



## **SOCIAL & CULTURAL ANALYSIS**

### **FALL 2018 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: [jt133@nyu.edu](mailto:jt133@nyu.edu).
- For additional information please contact the program office at 212-992-9650.
- SCA graduate courses (unless otherwise noted) are located at 20 Cooper Square, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor.

#### **PROSEMINAR IN AFRICANA STUDIES – AFRS-GA 2000.001**

**Awam Amkpa**

**Tuesdays 4:55-7:35PM**

**Seminar Room – 485**

**(Requirement for 1st year AFRICANA MA students)**

This course is an in-depth overview of the major areas of research in black history and culture. It is intended to introduce incoming Africana Studies M.A. students to the significant areas of research, research questions, as well as the primary methods of inquiry that have defined the study of black culture and history since the mid-nineteenth century. Topics include: Negritude, The Harlem Renaissance, Pan-Africanism, Race & Urban Poverty, Black Feminism, Black Social Movements and Literature and Decolonization. It will be a course that is led and directed by one of our faculty members, but will feature guest lectures/presentations by Africana specialists. Each faculty will present in their areas of expertise.

#### **AMERICAN STUDIES SEMINAR - AMST-GA 3301.001**

**Cristina Beltran**

**Wednesdays 2-4:45PM**

**Seminar Room – 485**

**(Requirement for 1st year SCA MA and PhD students)**

This course introduces new graduate students in American Studies to the history of the field, and to the range of work currently in progress under its interdisciplinary umbrella. We'll examine the shifting intellectual parameters and political interventions of American Studies scholarship over the past half century, in the US and globally, then focus on the kind of work produced within our NYU program specifically. We'll address questions including: What theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches have shaped the field? How has the field intersected with other institutionally insurgent interdisciplinary fields, including (but not limited to) feminist and queer studies, labor studies, comparative ethnic and diaspora studies, environmental studies and dis/ability studies?

#### **FEMINIST/QUEER THEORY – AMST-GA 2305.001**

**Gayatri Gopinath**

**Mondays 3:30-6:10PM**

**Conference Room -471**

This course seeks to provide students with a critical vocabulary through which to theorize sexuality in an intersectional and transnational frame. We will do so by reading recent work within queer and/or critical race studies that situates sexual practices, desires, and subjectivities as constitutive of formations of race, gender, nation, indigeneity, globalization and diaspora. We will focus in particular on key thematics that currently animate some of the most innovative work in field of queer studies today: indigeneity, empire, and diaspora; state violence and sexual/racial citizenship; aesthetics, visuality, and alternative archives.

#### **SEMINAR: SETTLER COLONIALISM AND CRITICAL INDIGENOUS THEORY – AMST-GA 2304.001**

**Dean Saranillio**

**Thursdays 2-4:45PM**

**Seminar Room – 485**

This seminar examines U.S. imperialism and empire formation with particular attention to its intersections with settler colonialism. Together, we will interrogate different approaches and methods found in a variety of fields and movements including critical race theory, eco-criticism, history, queer theory, cultural studies, postcolonial theory, anarcho-indigenism, and critical ethnic studies. The seminar aims to highlight an emerging body of scholarship that places race, gender and indigeneity in conversation. Beyond denaturalizing imperial violence, much of this work further challenges the liquidation of alternatives to the settler state while sustaining memory and commitment to alternative futures, economies and arrangements of power.

## **THE BLACK BODY & THE LENS – AFRS-GA 2303.001**

**Deborah Willis**

**Tuesdays 2-4:45PM**

**Seminar Room – 485**

This interdisciplinary seminar explores the range of ideas and methods used by critical thinkers in addressing the body in photography, print, video, film and exhibition spaces. Central to our discussions will be a focus on how the display of the black body affects how we see and interpret the world. Using a series of case studies, we will consider the construction of beauty and style, gendered images, race, and pop culture. The historical gaze has profoundly determined the visual construction of the black body in contemporary society. The interplay between the historical and the contemporary, between self-presentation and imposed representation--all are fundamental to our discussions. This seminar will also explore the ways in which our contemporary understanding of art, history, and culture is constructed and informed by public display in museums, text, and the global landscape. Our specific focus will be on African, African American and African diaspora visual culture. We will consider issues of representation, display and reception as well as the wider social context in which art and culture are experienced in private and public spaces. In addition to classes held on campus, field trips will be taken to museums and galleries. In this course, we shall analyze the diverse ways in which scholars and artists have written about sexuality, black womanhood, and manhood. We will read a variety of significant texts including key examples of cutting-edge scholarship and other writings.

## **TOPICS: HISTORY OF CAPITALISM – AMST-GA 2901.001**

**Lisa Duggan**

**Wednesdays 4:55-7:35PM**

**Conference Room -471**

This seminar will focus on the changing nature of global capitalism since the 1970s. We will critically examine the literature on the emergence of neoliberalism, and consider the continuities of this formation with imperialism, colonialism and the racial state. We will go on to consider how imperial wars and expanding security and surveillance practices have intersected and conflicted with neoliberal projects. We'll look at differing accounts of what is emerging in the possible wake of neoliberalism--from cognitive capitalism and its discontents, to Paul Amar's "security archipelago" and Beatriz Preciado's "pharmacocapitalism." Reading and discussion will also emphasize the role of affect, feeling and fantasy in the construction of consent for neoliberalism, and in the roiling uprisings against austerity and growing inequalities around the world. Students enrolled in this class will produce a review essay, and either a conference paper, or a beginning draft of an article for publication.

## **TOPICS: GROUNDS OF WAR: ASIAN/AMERICA IN THE 20TH CENTURY– AMST-GA 3213.001**

**Crystal Parikh**

**Fridays 12:30-3:15PM**

**Conference Room -471**

For much of the twentieth century, the United States seemed to be at war with one Asian nation or another (if not more than one). This course will examine the way in which the U.S. military enterprise and political interventions in the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East forged a national culture (i.e., what it means to be American), have shaped racial formations in the United States, and have configured particular transnational imaginaries of globalization. We will also study how Asian American subjects have responded to and participated in these representational politics by considering literary and cultural production by and about Asian Americans. Our primary literature will engage American history between World War II and the current situation of the "war on terror." However, we will also address earlier forms of Asian racial difference, the rise of "American orientalism," and the development of the United States as an empire "without territories" in order to explore the social formations of race, gender, class, ethnicity, and religion that variously inform, shore up, or antagonize war culture and conceptions of national sovereignty. In this vein, we will also address critical issues of formal and cultural citizenship, memory and witness, rights discourses, trauma, and the body in pain/the wounded body as they are treated in writings by Asian Americans.

## CROSS-LISTED COURSES

**Culture & Consumption – ANTH-GA 1223.001/AMST-GA 3302.001**

**Arlene Davila**

**Wednesdays 2:00-4:45 PM**

This seminar explores the intricate relationship between culture and consumption in contemporary neoliberalizing contexts. We explore the ways in which culture (comprising material culture, spaces, ideas, social relations and practices) is commodified and consumed in everyday life and how processes of commodification and consumption affect and shape different aspects of contemporary life, from the notions of race, class, identity and citizenship we claim, to the spaces we dwell. After some introductory considerations about the making and nature of commodities and the meaning, history and definition of contemporary consumption, we turn to an examination of the politics of consumption and how these processes intersect with the making of class, racial, gender, and national identities. Topics include the rise of neoliberal subjectivities, the creation of global middle class identities, space and geographies of consumption, value and distinction in art markets, and overall issues of space, value and mobilities (of the social and physical type) as these play out in neoliberal economies.