American Studies
Spring 2019 Courses

Foundation (Introduction to American Studies) Courses:
- AMER 0010-01 American Studies Methodologies: What is America? History, Literature, and Culture in the Long Twentieth Century ~ Kerri Greenidge and Darren Lone Fight
- AMER 0010-02 Human Rights in the U.S. ~ Tom Abowd

Mid-Level Courses:
- AMER 0044-01 (HIST 0022) The Changing American Nation: 19th & 20th Centuries ~ Reed Ueda
- *AMER 0086-01 / AMER 0187-01 (FAH 0086/0186) Latino Art & Visual Culture ~ Adriana Zavala
- AMER 0094-01 Internal Migrations: Similarity and Difference in the American Character ~ Darren Lone Fight
- AMER 0094-02 (REL 10-02) (Re-)Inventing Africa: Religion, Race, and Colonialism in the Making of the Africana World - Elana Jefferson-Tatum
- AMER 0094-03 (REL 0056) Contemporary Catholicism ~ Peggy Hutaf
- *AMER 0094-04 (0194-04) American Youth, Revolt, and Revolution ~ Tom Abowd
- AMER 0094-05 (SOC 0001-01) Intro to Sociology ~ Helen Marrow

Upper-Level Courses:
- AMER 0141-01 Innovative Social Enterprise ~ Julianne Zimmerman
- AMER 0194-01 (ENG 0192-01) Seminar: Mark Twain and Charles Chesnutt ~ Nathan Wolff
- AMER 0194-02 (REL 106) Religion, Violence, and Sexuality ~ Elizabeth Lemons
- AMER 0194-03 (PS 0144-001) The Meaning of America ~ Dennis Rasmussen
- *AMER 0194-04 (0094-04) American Youth, Revolt, and Revolution ~ Tom
- AMER 0194-05 (ANTH 140) Food Justice ~ Alex Blanchette
- AMER 0194-06 (ANTH 185-03) Pollution and Perseverance ~ Alex Blanchette

Integrative Seminars:
- AMER 0173-01 Justice in 1960s Counterculture ~ Ronna Johnson
- AMER 0180-01 Writing Asian American Diaspora ~ Jean Wu
- AMER 0180-02 (HIST 0173) Black and Native New England ~ Kerri Greenidge and Kendra Field
- *AMER 0187-01 / AMER 0086-01 (FAH 0086/0186) Latino Art & Visual Culture ~ Adriana Zavala

Standard Courses:
- AMER 0099 Internship-American Studies ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)
- AMER 0193 Independent Study ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)
- AMER 0198 Senior Special Project ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)
- AMER 0199 Senior Honors Thesis B ~ Staff (Department Consent Required)

*NOTE: Course may be taken at the mid (00XX-) or upper level (01XX-).
Course Descriptions

AMER 0010-01 American Studies Methodologies: What is America? History, Literature, and Culture in the Long Twentieth Century ~ Kerri Greenidge and Darren Lone Fight
TR | 12:00-1:15pm
What is America? History, Literature, and Culture in the Long Twentieth Century
What does America mean – as a nation-state? As a concept? As an ideal whose promise has rarely been fulfilled? What role has America as a nation-state, as a concept, and as an unfulfilled ideal played in the expansion of the twentieth-century global south, and in enduring racial, political, and economic systems across the world? This course explores the idea of “American-ness,” beyond notions of exceptionalism and “progress,” as a way to introduce students to core concepts and methodologies in American, Africana, Latin@, and Asian American Studies within the broader discipline of race, colonialism, and diaspora studies. Special attention will be paid to how the contested notion of “American-ness” as an ideal and as a global force has been shaped through literature, history, and culture.

AMER 0010-02 Human Rights in the U.S. ~ Tom Abowd
T | 3:00-5:30pm
This course will explore a range of fascinating topics related to human rights and social justice in the United States. This journey will take us from the violence and inhumanity at the US-Mexico border, to racial and class oppression in the prison-industrial complex, to the gendered racialization of particular communities on Native American reservations. We will examine issues pertaining to racism, Islamophobia, class oppression, settler-colonialism, and myriad concerns around gender and sexuality. This class will also highlight multiple ways in which people resist and struggle against these expressions of domination and dehumanization. Participants in the course will read critical interventions on such subjects by scholars, activists, and journalists. In addition, we will screen a variety of powerful films and documentaries that will challenge taken-for-granted ideas about “security,” “freedom,” “choice” across a fractured, US landscape. Readings include works by: Angela Davis, Judith Butler, Aviva Chomsky, bell hooks, Howard Zinn, Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Gloria Andzaldua, Winona LaDuke, Steven Salaita, and Malcolm X.

AMER 0044-01 (HIST 0022) The Changing American Nation: 19th & 20th Centuries ~ Reed Ueda
M | 8:30-11:30am
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 0086-01 (FAH 0086) Latino Art & Visual Culture ~ Adriana Zavala
TR | 12:00-1:15pm
Representations of Latinos and by Latinos across a broad range of media, with emphasis on contemporary art and film/television, but including literature and music. Popularity and increase of Latino culture in the U.S. in the context of ongoing debates about immigration, national security, and shifting demographics. Key topics include the cultural politics of representation, the relationship of contemporary Latino artists to the mainstream art world, debates about visual art as a vehicle for the expression of cultural identity, the role of gender, sexuality, class, and ethnicity in creative expression, the relationship between Latino culture and the mainstream, the diversity of the Latino community, how self-representation informs political dissent, and an examination of Latinidad as an affirmative cultural
construction for people of Latin American descent in the U.S. No prerequisites. (May be taken at the 100-level.)

**AMER 0094-01 Internal Migrations: Similarity and Difference in the American Character ~ Darren Lone Fight**  
**TR | 1:30-2:45pm**  
John F. Kennedy famously supplied a quote in his book, *A Nation of Immigrants*, characterizing the United States as a "heterogeneous race but a homogenous nation." That is, while American identity is something founded on the difference inherent in its interaction with external cultures and nations, they form a homogenous, unified whole. But the nature, experience, and effect of movement and the crossing of borders and boundaries *internal* to the nation are far more fragmented, complex, and problematic than this quote implies. People who move and live across internal borders and boundaries within the U.S. act as critical, frictive forces in the construction of American identity, and this movement is hardly unfettered. Encounters with varied boundaries and borders of both space and category *inside* the borders of the nation-state are critical sites of confrontation with imperial American ideologies of assimilation and difference.

This course will examine movements across internal borders and boundaries by looking at internal migratory movements central to the nation’s history and character. Our course will ground itself in concrete migratory movements such as the movement of tribal cultures in the Americas, the Great Northern Migration, the phenomenon of white flight, and Indigenous migrations from tribal-national spaces to U.S.-national spaces. Taking an interdisciplinary approach in our utilization of historical and contemporary archives of film, newspapers, literature, visual art, music, political speeches, testimony/interviews, etc., we will examine the ways these migrations have and continue to shape American identity. We will also examine how these historical events often intersect with regional cultural movements: rural and urban, southern and northern, and coastal and midwestern, while working at the intersections of political orientation, race, ethnicity, gender, and class constructions. Our questions will seek an understanding about similarity and difference extent within the American national project and provide a critical lens to look at the boundaries sometimes less seen but nevertheless deeply felt within the American character.

**AMER 0094-02 (REL 10-02) (Re-) Inventing Africa: Religion, Race, and Colonialism in the Making of the Africana World - Elana Jefferson-Tatum**  
**TR | 9:00-10:15am**  
See dept. of Religion for description: [https://ase.tufts.edu/religion/](https://ase.tufts.edu/religion/)

**AMER 0094-03 (REL 0056) Contemporary Catholicism ~ Peggy Hutaf**  
**TR | 12:00-1:15pm**  
The major focus of the course is on the dynamics of Catholicism (the largest religious denomination in the United States) in the US from 1950 to the present. Description: A study of the complex landscape of contemporary Catholicism, emerging from the mandates for reform and renewal set forth by Vatican Council II (1962-65). We will study basic Catholic beliefs and practices; evolving models of church, ministry, and vocation; contemporary interpretations of ancient traditions and dogmas; the impact of critical scholarship in Religion and greater access to theological education; contentious debates and dialogues around ethical issues, such as contraception, abortion, sexual identities and lifestyles; controversies over women’s ordination, mandatory priestly celibacy, and divorce; calls for change from feminist and other liberation-theological and social justice initiatives; changing demographics and parish closings; disclosures and repercussions of clergy sexual abuse; the aesthetics and religious imagination.
of Catholic culture in its multiple locations and diverse expressions. Major focus on how Catholics in the U.S. Have “lived their religion” amidst the push and pull of unity and diversity, continuity and change, gain and loss, in the wake of Vatican II.

AMER 0094-04 American Youth, Revolt, and Revolution ~ Tom Abowd
MW | 1:30-2:45pm
This interdisciplinary class will explore youth revolts, social movements, and rebellions over the course of US history. We will focus on struggles around issues of war and peace, gender and sexual liberation, class oppression, free speech, anti-racism/racial justice, and anti-colonial politics. Students, workers, artists, and activists have organized in ways that have transformed the worlds that governments, elite institutions, and parental/patriarchal authority have sought to impose on them. In this class we will examine the powerful ways in which young adults have waged battles for social justice, with an emphasis on more contemporary movements like Black Lives Matter, the revolts at Standing Rock, and activist and artistic projects around trans-liberation. The course will emphasize the need to see youth not as “problems” representing threats to “morality” or “law and order,” but instead as those with agency and the capacity to shape their own lives—indeed, as Marx said, “to write their own histories.”
NOTE: This course may also be taken at the upper level (0194-04).

AMER 0094-05 Introduction to Sociology ~ Helen Marrow
MW | 10:30-11:45am
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.

AMER 0141-01 Innovative Social Enterprise ~ Julianne Zimmerman
T | 1:30-4:00pm
Social entrepreneurs bring innovative, practical solutions to social problems. Entrepreneurs are opportunity oriented, resourceful, value-creating change agents. Social entrepreneurs are similar, but they focus on public problems. Students will consider the role of social enterprises in improving society, and learn to develop a business plan to create enduring social impact: Identify social impact model, plan needed activities and resources, conduct market research and create a marketing plan, build a team, prepare a financial model, and create a plan to attract the support the mission requires.
Recommendations: Sophomore standing.

AMER 0173 Integrative Seminar: Justice in 1960s Counterculture ~ Ronna Johnson
W | 4:30-7:00pm
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 Integrative Seminar: Writing Asian American Diaspora ~ Jean Wu
R | 4:30-7:15pm
This course considers Asian American diaspora as a subjective condition born of colonialism and racialization and lived out in intergenerational experiences. Through a variety of Asian American diasporic creative genres including narratives, essays, films, poetry and literature, we explore how Asian American subjectivities are engendered by colonial wars and displacement, and how loss and memory impact the (un)making of critical identities and communities across diasporic generations. The course will examine Asian American diasporic subjectivities as situated in different histories of Asian diasporic movement, while engaging in critical analysis and meaning making that explores what holds these diverse experiences together. Emphasis will be placed on critical reading and writing, with the opportunity to engage other creative projects. Prerequisite: prior coursework in Asian American history and consent of the instructor.

AMER 0180-02 (HIST 0173) Black and Native New England ~ Kerri Greenidge and Kendra Field
M | 1:30-4:00pm
See dept. of History for description: https://ase.tufts.edu/history/default.asp

AMER 0187-01 (FAH 0186) Latino Art & Visual Culture ~ Adriana Zavala
TR | 12:00-1:15pm
Representations of Latinos and by Latinos across a broad range of media, with emphasis on contemporary art and film/television, but including literature and music. Popularity and increase of Latino culture in the U.S. in the context of ongoing debates about immigration, national security, and shifting demographics. Key topics include the cultural politics of representation, the relationship of contemporary Latino artists to the mainstream art world, debates about visual art as a vehicle for the expression of cultural identity, the role of gender, sexuality, class, and ethnicity in creative expression, the relationship between Latino culture and the mainstream, the diversity of the Latino community, how self-representation informs political dissent, and an examination of Latinidad as an affirmative cultural construction for people of Latin American descent in the U.S. 100-level requirements include a longer research paper and may include additional readings, response papers, oral presentations, and group discussion meetings. (Also offered as lower-level.) Recommendations: Graduate student or junior or senior Art History major or permission of instructor.

AMER 0194-01 (ENG 0192-01) Seminar: Mark Twain and Charles Chesnutt ~ Nathan Wolff
TR | 10:30AM-11:45 AM
See dept. of English for description: https://ase.tufts.edu/english/default.aspx

AMER 0194-02 (REL 106) Religion, Violence, and Sexuality ~ Elizabeth Lemons
TR | 10:30-11:45am
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.

AMER 0194-03 (PS 0144-01) The Meaning of America ~ Dennis Rasmussen
MW | 10:30-11:45am
Examination of American political thought, concentrating on the founding debate, the development of Lincoln’s thought and the Civil War, and Alexis de Tocqueville’s Democracy in
America. Topics include the Puritan origins of America, the meaning of and the relationship between our founding documents, the challenges posed by the Anti-Federalists, the defense of the large republic in The Federalist, the role of religion in American life, the problems presented by slavery, the proper role of a democratic statesman, and Tocqueville's hopes and worries about liberal democratic society and government (especially its American variant).

AMER 0194-04 American Youth, Revolt, and Revolution ~ Tom Abowd
MW | 1:30-2:45pm
This interdisciplinary class will explore youth revolts, social movements, and rebellions over the course of US history. We will focus on struggles around issues of war and peace, gender and sexual liberation, class oppression, free speech, anti-racism/racial justice, and anti-colonial politics. Students, workers, artists, and activists have organized in ways that have transformed the worlds that governments, elite institutions, and parental/patriarchal authority have sought to impose on them. In this class we will examine the powerful ways in which young adults have waged battles for social justice, with an emphasis on more contemporary movements like Black Lives Matter, the revolts at Standing Rock, and activist and artistic projects around trans-liberation. The course will emphasize the need to see youth not as “problems” representing threats to “morality” or “law and order,” but instead as those with agency and the capacity to shape their own lives—indeed, as Marx said, “to write their own histories.” Readings include works by: bell hooks, Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Carlos Munoz, Cathy Cohen, C.J Pascoe, Sabina Vaught, and Freeden Oeur.
NOTE: This course may be taken at the mid-level (0094-04).

AMER 0194-05 (ANTH140) Food Justice: Fair Food Activism and Social Movements ~ Alex Blanchette
MW | 9:00-10:15am
Examines food justice as a concept and practice, both historically and in the present. Topics include but are not limited to: migration and farmworker organizing; health and inequitable food distribution; finance capitalism, farm lending, and institutional racism; plantations and the under-acknowledged contributions of dispossessed peoples to agricultural development and food culture; cultural appropriation; indigenous land theft and reclamation; food sovereignty and political autonomy; agri-chemicals, toxicity, and environmental violence; and the politics of cheap food. What constitutes “justice” is an open question in this class — not a pre-defined ideal — and we will ask what it means to apply varied and culturally-specific notions of justice to non-human subjects such as landscapes, seeds, and animals. Readings drawn from anthropology and human geography center on the United States and Mexico.

AMER 0194-06 (ANTH 185-03) Pollution and Perseverance ~ Alex Blanchette
T | 1:30-4:00pm
Every square inch of the planet is marked by permanent and ineradicable pollution, including every cell in the human body. But environmental injury is not evenly distributed across bodies and landscapes. This course is an advanced seminar in the anthropology of environmental justice. It examines recent critiques of how ecological activism can risk generating new forms of stigma, and literatures that seek to remake the terms of advocacy and justice in the face of ineradicable harm. How does one equitably advocate for transformation amidst locales that cannot be returned to a prior state, however real or imagined? How does life still go on in worlds of intense yet permanent pollution? How might permanent pollution remake the terms of activism itself? Readings are drawn primarily from anthropology, indigenous studies, and geographies of waste and toxicity. The course also allows students to interrogate the research, claims-making, and publication process itself. The professor is developing an
article on Chicago’s Bubbly Creek, one of the most polluted American rivers, and each week we will collectively critique drafts of this work with the aim refining a contribution to this body of thought. Pre-requisite: at least two classes in either Anthropology or American Studies, or with instructor’s permission.

Students may also petition to have a course count for one of their requirements. Please consult SIS for an official list of updated prerequisites for each course. 
https://as.tufts.edu/americanstudies/documents/petitionForm.pdf