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Department of  
**African and Afro-American Studies**

Courses of Study:  
 Minor  
 Major (BA)

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### Objectives

The department welcomes all members of the student body who have an interest in Africa and/or African America. The major is arranged through consultation with the departmental advisor or another professor. Majors may ask for guidance in the selection of elective courses with related content or approach within their chosen disciplines.

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### Faculty

#### Wellington Nyangoni, Chair

Africa: economic development.  
 Comparative Third World political economy.

#### Peniel E. Joseph

African American history. Twentieth-century American social history. African Diaspora.

#### Mingus Mapps

Urban politics. Race and American politics. Race, inequality, and public policy. Civil rights law and politics. Campaigns and elections.

#### Wayne Marshall

Ethnomusicology. Cultural study of music. Hip-hop. Regaeton. Electronic popular music.

#### Faith Smith

Literature and popular culture of the Caribbean. African American literature. African Diaspora.

#### Ibrahim Sundiata

Africa: Social history. Slavery. The African Diaspora. Afro-Brazil.

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### Requirements for the Major

**A.** Required of all candidates: nine semester courses from among the AAAS and cross-listed courses below. One of the nine courses must be AAAS 5a (Introduction to African and Afro-American Studies), which should be taken as the first AAAS course, as it provides an introduction to themes and methods of analysis.

**B.** At least one course will be taken in each of the following areas: social science, humanities, and history.

**C.** At least four courses should constitute a field of specialization. Students may elect either (a) four courses in one of the following disciplines: literature, music, history, political science, sociology, and economics or (b) an interdisciplinary focus on Africa *or* Afro-American affairs. Students must confirm their choice of specialization with the department academic advisor.

**D.** Five of the nine required courses must be from within the department (e.g., from the AAAS courses below). No course with a final grade below C- can count toward the major.

**E.** Candidates for departmental honors must satisfactorily complete AAAS 99d (Senior Research).

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### Requirements for the Minor

Five semester courses are required, including the following:

**A.** AAAS 5a (Introduction to African and Afro-American Studies). This should be taken as the first AAAS course, as it provides an introduction to themes and methods of analysis.

**B.** One of the following: AAAS 70a (Introduction to Afro-American History), AAAS 79b (Afro-American Literature of the Twentieth Century), AAAS 115a (Introduction to African History), or AAAS 133b (The Literature of the Caribbean).

**C.** The remaining three courses will be selected from among the department's offerings.

Students are required to declare the minor in AAAS no later than the beginning of their senior year. Each student will be assigned a departmental advisor by the undergraduate advising head.

## Courses of Instruction

### (1–99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

#### AAAS 5a Introduction to African and Afro-American Studies

[ ss ]

An interdisciplinary introduction to major topics in African and Afro-American studies. Provides fundamental insights into Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas through approaches and techniques of social science and the humanities. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### AAAS 18b Africa and the West

[ nw ss ]

Focuses on the relationship between Africa and the “West” from the time of the ancient Egyptians to the postcolonial period. It also assesses the dilemma neocolonialism poses for the West. Usually offered every second year.  
Mr. Sundiata

#### AAAS 60a Economics of Third World Hunger

[ nw ss ]

Employs the tools of social science, particularly economics, to study causes and potential solutions to problems in production, trade, and consumption of food in the underdeveloped world. Usually offered every second year.  
Mr. Nyangoni

#### AAAS 70a Introduction to Afro-American History

[ ss ]

A survey of the Afro-American experience from the era of slavery to the present. Topics include the rise of a distinct community and its institutions, reconstruction and segregation, the contributions of blacks to American society, and the struggles for freedom and equality. Usually offered every second year.  
Staff

#### AAAS 79b Afro-American Literature of the Twentieth Century

[ hum ss wi ]

An introduction to the essential themes, aesthetic concerns, and textual strategies that characterize Afro-American writing of this century. Examines those influences that have shaped the poetry, fiction, and prose nonfiction of representative writers. Usually offered every second year.  
Ms. Smith

#### AAAS 80a Economy and Society in Africa

[ nw ss ]

Perspectives on the interaction of economic and other variables in African societies. Topics include the ethical and economic bases of distributive justice; models of social theory, efficiency, and equality in law; the role of economic variables in the theory of history; and world systems analysis. Usually offered every third year.  
Mr. Nyangoni

#### AAAS 81b Religion in African American History

[ ss wi ]

*Prerequisite or corequisite:* AAAS 70a.

Examines religious development in African American history in order to understand how religion has influenced African American life. Topics include religious experience and identity, religion in popular culture, institutional developments, political activism among religious figures, theological innovations, and religious conflict. Usually offered every second year.  
Staff

#### AAAS 82a Urban Politics

[ ss ]

Examines urban politics in the United States from the early twentieth century to the present. Topics include urban political machines, minority political participation, the evolution of American suburbs, and racial, economic, and political inequities that challenge public policymaking. Usually offered every third year.  
Staff

#### AAAS 85a Survey of Southern African History

[ nw ss ]

Explores the roots of segregation and apartheid in South Africa, the development of a regional political economy dominated by South Africa, labor migrancy and land alienation in southern Africa, and the rise of African and Afrikaaner nationalisms. Usually offered every second year.  
Mr. Sundiata

#### AAAS 98a Independent Study

Independent readings and research on a topic within the student’s interest under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### AAAS 98b Independent Study

Independent readings and research on a topic within the student’s interest under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### AAAS 99d Senior Research

Usually offered every year.  
Staff

### (100–199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

#### AAAS 105a The Black Power Movement

[ ss ]

A study of the Black Power Movement’s promotion of racial pride, self-determination, unity, and revolution in American society and abroad from 1955 to 1975. Usually offered every second year.  
Mr. Joseph

#### AAAS 114b Race, Ethnicity, and Electoral Politics in the United States

[ ss ]

Explores the role that racial and ethnic politics play in American political campaigns and elections. Readings provide historical, theoretical, and empirical overviews of racial and ethnic politics in four contexts: political parties, presidential elections, congressional campaigns, and state legislative contests. Usually offered every third year.  
Staff

#### AAAS 115a Introduction to African History

[ nw ss ]

Explores the history of African societies from their earliest beginnings to the present era. Topics include African participation in antiquity as well as early Christianity and preindustrial political, economic, and cultural developments. Usually offered every second year.  
Mr. Sundiata

#### AAAS 117a Communications and Social Change in Developing Nations

[ ss ]

Examines the role of communications and information systems within and between developed and underdeveloped nations. Addresses the larger perspective of global communications. Usually offered every third year.  
Mr. Nyangoni

#### AAAS 120b Race in African American History

[ ss ]

Is race un-American? Explores the meanings and functions of race through the critical lens of African American racial thought. Analyzes primary sources from the antebellum period to the present to answer such questions as: Is race racist? What is black culture? Does justice require “colorblindness”? Usually offered every third year.  
Staff

#### AAAS 122a Politics of Southern Africa

[ nw ss ]

Study of clashing nationalisms, alternative patterns of development, and internationalization of conflict in southern Africa. The political economy of South Africa in regional context and its effect on the politics of its neighbors, particularly Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe.  
Mr. Nyangoni

#### AAAS 123a Third World Ideologies

[ nw ss wi ]

Analyzes ideological concepts developed by seminal Third World political thinkers and their application to modern political analysis. Usually offered every second year.  
Mr. Nyangoni

**AAAS 125b Caribbean Women and Globalization: Sexuality, Citizenship, Work**

[ ss wi ]

Utilizing perspectives from sociology, anthropology, fiction, and music to examine the relationship between women's sexuality and conceptions of labor, citizenship, and sovereignty. The course considers these alongside conceptions of masculinity, contending feminisms, and the global perspective. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Smith

**AAAS 126b Political Economy of the Third World**

[ nw ss wi ]

Development of capitalism and different roles and functions assigned to all "Third Worlds," in the periphery as well as the center. Special attention will be paid to African and Afro-American peripheries. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Nyangoni

**AAAS 131b American Freedom before Emancipation**

[ ss ]

*Prerequisite or corequisite: AAAS 70a or HIST 51a.*

What did it mean to be free in an age of slavery? The experiences of free African Americans focus our investigation of this founding myth of America. Explores what freedom meant to criminals, reformers, laborers, slaveholders, artists, abolitionists, soldiers, and statesmen. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

**AAAS 132b Introduction to African Literature**

[ hum nw ss ]

Examines the cultural production of African writers and filmmakers and their critiques of the postcolonial state. Topics include their exploration of gender, sexuality, language choice, the pressures placed on "authentic" identities by diasporic communities, and the conflicting claims of tradition and modernity. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Smith

**AAAS 133b The Literature of the Caribbean**

[ hum nw ss ]

An exploration of the narrative strategies and themes of writers of the region who grapple with issues of colonialism, class, race, ethnicity, and gender in a context of often conflicting allegiances to North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Smith

**AAAS 134b Novel and Film of the African Diaspora**

[ hum nw ]

Writers and filmmakers, who are usually examined separately under national or regional canonical categories such as "(North) American," "Latin American," "African," "British," or "Caribbean," are brought together here to examine transnational identities and investments in "authentic," "African," or "black" identities. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Smith

**AAAS 145b What Is Race?**

[ ss wi ]

What is race? How has it shaped what it means to be American? Explores nineteenth- and twentieth-century interpretations of race in science, law, reform initiatives, and popular literature. Issues include eugenics, census categories, race loyalty, polygenesis, immigration, passing, and miscegenation. Usually offered every third year.

Staff

**AAAS 155a Slavery in America**

[ ss ]

Examines the rise of slavery in America, the formation of slave and free-black communities, the emergence of the planter class, the role of slavery in the economy and politics, the relationship between slavery and racism, and the legacy of slavery. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

**AAAS 156a The Civil Rights Movement**

[ ss ]

Explores the civil rights movement through primary readings and films. Includes an assessment of the consequences of the movement and the ongoing controversies over the best ways to achieve equality for black Americans. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

**AAAS 158a Theories of Development and Underdevelopment**

[ nw ss wi ]

Humankind has for some time now possessed the scientific and technological means to combat the scourge of poverty. The purpose of this seminar is to acquaint students with contending theories of development and underdevelopment, emphasizing the open and contested nature of the process involved and of the field of study itself. Among the topics to be studied are modernization theory, the challenge to modernization posed by dependency and world systems theories, and more recent approaches centered on the concepts of basic needs and of sustainable development. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Nyangoni

**AAAS 163b Africa in World Politics**

[ nw ss ]

Explores the impact of African states in world affairs; the African and Afro-Asian groups in the United Nations; relations with Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and the Americas; the Afro-Asian Movement; nonalignment; the Organization of African Unity; and Pan-Africanism. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Nyangoni

**AAAS 167a African and Caribbean Comparative Political Systems**

[ nw ss ]

Introduces students to the literature and method of comparative political analysis. Case studies central to the course will be Ghana, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe; and Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and Cuba. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Nyangoni

**AAAS 170b Seminar: Political Economy of Developing Countries**

[ ss ]

Offers analysis of political and economic issues in developing countries with special emphasis on the major explanations for underdevelopment and alternative strategies for development. Topics include colonialism, nationalism, developing countries in the international system, state-building, rural development, and gender perspectives on underdevelopment. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Nyangoni

**AAAS 175a Comparative Politics of North Africa**

[ nw ss ]

Explores the formation and development of political cleavages and cleavage systems, and of mass-based political groups, analyzing the expansion of mass political participation, elections, the impact of the military on political groups, and international factors. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Nyangoni

**Cross-Listed Courses****ANTH 112a**

African Art and Aesthetics

**ANTH 133a**

Culture and Power in Africa

**ECON 69a**

The Economics of Race and Gender

**ENG 16a**

Nineteenth-Century African American Literature: Texts and Contexts

<b>ENG 87a</b> Sex and Race in the American Novel	<b>ENG 147b</b> South African Literature and Apartheid	<b>MUS 34b</b> The Life and Music of Miles Davis
<b>ENG 127b</b> Migrating Bodies, Migrating Texts	<b>ENG 167b</b> The Postmodern African American Novel	<b>PHIL 18a</b> Philosophy of Race and Gender
<b>ENG 138a</b> Making Modern Subjects: Caribbean/Latin America/U.S.A. 1850–1950	<b>HIST 115a</b> History of Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations	<b>POL 140a</b> Politics of Africa
	<b>HIST 116a</b> Black Homeland: West Africa	
	<b>HS 120a</b> Race and the Law	

## Department of American Studies

Courses of Study:  
Major (BA)

### Objectives

American studies takes an interdisciplinary approach to the culture, society, politics, institutions, identities, thoughts, values, and behavior of Americans, in all their variety, and to the critical issues that confront the United States domestically and internationally. Using materials central to the disciplines of American studies—film, literature, popular and material culture, music, art and architecture, oral history, social and intellectual history—the major is designed to provide students with an educated awareness of the way the United States, viewed as a civilization, frames the lives, aspirations, and self-perceptions of its citizens, and how Americans are seen by people around the world. Typically, students who enroll anticipate careers in law, business, public service, communications, education, museum work, and teaching at all levels. As the sponsor of the programs in legal studies, journalism, and environmental studies, the American studies major aims to provide a broad background to those areas and welcomes students who seek active engagement with the contemporary world through firm grounding in a sound liberal arts education.

### How to Become a Major

Normally, students declare their major in their sophomore year and attempt to complete the three required courses (see below) by the end of the first semester of their junior year, or at the latest, the end of their junior year. Working with a departmental advisor, students are urged to develop a coherent selection of electives tailored to their particular interests and gifts. Because of the close working relationship between the department and its resident programs (law, journalism, and environmental studies), students often offer several courses in joint satisfaction of their major (American studies) and their program. Courses in other departments that satisfy American studies elective requirements are listed on the departmental Web site. Students wishing to earn departmental honors must write a senior thesis in a full-year course, AMST 99d. Special opportunities are available for supervised internships (AMST 92a,b), one-on-one readings courses (AMST 97a,b), and individually directed research courses (AMST 98a,b). Many majors gain a valuable cross-cultural perspective on America by studying abroad in their junior year.

### Faculty

#### Stephen Whitfield, Chair

Modern political and cultural history.

#### Joyce Antler, Undergraduate Advising Head

Women's history. Social history.

#### Jacob Cohen

American culture, politics, and thought.

#### Shilpa Davé

Race and ethnicity. Asian American studies.

#### Thomas Doherty

Media and culture.

#### Brian Donahue

American environmental studies.

#### Maura Farrelly (Director, Journalism Program)

American religion.

#### Henry Felt

Documentary film.

#### Richard Gaskins (Director, Legal Studies,

Director, Social Justice and Social Policy)

Law, social policy, and philosophy.

#### Laura Goldin

Environmental studies.

#### Daniel Terris

Literature and intellectual history.

## Requirements for the Major

**A.** AMST 10a (Foundations of American Civilization). Normally, students will take 10a in their sophomore year and no later than the spring term of their junior year.

**B.** AMST 100a (Classic Texts in the American Culture to 1900). Normally, students will take 100a in their sophomore year and no later than their junior year.

**C.** AMST 100b (Twentieth-Century American Culture). After completing 100a, with a minimal grade of C-, students must take 100b, normally in their junior or senior year.

**D.** Six semester courses in American studies, chosen either from within the department or from other departments, with departmental approval.

**E.** To be eligible for departmental honors, seniors must enroll in AMST 99d (Senior Research) with departmental approval and participate in a year long honors colloquium. AMST 99d does not satisfy other departmental requirements.

**F.** Not more than two courses satisfying a second major may be offered to complete the American studies major.

**G.** No course, whether required or elective, for which a student receives a grade below C- may be counted toward the major.

## Courses of Instruction

### (1–99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

#### AMST 10a Foundations of American Civilization

[ ss ]

Interpretations of the meaning of the myths, symbols, values, heroes and rogues, character ideals, identities, masks, games, humor, languages, expressive repertoire, and ideologies that are exhibited in the social, political, economic, and cultural history of the United States. Usually offered every year.  
Mr. Cohen

#### AMST 20a Environmental Issues

[ ss ]

An interdisciplinary overview of major environmental challenges facing humanity, including population growth; food production; limited supplies of energy, water, and other resources; climate change; loss of biodiversity; and waste disposal and pollution. Students examine these problems critically and evaluate different ways of thinking about their causes and solutions. Usually offered every year.  
Mr. Donahue

#### AMST 92a Internship in American Studies

Off-campus work experience in conjunction with a reading course with a member of the department. Requires reading and writing assignments drawing upon and amplifying the internship experience. Only one internship course may be submitted in satisfaction of the department's elective requirements. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### AMST 97a Readings in American Studies

*Enrollment limited to juniors and seniors.* Independent readings, research, and writing on a subject of the student's interest, under the direction of a faculty advisor. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### AMST 97b Readings in American Studies

*Enrollment limited to juniors and seniors.* Independent readings, research, and writing on a subject of the student's interest, under the direction of a faculty advisor. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### AMST 98a Independent Study

Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### AMST 98b Independent Study

Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### AMST 99d Senior Research

Seniors who are candidates for degrees with departmental honors should register for this course and, under the direction of a faculty advisor, prepare a thesis. In addition to regular meetings with faculty advisors, seniors will participate in an honors colloquium, a seminar group bringing together the honors candidates and members of the American studies faculty. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

### (100–199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

#### AMST 100a Classic Texts in American Culture to 1900

[ ss wi ]

*Priority given to American studies majors.* This is the core seminar for American studies majors; a text-based course tracing the American experience from the earliest colonizations through the nineteenth century. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### AMST 100b Twentieth-Century American Culture

[ ss ]

*Prerequisite: AMST 100a.*

The democratization of taste and the extension of mass media are among the distinguishing features of American culture in the twentieth century. Through a variety of genres and forms of expression, in high culture and the popular arts, this course traces the historical development of a national style that came to exercise formidable influence abroad as well. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### AMST 101a American Environmental History

[ ss ]

Provides an overview of the relationship between nature and culture in North America. Covers Native Americans, the European invasion, the development of a market system of resource extraction and consumption, the impact of industrialization, and environmentalist responses. Current environmental issues are placed in historical context. Usually offered every second year.  
Mr. Donahue

#### AMST 102a Women, the Environment, and Social Justice

[ ss oc ]

Focuses on the profound and unique roles women have played in preserving and enhancing the natural environment and protecting human health. Students explore a wide range of environmental issues from the perspective of women and examine how women have been a driving force in key efforts to improve our environment. Also further explores the legal, ethical, and social issues embodied in environmental racism and classism. Usually offered every second year.  
Ms. Goldin



**AMST 103a The American Experience: Approaches to American Studies**

[ ss ]

Students examine the many meanings of the American experience by exploring the sources, subjects, and methodologies used in the practice of American studies. In the classroom and on field trips, students enlarge their knowledge and understanding of American history and contemporary society through such resources as fiction and poetry, photography and painting, oral history and music, and architecture and the natural landscape. Highly recommended for students intending to write theses and those considering graduate school. Usually offered every fourth year.

Staff

**AMST 104b Boston and Its Suburbs: Environment and History**

[ ss ]

Advanced seminar follows the development of the cultural landscape of Boston, Waltham, and the western suburbs from glacial retreat to urban sprawl. Employs ecology and history to better understand and address contemporary environmental issues. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Donahue

**AMST 105a The Eastern Forest: Paleocology to Policy**

[ ss wi ]

Can we make sustainable use of the Eastern Forest of North America while protecting biological diversity and ecological integrity? Explores the forest's ecological development, the impact of human cultures, attitudes toward the forest, and our mixed record of abuse and stewardship. Includes extensive fieldwork. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Donahue

**AMST 106b Food and Farming in America**

[ ss ]

American food is abundant and cheap. Yet many eat poorly, and some argue our agriculture may be unhealthy and unsustainable. Explores the history of American farming and diet and the prospects for a healthy food system. Includes extensive fieldwork. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Donahue

**AMST 111a Images of the American West in Film and Culture**

[ ss ]

Explores how motion picture images of the West have reflected and shaped American identities, ideologies, and mythologies. Through a variety of films—silent, “classic,” and “revisionist”—and supplementary readings, examines the intertwined themes of progress, civilization, region, nation, democracy, race, gender, and violence. Usually offered every fourth year.

Staff

**AMST 112b American Film and Culture of the 1950s**

[ ss ]

Traces the decline of classical Hollywood cinema and the impact of motion pictures on American culture in the 1950s, especially Hollywood's representations of the cold war. Students learn methods of cinematic analysis to conduct cultural historical inquiry. Usually offered every fourth year.

Staff

**AMST 113a American Film and Culture of the 1940s**

[ ss ]

Examines the nature of classical Hollywood cinema and the impact of motion pictures on American culture in the 1940s, especially Hollywood's representations of World War II. Students learn methods of cinematic analysis to conduct cultural historical inquiry. Usually offered every fourth year.

Staff

**AMST 113b American Film and Culture of the 1930s**

[ ss ]

Traces the rise of Hollywood sound cinema and the impact of motion pictures on American culture in the 1930s, especially Hollywood's representations of the Great Depression. Students learn methods of cinematic analysis to conduct cultural historical inquiry. Usually offered every fourth year.

Staff

**AMST 114a American Film and Culture of the 1920s**

[ ss ]

Traces the rise and fall of silent Hollywood cinema and the impact of motion pictures on American culture in the 1920s, especially Hollywood's role in the revolution in morals and manners. Students learn methods of cinematic analysis to conduct cultural historical inquiry. All films are screened with a music score or live piano accompaniment. Usually offered every fourth year.

Staff

**AMST 118a Gender and the Professions**

[ ss ]

Explores gender distinctions as a key element in the organization of professions, analyzing the connections among sex roles, occupational structure, and American social life. Topics include work culture, pay equity, the “mommy” and “daddy” tracks, sexual discrimination and harassment, and dual-career families. Among the professions examined are law, medicine, teaching, social work, nursing, journalism, business, and politics. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Antler

**AMST 121a The American Jewish Woman: 1890-1990s**

[ ss ]

Surveys the experiences of American Jewish women in work, politics, religion, family life, the arts, and American culture generally over the last 100 years, examining how the dual heritage of female and Jewish “otherness” shaped often conflicted identities. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Antler

**AMST 123b Women in American History: 1865 to the Present**

[ ss ]

A historical and cultural survey of the female experience in the United States with emphasis on issues of education, work, domestic ideology, sexuality, male-female relations, race, class, politics, war, the media, feminism, and antifeminism. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Antler

**AMST 124b American Love and Marriage**

[ ss ]

Ideas and behavior relating to love and marriage are used as lenses to view broader social patterns such as family organization, generational conflict, and the creation of professional and national identity. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Antler

**AMST 127b Women and American Popular Culture**

[ ss ]

Examines women's diverse representations and participation in the popular culture of the United States. Using historical studies, advertising, film, television, music, and literature, discusses how constructions of race, gender, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and religion have shaped women's encounters with popular and mass culture. Topics include women and modernity, leisure and work, women's roles in the rise of consumer culture and relation to technology, representations of sexuality, and the impact of feminism. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Davé

**AMST 130b Television and American Culture**

[ ss ]

An interdisciplinary course with three main lines of discussion and investigation: an aesthetic inquiry into the meaning of television style and genre; a historical consideration of the medium and its role in American life; and a technological study of televisual communication. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Doherty

**AMST 131b News on Screen**

[ ss ]

Combines an investigation of the history of broadcast journalism in America with practical training exercises in broadcast writing and Web production. Examines changes in the media landscape over the years and the legal and ethical issues facing contemporary broadcast journalists. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Doherty

**AMST 132b International Affairs and the American Media**

[ ss ]

Analyzes and assesses United States media coverage of major international events, personalities, and perspectives. The course is designed to introduce students to the international events over the past three decades as they have been interpreted by American journalists and media instructors and to challenge students to evaluate the limitations and biases of this reportage. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Farrelly

**AMST 134b The New Media in America**

[ ss ]

Analyzes the adaptation of new media in American society and culture. Examines the ways Americans have thought about and utilized new methods of mass communication in the twentieth century. Usually offered every year.

Staff

**AMST 135b Radio in American Culture**

[ ss ]

Explores the cultural history of radio: the broadcast industry, legislation and regulation, and programming from 1920 to the present. Topics include news, advertising, serial drama, comedy, wartime radio, religion, race, Top 40, and sports/talk radio using both texts and program recordings. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Hangen

**AMST 137b Journalism in Twentieth-Century America**

[ ss ]

Examines what journalists have done, how their enterprise has in fact conformed with their ideals, and what some of the consequences have been for the republic historically. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Whitfield

**AMST 139b Reporting on Gender, Race, and Culture**

[ ss ]

Examines the news media's relationship to demographic and cultural change, and the influence of journalistic ideologies on the coverage of women and various ethnic and cultural groups. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

**AMST 140b The Asian American Experience**

[ ss oc ]

Examines the political, economic, social, and contemporary issues related to Asians in the United States from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Topics include patterns of immigration and settlement, and individual, family, and community formation explored through history, literature, personal essays, films, and other popular media sources. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Davé

**AMST 141b The Native American Experience**

[ ss ]

Survey of Native American history and culture with focus on the social, political, and economic changes experienced by Native Americans as a result of their interactions with European explorers, traders, and colonists. Usually offered every third year.

Staff

**AMST 142b Love, Law, and Labor: Asian American Women and Literature**

[ ss ]

Explores the intersection of ethnicity, race, class, gender, and sexualities in the lives and literatures of diverse Asian American women. Discusses the historical, social, political, and economic forces shaping those lives and how they are reflected in literature. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Davé

**AMST 144b Signs of Imagination: Gender and Race in Mass Media**

[ ss ]

Examines how men and women are represented and represent themselves in American popular culture. Discusses the cultural contexts of the terms "femininity" and "masculinity" and various examples of the visibility and marketability of these terms today. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Davé

**AMST 149a On the Edge of History**

[ ss ]

Examines how visionaries, novelists, historians, social scientists, and futurologists in America, 1888 to the present, have imagined and predicted America's future and what those adumbrations—correct and incorrect—tell us about our life today, tomorrow, and yesterday, when the predictions were made. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Cohen

**AMST 150a The History of Childhood and Youth in America**

[ ss ]

Examines cultural ideas and policies about childhood and youth, as well as child-rearing and parenting strategies, child-saving, socialization, delinquency, children's literature, television, and other media for children and youth. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Antler

**AMST 155a American Individualism**

[ ss ]

*This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken AMST 114b in previous years.*

Examines the central dilemmas of the American experience through various major works. Topics include the ambition to transcend social and personal limitations and the tension between demands of self and the hunger for community. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Whitfield

**AMST 156b America in the World**

[ ss ]

Examines how the United States has interacted with the rest of the world, especially Europe, as a promise, as a dream, as a cultural projection. Focuses less on the flow of people than on the flow of ideas, less on the instruments of foreign policy than on the institutions that have promoted visions of democracy, individual autonomy, power, and abundance. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Whitfield

**AMST 160a U.S. Immigration History and Policy**

[ ss ]

Examines the economic, political, and ideological factors underlying immigration policy in U.S. history, especially since 1965. Analysis of contemporary immigration, refugee and asylum issues, and problems of immigrant acculturation today. Usually offered every third year.

Staff

**AMST 163b The Sixties: Continuity and Change in American Culture**

[ ss ]

Analyzes alleged changes in the character structure, social usages, governing myths and ideas, artistic sensibility, and major institutions of America during the 1960s. What were the principal causes and occasions for the change? Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Cohen

**AMST 167b The Cultural Work of Religion in America**

[ ss ]

Examines the roles of religion in the adaptation of ethnic and racial cultures to one another in the United States and to the mainstream American culture. Topics include the ways in which Americans used their religious institutions to assimilate newcomers and to contain those they defined as the “other,” the religions of immigrants, and the responses of immigrants and Americans to religious pluralism. Usually offered every year. Staff

**AMST 168b American Religious History**

[ ss wi ]

Charts the origins and development of the various—and primarily Judeo-Christian—religious movements that have shaped and been shaped by the American experience. Topics include the origins of the “Bible Belt,” the religious debate over slavery, the black church in America, the social gospel, and the difference between fundamentalism and evangelicalism. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Farrelly

**AMST 169a Ethnicity and Race in the United States**

[ ss ]

Provides an introductory overview of the study of race, ethnicity, and culture in the United States. Focuses on the historical, sociological, and political movements that affected the arrival and settlement of African, Asian, European, American Indian, and Latino populations in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Utilizing theoretical and discursive perspectives, compares and explores the experiences of these groups in the United States in relation to issues of immigration, population relocations, government and civil legislation, ethnic identity, gender and family relations, class, and community. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Davé

**AMST 170a The Idea of Conspiracy in American Culture**

[ ss ]

Considers the “paranoid style” in America’s political and popular culture and in recent American literature. Topics include allegations of “conspiracy” in connection with the Sacco and Vanzetti, Hiss, and Rosenberg cases; antisemitism and anti-Catholicism; and Watergate and Irangate. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Cohen

**AMST 175a Violence (and Nonviolence) in American Culture**

[ ss ]

Studies the use of terror and violence by citizens and governments in the domestic history of the United States. What are the occasions and causes of violence? How is it imagined, portrayed, and explained in literature? Is there anything peculiarly American about violence in America—nonviolence and pacifism? Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Cohen

**AMST 180b Topics in the History of American Education**

[ ss ]

Examines major themes in the history of American education, including changing ideas about children, child rearing, and adolescence; development of schools; the politics of education; education and individual life history. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Antler

**AMST 183b Sports and American Culture**

[ ss ]

Studies how organized sports have reflected changes in the American cultural, social, and economic scene, and how they have reflected and shaped the moral codes, personal values, character, style, myths, attachments, sense of work and play, fantasy, and reality of fans and athletes. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Cohen

**AMST 185b The Culture of the Cold War**

[ ss ]

Addresses American political culture from the end of World War II until the revival of liberal movements and radical criticism. Focuses on the specter of totalitarianism, the “end of ideology,” McCarthyism, the crisis of civil liberties, and the strains on the pluralistic consensus in an era of anti-Communism. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Whitfield

**AMST 186a Topics in Ethics, Justice, and Public Life**

[ ss ]

Introduces a significant international ethics or social justice theme and prepares students to integrate academic and community work during an internship. Special attention is given to comparative issues between the United States and other nations and regions. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Terris and Staff

**AMST 187a The Legal Boundaries of Public and Private Life**

[ ss ]

Confrontations of public interest and personal rights across three episodes in American cultural history: post-Civil War race relations, progressive-era economic regulation, and contemporary civil liberties, especially sexual and reproductive privacy. Critical legal decisions examined in social and political context. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Gaskins

**AMST 188b Justice Brandeis and Progressive Jurisprudence**

[ ss ]

Brandeis’ s legal career serves as model and guide for exploring the ideals and anxieties of American legal culture throughout the twentieth century. Focuses on how legal values evolve in response to new technologies, corporate capitalism, and threats to personal liberty. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Gaskins

**AMST 189a Legal Foundations of American Capitalism**

[ ss ]

Surveys core legal institutions of property, contracts, and corporations. Examines how law promotes and restrains the development of capitalism and market society in America, from the era of mass production through the age of global trade and digital commerce. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Gaskins

**AMST 191b Greening the Ivory Tower: Researching and Improving the Brandeis Environment**

[ ss oc ]

Uses the Brandeis campus as a model laboratory for applied environmental study, research, and implementation of student-designed campus environmental sustainability initiatives. This is a hands-on course in which students analyze the environmental impact of human activities within the existing legal, political, and social structure; learn basic research strategies for auditing and assessing the effect of these activities; and contribute to the overall understanding of the environmental impact of the Brandeis community on its surroundings. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Goldin

**AMST 196d Film Workshop: Recording America**

[ ss ]

*Admission by consent of the instructor on the basis of an interview. It is preferred that students concurrently take an American studies course.*

The training of students in video production to explore aspects of American urban society. Students should be prepared to create a documentary during this full-year course. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Felt

**Cross-Listed Courses****AAAS 70a**

Introduction to Afro-American History

**AAAS 79b**

Afro-American Literature of the Twentieth Century

**AAAS 81b**

Religion in African American History



<b>AAAS 82a</b> Urban Politics	<b>ENG 176a</b> American Gothic and American Romance	<b>HIST 158b</b> Social History of the Confederate States of America
<b>AAAS 114b</b> Race, Ethnicity, and Electoral Politics in the United States	<b>ENG 177a</b> Hitchcock's Movies	<b>HIST 160a</b> American Legal History I
<b>AAAS 120b</b> Race in African American History	<b>ENG 177b</b> American Popular Music and Contemporary Fiction	<b>HIST 160b</b> American Legal History II
<b>AAAS 131b</b> American Freedom before Emancipation	<b>ENG 180a</b> The Modern American Short Story	<b>HIST 161b</b> American Political History
<b>AAAS 155a</b> Slavery in America	<b>ENG 187a</b> American Fiction since 1945	<b>HIST 164a</b> Recent American History since 1945
<b>AAAS 156a</b> The Civil Rights Movement	<b>ENG 187b</b> American Writers and World Affairs	<b>HIST 164b</b> The American Century: The U.S. and the World, 1945 to the Present
<b>ANTH 158a</b> Urban Anthropology	<b>ENVS 11b</b> Water Resources Management and Policy	<b>HIST 166b</b> World War II
<b>ANTH 159a</b> Museums and Public Memory	<b>ENVS 13b</b> Coastal Zone Management	<b>HIST 168b</b> America in the Progressive Era: 1890–1920
<b>ENG 6a</b> American Literature in the Age of Lincoln	<b>ENVS 14b</b> The Maritime History of New England	<b>HIST 169a</b> Thought and Culture in Modern America
<b>ENG 7a</b> American Literature from 1900 to 2000	<b>FA 22b</b> History of Boston Architecture	<b>HIST 174a</b> The Legacy of 1989: U.S.–Caribbean Relations since the Spanish–American War
<b>ENG 8a</b> Twenty-First-Century American Literature	<b>FA 123a</b> American Painting	<b>HIST 182a</b> Sino–American Relations from the Eighteenth Century to the Present
<b>ENG 16a</b> Nineteenth-Century African American Literature: Texts and Contexts	<b>FA 130a</b> Twentieth-Century American Art	<b>HIST 186b</b> War in Vietnam
<b>ENG 17a</b> The Alternative Press in the United States: 1910–2000	<b>FA 173a</b> Georgia O'Keeffe and Stieglitz Circle	<b>HIST 189a</b> Topics in the History of Early America
<b>ENG 27b</b> Classic Hollywood Cinema	<b>FA 194b</b> Studies in American Art	<b>HIST 189b</b> Reading and Research in American History
<b>ENG 46a</b> Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers	<b>HIST 51a</b> History of the United States: 1607–1865	<b>HIST 195a</b> American Political Thought: From the Revolution to the Civil War
<b>ENG 47a</b> Asian American Literature	<b>HIST 51b</b> History of the United States: 1865 to the Present	<b>HIST 195b</b> American Political Thought: From the Gilded Age through the New Deal
<b>ENG 106b</b> American Utopias	<b>HIST 150b</b> Gettysburg: Its Context in the American Civil War	<b>HIST 196a</b> American Political Thought: From the 1950s to the Present
<b>ENG 118a</b> Stevens and Merrill	<b>HIST 151b</b> The American Revolution	<b>HS 110a</b> Wealth and Poverty
<b>ENG 126a</b> American Realism and Naturalism, 1865–1900	<b>HIST 152a</b> The Literature of American History	<b>JOUR 103b</b> Advertising and the Media
<b>ENG 147a</b> Film Noir	<b>HIST 152b</b> Salem, 1692	<b>JOUR 104a</b> Political Packaging in America
<b>ENG 157b</b> American Women Poets	<b>HIST 153a</b> Americans at Home: Families and Domestic Environments, 1600 to the Present	<b>JOUR 107b</b> Media and Public Policy
<b>ENG 166b</b> Whitman, Dickinson, and Melville	<b>HIST 153b</b> Slavery and the American Civil War	<b>JOUR 109b</b> The New Media Landscape
<b>ENG 167b</b> The Postmodern African American Novel	<b>HIST 154b</b> Women in American History, 1600–1865	
	<b>HIST 157a</b> Americans at Work: American Labor History	

<b>JOUR 110b</b> Ethics in Journalism	<b>NEJS 162b</b> It Couldn't Happen Here: Three American Antisemitic Episodes	<b>POL 116b</b> Civil Liberties in America
<b>JOUR 112b</b> Literary Journalism: The Art of Feature Writing	<b>NEJS 163a</b> Jewish-Christian Relations in America	<b>POL 117a</b> Administrative Law
<b>JOUR 114b</b> Arts Journalism	<b>NEJS 164a</b> Judaism Confronts America	<b>POL 118b</b> Courts, Politics, and Public Policy
<b>JOUR 120a</b> The Culture of Journalism	<b>NEJS 164b</b> The Sociology of the American Jewish Community	<b>POL 120b</b> Seminar: The Politics of Public Policymaking
<b>JOUR 125b</b> Journalism of Crisis	<b>NEJS 165a</b> Analyzing the American Jewish Community	<b>POL 124a</b> Race and Politics in the United States
<b>JOUR 140b</b> Investigating Justice	<b>NEJS 165b</b> Changing Roles of Women in American Jewish Societies	<b>POL 125a</b> Women in American Politics
<b>LGLS 10a</b> Introduction to Law	<b>NEJS 167a</b> East European Jewish Immigration to the United States	<b>POL 167a</b> United States and China in World Politics
<b>LGLS 114a</b> American Health Care: Law and Policy	<b>NEJS 172a</b> Women in American Jewish Literature	<b>POL 168b</b> American Foreign Policy
<b>LGLS 120a</b> Sex Discrimination and the Law	<b>NEJS 173b</b> American Jewish Writers in the Twentieth Century	<b>POL 169b</b> U.S. Policy in the Middle East
<b>LGLS 121b</b> Law and Social Welfare: Citizen Rights and Government Responsibilities	<b>NEJS 176a</b> Seminar in American Jewish Fiction: Philip Roth and Cynthia Ozick	<b>SOC 105a</b> Feminist Critiques of Sexuality and Work in America
<b>LGLS 132b</b> Environmental Law and Policy	<b>PHIL 74b</b> Foundations of American Pragmatism	<b>SOC 122a</b> The Sociology of American Immigration
<b>LGLS 133b</b> Criminal Law	<b>POL 14b</b> Introduction to American Government	<b>SOC 156a</b> Social Change in American Communities
<b>LGLS 137a</b> Libel and Defamation, Privacy and Publicity	<b>POL 101a</b> Parties, Interest Groups, and Public Opinion	<b>SPAN 195a</b> Latinos in the United States: Perspectives from History, Literature, and Film
<b>LGLS 138b</b> Science on Trial	<b>POL 103b</b> Seminar: Political Leadership	<b>THA 25a</b> American Musical Theater
<b>MUS 32b</b> Everybody Sings the Blues: A Jazz Survey	<b>POL 105a</b> Elections in America	<b>THA 150a</b> The American Drama since 1945
<b>MUS 38a</b> American Music	<b>POL 108a</b> Social Movements in American Politics	<b>THA 155a</b> Icons of Masculinity
<b>NEJS 153b</b> Abraham Joshua Heschel: Spirituality and Action	<b>POL 110a</b> Media, Politics, and Society	<b>THA 165b</b> Tough Guys and Femmes Fatales: Gender Trouble in Noir and Neo-Noir
<b>NEJS 158a</b> Divided Minds: Jewish Intellectuals in America	<b>POL 111a</b> The American Congress	<b>WMGS 106b</b> Women in the Health-Care System
<b>NEJS 161a</b> American Jewish Life	<b>POL 112a</b> National Government of the United States	
<b>NEJS 162a</b> American Judaism	<b>POL 115a</b> Constitutional Law	
	<b>POL 115b</b> Seminar: Constitutional Law and Theory	