



SOCIAL & CULTURAL ANALYSIS

SPRING 2016 GRADUATE COURSE LISTINGS

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- **ALL COURSES ARE RESTRICTED AND REQUIRE AN ACCESS CODE TO REGISTER.**
- If you are NOT an SCA graduate student but wish to enroll in a course, you must first contact the graduate program coordinator in order to obtain an access code: rb185@nyu.edu
- For additional information please contact the program office at 212-992-9650.

PROSEMINAR II IN AFRICANA STUDIES: METHODS & RESEARCH- AFRS-GA 2901.001

Renee Blake

Tuesdays 9:30-12:15, Seminar Room

This course is specifically designed for M.A. students in the Africana Studies Program to develop fluency in research methodologies that comprise interdisciplinary Africana Studies and prepare them to embark on their individual research projects. We will concentrate on the unique perspectives that different methods of inquiry contribute to 'knowing' the social world. Students will get a sense of the possibilities and limits of various methods. By the end of the class students are able to articulate their M.A. project, the data to be used, and the methodologies for collecting and analyzing data. The class is organized as a graduate workshop in which students receive in-depth feedback from faculty, professional practitioners and their peers on their area(s) of research, research questions and methods of inquiry.

STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL & CULTURAL ANALYSIS– AMST-GA 3303.001

Thuy Tu and Julie Livingston

Wednesdays 11-1:45, Seminar Room

This course examines the practice and theory of research methods that are commonly used in social and cultural analysis. Through an experiential approach to a variety of methods, we will consider not only how research is conducted, but also how particular methods generate knowledge about social life. Rather than seeking a singular method through which we can fully 'know' the social world, we will concentrate on the unique perspectives that different methodologies contribute. In order to gain a comparative perspective on a variety of methods, the course is organized as an exploration of some features of the modern landscape of work. The readings span the era of industrialization and the transition to post-industrial employment.

VISUAL CULTURE AND RACE- AMST-GA 2304.001

Arlene Davila

Wednesdays, 2-4:45, Seminar Room

A look at some of the major issues and debates around race and the inclusion and representation of ethnic and racial 'majorities' and all types of media and visual cultures, from museums, to fashion, to art and media. We will also consider major theoretical debates around visibility and race, and some of the larger political and economic processes involved in representing race in the contemporary "post-racial" and "neoliberal multicultural" moment by focusing on the particular case of "Latino/Latin American" media. Students will explore more topics through a research paper on a topic of their choice.

HISTORIES OF CAPITALISMS - AMST-GA 2304.002

Michael Ralph

Thursdays, 2:00-4:45, Seminar Room

This course explores the historical formation of capitalism as a phenomenon in the world and as a theory of society. We will pay critical attention to the concepts used to theorize capitalism (especially credit, debt, capital, commodity, labor, land, property). We will further interrogate the notion of 'pre-capitalist' and 'non-capitalist' societies and social spaces as we pay special attention to debates concerning the nature of 'capitalism' and 'slavery

FEELINGS OF FREEDOM: AFFECT, AGENCY, AND PEOPLEHOOD - AMST-GA 3302.001**Cristina Beltran****Mondays 2:00-4:45, Seminar Room**

What does it mean to "feel free"? And how should the feeling of freedom relate to our standards of judgment when thinking about whether a movement, polity, or individual exists within conditions of freedom? Is freedom a concept, a principle, or a practice? And how do more expansive conceptions of freedom relate to the particular question of political freedom and its relationship to power, equality, and community? How does state power create, constrain, and crush political freedom? And how should we make sense of debates regarding agency and structure? How is freedom related to the capacity to exercise one's agency? Is freedom about doing what you want as long as you don't hurt anyone else, as modern liberals claim? Is it about collectivizing power, as a left tradition of political thought has long argued? Or is it about actively participating in governance, as a classical republican tradition argues? Is freedom an inherently individual practice or a necessarily collaborative one? A private or public matter? Does it depend upon rights or the transformation of conditions that make rights appear essential? What is the relationship between freedom and free markets? How does capitalism constrain and/or promote human freedom? And what is the relationship of social identities to human freedom? Through a careful reading of both canonical and contemporary theorists, this seminar will engage a series of questions about the nature of power and freedom in contemporary politics. The seminar will pay particular attention to the affective dimensions of freedom, agency, and membership and the ways in which race, class, gender, and sexuality are enmeshed in how subjects experience and understand the meaning of freedom.

COMPARATIVE COLONIALISMS- AMST-GA 3701.001**Josie Saldaña****Thursdays 4:55pm -7:35pm , Conference Room**

A comparative study of Spanish and British colonialism, this course will examine the forms of governmentality implanted by both in the Americas (Latin America and the U.S.) and the consequences thereof. We examine how these modes of colonialism produced distinct racial formations in Hispanophone and Anglophone America, focusing principally on the production of indigenous and black/afromestizo identities. While the focus is on racial formation, in both colonial models race was accomplished through the disciplining of gender and sexuality. Thus the course readings necessarily engage this active entwining of race and sex. The purpose of this comparison is to assist us in addressing the different modes of political subjectivity that emerged as a consequence of these distinct legacies of racial formation, however, we will also critically evaluate the limits of traditional comparativist modes of analysis, and look for modes that move us beyond comparison. Our twin goals are to gain a better understanding of the cotemporal, yet distinct racial geographies in the Americas, and, as scholars of race formation, to avoid universalizing one particular experience to all of the Americas. In the last four weeks of class we will consider Brazil and Australia's racial models as a point of further comparison..

RACIAL LITERACY IN THE ARCHIVES- AMST-GA 2901.001**Nathan Connolly (6 seats)****Tuesdays, 2:00pm – 4:45pm, KJCC 701**

This class is about reading race, seeing it at work, and using it as a historical category of analysis. Like more conventional courses on race, we will think through the differences between color, race and ethnicity, prejudice and discrimination. But as a course built for those working in archives, it will also dedicate considerable time thinking about how race is itself a theory of history through which historical actors make claims, organize labor and identities, and imagine political possibility. We will explore, too, how race functions in the minds of historians and how our contemporary racial politics inspire among historians very different approaches to the study of race and racism.

SLAVERY AND FREEDOM IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD- AMST-GA 2901.002**Jennifer Morgan (4 seats)****Thursdays, 2:00pm – 4:45pm, Meeting Room A**

Description forthcoming.

POST-WORLD WAR II AMERICAN HISTORY – AMST-GA 2301.001

Thomas Sugrue (10 seats)

Mondays, 9:30 – 12:15pm, SAME AS HIST-GA 3701.001

This is an intensive reading seminar on major themes in American domestic political, social, and intellectual history from World War II to the present. Topics include the transformation of the American state, changing definitions of citizenship, the market and economic change, and the shifts in each of these in the late twentieth-century. We will consider the scope and scale of government, liberalism and the new right: sexuality, race, and ethnicity; space and power; the place of business in American life; and changing concepts of society. Over the course of the semester, we will consider major historical debates, discuss research possibilities, and investigate primary sources.

CROSS-LISTED COURSES

SOCIAL THEORY AND HISTORY- AMST-GA 3213.002/ SAME AS HIST-GA 2702

Manu Goswami (4 seats)

Tuesdays, 2:00pm - 4:45pm

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