

AMERICAN STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Spring 2010

Inside Courses – Track 1

WITNESSING THE SIXTIES

AMST 30112

CRN:24564

B. Giamo – TR 11:00-12:15

The purpose of this interdisciplinary course is twofold: to examine the social context and cultural change of the sixties, on the one hand, and on the other to explore the various journalistic and aesthetic representations of events, movements, and transformations. We will focus on the manner in which each writer or artist witnessed the sixties and explore fresh styles of writing and cultural expression, such as the new journalism popularized by Tom Wolfe and the music/lyrics performed by Bob Dylan. Major topics for consideration include the counterculture and the movement--a combination of civil rights and anti-war protest.

LATINOS IN AMERICAN FILM

AMST 30162

CRN: 25371

J. Ruiz – TR 12:30-1:45

This course will survey the history of representations of Latinos in American cinema from the silent era to the present. We will examine how stereotypes associated with Latinos have been produced, reinforced, and challenged in American films - from 'greasers' and 'Latin lovers' to gangsters, kingpins, and border crossers. We will explore the fascinating contradiction that, despite a long history of misrepresentation and underrepresentation, Latinos have made significant contributions to Hollywood and independent cinema. We will also examine the rise of Latino directors in recent years and their drive to reframe the Latino image for American audiences. Screenings will range from the silent epic *Martyrs of the Alamo* (1915) to more recent films such as *Maria Full of Grace* (2004). Our interdisciplinary approach to the subject will draw upon readings from history, film theory and criticism, and ethnic/American studies. Students will take a midterm exam and make class presentations.

CAPITAL CRIMES: MONEY, LITERATURE, AND AMERICAN CULTURE

AMST 30182

28326

C. Meissner – TR 9:30-10:45

At a meeting in 2003 R. Allen Stanford, accused multibillion-dollar Ponzi embezzler and president of Stanford International bank, is said to have taken a “blood oath” with the chief regulator of his Antiguan bank. When news of this oath broke in the fall of 2009 Stanford joined Bernard Madoff in the league of the most undignified “gentlemen” in American culture. Like Madoff, Stanford had committed a “capital crime” which robbed many and riveted the nation’s attention. Like Stanford and many other “capital” criminals (Al Capone comes to mind), until his arrest Madoff enjoyed the welcome of society’s elite and was generally regarded as a “celebrity.” “Capital Crimes” is thus about American culture’s love affair with money. The course begins with Mark Twain’s blistering satire *The Gilded Age* and moves through the current economic crises, which some critics like Paul Krugman and Kevin Phillips have referred to as coming at the tail end of America’s second Gilded Age. Twain’s satire was aptly called “A Tale of Today.” In looking over the time between the two Gilded Ages, this course will try to construct a coherent account of the uneasy relationship between the period’s major literary figures and its political and mercantile elite. We’ll see if and how writers and artists who set themselves up as the voices of culture often share much in common with political and business leaders, both a Ponzi scheme and a political campaign are after all “fictions in progress” which require an audience and a fairly complete willing suspension of disbelief. In looking over material drawn from literature, film, television, news media, politics, and academia we’ll try to measure the personal and cultural benefits and consequences associated with American culture’s embrace of money, its hagiographic celebration of the CEO, its adoration of celebrity culture, and its elevation of the market as an idol.

Inside Courses – Track 2

HOMEFRONTS DURING WAR

AMST 30101

CRN: 28320

H. Ardizzone – MW 11:45-1:00

How have Americans responded at home to war and threats of war throughout the 20th century and into the 21st? What internal divisions and shared identities has war inspired or revealed? We will

examine not the battles and factors that determined the military outcomes, but the domestic struggles that have defined our national experience and informed many of our responses to current events. Topics will include critiques of democracy and civil rights inclusion during WWI; treatment of Japanese Americans during WWII; development of peace movements, and antinuclear movements; cold war politics and fears of American communism; and debates over the draft, just-war, racism at home, and U.S. policies abroad in the wake of Vietnam. The final unit will focus on the Gulf War, terrorism, and developments since September 11, 2001.

WITNESSING THE SIXTIES

AMST 30112

CRN: 24564

B. Giamo – TR 11:00-12:15

The purpose of this interdisciplinary course is twofold: to examine the social context and cultural change of the sixties, on the one hand, and on the other to explore the various journalistic and aesthetic representations of events, movements, and transformations. We will focus on the manner in which each writer or artist witnessed the sixties and explore fresh styles of writing and cultural expression, such as the new journalism popularized by Tom Wolfe and the music/lyrics performed by Bob Dylan. Major topics for consideration include the counterculture and the movement--a combination of civil rights and anti-war protest.

LATINOS IN AMERICAN FILM

AMST 30162

CRN:25373

J. Ruiz – TR 12:30-1:45

This course will survey the history of representations of Latinos in American cinema from the silent era to the present. We will examine how stereotypes associated with Latinos have been produced, reinforced, and challenged in American films - from 'greasers' and 'Latin lovers' to gangsters, kingpins, and border crossers. We will explore the fascinating contradiction that, despite a long history of misrepresentation and underrepresentation, Latinos have made significant contributions to Hollywood and independent cinema. We will also examine the rise of Latino directors in recent years and their drive to reframe the Latino image for American audiences. Screenings will range from the silent epic *Martyrs of the Alamo* (1915) to more recent films such as *Maria Full of Grace* (2004). Our interdisciplinary approach to the subject will draw upon readings from history, film theory and criticism, and ethnic/American studies. Students will take a midterm exam and make class presentations.

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORIES AND CULTURES IN THE 20TH CENTURY & BEYOND

AMST 30180

CRN: 28325

B. Collier & L. Arnold – MW 3:00-4:15

This course will explore Native American literature, history, arts, perspectives, government, and law. However, it is important to remember that there is no singular “Native American” point of view. Rather, there are diverse perspectives, ideas, thoughts, movements, and priorities among more than 500 distinct cultural and linguistic groups who are the Indigenous people of the modern United States.

SLUMS, LITTLE BROWN HOUSES, AND BROWNSTONE MANSIONS: REPRESENTATIONS OF URBAN LIFE

AMST 30183

CRN:28330

C. Meissner – TR 12:30-1:45

This course will begin with a children’s tale from the 1880s, *Five Little Peppers and How They Grew*, and examine how urban life has been depicted in American literature and culture. The course will trace the experiences of Mrs. Pepper and her five children as they move from life in a rural New England clapboard house to an urban Brownstone mansion in New York City through to Charles Bukowski’s modern San Francisco rooming house madrigals and the down-and-out wanderings of his poet/Barfly Henry Chinaski. Along the way we will ask a series of questions such as the following: does urbanization thrive on a culture of poverty? Are today’s gated communities a continuation of the brownstone mansion? Why do neighbors gentrify? Does the American Dream require vivid urban poverty? How has the global and American economic collapse, credit crisis, and mortgage meltdown changed our perception of slums, little brown houses, and brownstone mansions? Is there such a thing as enough?

LATINOS IN CHICAGOLAND AND NORTHERN INDIANA: A CULTURAL HISTORY

AMST 30184

CRN:28328

J. Ruiz – Th. 3:30-6:15

Latinos have long contributed to the social fabric of the region popularly known as “Chicagoland,” which includes Northwestern and North Central Indiana. From food to sports to politics to the arts

Latinos have shaped and reshaped the local culture and formed vibrant communities. However, Midwestern Latinos have been marginalized by both local/regional approaches to history and by the field of Latino studies, which tends to focus on the east and west coasts and the U.S. Southwest. This interdisciplinary course will explore Latino communities from Chicago to South Bend to better understand how these communities fit into the broader Latino experience but remain uniquely Midwestern. Some of the questions that we will ask include: Why did Latinos settle in Chicagoland and Northern Indiana? Why do new migrants keep coming? How has gentrification affected urban Latino communities? How are individuals and organizations working to improve the lives of migrant workers in rural areas? How do Latinos contribute to the Chicago arts scene? The course will include several site visits to community organizations and cultural institutions throughout the region and will require students to collect an oral history from a member of one of the communities encountered in class.

AMERICAN WEST

AMST 30185

CRN:28322

A. Coleman – MW 1:30-2:45

The American West is a region characterized at once by its physical setting, the historical processes that have occurred there, and the set of meanings American culture has ascribed to the region. It is home to a highly diverse set of peoples that have been interacting with one another for years, decades, even centuries. It is described by physical and political boundaries (the Mississippi River, the Pacific Ocean, and borders with Canada and Mexico), economic development (extractive industry, tourism), and by imaginative constructs (the "frontier," the "Wild West," and the mythic characters inhabiting such places). This semester we will use a variety of approaches to explore the American West from the mid-19th century through the late 20th century. We will focus on two specific themes: 1) the political, economic, social, and environmental relationships that have shaped the region; and 2) the cultural meanings and mythic representations people have attached to it. The Mythic West, far from separate and distinct, has always been intimately connected to "real" western people, places, resources, and politics. We will study how the American West and its images have developed together, often in tension with one another, and how they have created the West that we know today.

Inside Courses – Track 3

NEWS IN AMERICAN LIFE

AMST 30109

CRN:28061

M. Storin – TR 2:00-3:15

What difference does journalism make? This lecture course traces the impact of news on public policy since the start of World War II. In addition to that period, this course studies the impact of coverage on the Civil Rights movement of the 50s and 60s, the era of Sen. Joseph McCarthy's crusade against Communism, the war in Vietnam, the investigation of the Watergate scandal and, finally, the impact of media on the local 2006 Congressional election. Taught by the former editor of *The Boston Globe*.

ADVANCED REPORTING

AMST 30138

CRN: 24003

J. Colwell – MW 3:00-4:15

This is an advanced course in journalistic reporting and writing devoted to learning how to prepare, in a professional manner, in-depth articles on issues and events. Emphasis will be on the techniques, ethics and responsibilities of conducting interviews and research and crafting pieces for newspapers, magazines, other publications and the Internet.

MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISM

AMST 30140

CRN: 28298

R. Schmuhl – MW 3:00-4:15

The 21st century journalist needs to be comfortable with what is called "writing across the media" and can no longer be selective about which form of communication to build a career around. In many newsrooms, print journalists are now expected to perform on radio or in front of TV cameras, while the bylines of electronic journalists are turning up in newspapers and magazines. Such media "convergence" is already more the norm than the exception. On top of that, the Internet has become a major medium in its own right, encompassing different styles of communication. While the focus of this course will be on writing, it will expose students to a variety of media in an effort to prepare them for the reality of modern communications careers.

AMERICAN POLITICAL LIFE

AMST 30181

CRN: 28399

R. Schmuhl – MW 1:30-2:45

An introductory and interdisciplinary examination of American political culture, particularly contemporary political thought and behavior. Although we will trace the development of our political culture from the nation's beginning to the present, a principal concern of the class will be the involvement of the mass media in recent political history. In short, we will attempt to come to terms with questions about the role and influence of mass communications in modern politics.

Senior Seminars

RACE, GENDER, & WOMEN OF COLOR

AMST 43103

CRN:28333

H. Ardizzone – MW 3:00-4:15

Track 2

This seminar analyzes dominant American beliefs about the significance of race and gender primarily through the focusing lens of the experiences of women of color in the U.S. How did intersecting ideologies of race and gender attempt to define and limit the lives of women of color as well as other Americans? How have women of color responded to and reinterpreted white American ideas about their identity to develop their own self-defenses and ideologies?

KEROUAC, THE BEATS, AND DYLAN

AMST 43123

CRN: 28340

B. Giamo – TR 3:30-4:45

Track 1

This seminar will re-examine Kerouac and his prose in relation to Beat subculture and the larger context of post-World War II American society. Although the work of other Beat writers, such as William S. Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, and Gary Snyder will be considered, the primary focus will be

on Kerouac. Moreover, the seminar will question the cultural codification of Kerouac as "King of the Beats" and advance the notion that he was a prose artist on a spiritual quest. Or, as Ginsberg aptly put it, an "American lonely Prose Trumpeter of drunken Buddha Sacred Heart."

Outside Courses – Track 1

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POETRY

AMST 30260

C. Eady – MW 11:45-1:00

Course description coming soon!

MODERN AMERICAN POETRY

AMST 30261

J. Goransson – MW 3:00-4:15

In his masterpiece, *A Season in Hell*, French visionary and boy-genius Arthur Rimbaud proclaimed: "One must be absolutely modern." This remained at the core of the varied, radical artistic explorations that form the category "Modern Poetry." In the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, to be modern meant to keep up with and try to respond to vertigo-inducing, often brilliant and often shocking changes in technology and politics, including the invention of trains and planes, films and cars, and the horrific violence of two world wars. We will study how the intense and greatly varied impulse of modern poetry took shape in the US, from Walt Whitman through Modernism, to the upheavals of the 1960s. In the process, we will discuss such still pervasive questions as what is the value of "the new"? Must the new always be shocking? Can art be political? Should it be? We will also problematize our own positions as historians of this movement. What thinkers, writers and administrators have determined our views of these poets? Is poetry still "modern"? What does "modern" mean today?

NOVELS OF AMERICAN NATURALISM

AMST 30262

K. Marshall – MW 1:30-2:45

In this course we will undertake a comparative survey of twentieth-century American naturalist novels, tracing a trajectory from turn-of-the-century texts by Norris, Chesnutt, and Dreiser, to the neo-naturalist fiction of a few decades later that operated alongside developments in modernist literary form (Stein, Wright), and concluding with a look at its postwar resurgence in the novels of authors such as Don DeLillo and Cormac McCarthy. We will also discuss the return to these novels in recent films including *There Will Be Blood* and *No Country for Old Men*. Students will be asked to write one short formal analysis and two mid-length papers, in addition to regular discussion assignments.

AMERICAN SHORT STORY

AMST 30263

W. Krier – TR 12:30-1:45

A carefully detailed look at the history of a particular form of American narrative. Along the way we will construct a methodology for reading stories, a series of critical questions that can serve to open a story to our understanding and appreciation. At times we will give our attention to one or two remarkable stories by a particular writer, stories like Herman Melville's "Bartleby the Scrivener" and F. Scott Fitzgerald's "Winter Dreams" and Stephen Crane's "The Open Boat". At other times we will work through a collection of stories to highlight the aspects of a writer's particular vision and craft. These collections might include John Updike's *Pigeon Feathers* and Ernest Hemingway's *In Our Time* and Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Mosses from an Old Manse* and Richard Brautigan's *Trout Fishing in America*.

BLACK ARTS AND THE DIASPORA

AMST 30618

J. Ford – MW 1:30-2:45

This course offers a survey of black diasporic artistry. At the same time, it is an ongoing analysis of how these artists asked, "what constitutes the African diaspora" in divergent and convergent ways. The main goal of the course is not simply to label certain artists as part of this diasporic formation, but

to understand how artists reflected upon their participation in it (and, in some ways, outside of it). We will focus primarily on this conversation's development from the Interwar period of the twentieth century to the turn of the twenty-first century through poetry, prose fiction and nonfiction, film, television, and dance. From the United States, we will look at how creative intellectuals like the poet Langston Hughes, dancer and anthropologist Katherine Dunham, novelist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, fiction writer and essayist Richard Wright, and journalist Alex Haley used art to understand their relationship to black people in the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa, along with key events impacting those different geographies. But the course will also consider how Black, Latino, and European creative intellectuals outside the United States reflected on their relationship to the black diaspora. These will include Algerian philosopher Frantz Fanon, Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca, and Nigerian musician Fela Kuti, amongst others. The final weeks of the course will serve as though experiments regarding hip hop as a diasporic art form and the media term "New Orleans Diaspora." In exploring different conceptions of diaspora, we will encounter other themes including the idea of overlapping diasporas, black nationalism, critiques of fascism, the body, and the significance of translation to cultural and political solidarity.

HISTORY OF TELEVISION

AMST 30703

J. Lagerwey – TR 11:00-12:15

Television has been widely available in the United States for only half a century, yet already it has become a key means through which we understand our culture. Our course examines this vital medium from three perspectives. First, we will look at the industrial, economic and technological forces that have shaped U.S. television since its inception. These factors help explain how U.S. television adopted the format of advertiser-supported broadcast networks and why this format is changing today. Second, we will explore television's role in American social and political life: how TV has represented cultural changes in the areas of gender, class, race and ethnicity. Third, we will discuss specific narrative and visual strategies that characterize program formats. Throughout the semester we will demonstrate how television and U.S. culture mutually influence one another, as television both constructs our view of the world and is affected by social and cultural forces within the U.S.

AMERICAN ART

AMST 30802

K. Pyne – MW 11:45-1:00

This course examines American painting, architecture, and sculpture from Puritan culture to World War I. The approach is to examine the development of American art under the impact of social and intellectual forces in each historical era. The course explores the way in which artists and architects give expression to the tensions and sensibilities of each period. Among major themes of the course are: the problem of America's self-definition; the impact of religious and scientific thought on American culture; Americans' changing attitudes toward European art; and the American contribution to Modernism.

AMERICAN FILM

AMST 40205

W. Krier – TR 3:30-4:45

A look at what makes a film American. The course will be structured by pairing films from the "classic" period with films from the more recent past in order to highlight essential features, particularly genre characteristics, the work of directors, and the performance of "stars." Possible films: *It Happened One Night*, *French Kiss*, *The Lady Eve*, *Double Indemnity*, *Body Heat*, *Basic Instinct*, *Zero Effect*, *Shane*, *Unforgiven*, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, *Die Hard*, *The Godfather*, *Bound*, *Silence of the Lambs*, *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, *Don Juan de Marco*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Crash*, *The Hours*, *The Maltese Falcon* and others.

AESTHETICS OF LATINO CULTURE

AMST 40511

G. Cardenas – T 3:00-5:30

This course will analyze the philosophy and principles underlying the social and political aspects of Latino art. We will approach this by examining a range of topics, including Chicano and Puerto Rican poster art, muralism, Latina aesthetics, and border art. The readings will enable us to survey a number of important exhibitions of Latino art and to explore new possibilities for exhibition and representation. We will examine descriptive material and critical writings concerning issues pertaining to the representation and interpretation of Latino culture and art as well as how these questions surface in a national museum context.

Outside Courses – Track 2

AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLITICS: THE END OF A NEW BEGINNING?

AMST 30264

D. Pinderhughes – TR 11:00-12:15

This course explores the core elements associated with Black Politics in the US: the role of Black institutions such as the Black Church, the importance of the civil rights movement in challenging barriers to Black political participation, the mid 20th century legal framework created to open access to the political system, and the development of Black political participation in northern cities. Competition for leadership roles and public resources from the increasing numbers of Latinos, Asians and other immigrants will also be addressed. Since the course will be taught in spring 2010 at the beginning of the second year of the Obama administration, we will also have the chance to explore the impact of the “First Black” President on national politics, and to consider the impact of the President and his administration on African American Politics itself. The course incorporates Political Science concepts, but the readings and other materials are accessible to students from a variety of disciplines and levels of knowledge.

POLITICS, RELIGION, AND VIOLENCE IN THE U.S.

AMST 30316

J. Bain-Conkin – MW 4:30-5:45

Course description coming soon!

AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

AMST 30321

J. Coleman – TR 11:00-12:15

This course is an introduction to the new field of environmental history. While many people think "The Environment" suddenly became important with the first "Earth Day" in 1970 (or a few years earlier), environmental issues have in fact long been of central importance. In recent decades historians have begun actively to explore the past sensibilities of various groups toward their surroundings and fellow creatures. They have also increasingly paid attention to the ways

environmental factors have affected history. This course will range widely, from world history to the story of a single river, from arguments about climate change to the significance of pink flamingos, and will survey a number of types of history including cultural, demographic, religious, and animal.

AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY I

AMST 30328

J. Turner – MW 11:45-1:00

This lecture course will survey major developments in American thought from the first English contacts with North America to the mid-19th century. Emphasis will fall on ideas about religion, society, politics, and natural science and on the institutions and social contexts of intellectual life, with an eye towards understanding the roots of our own ways of thinking. Especially in the first weeks of the course, European backgrounds will also receive attention. Students will write a midterm and a final exam, as well as a 10-page research paper.

CRIME, HEREDITY, AND INSANITY IN AMERICAN HISTORY

AMST 30332

L. Przybyszewski – TR 3:30-4:45

The 19th century witnessed a transformation in the understanding of the origins of criminal behavior in the United States. For many, a religious emphasis on humankind as sinful gave way to a belief in its inherent goodness. But if humans were naturally good, how could their evil actions be explained? Drawing on studies done here and abroad, American doctors, preachers, and lawyers debated whether environment, heredity, or free will determined the actions of the criminal. By the early 20th century, lawyers and doctors had largely succeeded in medicalizing criminality. Psychiatrists treated criminals as patients; judges invoked hereditary eugenics in sentencing criminals. Science, not sin, had apparently become the preferred mode of explanation for the origins of crime. But was this a better explanation than what had come before? Discussion will be the primary form of instruction.

THE UNITED STATES SINCE WWII

AMST 30335

T. Blantz – MWF 9:35-10:25

The purpose of this course is to study the political, diplomatic, economic, social, and cultural development of the United States from 1945 through the presidency of George H.W. Bush. Although

the military and diplomatic history of World War II will be considered by way of background, the principal topics of investigation will be the Fair Deal Program of President Truman, the Cold War, the Korean Conflict, the Eisenhower Presidency, the New Frontier, Vietnam, President Johnson's Great Society, the Civil Rights Movement, the Nixon years, the social and intellectual climate of this post-war era, and the presidencies of Gerald Ford through George H.W. Bush. There will be a required reading list of approximately six books, two smaller writing assignments, and three examinations.

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE U.S. SOCIETY AND THE WORLD: THINKING WITH W.E.B. DU BOIS

AMST 30346

J. Ford – MW 3:00-4:15

How might thinking of the African American increase our understanding of US society's diversity and its relation to the modern world? If such a task could be addressed by looking at the work of one thinker, who would it be? This course offers writer and philosopher W.E.B. Du Bois as one avenue to answering these questions. Not only did Du Bois predict that the problem of the twentieth century would be the "problem of the color line," study for his PhD at the University of Berlin and Harvard University in the 1890s. Not only did he found the NAACP and gain the respect of thinkers and activists like Martin Luther King and Albert Einstein. W.E.B. Du Bois was also a prolific writer of philosophy, fiction, correspondence, editorials, novels, and lectures, resulting in a 70-year career and over 175,000 pages of published and unpublished writings. This course will only read (and, in some cases, view or listen to) some of the key moments in Du Bois's intellectual career, primarily *Souls of Black Folk*, *John Brown*, *Dark Princess*, selections from *Black Reconstruction* and *Darkwater*. We will examine how he reconfigured philosophical concepts, literary genres and tropes in specific contexts to think in innovative ways about African Americans and our modern world in general. We will also contextualize Du Bois in relation to national and international figures in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Ultimately, we will consider how his ideas can inform critical thinking about the present. Grades will consist of class participation and writing assignments abased on particular themes that are encountered in Du Bois's thought.

LABOR AND AMERICA SINCE 1945

AMST 30362

D. Graff – MW 1:30-2:45

This course explores the relationship between workers and the labor movement to American politics and culture since 1945. The United States emerged from World War II as the strongest global power, and its citizens subsequently enjoyed a long postwar economic boom that created what we might call the first truly middle-class society in world history. At the heart of that new society was the American labor movement, those unions like the United Auto Workers and the United Steel Workers who ensured that at least some of the postwar profits made it into the wallets of workers and their families. Today, however, unions represent only 8% of workers in the private sector. What accounts for the decline of organized labor since the 1950s? What has the decline of the labor movement meant for workers specifically, and the American economy and politics more broadly? How and why have popular perceptions of unions changed over time? What has been the relationship of organized labor to the civil rights movement, feminism, and modern conservatism? What is "globalization" and what has been its impact upon American workers and their unions? Through an exploration of historical scholarship, memoirs, polemical writings, and Hollywood films, this course will try to answer these questions. Students interested in politics, economic development, international relations, social justice, human rights, peace studies or mass culture are particularly welcome.

IRISH-AMERICAN HISTORY

AMST 30389

P. Griffin – MW 10:40-11:30 (Co-requisite: HIST 32610)

This course explores the history, politics, and culture of Irish Americans from the colonial era to the near present.

US DURING THE 1960s

AMST 30390

D. Swartz – MW 8:00-9:15

Few periods in American history have been as controversial as the 1960s. Sometimes called the "Long Sixties," it runs conceptually from the mid-1950s to the early 1970s, and was a turbulent time. Concentrating on politics and society, this course explores the major personalities and events,

including Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, the New Frontier, the Great Society, the Vietnam War, the breakdown of the liberal consensus, the rebirth of the conservative movement, and national movements led by youths, women, and African Americans. Although the emphasis is on the US, the course also visits several major international issues. There are two goals for students: acquiring knowledge about the period, and developing analytical tools to form their own judgments about it. Toward the first goal, students will encounter a combination of readings, videos, mini-lectures, and class discussions. Toward the second, they will be exposed to four different approaches: (1) discussing primary documents and writing a paper on some of them; (2) studying three small-scale case studies; (3) examining the large-scale phenomenon of protest; and (4) reading the memoirs of a Cabinet member, hence gaining an insider's view of the life and activities in the White House.

CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY: THE CHICANO MOVEMENT

AMST 30391

M. Rodriguez – TR 5:00-6:15

Course description coming soon!

RACIALIZATION IN THE U.S. AND BRAZILIAN HISTORY

AMST 30399

J. Graham – MW 11:45-1:00

This course will consider the processes that have caused aspects of society to be racialized, or labeled with racial meanings, symbolism, and/or identities. The class will focus on, but will not be limited to, “black” racialization. We will examine how racialization has shaped the human experience in the largest ex-slaveholding nations of the Americas – the United States and Brazil. Our goal is to understand the ways in which not only people are racialized, but also communities, geographical regions, nations, cultural production (such as music), behavior, labor, and gender, to name a few. With these two nations as our case studies, the class will explore the dynamic nature of racialization, focusing on the impact that space and time has had on the way we identify and live race.

AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICS

AMST 30441

D. Pinderhughes – MW 1:30-2:45

This course explores the basic elements associated with Black Politics in the US: the role of Black institutions such as the Black Church, the importance of the civil rights movement in challenging barriers to Black political participation, the mid 20th century legal framework created to create access to the political system, and an exploration of Black political participation in northern cities, where there are also increasing numbers of Latinos and other nonwhite groups. Since the course will be taught in spring 2009 immediately after the 2008 Presidential campaign, we will also have the chance to explore the impact of Illinois Senator Obama's campaign on national politics, whatever the outcome, and to consider the impact on African American Politics itself.

RELIGION AND SOCIAL LIFE

AMST 30507

K. Christiano – MW 1:30-2:45

How does social life influence religion? How does religion influence society? What is religion's social significance in a complex society like ours? Is religion's significance declining? This course will consider these and other questions by exploring the great variety in social expressions of religion. The course examines the social bases of churches, sects, and cults, and it focuses on contemporary religion in the United States.

CARIBBEAN MIGRATION: A LITERARY EXCURSION

AMST 30609

K. Richman – TR 2:00-3:15

This course examines the development of Creole societies in the French, Spanish, Dutch, and British Caribbean in response to colonialism, slavery, migration, nationalism and, most recently, transnationalism. The recent exodus of as much as 20 percent of Caribbean populations to North

America and Europe has afforded the rise of new transnational modes of existence. This course will explore the consciousness and experience of Caribbean diasporas through ethnography and history, religion, literature, music, and culinary arts.

PREHISTORY OF WESTERN NORTH AMERICA

AMST 30621

J. Mack – TR 11:00-12:15

This course deals with archaeological data and cultural life of prehistoric western North Americans over the last 20,000 years, until contact with European cultures. The course emphasizes origins and cultural development from an early pioneer stage to the later, sophisticated and diverse cultures of the Native Americans. The course will focus on material culture, environmental relationships, and technology to explore cultural change, land-use patterns, economics, and political complexity. In addition, some understanding of the methods by which archaeology is done by scientists in North America and an introduction to historical archaeology are included.

HISTORY OF SPORT AND THE COLD WAR

AMST 40328

J. Soares – MW 3:00-4:15

This course will explore the ways that sport reflected the political, ideological, social, economic and military struggle known as the Cold War. Sport permitted opportunities to defeat hated rivals or to develop competition more peacefully. It reflected the internal politics and societies in nations, and also illuminated relations among allies. Using a variety of readings, media accounts and film clips, this course will look at a number of crucial teams, athletes and events from the Cold War, including the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team, the controversial 1972 Olympic basketball final, "ping pong diplomacy," Olympic boycotts, Martina Navratilova and other Eastern European tennis stars, East German figure skater Katarina Witt, Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, the ferocious Soviet-Czechoslovakian hockey rivalry following the Soviet invasion of 1968, and more.

AESTHETICS OF LATINO CULTURE

AMST 40511

G. Cardenas – T 3:00-5:30

This course will analyze the philosophy and principles underlying the social and political aspects of Latino art. We will approach this by examining a range of topics, including Chicano and Puerto Rican poster art, muralism, Latina aesthetics, and border art. The readings will enable us to survey a number of important exhibitions of Latino art and to explore new possibilities for exhibition and representation. We will examine descriptive material and critical writings concerning issues pertaining to the representation and interpretation of Latino culture and art as well as how these questions surface in a national museum context.

Outside Courses – Track 3

POLITICS, RELIGION, AND VIOLENCE IN THE U.S.

AMST 30316

J. Bain-Conkin – MW 4:30-5:45

Course description coming soon!

AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY I

AMST 30328

J. Turner – MW 11:45-1:00

This lecture course will survey major developments in American thought from the first English contacts with North America to the mid-19th century. Emphasis will fall on ideas about religion, society, politics, and natural science and on the institutions and social contexts of intellectual life, with an eye towards understanding the roots of our own ways of thinking. Especially in the first weeks of the course, European backgrounds will also receive attention. Students will write a midterm and a final exam, as well as a 10-page research paper.

US FOREIGN POLICY IN THE COLD WAR

AMST 30342

W. Miscamble – TR 9:30-10:45

This course offers an overview of US foreign policy since World War II, focusing on the major crises and conflicts that have occurred since then-US and Soviet Union, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, and Kosovo.

PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

AMST 30400

P. Arnold – TR 3:30-4:45

This course examines the role of the presidency in the American regime and its change over time. Particular attention will be given to expectations about presidential leadership through the course of American political history. Beginning with questions about the original design and role of the presidency, the course turns to consideration of the role of leadership styles for change and continuity in American politics. Finally, cases of presidential leadership are studied to comprehend the way leadership and political context interact.

AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

AMST 30410

J. Mastrangelo – MW 3:00-4:15

This course surveys the development of American political thought from the Colonial period to the early 20th century. We will specifically look at different theories of what constitutes America and what this means for what may be considered appropriate political behavior. This course emphasizes a careful reading of texts to discern different articulations of what may be considered the proper purview of politics in America and why. Requirements include active class participation, several short papers, and a final paper. This course assumes a basic familiarity with American government and history.

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

AMST 30439

B. Connolly – TR 11:00-12:15

This course examines the responses of nations and international organizations to the environmental challenges of the present and future, including pollution, depletion of natural resources, and global warming.

LATINO POLITICS

AMST 30433

R. Hero – MW 3:00-4:15

Course description coming soon!

AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLITICS

AMST 30441

D. Pinderhughes – MW 1:30-2:45

This course explores the basic elements associated with Black Politics in the US: the role of Black institutions such as the Black Church, the importance of the civil rights movement in challenging barriers to Black political participation, the mid 20th century legal framework created to create access to the political system, and an exploration of Black political participation in northern cities, where there are also increasing numbers of Latinos and other nonwhite groups. Since the course will be taught in spring 2009 immediately after the 2008 Presidential campaign, we will also have the chance to explore the impact of Illinois Senator Obama's campaign on national politics, whatever the outcome, and to consider the impact on African American Politics itself.

PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

AMST 30445

D. Davis – MW 11:45-1:00

A principle tenet underlying democratic governance is the belief that public opinion of the “will of the people” should dictate governmental behavior. To the extent this belief is a realistic consideration; difficult questions remain concerning the capacity for citizens to develop reasoned

opinions and how to conceptualize and measure opinion. This course explores the foundations of political and social attitudes and the methodology use to observe what people think about politics. The course is structured around four key questions: How reliable is the methodology of public polling? How do people acquire, organize, and change their political beliefs and attitudes? What factors in the political world influence and shape public opinion, including the effects of the media, political events, and social forces? What are the main lines of cleavage in American public opinion? How polarized is the American public and on what issues is there a consensus?

HISTORY OF SPORT AND THE COLD WAR

AMST 40328

J. Soares – MW 3:00-4:15

This course will explore the ways that sport reflected the political, ideological, social, economic and military struggle known as the Cold War. Sport permitted opportunities to defeat hated rivals or to develop competition more peacefully. It reflected the internal politics and societies in nations, and also illuminated relations among allies. Using a variety of readings, media accounts and film clips, this course will look at a number of crucial teams, athletes and events from the Cold War, including the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team, the controversial 1972 Olympic basketball final, "ping pong diplomacy," Olympic boycotts, Martina Navratilova and other Eastern European tennis stars, East German figure skater Katarina Witt, Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, the ferocious Soviet-Czechoslovakian hockey rivalry following the Soviet invasion of 1968, and more.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

AMST 40419

S. Barber – TR 11:00-12:15

Most courses in constitutional law narrate the Supreme Court's evolving positions on constitutional rights and institutions. This course starts not with the Supreme Court but with the Federalist Papers, from which it develops a general theory of the social and economic goals or ends of constitutional government in America. It then uses this theory as a framework for assessing the Supreme Court's position on property rights, race relations, personal privacy, and the place of religion in American life. This exercise can yield results that make for lively class discussion, not only about the Court, but

about the adequacy of the Constitution itself. Grades will be based on a midterm and a final exam, with a paper option in lieu of the final.

AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES

AMST 40421

C. Wolbrecht – MW 1:30-2:45

Political parties play many vital roles in American politics: They educate potential voters about political processes, policy issues, and civic duties. They mobilize citizens into political activity and involvement. They provide vital information about public debates. They control the choices-- candidates and platforms that voters face at the ballot box. They influence and organize the activities of government officials. Most importantly, by providing a link between government and the governed, they are a central mechanism of representation. These roles--how well they are performed, what bias exists, how they shape outcomes, how they have changed over time--have consequences for the working of the American political system.