# **AMERICAN STUDIES 201-62**

# **Introduction to American Studies (22087)**

# Spring 2025

Online

## **Faculty Information**

**Instructor:** Ashley Loup

**Office:** GH-215

**Phone:** N/A

**Email:** aloup@fullerton.edu

**Office hours:** Tuesday 12:00 pm- 1:00 pm, by appointment, by email.

**Response time:** I will do my best to respond to your emails within 96 hours. If I do not respond in this time frame, please send me another email.

## **Course Information**

## AMST 201-62, Introduction to American Studies

## Schedule Code (22087), Spring 2025,

## Canvas URL: https://csufullerton.instructure.com/courses/3541530

## This is an online class.

**Course Requisite(s):**

None

**Catalog Description:**

With the concept of culture as a unifying principle, the focus is on four separate periods to

provide the framework for understanding American civilization. Several

documents will be used to illustrate the nature and advantages of an interdisciplinary approach.

Meets G.E. Requirement: D.2 (American History, Institutions, and Values)

**Course Materials and Equipment:**

**Required text(s):** This is a zero-cost class. All readings/required resources will be posted on our class Canvas page.

 **Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)**

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture by analyzing the functioning of American cultural texts within historical contexts, using knowledge developed by different disciplines.
2. Students will express an understanding of American cultural diversity that recognizes the historical construction and functioning of categories of identity such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, or region.
3. Students will interpret and analyze critically a range of cultural documents and expressive forms.

## **Grading Policy**

## **Make-up and late submission policy:** No make-up assignments are given, and late work is not accepted. If for some reason you are unable to complete an assignment due to reasons of illness, verified emergency, or other serious and compelling reasons, please send me an email or come to office hours and we can discuss it.

**Grading Breakdown**

Grade Breakdown for AMST 201-62

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Assignment* | *Points = %* |
| Weekly Discussion Posts (10 \*5 points each) | **50** |
| Response Paper #1Response Paper #2Film Screening GuideFilm Response Paper | **10****10****10****20** |
| **Total** | **100** |

**Points/Grade Breakdown**

**A+: 97 – 100**

**A: 93 – 96**

**A-: 90 – 92**

**B+: 87 – 89**

**B: 83 – 86**

**B-: 80 – 82**

**C+: 77 – 79**

**C: 73 – 76**

**C-: 70 – 72**

**D+: 67 – 69**

**D: 65 – 66**

**D-: Below 65**

**Authentication of student work:** Student work will be authenticated by submission through our class Canvas page and the Turnitin software.

\* For this course, students must be the author of all work. The use of generative AI, such as ChatGPT, is not permitted. Use of these tools will be considered a violation of the CSUF Academic Dishonesty Policies and may be subject to disciplinary action. **If there are any issues with the legitimacy of your work, it will be submitted directly to the office of Academic Dishonesty.**

**Penalty for academic dishonesty:** Students must be familiar with the policy on academic integrity, found on the [student information](http://fdc.fullerton.edu/teaching/syllabus.php) website and in [UPS 300.021](http://www.fullerton.edu/senate/publications_policies_resolutions/ups/UPS%20300/UPS%20300.021.pdf). The penalty in this course for academic dishonesty is a failing grade [or other penalties, if applicable], and the incident is reported to the [Office of Student Conduct](http://www.fullerton.edu/sa/assessment/engagement/judicialaffairs.php).

**Extra credit:** There are no extra credit options in this course.

## **Required Course Assignments**

**Weekly Discussion Posts.** For this class, you will be writing **10** discussion posts over the course of the semester. Discussion post prompts will be posted every **Monday by noon**, along with all other assigned materials. Forum posts will be due the following **Sunday by noon**. Each week’s prompt will feature different questions, so make sure to read the prompts carefully. Discussion posts that do not address the prompt will result in a zero. These discussion posts will ask you to reflect on that week’s topics, readings, podcasts, and/or visual materials, so you will need to go through them before posting your responses. Each post must be **at least** 250 words. If the post does not reach this minimum, you will lose significant points. You have the entire week to get these posts completed and for that reason, **late posts will NOT be accepted. As a reminder, if you plagiarize or utilize AI to write these posts, you will be recommended to the CSUF Academic Integrity Office and receive a zero in the course.**

**Response Paper #1**. For this paper, you will be asked to respond to a prompt that will address the larger themes and ideas from the first **6** weeks of class. This paper must be at least **750** words long, which works out to about 3 pages double spaced. This paper will need to incorporate **3** readings from **3** different weeks. You will not be permitted to use any outside materials. Anything you consult must come from our assigned materials. I will post the prompt and specifics for this paper on Canvas during Week 5. **As a reminder, if you plagiarize or utilize AI to write this paper, you will be recommended to the CSUF Academic Integrity Office and receive a zero in the course.**

**Response Paper #2.** For this paper, you will be asked to respond to a prompt that will address the larger themes and ideas from weeks 8-10. This paper must be at least **750** words long, which works out to about 3 pages double spaced. This paper will need to incorporate **3** readings from **3** different weeks. You will not be permitted to use any outside materials. Anything you consult must come from our assigned materials. I will post the prompt and specifics for this paper on Canvas during Week 9. **As a reminder, if you plagiarize or utilize AI to write this paper, you will be recommended to the CSUF Academic Integrity Office and receive a zero in the course.**

**Film Screening Guide.** To end this semester, you will be watching the film *Ex Machina*(2014). The last unit of this class will focus on science fiction, Afrofuturism, and Asian futurism, which are all topics covered in this film. Currently, CSUF has free access to this film through Kanopy. I will also be embedding the film in our class Canvas page for easy access. I will post the screening guide and film link with the other assigned materials in Week 13. **As a reminder, if you plagiarize or utilize AI to fill out this screening guide, you will be recommended to the CSUF Academic Integrity Office and receive a zero in the course.**

**Film Response Paper.** For this paper, you will be asked to respond to a prompt that will address the larger themes and ideas from the last unit of the class as well as the film, *Ex Machina* (2014). This paper must be at least **750** words long, which works out to about 3 pages double spaced. This paper will need to incorporate **BOTH readings from Week 13 & the Abnet chapter from week 12.** You will not be permitted to use any outside materials. Anything you consult must come from our assigned materials. I will post the prompt and specifics for this paper on Canvas during Week 14. **As a reminder, if you plagiarize or utilize AI to write this paper, you will be recommended to the CSUF Academic Integrity Office and receive a zero in the course.**

## **Technical Problems**

If you encounter any technical difficulties, contact the instructor immediately to document the problem. Then, contact for help: For technical difficulties: [student IT help desk](http://www.fullerton.edu/it/students/helpdesk/index.php), email, phone = 657-278-8888, walk-in [student genius center](http://www.fullerton.edu/it/students/sgc/index.php), online chat - log into the [portal](http://my.fullerton.edu); click “Online IT Help”; click “Live Chat.” For issues with Canvas: Canvas Support Hotline = 855-302-7528, [student support chat](https://cases.canvaslms.com/liveagentchat?chattype=student&sfid=001A000000YzcwQIAR), [faculty support chat](https://cases.canvaslms.com/liveagentchat?chattype=admin&sfid=001A000000YzcwQIAR).

\*In the event of a technical problem that would prevent you from being able to submit your work, I will communicate with you through posted announcements via our class Canvas page.

## **Technical Competencies**

## The website with [student information for course syllabi](http://fdc.fullerton.edu/teaching/syllabus.php) describes the student information technology (IT) services and competencies. In brief, students should have access to a current and reliable computer or tablet (Windows or Mac) and internet connectivity. Students are also expected to have basic computer skills. Visit the student information website above for more details and how you can receive technology assistance if needed.

## **Student Resources Website**

It is the student’s responsibility to read and understand the required and important [student information for course syllabi](https://fdc.fullerton.edu/teaching/syllabus.php). Included is information about:

* University learning goals
* General Education learning outcomes
* Etiquette
* Students’ rights to accommodations
* Campus student support resources
* Academic integrity
* Emergency Preparedness
* Library services
* Student IT services and competencies
* Software privacy and accessibility
* Accessibility statement
* Diversity Statement
* Land acknowledgment
* Final exam schedule
* Semester calendar

## **Classroom Expectations**

**Cell phones:** Out of courtesy and respect for others, you should turn off/silence your cell phones during class.

**Headphones:** Out of courtesy and respect for your professor and others, you need to remove any headphones when entering the classroom.

**Recording:** Any requests to record class meetings will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the instructor. If permitted, any approved recordings are for private study and “shall not be made publicly accessible without the written consent of the instructor and any students recorded in the class” ([UPS 330.230](https://www.fullerton.edu/senate/publications_policies_resolutions/ups/UPS%20300/UPS%20330.230.pdf)). Any approved recordings must be deleted at the end of the semester.

**Technology:** If you need any assistance with technology, including checking out a laptop computer for the semester, obtaining ancillaries (e.g., webcam, microphone), accessing mi-fi, downloading free software for class or personal use, or other help, you can find what you need at the [student technology services](https://www.fullerton.edu/IT/students/) website. Another useful website is [IT essential resources](http://www.fullerton.edu/it/essential-resources/).

## **General Education Requirements** ([UPS 411.201](https://www.fullerton.edu/senate/publications_policies_resolutions/ups/UPS%20400/UPS%20411.201.pdf))

1. Meets G.E. Requirement: D.2 (American History, Institutions, and Values) The learning objectives for this and all GE areas are listed in [UPS 411.201](https://www.fullerton.edu/senate/publications_policies_resolutions/ups/UPS%20400/UPS%20411.201.pdf).
2. Statement of the way in which the course meets the GE writing requirement. Consider: This course meets the GE writing requirement with written assignments to be assessed by prompt and careful grading from an approved set of guidelines. Assignments will be returned in a timely manner, with feedback, for improvement on subsequent writing.
3. A grade of “D” (1.0) or higher is required to meet this General Education requirement. A grade of “D- “(0.7) or below will not satisfy this General Education requirement.

**Class Schedule (Subject to revision)**

All required readings, assignments, and due dates will be listed here. All readings will be located on Canvas, or the library website.

**Unit 1: Early Encounters: Indigenous Americans and Colonists in the American Imagination**

**Week 1 (Monday January 20th)**

**Lecture:** Welcome to AMST 201-62!

**Read:** Elaine Tyler May, “’The Radical Roots of American Studies’: Presidential Address to the American Studies Association, November 9th, 1995.”

**Discussion Post #1 DUE Sunday January 26th by NOON**

**Week 2 (Monday January 27th)**

**Lecture:** The Power of the Narrative: George Catlin, The Frontier, & Native American Representations in Art

**Read:** Jill Lepore, *The Name of War: King Phillip’s War and the Origins of American Identity,* Prologue.

Daniel K. Richter, *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America,* Ch. 4.

**Discussion Post #2 DUE Sunday February 2nd by NOON**

**Week 3 (Monday February 3rd)**

**Lecture:** A Monument to a Narrative: First Contact Narratives & Public Memory

**Read:** Lisa Blee & Jean M. O’Brien, *Monumental Mobility: The Memory Work of Massasoit,* Ch. 4

Lisa Blee & Jean M. O’Brien, *Monumental Mobility: The Memory Work of Massasoit,* Epilogue

**Discussion Post #3 DUE Sunday February 9th by NOON**

**Unit 2: Slavery, Reconstruction, and Remembering in the 19th and 20th Centuries**

**Week 4 (Monday February 10th)**

**Lecture:** The Antebellum South and the Institution of Slavery

**Read:** Edward E. Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism,* “The Left Hand: 1805-1861”

**Discussion Post #4 DUE Sunday February 16th by NOON**

**Week 5 (Monday February 17th)**

**Lecture:** Dismantling the Institution: The Civil War, The Confederacy, & the Narrative of Freedom

**Read:** Kirk Savage, Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves: Race, War, and Monument in Nineteenth-Century America, Introduction and Ch. 3

**Discussion Post #5 DUE Sunday February 23rd by NOON**

**Response Paper #1 Prompt**

**Week 6 (Monday February 24th)**

**Lecture:** Reconstruction and the Myth of Equality: From Plessy to Brown

**Read:** Clint Smith, *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America,* Ch. 2, “The Monticello Plantation” & Ch. 3, “The Whitney Plantation”

**Discussion Post #6 DUE** **Sunday March 2nd by NOON**

**Week 7 (Monday March 3rd)**

**Lecture:** Response Paper #1 Discussion

**\*Optional Paper Conferences Drop in Office Hour\***

**Response Paper #1 DUE Sunday March 9th by NOON**

**Unit 3: Revolutionary Politics: Women, the Civil Rights Movement, and Art at Midcentury**

**Week 8 (Monday March 10th)**

**Lecture:** The Early Civil Rights Movement & The Roles of Black Women in tumultuous 1960s,

**Read:** Tanisha C. Ford, *Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and The Global Politics of Soul,* Ch. 2 & Ch. 3

**Discussion Post #7 DUE Sunday March 16th by NOON**

**Week 9 (Monday March 17th)**

**Lecture:** Revolutionary Politics in California: Farmworkers, Students, & Artists

**Read:** Sean Carrillo,“¡Tenemos Asco!: An Oral History of the Chicano Art Group,” 2022

UFW, “The Story of Cesar Chavez”

**Watch:** “The ASCO Interviews”

**Discussion Post #8 DUE Sunday March 23rd by NOON**

**Response Paper #2 Prompt**

**Week 10 (Monday March 24th)**

**Lecture:** Autonomy For Whom?: Birth Control, Gender, & the Sexual Revolution

**Read:** Elaine Tyler May, *America and the Pill: A History of Promise, Peril, and Liberation,* Intro & Ch. 1

Elaine Tyler May, *America and the Pill: A History of Promise, Peril, and Liberation,* Ch. 4 & Conclusion

**Discussion Post #9 DUE Sunday March 30th by NOON**

**Spring Break March 31 – April 6**

**Week 11 (Monday April 7th)**

**Lecture:** Response Paper #2 Discussion

**\*Optional Paper Conferences Drop in Office Hour\***

**Response Paper #2 DUE Sunday April 13th by NOON.**

**Unit 4: Science Fiction and the History of the Future**

**Week 12 (Monday April 14th)**

**Lecture:** Introduction to American Science Fiction

**Read:** Edward James, “Cyberpunk and Beyond,” (1994)

Dustin Abnet, “Cheerful Robots,” (2020)

**Discussion Post #10 DUE (Last one!)**

**Week 13 (Monday April 21st)**

**Lecture:** Science Fiction & The History of the Future: Afrofuturism & Asian Futurism

**Read:** Allison Hsu, “Imagining Asian Futurity: History, Multiplicity, and Racial Solidarity”

Trevor Richardson, “Objectification and Abjectification in Ex Machina and Ghost in the Shell”

**Watch:** *Ex Machina*

**Film Screening Guide DUE Sunday April 27th by NOON**

**Week 14 (Monday April 28th)**

**Lecture:** The Futures of American Studies and the Humanities Writ Large

**Read:** Willard Dix, “Eliminating the Humanities Decimates Every Student’s Education”

**Film Response Paper Prompt**

**Week 15 (Monday May 5th)**

**Lecture:** Film Response Paper Discussion

**\*Optional Paper Conferences Drop in Office Hour\***

**Film Response Paper DUE Sunday May 11th by NOON**