

FALL 2026 CURRICULUM

Center for American Studies

Hamilton Hall 319

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SEMINARS

**THE SUPREME COURT IN AMERICAN HISTORY
AMST 3930 SEC. 002 - M 6:10-8:00 PM
BENJAMIN ROSENBERG**

As Tocqueville observed, "scarcely any political question arises in the United States that is not resolved, sooner or later, into a judicial question." As a consequence, the Supreme Court of the US has been at the center of many of the most significant developments in American history. It has played significant roles in, for example, (1) the creation of the young republic and the achievement of a balance between states and the federal government, (2) race relations, including the institution of slavery, (3) the rights of workers, (4) civil rights, and (5) elections. This seminar will explore the Supreme Court's role in American society by examining its decisions on key issues throughout its history.

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AMERICAN GRAPHIC NOVEL

AMST 3933 SEC. 001 - W 2:10-4:00 PM

JEREMY DAUBER & PAUL LEVITZ

The course seeks to combine literary and historical approaches to investigate one of the most rapidly growing, increasingly influential, and increasingly critically recognized forms of American popular literature: the graphic novel. A historical overview of the medium's development, complete with analysis of relevant broader institutional and cultural factors that illuminate the development of American media culture more generally, will be complemented by a study of a series of recent works that illuminate the medium's explosive maturation.

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JOURNALISM AND DEMOCRACY

AMST 3937 SEC. 001 - W 4:10-6:00 PM

CAROLINE MILLER

The midterm elections offer a prime opportunity to examine, in real time, the critical role the press plays in the American political process and how that role has been disrupted in the digital era. We'll look back at some classic pieces of 20th-century political journalism, from Theodore White to Hunter Thompson, and compare them to coverage of the 2024 campaign. How have social media and hyper-partisan news sites changed the discourse? Who's covering groups underrepresented (or misrepresented) in legacy media? And what happens to the decisions voters make when disinformation is exploding and the fact base is under assault?

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AMERICAN CULTURAL CRITICISM

AMST 3930UN SEC. 001 - R 2:10-4:00 PM

CASEY BLAKE

This course is an intensive seminar on American cultural criticism since the late 19th century, with particular emphasis on debates over modernist currents in the arts from the 1910s through the 1960s. Readings will consist primarily of works by major interpreters of American culture, including John Dewey, Constance Rourke, Clement Greenberg, Harold Rosenberg, Allan Kaprow, Ralph Ellison, Paul Goodman, and Susan Sontag. Each student will write a research paper on a major critic or controversy in 20th century culture.

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**FREE SPEECH IN AMERICAN SOCIETY
AMST 3943 SEC. 001 - R 4:10-6:00 PM
RYAN CARR**

In the contemporary USA, free speech is often understood as a legal doctrine or a branch of Constitutional Law. But it can also be understood as a tradition, a way of life, part of American culture. In this class, we will explore the hypothesis that America's free speech tradition has been shaped primarily by people who aren't lawyers or lawmakers: by beatniks, pamphleteers, abolitionists, Red Power activists, queers, feminists, Free Lovers, poets, preachers, and hackers. This course provides a transnational, cultural perspective on the history of free speech that decenters the First Amendment from its quasi-sacrosanct place in the historiography of American liberty. We will survey the wide range of social contexts in which struggles over free speech have occurred in American history.

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AFFILIATED FACULTY

EQUALITY AND THE LAW

POLS UN3921 - T 6:10 - 8:00 PM

ROBERT AMDUR

PASCAL AND THE MODERN SELF

HIST GU4363 - R 10:10 AM - 12:00 PM

MARK LILLA

IMMIGRANT NEW YORK

HIST UN3462 - M 10:10 AM - 12:00 PM

REBECCA KOBRIN

SENIOR SEMINAR IN FILM STUDIES

FILM UN3900 - R 10:10 AM - 12:00 PM

RACQUEL GATES

INTRO TO COMPARATIVE ETHNIC STUDIES

CSER UN1010 - MW 1:10 - 2:25 PM

SHANA REDMOND

US LESBIAN & GAY HISTORY

HIST UN2533 - MW 11:40 - 12:55 PM

GEORGE CHAUNCEY

MODES OF INQUIRY

CSER UN3919 - R 12:10- 2:00 PM

JESSICA H. LEE

WHITENESS, SENTIMENT AND POLITICAL BELONGING

CSER UN3303 - R 4:10 - 6:00 PM

CATHERINE FENNELL