SUMMER SESSION 1

Introduction to American Studies

AMS 10

Jun 20 - Jul 29

Olson 159 | MTW 2:10p.m.–4:25p.m. | Instructor: Dr. Audrey Russek

What links noise-cancelling headphones and 1960s lunch counter sit-ins? This course will explore answers to this question and other unexpected and useful connections between culture, politics, history, and our everyday lives. American Studies examines the richness and complexity of United States history, culture, and society through the study of cultural objects (e.g., television, literature, photographs, and advertisements) and social practices. This course is framed by a series of deceptively simple questions: Who is an American? What metaphors, images, and materials have been used to envision the nation? And what are the connections between the United States and the rest of the world? By focusing on particular moments and core themes, we will draw from a wide variety of sources to interrogate the intersecting ideals, conflicts, and material realities that have defined U.S. culture during the past century. Topics include popular culture, cultural diversity, social activism, design, and communication. The course consists of a mix of lecture, in-class discussion, popular music (Los Tigres del Norte, Beyoncé, Merle Haggard), and films including documentary Eyes on the Prize, The Reconstruction of Asa Carter, classic Hollywood Imitation of Life, Apocalypse Now, Children of a Lesser God, and vintage commercials.

GE: ArtHum or SocSci, Div, Wrt | ACGH, DD, SS, WC, WE
SUMMER SESSION 1

American Popular Culture

AMS 130

Jun 20 - Jul 29

Hunt 110 | TR, 11:00a.m.–1:30p.m. | Instructor: Karl Zoller

In this course, we’ll be learning about several models of how to analyze pop culture, including but not limited to critical race theory, feminist theory, and Marxist cultural theory. Your tasks will be to: 1) consider these models in relation to your own pop culture preferences and experiences, and 2) write a series of essays that applies these models and experiences to specific forms of pop culture, like the novel, film, music, and sports.
SUMMER SESSION 2

Asian American Cultural Study

ASA 4
Aug 1 - Sep 9

Grove 1283 | MWF, 11:00a.m.–1:15p.m. | Instructor: Omar Abdullah

This course examines the intersections of race, representation, and popular culture in relation to diverse Asian American communities. We will analyze Asian American cultural production, including comedic performances, television/film, and new media.

GE: ArtHum, Div, Wrt | ACGH, DD, OL, VL, WE
For questions please contact oabdullah@ucdavis.edu