

## American Studies Courses for Spring 2018

### CM 302 Free Speech, Free Expression

Through close examination of major U.S. Supreme Court decisions, students explore the contours of free speech and free expression in America. The relationship of free speech to democracy; the need for and possible restrictions on robust debate; and the First Amendment protections for commercial speech are discussed.

### CM 305 Media & the Political Process

An in-depth look at the relationship of all forms of media (including journalism, advertising, and public relations) to the political system in the United States. Readings drawn from both the scholarly and popular literature in the field.

### EN 203 Major Writers: American Literature

A study of selected works written by major American writers from two or more periods, focusing primarily on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The course may be organized chronologically, thematically, or by genre. Specific readings and periods vary by section. Note: Certain sections also fulfill the diversity requirement.

### HS 102 Making of the Modern World: United States I

Examines European colonization of North America, the formation of the United States, and the challenges facing the new nation in the first half of the nineteenth century. Emphasis is placed on the interactions between diverse groups of Europeans, Native Americans, and African Americans. The course aims to establish a basic understanding of modern events and processes from initial encounter through the Civil War, including the interactions between North America and the Atlantic World.

### HS 103 Making of the Modern World: United States II

Covers the history of the United States since the Civil War as the nation grew into an industrial and international power, and as it struggled to transform itself from a nineteenth-century republic that restricted citizenship rights along racial and gender lines into a diverse modern society. Topics include: Reconstruction; urban/industrial development and reform; immigration and the expansion and contraction of democracy in the early twentieth century; the world wars; the Great Depression; postwar culture and society; the impact of the Cold War; social movements; and the fracturing of consensus.

### HS 343 American Environmental History

Explores the changing relationship between people and the natural world from the colonial period to the present in the region that became the United States. The physical environment shaped the development of American culture even as different groups of Americans transformed that environment. Topics include Native American ideas about the natural world, European transformations of the environment, the rise of capitalism and its environmental

consequences, water the West, the development of an environmental movement, and current debates about the natural world and our place in it.

#### HS 346 Revolutionary America

The social, economic, and political causes and consequences of the American Revolution are explored. The course is divided into three parts. The first investigates the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence. The second analyzes the social experience of war for different groups in American society and examines the new governments established at both the state and national levels. The third traces the transformations wrought (and not wrought) by the Revolution in American society and politics. Traditional lectures are occasionally given, but the bulk of class time is spent discussing the readings and documents as well as the ideas and arguments in them.

#### HS 346 Revolutionary America

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#### HS 352 America Since 1945: Cold War Years

Examines two vital threads in post-World War II American history: our evolving international role and the rapidly changing society at home. At one level, it tries to make sense of a bewildering series of important events, including: the Cold War, McCarthyism, the Civil Rights Movement, the War on Poverty, the Vietnam War, the Peace Movement, the sixties counterculture, feminism, Watergate, and supply-side economics. At another level, it asks how these critical events--and broader demographic trends such as the baby boom and suburbanization--touched everyday Americans. How did life for the "person on the street" change during this tumultuous period?

#### HS 363 A Century of Diplomacy: U.S. Foreign Policy Since 1890

A study of modern American foreign policy. Topics include imperial expansion in the 1890s, World Wars I and II, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, interventions in Central America, and the rise of a new international order. Covers: how American culture and politics influence foreign policy decisions and why the United States seeks peace in Europe, dominates Central America, and commits blunders in Asia.

#### HS 372D Vietnam War Film & Literature

Documentary and feature film, autobiography, oral history, documents, and works of literature are used to probe the following themes: the origins, course, and historical meaning of the war;

the antiwar movement and the home front; the clash of cultural values between East Asia and the West; and ethical and psychological issues raised by the experience of war.

#### HS 474 Holocaust Memory in Germany & America

By the early twenty-first century, the Holocaust--the murder of six million European Jews--had come to represent the epitome of evil, an event in history that stands as the reference point for contemporary morality. In 1945, this was not as clear. This course explores how the meaning of the Holocaust as a singular event emerged and changed across generations after 1945 in two very different national contexts: Germany and America. The class examines the role of public history sites such as exhibitions, memorials, and museums, and popular culture such as films and literature, and scholarly debates. Written or electronic permission of the instructor.

#### PS 102 American Politics

The nature and concepts of the federal government; the function and operations of its three branches--executive, legislative, and judicial; the role of political parties and pressure groups.

#### PS 329 The Modern American Presidency

Examines the presidency since FDR in theory and practice, placing special emphasis on the concept of presidential power. The personal and institutional politics of the oval office in war and peace, crisis and conspiracy.

#### SC 107 Social Problems

Studies common social problems using sociological, theoretical, and conceptual frameworks. Individual deviance, patterns of social injustice, specific problems affecting major U.S. institutions, and international issues are investigated. Various mechanisms and resources for solving and preventing social problems are explored.

#### SC 332 Sociology of Crime and Criminals

An historical and contemporary overview of the nature of crime and the causes of criminal behavior. Examination of the measurement of crime and crime trends.

#### SC 361 Social Inequality

Examines economic, political, gender, racial, and ethnic inequality in the United States. Extensive descriptive materials are presented on various systems of social inequality, and the major theoretical and ideological perspectives on inequality are considered.

#### TH 274 Religion, Poverty, and the American Health System

Explores the role of religions in American health care in the past and in the twenty-first century. This course focuses on social and communal foundations of health care through examination of social identity and its impact on delivery of care in a multicultural, cross-religious setting. Particular attention is paid to the changing roles of Catholic hospitals and non-profits in the context of limited resources and poverty. Students learn of innovative partnerships between religious groups and medical agencies in a way to provide culturally sensitive, sustainable health care in the rapidly changing twenty-first-century America.

TH 316 Ethics: Catholic Spritual Life in the U.S.

Spirituality is understood in its functional connotation, as referring to the world of the American Catholic Church in its social, ethnographic, geographical, and even political and economic dimensions and ramifications as they related to formal ecclesiastical life, sacramental practice, ritual activity, contemporary theologies, popular piety--common and persistent beliefs and practices, the line where religion shadows off into superstitions, attitudes toward death, conceptions of hell and visions of the after life, parish life, and regional contrasts among different parts of America. Accents what it was like to be an ordinary Catholic in diverse places at various points in American history.

WR 350 Art of Prose: Rachel Carson

A study of the nonfiction prose of a single writer across multiple genres. Introduces students to the range and scope of a writer, as well as ways of analyzing a writer's style and the influence of sociocultural factors on a writer's career. Writing assignments may include analytical reading responses, imitations, original essays related to the writer's work, and written exams. May be repeated for credit with different topics.