

Fall Quarter 2019

AMER_ST 301-1-20 Resistance: Germany 1939 / America 1969:

Robert Orsi & Christine Helmer

When American protesters against the Vietnam War in the later 1960s looked for language to articulate their moral, religious, and political position, they reached back to the lives and writing of German resisters against National Socialism in the 1930s. The movement of ideas was not unidirectional. One of the most eloquent opponents of Hitler's regime, Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, drew inspiration from African American religious movements, ideas, and practices, which he encountered in Harlem in 1930-1931, when he was on fellowship at Union Theological Seminary on northern Broadway. This course examines this circulation of religious, ethical, and political ideas across cultures and national boundaries and in historical circumstances as a case study in the political, religious, and ethical ideas that shaped resistance in the 20th century.

AMER 310-0-2 Asian American Digital Cultures

Raymond Sandiego

From daily communications to magisterial announcements, from classrooms to war zones, from health records to national legislation, from labor to entertainment, and from dating, marriage, to everything in-between, how do certain institutions, spaces, subjects, and normalized practices reflect and reproduce hierarchies of race, gender, class, sexuality, nationality, and ability using electronically mediated technologies? How have glowing screens, code, and algorithms become so dominant—perhaps even necessary—to our lives, and how does this impact Asian American identities, communities, movements, and experiences? In this class, we will explore the multiscalar formations of Asian American digital cultures in the following ways: social media platforms, video games, advertising, viral videos and memes, “hook-up” apps, surveillance, privacy, “the right to not exist,” anti-fans, and sex work.

AMER 310-0-3 Catholic 60's

Robert Orsi

An examination of the major social and religious transformations in American Catholicism during and after the Second Vatican Council. Topics include: changing roles of priests and nuns; innovations in Catholic ritual and devotion; radical Catholicism; and the making of a new ways of being Catholic. Readings to include primary and secondary sources, documentary film, visual art, and selections from the relevant documents of the Second Vatican Council Joseph P. Chinnici and Angelyn Dries, eds

AMER 310-0-4 Introduction to Pragmatism

Axel Mueller & Mauricio Maluff Masi

Classics of Pragmatist Thought - Pragmatism is probably the first, but certainly the most important genuinely North American philosophical tradition. The classical writings of Peirce, James, Dewey set the stage for a completely new orientation in epistemology, moral and political theory, psychology and many other fields. Basic to all Pragmatist writers is the belief that the active and interactive human being in its natural and social environment has to stand at the center of reflection. They thus emphasize volitional, procedural, social, and evolutionary aspects of knowledge of any kind. Given this focus on practically involved intelligent agents, political pragmatists like Dewey, Addams, Locke explore the natural origins, revisability and legitimacy of moral and political norms. They develop the idea of a critical use of knowledge and its connection to non-violent democratic conduct. Neopragmatists (Rorty and Putnam) explore the philosophical and political implications of critical thinking.

AMER 310-0-5 Critical Race & Gender Theory

Jose Medina

This course explores the intersection of critical race theory and critical gender theory. We will examine the performative and embodied aspects of race, gender and sexuality, giving special attention to intersectionality, performativity theory, queer theory, and critical phenomenology of race, gender, and sexuality. Authors will include: Franz Fanon, Iris Marion Young, Judith Butler, Maria Lugones, Kimberly Crenshaw, Sarah Ahmed, Mariana Ortega, and Gayle Salamon, among others.

AMER 310-0-6 Sex and the American Empire

Steven Thrasher

This course will be an intensive study in understanding the relationship between American journalism and the U.S. military in creating an American empire. By focusing on how the U.S. military has segregated service members by race, sexuality, gender, and gender identity—and on how U.S. media has covered the military; students will study how identity roles have been formed by both the military and the media in American society

AMER_ST 390-1-20 Senior Project

Amy Lippert

Unlike most courses, the purpose of this course is to confront the challenges of both researching and writing in a collaborative manner. To that end, some sessions will be devoted to reading and responding to one another's work. While it can be difficult and intimidating to publicly present one's work, and to publicly critique or question another's work, we shall undertake both in the spirit of support and assistance. Becoming a careful reader, responder, and recipient of constructive criticism are also invaluable skills that fundamentally inform the process by which virtually all scholarly work is produced.

Winter Quarter 2020

AMER_ST 301-2-20 Seminar for Majors TBD

Ivy Wilson

Required courses structured to share a broad comparative or internationally oriented theme, integrating methods and materials from different disciplines. Change of instructor each quarter; change of theme every theme every year.

AMER_ST 310-0-2 Bad News

Larry Stuelpnagel

Bad News. That is what Americans are experiencing as a result of the corporate media mergers that took place in the closing years of the last century. Today there are six major companies that control much of what people read, hear and see. Those firms are AOLTime Warner, General Electric, Walt Disney, News Corporation, Viacom/CBS, and Bertelsman. As the firms passed from largely family owned to publicly traded companies, the pressure for profit from Wall Street has led to cutbacks in the size of the firm's news divisions and a change in news story values that have "softened" the types of news that people see on television. This course will begin with an examination of the monetary forces that are driving the industry away from its primary mission of information. Critics, of whom the professor is one, contend that the drive for increasing profits is coming at the expense of both the quality and quantity of news that appear on television and radio, newspapers and magazines, and the Internet. The ever diminishing number of news providers is also threatening democracy by limiting the number of voices that can be heard in our society.

AMER_ST 390-2-21 Senior Project

Amy Lippert

Unlike most courses, the purpose of this course is to confront the challenges of both researching and writing in a collaborative manner. To that end, some sessions will be devoted to reading and responding to one another's work. While it can be difficult and intimidating to publicly present one's work, and to publicly critique or question another's work, we shall undertake both in the spirit of support and assistance. Becoming a careful reader, responder, and recipient of constructive criticism are also invaluable skills that fundamentally inform the process by which virtually all scholarly work is produced.

Spring Quarter 2020

AMER_ST 301-3-20 Comparative Race and Ethnicity

Shana Bernstein

This course explores the comparative history of various racial and ethnic groups in the twentieth-century United States. While tensions between and relations among African Americans and whites have shaped U.S. history in important ways, this course also recognizes the historical significance of multiple racial and ethnic groups, particularly Asian Americans and Latinos. We will consider the histories of the various groups alongside one another and U.S. History more generally, as well as intersections among the various groups, and will consider how law shapes (and is shaped by) the racial and ethnic categories in question.