Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department
Course Prefix and Number: AMST 490
Course Title: American Studies Seminar

Digital Descriptions:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>STUDENT DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>PAY-HOUR DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td># Cr Hrs — # Lec Hrs — # Lab Hrs</td>
<td>Total # = Lec Hrs + Lab Hrs</td>
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<td>3 — 3 — 0</td>
<td>3 = 3 + 0 X 3/3</td>
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Catalog Description: The seminar will enable students to practice the various theories and methods for the academic study of the American experience. The goals of the seminar are to help students attain information and conceptual tools needed for graduate work in American Studies, and to assess the achievement of the learning goals for the undergraduate major. To accomplish the first goal students will become familiar with the field of American Studies by reading and discussing a major work chosen by the instructor from the list below. To assess achievement of learning goals for the undergraduate major students will contribute to the field's literature by conducting original research on a topic of relevance to American Studies and composing a substantial paper on that topic. Prerequisite: Junior standing.

Prerequisites/Corequisites: Junior standing.

Text: Instructors must choose one text to be used as the foundation of classroom discussion. Instructors may use texts not included in the following list with the approval of the academic department. Acceptable texts are:


Course Objectives: The goals of the seminar are to help students attain information and conceptual tools needed for graduate work in American Studies, and to assess the achievement of the learning goals for the undergraduate major.

TEXT REQUIREMENT
Instructors must choose one text to be used as the foundation of classroom discussion. The list of approved texts may be found in the Master Syllabus.

WRITING REQUIREMENT
In consultation with their instructor, students must choose a research topic of relevance for the American Studies. Students should then present a critical summary of research materials and literature related to that topic and a substantial analytical paper that posits and develops a thesis. The body of the final paper must be 15-20 pages in length and must include proper citations using the style appropriate for the topic. Papers focusing on Sociology or Political Science, for example, should be written following APA requirements. History papers should be written in Chicago style.

Copies of all final drafts of senior papers must be sent to the Department of History and Social Sciences on the home campus to be used for review by the proper accrediting bodies.

Topical Outline: Determined by the text chosen by the instructor.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 25

Prepared by: David Roebuck

Date: October 14, 2003

NOTE: The intention of this master course syllabus is to provide a general outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught, or where it is taught. This generic outline is not intended to restrict the way any individual faculty member teaches the course. The master syllabus, therefore, should be general enough to allow for a diversity of individual approaches to teaching the course, while at the same time it provides guidance on what the course should cover.