



## **SOCIAL & CULTURAL ANALYSIS**

### **FALL 2016 GRADUATE COURSE LISTINGS**

*Updated: 8/22/2016 1:04 PM*

- **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: [rb185@nyu.edu](mailto:rb185@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**

**Michael Dash**

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

**Seminar Room**

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**

**Dean Saranillio**

**Tuesdays 9:30am-12:15pm**

**Seminar Room**

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?

#### **TOPICS: HUMAN RIGHTS AND CULTURAL POLITICS – AMST-GA 2330.001**

**Crystal Parikh co-taught with Guadalupe Escobar**

**Mondays 2:00-4:45**

**Conference Room- 471**

Is it possible to consider human rights discourse as an interpretive framework for literary and cultural production? What might such a human rights methodology entail? This course will introduce students to the histories of human rights discourse and consider the significance of the legal and political projects of human rights to the cultural politics of contemporary literary and cultural studies. We will survey a genealogy of human rights, consider the various critiques of human rights discourse (especially those forwarded by postcolonial and Third World critics), and also query the relationship between the conception of civil, natural, and political rights to broader conceptions of social, political, and economic justice. Grounded particularly in American literary and cultural studies, we will consider whether human rights provides an alternative site of critique for U.S. hegemony in the "new world order," as well as for the articulation of emergent political subjectivities by people of color in the Americas.

**TOPICS: POLITICAL AESTHETICS: VISIBILITY, REPRESENTATION & JUDGEMENT- AMST-GA 2304.001**

**Cristina Beltran**

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

**Meeting Room A**

While debates continue to rage regarding whether all art is necessarily political, this seminar takes as its starting point the conviction that there is always an aesthetic dimension to politics. In this course, we will explore what it means to engage various political ideologies, principles, and constitutions as aesthetic systems. What sorts of possibilities (as well as problems) emerge when political questions are considered aesthetically? By exploring the aesthetic environment of political thought and action, we will analyze how various aesthetic systems have a powerful affective charge capable of moving people, attracting their loyalty or repugnance and eliciting action, apathy, or hostility. At the same time, the seminar will explore how various forms of artistic production function politically and in relation to questions of freedom, resistance, representation, and identity. Engaging in close readings and discussion of important works in the philosophy of art and aesthetics, political theory, cultural studies, and art history and criticism, the seminar will work to clarify and deepen our collective understanding of a number of basic notions in aesthetics — beauty, sublimity, representation, form, judgment —and explore how such concepts relate to questions of the political. Some of the questions the course seeks to address include: What is the relationship between aesthetics, race, gender, and embodiment? What is the relationship between aesthetic judgment and political judgment? Can artistic creation serve as a model for political action? What can the study of art and politics teach us about the logic of representation? And how might thinking aesthetically help us understand how events, objects, and spaces become sites of political meaning and power?

**URBAN AND SUBURBAN STUDIES – AMST-GA 2320.001**

**Andrew Ross**

**Tuesdays 2:00-4:45**

**Seminar Room**

This seminar will offer a broad survey of the history of urban and suburban development since the mid-nineteenth century. It will look at some of the major movements, in planning and in architecture, and will examine several schools of thought associated with urbanism over that period of time. Urban forms will include streetcar, suburbs, high-density cores, garden cities, greenbelt towns, planned communities, urban gentrification, edge cities, ghettos and barrios, historical preservations, the suburban subdivision, gated community, and neo-traditional development. Close attention will be given to the relationship between these urban forms and modes of industrial production, transportation, and communication.

**TOPICS: SECURITY AND FREEDOM IN THE US & WORLD – AMST-GA 2901.001**

**Thursdays 2:00-4:45**

**Seminar Room**

This course will address historical and theoretical dimensions of the concept of “security.” Using a range of primary and scholarly texts we will examine the historical origins and varied dimensions of security as a way of thinking about social life in general. A central challenge will be to tease out the conceptual relationship between security and freedom, with former often understood as requisite to the latter, particularly within the liberal tradition over time. A key question we will ask is to what extent prerequisites of security in a given historical moment work to delimit the community that can be described, or understood, in various ways as as “free.” Included among the topical realms and permutations of security and freedom we will examine from the early modern period to contemporary moment are the following: territorial security, national security, public health, bodily integrity, criminality, techniques and technologies of security (surveillance, policing, prisons, counter-insurgency, torture, drone warfare), security architectures, logistics and infrastructure. Primary and secondary readings will be drawn from (among others) the writings from Locke, Hobbes, Marx, Losurdo, Foucault, Rostow, Khalili, Neocleous, Rose, Chatterjee, Gilmore, Longevall, Murukawa, Wacquant, Mirowski, Wald, Weizman and Amar. This is an advanced seminar.

**TOPICS: CRITICAL DIFFERENCE: POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES AND LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL STUDIES**

**AMST-GA 3213.001**

**Josie Saldana**

**Thursdays 4:55-7:35**

**Seminar Room**

This course places post-colonial and Latin American cultural studies in comparison, tracing their genealogies in the historical/global context of the critique of imperialism. Marxist criticism of the capitalist economy came primarily from the global south in the second half of the 20th century, from Indian, African, and Latin American

scholars theorizing colonial basis for capitalist expansion. Meanwhile, revolutionary movements from the global south challenged the hegemony of liberal democracy. In the post-revolutionary era, postcolonial studies and Latin American cultural studies are the two fields that have most thoroughly interrogated anti-imperialist economic critiques and the reasons for revolutionary failures. This course first takes up the economic critiques of capitalism and the theories of anti-colonial revolution, then moves to examine postcolonial and Latin American studies proper, including critiques of revolutionary movements, national development, and racial ideologies; feminist and queer theories; theories of representation (political and figural); decolonial studies. Authors include but not limited to: Marx, Lenin, Luxemburg, Amin, Cardoso, Quijano, Gunder Frank, Wallerstien, Memmi, Fanon, Cesaire, Williams, Scott, Chakrabarty, Spivak, Bhabha, Guha, Nandy, Mignolo, Sarlo, Richard, Rodriguez, Franco, Quijones, Moreiras, Maldonado-Torres, Pratt, Escobar, Beverley, Saldaña-Portillo.

**TOPICS: THE MODERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION (POST) MODERNITY, MOBILITY, AND IDENTITY – AMST-GA 3213.002**

**Sophie Gonick**

**Primary with Center for European and Mediterranean Studies**

**Wednesdays 10am-12pm**

**285 Mercer, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**TOPICS: QUEER HUMANALITIES- AMST-GA 3701.004**

**Ann Pellegrini**

**Primary with Performance (7 reserved seats for SCA students)**

**Tuesdays 3:30-6:15**

**721 Broadway, Room 613**

In their 2015 special issue of GLQ, on Queer Inhumanisms, from which we will read several articles, Dana Luciano and Mel Chen, ask, “Has the queer ever been human?” To this important question we will add some others. Drawing on the resources of queer theory and especially queer of color critique, animal studies, new materialisms, performance studies, post-colonial literary studies, and continental philosophy, this class queries the work the human/animal distinction has done historically and continues to do. Together we will ask into the biopolitics of the human/animal distinction, consider what a post- or non-human psychoanalysis might be or do, and assess the centrality of the line dividing human and animal in the establishment not just of categories of knowledge but what is called thinking. Who or what remains of the humanities when the human is de-centered? But the class also pushes out to think and feel with the “non-human” as a way to account for—and make room for—a much wider range of relationships, objects, beings, ethical orientations, and forms of animation than even an expanded conception of “the animal” may make possible. Readings from: J.M. Coetzee, Jacques Derrida, Donna Haraway, Carla Freccero, Emmanuel Levinas, José Esteban Muñoz, Donovan Schaefer, Harold Searle, among others.

**CROSS-LISTED COURSES**

**BLACK INTERNATIONALISMS – AFRS-GA 2901.001**

**Primary with History**

**Michael Gomez (2 seats)**

**Tuesdays 2:00-4:45**

**KJCC 502**

Our objective here is to examine the ways in which those of African descent have either envisioned or enacted ways of transnational cooperation. The focus is admittedly political and limited in that it does not explore aesthetics, sports, etc. As a seminar, the idea is to consider several examples before students with time and opportunity pursue their own research.

**20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CITIES – AMST-GA 3701.001**

**Primary with History**

**Andrew Needham**

**Tuesdays 9:30-12:15**

**KJCC 717**

This course has two main purposes. First, it seeks to familiarize students with a variety of the methods and arguments central to the writing of the recent urban, suburban, and metropolitan history of the United States.

Second, it aims to examine the various ways that critics, architects, planners, social scientists and others that we can lump into the category of "urbanists" have sought to know, change, and improve the urban built environment and urban social life over the course of the twentieth century, as well as the effects of their ideas as they have played out in the spaces of metropolitan America.

**VIOLENCE IN THE ARCHIVES- AMST-GA 3701.002**

**Primary with History**

**Monica Kim**

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

**KJCC 701**

This seminar begins with a basic interrogation of how we conceptualize and anticipate two key concepts: violence and the archive. As a collective group, we will examine and discuss various approaches that scholars have taken to challenge notions of how and where to locate and expose violence in the historical archive. The syllabus will strive to offer a temporal and geopolitical range of case studies, and students should be prepared to read works from premodern to more contemporary eras. The discussion will revolve around three facets of violence: methods, sites, and temporality. How does an examination of our own assumptions regarding forms of violence impact how we analyze and frame an "event" for historical analysis?

**WRITING GENDER HISTORIES- AMST-GA 3701.003**

**Primary with History**

**Michele Mitchell**

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

**KJCC 701**

The focus of this course is the research and writing of gender history. Not only will we discuss the overlap and tensions between the fields of women's history and gender history. We will also consider histories of sexuality and the body. Along these lines, we shall explore the methodological issues that arise in researching the history of gender, bodies, and/or sexuality. Class meetings and readings will emphasize methodologies and practices of gender historical research and writing, including: the definition and delineation of sources (primary, secondary, or hybrid); the challenges of narration; and the process of learning to read our own texts both critically and with attention to internal contradictions and/or silences. We will interrogate the work that tropes and binaries perform in shaping research and writing processes in gender history as well.

20 Cooper Square • 4<sup>th</sup> Floor • New York, NY 10003 • 212-992-9650  
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