
Department of
African and Afro-American Studies

Courses of Study:
Minor
Major (BA)

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 adviser or another professor. Majors may ask for guidance in the selection of elective courses with related content or approach within their chosen disciplines.

Faculty

Wellington Nyangoni, Chair

Africa: economic development.
Comparative Third World political economy.

Peniel E. Joseph (on leave 2008–2009)

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 (on leave 2008–2009)

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

Ibrahim Sundiata (on leave spring 2009)

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

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 adviser by the undergraduate advising head.

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 must 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 adviser.

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).

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.

Mr. Joseph

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.

Mr. Mapps

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 1955–1975. 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.

Mr. Mapps

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 135b Global Hip-Hop

[ca wi]

Explores hip-hop's international reach and social significance; specifically, how the genre resonates as a quintessentially American and African-American form in local contexts around the world. Through various case studies, the course examines how hip-hop animates local cultural politics in an age of globalized media, migration, and transnationalism. Special one-time offering; was offered spring 2008.

Mr. Marshall

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 171a Reggae Representation, Race and Nation

[ca]

This course examines the various narratives of reggae, and by extension Jamaican music and nationhood, including academic, journalistic, and filmic perspectives. We will also appraise reggae's own musical representations of race, gender, sexuality, religion, nation, and diaspora. Special one-time offering, fall 2008.

Mr. Marshall

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

ENG 87a

Sex and Race in the American Novel

ENG 127b

Migrating Bodies, Migrating Texts

ENG 138a

Making Modern Subjects: Caribbean/Latin America/U.S.A. 1850–1950

ENG 147b

South African Literature and Apartheid

ENG 167b

The Postmodern African-American Novel

ENG 197b

Within the Veil: African-American and Muslim Women's Writing

HIST 115a

History of Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations

HIST 116a

Black Homeland: West Africa

HS 120a

Race and the Law

MUS 160a

Digital Pop from Hip-Hop to Mashup

PHIL 18a

Philosophy of Race and Gender

POL 124b

Race, Inequality, and Social Policy

POL 140a

Politics of Africa

Department of

American StudiesCourses of Study:
Major (BA)**Objectives**

American studies is an interdisciplinary field devoted to the study of all things American. An inquiry into the many varieties of American culture, past and present, the major seeks to provide students with a historical perspective on the United States and an educated awareness of the ways in which the nation has shaped the lives of its citizens as well as people around the world. The curriculum embraces a wide range of cultural expressions, including literature, film, music, art, architecture, and digital media. Typically, students who enroll anticipate careers in fields such as law, business, public service, education, journalism, and the entertainment industry. As the sponsor of programs in legal studies and journalism, the department aims to provide a broad background to those areas and welcomes students who seek active engagement with the contemporary world through a firm grounding in a sound liberal arts education.

How to Become a Major

Normally, students declare their major in their sophomore year and complete the three required courses (see below) by the end of their junior year. Working with a departmental adviser, 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, American studies majors often take several departmental courses that also satisfy the requirements of their program. Courses in other departments that satisfy American studies elective requirements are listed below and are also listed on the departmental Web site. Students who wish to be considered for departmental honors must write a senior thesis in a full-year course (AMST 99d). Special opportunities are available for supervised internships (AMST 92a), one-on-one readings courses (AMST 97a,b), and individually directed research courses (AMST 98a,b). Majors are encouraged to 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
(on leave 2008–2009)**

Women's history. Social history.

Jacob Cohen

Culture, politics, and thought.

Shilpa Davé

Race and ethnicity. Asian-American studies. Gender and popular culture.

Thomas Doherty

Media and culture.

Brian Donahue

Environmental studies.

Maura Farrelly (Director, Journalism Program)

Journalism. Religion.

Richard Gaskins (Director, Legal Studies; Director, Social Justice and Social Policy) (on leave spring 2009)

Law. Social policy. Philosophy.

Laura Goldin

Environmental studies.

Requirements for the Major

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

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

C. After completing 100a, with a minimal grade of C–, students must take AMST 100b (Twentieth-Century American Culture), 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) and participate in a year-long honors colloquium. AMST 99d does not satisfy other departmental requirements.

F. No 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 adviser. 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 adviser. 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 adviser, prepare a thesis. In addition to regular meetings with a faculty adviser, 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 semester. 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 second 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 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: Paleoecology 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 that 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 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. Dave

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]

An interdisciplinary course exploring how journalistic practice is mediated by the moving image—cinematic, televisual, and digital. The historical survey will span material from the late-nineteenth-century "actualities" of Thomas Edison and the Lumiere Brothers to the viral environment of the World Wide Web, a rich tradition that includes newsreels, expeditionary films, screen magazines, combat reports, government information films, news broadcasts, live telecasts, television documentaries, amateur video, and the myriad blogs, vlogs, and webcasts of the digital age. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Doherty

AMST 132b International Affairs and the American Media

[ss]

Examines and assesses American media coverage of major international events and perspectives, with special emphasis on the Middle East. In addition to analyzing the political, economic, cultural, and tactical factors that influence coverage, students will be challenged to consider the extent to which the American media has influenced their own understanding of the crisis in the Middle East and the relationship the United States has with that part of the world. Students will engage in online chats with students in the Middle East, and they will write and edit their own television news pieces about developments in the region. 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.

Staff

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

[oc ss]

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. Dave

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. Dave

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. Dave

AMST 149a On the Edge of History

[ss]

Examines how visionaries, novelists, historians, social scientists, and futurologists in America from 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]

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 second 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, Immigration, 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. Dave

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, childrearing, 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.

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 Campus and Community: Improving Environmental Sustainability at Brandeis and Beyond

[oc ss]

In this hands-on course, students design and implement environmental sustainability initiatives to benefit the campus and the local community. 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

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

AAAS 82a

Urban Politics

AAAS 114b

Race, Ethnicity, and Electoral Politics in the United States

AAAS 120b

Race in African-American History

AAAS 131b

American Freedom before Emancipation

AAAS 155a

Slavery in America

AAAS 156a

The Civil Rights Movement

ANTH 158a

Urban Anthropology

ANTH 159a

Museums and Public Memory

ENG 6a

American Literature in the Age of Lincoln

ENG 7a

American Literature from 1900 to 2000

ENG 8a

Twenty-First-Century American Literature

ENG 16a

Nineteenth-Century African-American Literature: Texts and Contexts

ENG 17a

The Alternative Press in the United States: 1910–2000

ENG 27b

Classic Hollywood Cinema

ENG 46a

Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers

ENG 47a

Asian-American Literature

ENG 106b

American Utopias

ENG 118a

Stevens and Merrill

ENG 126a

American Realism and Naturalism, 1865–1900

ENG 147a

Film Noir

ENG 157b

American Women Poets

ENG 166b

Whitman, Dickinson, and Melville

ENG 167b

The Postmodern African-American Novel

ENG 176a

American Gothic and American Romance

ENG 177a

Hitchcock's Movies

ENG 177b

American Popular Music and Contemporary Fiction

ENG 180a

The Modern American Short Story

ENG 187a

American Fiction since 1945

ENG 187b

American Writers and World Affairs

ENVS 11b

Water Resources Management and Policy

ENVS 13b

Coastal Zone Management

ENVS 14b

The Maritime History of New England

FA 22b

History of Boston Architecture

FA 123a

American Painting

FA 130a

Twentieth-Century American Art

FA 173a

Georgia O'Keeffe and Stieglitz Circle

FA 194b

Studies in American Art

HISP 195a

Latinos in the United States: Perspectives from History, Literature, and Film

HIST 51a

History of the United States: 1607–1865

HIST 51b

History of the United States: 1865 to the Present

HIST 150b

Gettysburg: Its Context in the American Civil War

HIST 151b

The American Revolution

HIST 152a

The Literature of American History

HIST 152b

Salem, 1692

HIST 153a

Americans at Home: Families and Domestic Environments, 1600 to the Present

HIST 153b

Slavery and the American Civil War

HIST 154b

Women in American History, 1600–1865

HIST 157a

Americans at Work: American Labor History

HIST 158b

Social History of the Confederate States of America

HIST 160a

American Legal History I

HIST 160b

American Legal History II

HIST 161b

American Political History

HIST 164a

Recent American History since 1945

HIST 164b

The American Century: The U.S. and the World, 1945 to the Present

HIST 166b

World War II

HIST 168b

America in the Progressive Era: 1890–1920

HIST 169a

Thought and Culture in Modern America

HIST 174a

The Legacy of 1898: U.S.-Caribbean Relations since the Spanish-American War

HIST 182a

Sino-American Relations from the Eighteenth Century to the Present

HIST 186b

War in Vietnam

HIST 189a

Topics in the History of Early America

HIST 189b

Reading and Research in American History

HIST 195a

American Political Thought: From the Revolution to the Civil War

- HIST 195b**
American Political Thought: From the Gilded Age through the New Deal
- HIST 196a**
American Political Thought: From the 1950s to the Present
- HS 110a**
Wealth and Poverty
- JOUR 103b**
Advertising and the Media
- JOUR 104a**
Political Packaging in America
- JOUR 107b**
Media and Public Policy
- JOUR 109b**
Digital and Multimedia Journalism
- JOUR 110b**
Ethics in Journalism
- JOUR 112b**
Literary Journalism: The Art of Feature Writing
- JOUR 114b**
Arts Journalism
- JOUR 120a**
The Culture of Journalism
- JOUR 125b**
Journalism of Crisis
- JOUR 140b**
Investigating Justice
- LGLS 10a**
Introduction to Law
- LGLS 114a**
American Health Care: Law and Policy
- LGLS 120a**
Sex Discrimination and the Law
- LGLS 121b**
Law and Social Welfare: Citizen Rights and Government Responsibilities
- LGLS 132b**
Environmental Law and Policy
- LGLS 133b**
Criminal Law
- LGLS 138b**
Science on Trial
- MUS 32b**
Everybody Sings the Blues: A Jazz Survey
- MUS 38a**
American Music
- NEJS 153b**
Abraham Joshua Heschel: Spirituality and Action
- NEJS 158a**
Divided Minds: Jewish Intellectuals in America
- NEJS 161a**
American Jewish Life
- NEJS 162a**
American Judaism
- NEJS 162b**
It Couldn't Happen Here: Three American Anti-Semitic Episodes
- NEJS 163a**
Jewish-Christian Relations in America
- NEJS 164a**
Judaism Confronts America
- NEJS 164b**
The Sociology of the American Jewish Community
- NEJS 165a**
Analyzing the American Jewish Community
- NEJS 165b**
Changing Roles of Women in American Jewish Societies
- NEJS 167a**
East European Jewish Immigration to the United States
- NEJS 172a**
Women in American Jewish Literature
- NEJS 173b**
American Jewish Writers in the Twentieth Century
- NEJS 176a**
Seminar in American Jewish Fiction: Philip Roth and Cynthia Ozick
- PHIL 74b**
Foundations of American Pragmatism
- POL 14b**
Introduction to American Government
- POL 101a**
Parties, Interest Groups, and Public Opinion
- POL 103b**
Seminar: Political Leadership
- POL 105a**
Elections in America
- POL 108a**
Social Movements in American Politics
- POL 110a**
Media, Politics, and Society
- POL 111a**
The American Congress
- POL 112a**
National Government of the United States
- POL 115a**
Constitutional Law
- POL 115b**
Seminar: Constitutional Law and Theory
- POL 116b**
Civil Liberties in America
- POL 117a**
Administrative Law
- POL 118b**
Courts, Politics, and Public Policy
- POL 120b**
Seminar: The Politics of Public Policymaking
- POL 124a**
Race and Politics in the United States
- POL 125a**
Women in American Politics
- POL 167a**
United States and China in World Politics
- POL 168b**
American Foreign Policy
- POL 169b**
U.S. Policy in the Middle East
- SOC 105a**
Feminist Critiques of Sexuality and Work in America
- SOC 156a**
Social Change in American Communities
- THA 25a**
American Musical Theater
- THA 150a**
The American Drama since 1945
- THA 155a**
Icons of Masculinity
- THA 165b**
Tough Guys and Femmes Fatales: Gender Trouble in Noir and Neo-Noir
- WMGS 106b**
Women in the Health Care System