



SOCIAL & CULTURAL ANALYSIS

SPRING 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.
- For additional information please contact the program office at 212-992-9650.
- SCA graduate courses (unless otherwise noted) are located at 20 Cooper Square, 4th Floor.

TOPICS in Critical Theory: Interspecies – AMST-GA 2100.001

Julie Livingston

Mondays 11:00-1:45

Seminar Room – 485

This course takes up relationships between different forms of biological life (animals, plants, bacteria etc) and examines their political, economic, and social effects. The concept of interspecies necessarily relies in part on the work of western biological taxonomy, while acknowledging that there are many other ways to sort and categorize forms of life. Throughout the semester we will consider the distinction between different forms of biological life (species) and how the taxonomic hierarchy of modern biology is a historical product, founded upon and through European early modern and modern racial, class, and gendered politics. We will probe the limits of this distinction, the fuzziness of the borders between species, the social and affective processes when barriers are breached, and pay careful attention to moments when the hierarchical classificatory system is subverted or reworked. Together, we will examine the ways humans use the material characteristics of other species to pursue their economic, political, and social aims (from agriculture to bioprospecting to vivisection to anthropomorphism) and consider other possibilities for conceptualizing and organizing biosocial life. Readings will draw on racial, feminist, queer, postcolonial, and disability studies, history, anthropology, and science and technology studies to probe the diversity of interspecies relationships. Readings may include: Charles Darwin, *Origin of Species*; Donna Haraway, *Primate Visions*; Londa Schiebinger, *Plants and Empire: Bioprospecting in the Atlantic World*; Anna Tsing, *The Mushroom at the End of the World*; Elizabeth Povinelli, *Geontologies*; Ashley Dawson, *Extinction*; Sunaura Taylor, *Beasts of Burden: Animal and Disability Liberation*; Radhika Govindrajana, *Animal Intimacies: Interspecies Relations in India's Northern Himalayas*; Michel Serres, *The Parasite*; Reviel Netz, *Barbed Wire: an Ecology of Modernity*; and articles and essays by John Berger, Rob Kirk, Lynn Margulies, Hannah Landecker, Hugh Raffles, Clapperton Mavhunga, Eduardo Kohn, Heather Paxson, Sophie Roosth, Jake Kosek, Harriet Ritvo, Vandana Shiva, Naisargi Dave, Juno Parrenas, Carla Freccero, and Ed Cohen.

FOUCAULT - AMST-GA 2102.001

Ann Pellegrini

Thursdays 3:30-6:10

721 Broadway - Rm 613

Foucault and more Foucault, closely read and critically engaged. But, why Foucault? And, which Foucault? Through close readings of Foucault's major published works, lectures at the Collège de France, and selected published interviews, we will seek to understand Foucault's overall project. How did his project shift over time? What was his own understanding, or representation, of it? Along the way, we will be especially interested to track some keywords: truth, power, resistance, discourse, freedom, biopolitics. What do these terms mean within or for Foucault's project -- or, is that, projects? How might we supplement, critique, reorient, reanimate Foucault in light of our own research interests, political and intellectual commitments, and /or historico-political moment? Throughout the semester, we will ask, with Foucault and against him, what does it mean to practice criticism? COURSE IS CAPPED AT 15. INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION REQUIRED TO ENROLL.

SCA Pro-Seminar: The Art of Research – AMST-GA 3310.001

Sukhdev Sandhu

Wednesdays 6:20-9:00

Conference Room -471

(Requirement for 1st year MA students)

“That is the hallmark of academic criticism: it kills everything it touches. Walk around a university campus and there is an almost palpable smell of death about the place because hundreds of academics are busy killing everything they touch. I recently met an academic who said that he taught German literature. I was aghast: to think, this man who had been in universities all his life was teaching Rilke. Rilke!” [Geoff Dyer, *Out of Sheer Rage*]

A question: what is academic writing? A better question: what could academic writing be? If it's true that too often it reeks of dust sheds and mortuaries how might it be exhumed, animated, unleashed? This class offers a tentative counter-canon, a broad range of work – spanning radio art, the essay film, creative non-fiction, surrealist ethnography – that attempts to offer new ways of seeing, thinking and writing about the world. It showcases artists and intellectuals who experiment with authority, voice, narrative structure. Questions that will ensue: how might researchers make productive use of humour and whimsy? How might they harness fury? How might they play with (moving) images and graphic design? In what ways might they better be off thinking of themselves as archaeologists, astronomers, diviners, stalkers, wireless radio? The goal of this class is to flee the prison-house of 'academic writing', explore an expanded field of stellar critical and imaginative work, and to offer speculative road maps to mistier, more magical thinking spaces.

Strategies for Social & Cultural Analysis – AMST-GA 3303.001

Caitlin Zaloom

Wednesdays 11:00-1:45

Seminar Room -485

(Requirement for 1st year PhD students)

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.

TOPICS: Race, Culture, & Capital in the Trans-Pacific– AMST-GA 3701.001

Thuy Linh Tu and Kandice Chuh

Tuesdays 3:30-6:10

Conference Room -471

Major contemporary shifts in American policy towards the Pacific, from those that address the region as crucial to U.S. economic and political interests, to the intensely antagonistic stance of the current administration, which sees it as a military and industrial threat, renew the long-held and constitutive ambivalence of the U.S.'s attitudes towards the Pacific. In this course, we will explore how these views have been shaped by the histories of war and empire, and by contemporary flows of images, ideas, affect, bodies, capital and commodities across the Pacific, Americas, and Europe. We will address such questions as: how do race and racialization operate in a Transpacific context? In what ways are they meaningful, and how do they overlap with and diverge from Atlantic world racial formations? What do the specificities of their operations tell us about capitalism and culture past and present? How do these specificities key us into the contemporary conjuncture and the apparent return of Cold War geopolitics?

This team taught course is offered across the CUNY Graduate Center's PHD Program in English and the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at NYU, and will be held at NYU.

Work, Labor, and Power – AMST-GA 2329.001

Andrew Ross

Tuesdays 6:20-9:00

Conference Room -471

This seminar presents an overview of changing attitudes toward work and labor. It covers patterns of agrarian, industrial, and post-industrial production, gendered and racialized segmentation of labor, and the record of worker organization. The historical scope runs from colonial agriculture to the digital labor landscape of today, and the overarching framework is one in which work is utilized as a medium of power (and counter-power) in capitalist society.

Dissertation Proposal Writing – AMST-GA 2306.001

Arlene Davila

Mondays 11:00-1:45

Meeting Room A

(Requirement for 3rd year PhD students with completed field exams)

CROSS-LISTED COURSES

Seminar: Visual Culture and Race – ANTHRO-GA 3392P (AMST-GA 2304.001)

Arlene Davila

Wednesdays 2:00-5:00

(tba)

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 heightened racialized "neoliberal multicultural" moment. Topics include: the coloniality of vision, media and digital technologies, and the intersection between race and aesthetic industries and economies. Students will explore more topics through a research paper on a topic of their choice.

TOPICS: Women and Slavery in the Atlantic World-- HIST-GA 2002P (AMST-GA 3213.001)

Jennifer Morgan

Mondays 4:55-7:35

Seminar Room – 485

This course introduces students to the growing field of women, gender, race, and slavery in the Atlantic world. Though we will begin with the article-length studies of enslaved women that characterized the field in the 1970s and 1980s, the course is primarily organized around exploring the recent growth in monograph histories of enslaved women. Moving from studies of women on the West African coast to examinations of slave societies and women's labor from New England to Latin America and the Caribbean, the course will ask students to consider gender as social history, as a theory of slavery, and as a rubric through which to consider the Atlantic world. We will carefully consider the nature of slavery's archives, of the particular challenges posed to scholars of gender and enslavement, and of the sometimes interdisciplinary research methods employed to write histories of enslaved women. Throughout, we will attend to questions rooted in histories of labor, of capitalism, and of sex and reproduction.