North-South, urban-rural dialectic. Through analysis of literature by Paule Marshall, Eric Walrond, Claude McKay, Junot Diaz, Edwidge Danticat, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and others, students will interrogate the historical relationship between native-born African Americans and immigrants of African descent as a way to dissect American blackness as a politically contested cultural and social construct shaped by historical context. (Can be cross-listed with English,, History, or American Studies)

AMER 0094-03 (SOC 0094-16) The American Labor Movement ~ Cedric de Leon
MW | 9:00-10:15am

Want to know more about unions?
Worried about class inequality?
Ever wondered what you can do about it?
Well, this course is for you.

AMER 0094-04 (VISC 0145) Literature of Confinement ~ Hilary Binda

T | 1:20-4:20 (includes travel time)

How have writers from different historical periods, regions, cultures, and genders understood experiences of confinement and freedom? What are some of the effects on human beings of different kinds of confinement – economic, educational, legal, physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and social? The Literature of Confinement will be run as an Inside-Out™ class composed of Tufts (“outside”) students and incarcerated (“inside”) students, also now Tufts students, in equal numbers. Together, we will read, discuss, and write on literary texts directly and indirectly pertaining to the experience of confinement – understood in many different senses. What constitutes a confining circumstance? How is confinement imposed and by whom? How is it resisted and challenged? Because class is limited, students interested in this course should contact the professor through email to schedule an interview. Students should include a statement about why they want to take the course and how it might serve their future goals.

AMER 0094-05 (HIST 0036) Communities and Diversity in U.S. History ~ Reed Ueda

M | 9:00 – 11:30 am

The historical construction of U. S. democratic pluralism in a civil society of diverse communities including comparisons with pluralism in other countries. Ethnicity, class, gender, race, nationalism, regionalism, religion, consumerism, and popular media in this process.

AMER 0094-06 (ED-0001-01) School and Society ~ Steve Cohen

TR | 10:30-11:45am Role and purpose of schooling in the United States. Focus on the desegregation and resegregation of schools in the last fifty years; proposals for school reform.

AMER 0094-07 (AAST 0094-01) The Forgotten Asians of the Americas ~ Rupa Pillai

MW | 1:30-2:45pm

Although Asians have lived in the Americas for centuries, the Asian American community and experience tends to be defined by the post-1965 wave of immigration to the United States. In an effort to correct this narrative this course will explore the histories, experiences, and contributions of some of the forgotten Asians of Americas. In particular, we will focus on the earlier labor migrations of Chinese and South Asian individuals to the Caribbean and the United States. The experiences of these individuals, who built railroads, cut sugarcane, and replaced African slave labor, complicate our understandings of race today. By examining the legal and social debates surrounding their labor in the 19th century and exploring how their experiences are forgotten and their descendants are rendered invisible today, we will complicate what is Asian America.

AMER 0099-01: 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. (Department Consent Required)

AMER 0118-01 (REL 0118) (Mis-)Translating Vodun ~ Elana Jefferson-Tatum

W | 1:30-4:00pm

A historical and comparative examination of the history of cultural contact between Vodun religious cultures and the Western world, with specific attention to issues of translation and interpretation in the study of West African Vodun, Haitian Vodou, and New Orleans Voodoo. Key themes and topics include: colonization and the construction of religious Others; the invention of civilization, the primitive, and the fetish; slavery, religion, and the construction of race; law and the politics of religious criminality; the U.S. occupation of Haiti and the Western imagination of “voodoo”; and U.S. imperialism and the media.

AMER 0141-01 Innovative Social Enterprise ~ Julianne Zimmerman

T | 1:30-4:00pm

This course explores entrepreneurship within for-profit and non-profit organizations. It covers elements of integration of innovation; development and management of a business within and existing corporate culture; and, focuses on the benefits and limits of adapting business practices to the operating environments of the social sector.

AMER 0150-01 Emerson, Fuller, Thoreau, Whitman ~ Nathan Wolff

TR | 10:30-11:45am

Explores major figures in the American literary, political, and philosophical movement known as Transcendentalism: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Henry David Thoreau, and Walt Whitman. Major themes and topics include nature, religion, reform, and the place of the individual in society. Discussions of Emerson and Thoreau focus on the role played by transcendentalism in abolitionism, and, later, the civil rights and environmental movements. Readings from Fuller's *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* explore her critique of restrictive gender roles. Whitman's poetry grounds a consideration of race, sexuality, and citizenship. Fulfills the pre-1860 requirement for majors.

AMER 0173-01 Justice in 1960s American Counterculture ~ Ronna Johnson

W | 4:30-7:15pm

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 0180-01 The Middle East in the American Imagination~ Tom Abowd

MW | 4:30-5:45pm

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 century. Participants will study American power at home and abroad and some of the racial and gendered assumptions crucial to the US Empire as expressed in US popular 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 and eliminated in the early 20th Century and as American power abroad intensified 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: Melanie McAlister, Malcolm X, Edward Said, Noam Chomsky, Judith Butler, Timothy Mitchell, Lila Abu Lughod, Ella Shohat, and others. Films screened include “Lawrence of Arabia,” “Reel Bad Arabs,” “Under One Sky,” “Ben Hur,” and “Peace, Propaganda, & the Promised Land.” No pre-requisites. All are welcome!

AMER 0180-02 Indigenous Ethnography ~ Jami Powell

TR | 1:30-2:45pm

This integrative seminar examines the complex history and contemporary practice of Indigenous ethnography and its use within and outside of the academy. Through critical readings and analyses of ethnographic research conducted on, with, and by Indigenous peoples, we will evaluate the limitations and possibilities of using this methodology. These case studies inform the methodological training of students in concepts of collaborative research development, participant-observation, field notes, interviews, focus groups, and ethnographic writing. Students will workshop throughout the semester on academic posters as well as an ethnographic essay or multimedia project. Prerequisite: Juniors and Seniors or permission of instructor.

AMER 0180-03 (HIST 0193-01) Family Histories and American Culture ~ Kendra Field

M | 1:20 – 4:20 pm

Explores diverse experiences of family and kinship in U.S. history, especially in the context of racial slavery, Indian removal, and transnational migration. Contextualizes the recent groundswell in scholarly approaches to family history, as well as the popularization of DNA testing and genealogical research in American culture. Allows students to develop skills and perspective necessary for the production of scholarly research based on family histories, including their own. Readings will include family histories, micro-histories, and memoir.

AMER 0180-06 Racing Research: The Politics of Knowledge Making ~ Jean Wu

T | 4:30-7:15pm

Knowledge making is raced and political. This course asks participants to consider how individual positionalities and structural power operate in the process of creating knowledge. Participants will learn to write critical auto/ethnography as well as explore anti-racist and decolonizing research methods. The course is designed with juniors in mind but open to sophomores and seniors, especially if they are undertaking knowledge making projects, be these research papers, creative writing or mixed media projects, capstones or senior theses. Students will complete a critical autoethnography as well as design a final project of their choice. Prerequisite: Consult instructor.

AMER 0193-01: 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 complete the one on one form. No more than one Independent Study course can count towards the cluster. (Department Consent Required)

AMER 0194-01 (AFR 0147-03) FANON and Black (Textural) Revolution ~ Greg Thomas

TR | 12:00-1:15pm

The marvelous texts of Frantz Fanon have preoccupied and even mesmerized a wide range of critical thinkers and political activists, for decades now. He was a Black psychiatrist, writer and revolutionary born in Martinique; formally schooled under French colonialism in the Caribbean as well as France; and converted to “African Revolution” in Algeria after his initial request to serve in the French Civil Service in Sénégal was refused during the presidency of Léopold Senghor. Fanon would author four phenomenal

books worth of material by his untimely death from leukemia – on December 6, 1961, at the age of 36 – in CIA custody in Bethesda, Maryland, USA. They are *Black Skin, White Masks* (1952), *A Dying Colonialism* (1959), *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961), and, posthumously, *Toward the African Revolution* (1964). Many of these texts would help shape the modern Black Power Movement of African-America as well as anti-imperialist liberation struggles in continental Africa and the “Third World” at large – before the strictly academic theories of “post-coloniality,” several decades later. This course will study Fanon’s whole revolutionary body of work with some regard to those related “Black [textual] revolutions which take root in his tradition. We will ask a series of crucial questions, of necessity: Why does Fanon remain so unique and important a figure, worldwide? What is the difference between academia’s Fanon and Black or anti-imperialist revolution’s Fanon? How do different translations of Fanon from French to English affect past and present interpretations of Fanon? Why is it important to speak of “Black [textual] revolutions, after Fanon,” both politically and artistically, at this specific point in global historical time?

AMER 0194-02 (ENG 0192-01) Imagining Slavery and Freedom ~ Christina Sharpe
M | 9:00-11:30AM

In this course we will read fiction, essays, poetry ‘about’ North American slavery and its afterlives. This may include: *Beloved*, *At the Full and Change of the Moon*, *Underground Railway*, *Brutal Imagination*, *Counternarratives*, *Olio*, and more. We will also read critical and theoretical writing by Saidiya Hartman, Marisa Fuentes, Sarah Haley, Thaviola Glymph, Édouard Glissant and more. We will also view still images and film and listen to music that attends to imagining slavery and something like freedom. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

AMER 0194-03 Public Amnesias and Their Discontents: Theories and Practices of Remembering and Forgetting ~ Diane O’ Donoghue
W | 9:00-11:30am

This course considers the consequences of forgetting as one of the challenges and provocations to work involving the humanities in public spaces. By extending the histories of memory into discourses of amnesia, we will identify origins, effects, and the possibility of a return for material that has been forgotten or, more significant for the context of this course, made forgettable. "Public humanities" has a particular stake in these questions and this course will offer ways to identify and reveal blind spots that occur in the field of civic vision. In the first half of the semester we will focus on constructions of amnesia from a variety of perspectives and then turn to examples of how acts of forgetting have been subverted. Monuments, memorials, and museums, all locations for the work of recollection, also function as sites that can be either complicit or resistant to the erasure of meaning and value. The topics covered in this class offer opportunities to bring objects and places back into view, but an equally compelling undertaking is the possibility of giving language to the mechanisms that made them invisible in the first place. (Prerequisite: one course in AMER10-20 or permission of instructor)

AMER 0194-04 (HIST 0173-01) Indigenous Peoples of North America ~ James Rice
W | 9:00-11:30am

This seminar style course examines major themes in the histories of North America's indigenous people from the first human habitation to the present. Drawn from multiple disciplines, the readings strike a balance between those focusing on specific Native American communities and individuals (often from indigenous perspectives) and those taking a big-picture approach that emphasizes the connections between indigenous people throughout the continent. The course also has a theoretical dimension, as it explores rival ideas about historical causation and considers the nature and structure of traditional

academic disciplines. The emphasis throughout is on reading, discussion, and developing a term paper elaborating on one of the course themes.

AMER 0194-06 (SOC 0149) Racial Identity in Historical Perspective ~ Orly Clerge

TR | 1:30-2:45pm

How individuals, groups and communities define themselves in racial terms has been at the center of sociological inquiry since the 19th century. Although racial categories are often imposed upon populations, they are also interpreted, reconstructed and negotiated by social actors in everyday life. This course will examine how racial categories are contested, managed and redefined by racial groups. The primary focus of the course will be on black identity social and political movements both preceding and resulting from the Civil Rights movements. We will begin with the works of the first American sociologist, W.E.B. DuBois and end with contemporary perspectives on racial formation in America's increasing multiracial and multi-ethnic landscape. By the end of the course, students will be able to theoretically and empirically analyze the ways in which racial identity has changed overtime and across space and provide sociological perspectives on America's racial future. Prerequisites: Two courses in sociology and/or Africana Studies, or one course in each

AMER 0194-07 (SOC 0188-07) Race and Politics ~ Cedric de Leon

M | 1:30-4:00pm

Why should you care about race and politics? So much of what we think of as “political” has a racial dimension, from voting and social movements, to citizenship and democracy. On the flipside much of what we think of “racist” can be traced to politics, including police brutality, xenophobia, and segregation. The racial is political, and the political is racial. What’s weird is that so few scholars actually see it that way. Political sociologists are typically not sociologists of race and vice versa. In this course, we put these camps in conversation in order to make sense of the leading issues of our time: Black Lives Matter and the rise of white ethnic nationalism. Prerequisite: Two Sociology courses

AMER 0194-08 (SOC 0188-09) Youth of Color ~ Orly Clerge

T | 9:00-11:30am

This seminar takes a sociological approach to understanding the lives of youth of color. Through an exploration of the experiences of non-white youth and the ways in which they negotiate and redefine the identities imposed upon them at birth, this course outlines their social development across the life course, as they progress from children to young adults. Through a comparative examination of the social implications of race, ethnicity and gender, we will also consider the impact of social institutions such as the family, school, and the law on the life chances of youth of color. Significant class time will be dedicated to analyzing real world data on black youth and the opportunities and challenges they negotiate as they come of age in the 21st century. Prerequisites: 2 Sociology, Africana, Asian American, and/or American Studies Classes

AMER 0194-10 (PS 0119-01) American Racial Politics ~ Natalie Masuoka

W | 09:00AM-11:30AM

This seminar course will address the state of racial politics in the United States by discussing the unique identities, ideologies and approaches to government found within Asian American, black and Latino communities. Content will primarily cover contemporary American politics from 1964 to the current. An introductory course on American government is recommended but not required.

**AMER 0194-11 (ED 165-01) Feminist and Gender Theories ~ Sabina Vaught
M | 4:30-7:20pm**

Explores feminist and gender theoretical engagements in Educational Studies from the mid-20th Century forward. Considers a range of disciplinary interventions, including but not limited to: Philosophy; History; Anthropology; and, Sociology. Specific attention paid to curriculum, pedagogy, and policy as mechanisms of gendered knowledge production in the U.S.

AMER 0199 Senior Honors Thesis B ~ 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*