

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES**MW 2-3:15 CPR 356**

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Office hours: by appointment
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Course Description: An overview of American Studies, the interdisciplinary study of American culture. Analysis of the arts and literature, including music; social issues; popular culture; material culture; cultural diversity; and social change.

Course objectives and Learning Outcomes: This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary techniques and scope of American Studies.

Students completing this course will understand the interdisciplinary techniques of American Studies as a discipline; how film, music, and other arts embody cultural values; and how social factors combine in the production of regional and national cultures and identities.

This book is required:

Deloria and Olson, *American Studies: A User's Guide* (ISBN 978-0-520-28773-0)
It is available for purchase at the bookstore and also online through the library.

Readings denoted by an asterisk (*) in the following class schedule are posted on Canvas. Please **print them out and bring them** to discussion section.

This class meets twice weekly as a lecture/discussion. Discussions require your participation in **discussions of the assigned reading or film**. Make sure you come to discussion **having completed the assigned reading or viewing**.

Grading for the course is as follows:

Participation: 25%

2 tests: 15% each

3 4-page papers: 15% each

Grading scale: A \geq 93.5; 93.5 \geq A- \geq 90; 90 \geq B+ \geq 86.5; 86.5 \geq B \geq 83.5; 83.5 \geq B- \geq 80; 80 \geq C+ \geq 76.5; 76.5 \geq C \geq 73.5; 73.5 \geq C- \geq 70; 70 \geq D+ \geq 66.5; 66.5 \geq D \geq 63.5; 63.5 \geq D- \geq 60; F < 60.

Class Policies:

Attendance will figure as part of your class participation grade.

Notes or tapes of class lectures may not be sold.

Policies about **disability access, religious observances, academic grievances, academic integrity and misconduct, academic continuity, food insecurity, and sexual harassment** are governed by a central set of policies that apply to all classes at USF. These may be accessed at: <https://www.usf.edu/provost/faculty/core-syllabus-policy-statements.aspx>

Late Work Policy: Late work will be accepted up to one week after the assignment deadline, with a 1/3 letter grade deducted for lateness.

Extra Credit Policy: There is no extra credit available in this course.

Plagiarism is considered by the Department of Humanities and Cultural Studies to constitute a form of Academic Dishonesty, and will be dealt with accordingly. If you have doubts whether your use of another's words or ideas in your paper constitutes plagiarism, please consult your instructor. The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. Before they are graded you will have to submit your papers to this detection system, by which they are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing how much of the paper duplicates that database.

Class Schedule:

M Jan 8	Introduction
W Jan 10	<i>Stagecoach</i> (first half) Assigned Reading: Deloria and Olson, pp. 174-181
M Jan 15	No class – MLK Day Holiday
W Jan 17	<i>Stagecoach</i> (second half) Assigned Reading: Deloria and Olson, pp. 128-132
M Jan 22	<i>Bad Day at Black Rock</i> (first half) Assigned Reading: Deloria and Olson, pp. 195-201
W Jan 24	<i>Bad Day at Black Rock</i> (second half) Assigned Reading: Deloria and Olson, pp. 181-186
M Jan 29	The Navajo
Paper 1 Due	

- W Jan 31** The Pueblo
- M Feb 5** Native Americans and American art and architecture
- W Feb 7** Native Americans and the federal & state governments
- M Feb 12** Assigned Viewing (complete before class): *Dark Wind*
- W Feb 14** Hispanos and Chicanos
- M Feb 19** Assigned Viewing (complete before class): *Lone Star*
- W Feb 21** Mormons
- M Feb 26** Assigned Viewing (complete before class): *Brigham City*
- W Feb 28** **Midterm test**
- M Mar 4** Cowboys, Prospectors, and Technocrats
Paper 2 Due
- W Mar 6** Assigned Reading: * Tom Wolfe, *The Right Stuff*, chapters 3 and 4

Spring Break

- M Mar 18** Water and Power
Assigned Reading: * *The Great Thirst*, pp. 121-171
- W Mar 20** Assigned Viewing (complete before class): *Chinatown*
- M Mar 25** L.A. music: sweet jazz
Assigned Reading: * A. Berish, "I Dream of Her and Avalon"
- W Mar 27** L.A. music: Johnny Otis
- M Apr 1** L.A. music: Carlos Santana
Assigned Reading: Deloria and Olson, pp. 153-4
- W Apr 3** L.A. music: Linda Ronstadt
- M Apr 8** L.A. music: West Coast hip hop

W Apr 10 Southwest art: murals and graffiti art
Assigned Reading: Deloria and Olson, pp. 148-153

M Apr 15 Southwest art: Pop art and Naïve art

W Apr 17 Southwest art: Burning Man festival

M Apr 22 National identity and regional identities
Paper 3 due

W Apr 24 Final test review

Final Test: as per final exam matrix