

Department of Humanities & Cultural Studies
Graduate Courses

Fall 2024

AMS 6934: Burlesque

From ancient Greece to the British Blonde's arrival in New York in 1868, the art and history of burlesque has experienced many iterations that have evolved and influenced different forms of American entertainment. In this course, students will explore the roots of burlesque, prominent types of burlesque, key burlesque performers, and how burlesque has influenced American entertainment today.

HUM 6583: Global Cinema to 1960

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

HUM 6588: Animation History and Theory

This course critically explores animated media around the world from the late-nineteenth century until the present. Taking seriously animation's status as a distinctly abstract process, we raise fundamental and often unexamined questions about movement, color, rhythm, space, time, collectivity, race, gender, sexuality, nationality, politics, economics, computation, colonialism, and ecology.

HUM 6588: Horror Film

This course investigates the American horror film's main currents and multiple variations, including its early interest in monsters and mad scientists, its post-1960 turn toward psycho killers and internal possessions, and its recent move to technology and torture.

HUM 6588: Film, Sound, Music

This course provides an overview of sound and music in film history, including both aesthetic and technological aspects. In addition to a historical survey, this course covers important concepts and theories for the analysis of sound and music in cinema.

HUM 6814: Intro to Graduate Study

An introduction to graduate study in humanities and cultural studies. This course introduces incoming graduate students to the research interests of the departmental faculty and the program emphases, including textual analysis and analytical writing.

HUM 6815: Research Seminar

A course emphasizing the practical aspects of research in the liberal arts including analyzing primary sources, assembling a bibliography, synthesizing secondary sources, and defining an argument.

HUM 6939: Culture & Postcolonialism in South & Southeast Asia

This course invites students to explore and cultivate a critical understanding of the complexities of history, the interplay between colonizer and colonized, nuances of power struggle, and colonial processes of

forging national identities. Through a diverse range of art forms from South Asia, including music, dance, literature, and film, we examine the colonial past of south and southeast Asia and the intricacies of postcolonial realities.

Summer 2024

HUM 6588: The Hollywood Blockbuster (Summer B)

This course surveys the technological, aesthetic and social significance of the New Hollywood blockbuster from its emergence in the 1970's until the present day. Linking aesthetic shifts in American moving images to broader transformations in political economy, the course traces the historical transformation of screen action from the ethereal “dream factory” of pre-1960s cinema to the impact-driven “thrill ride” of the post-1970s blockbuster.

Spring 2024

AMS 6805: Black American Cinema

This course provides students with the historical and intellectual grounds of cinema made by Black Americans. [W]e'll cover a broad variety of cinema, moving from the birth of cinema all the way into web series and digital video installations.

HUM 6494: Plato's Symposium

Studies in medieval philosophies, visual arts, music, literature, and architecture and their inter-relationships.

HUM 6584: Global Cinema & New Media since 1960

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

HUM 6586: Film Theory

This course explores critical theory with an eye to both film studies and cultural studies. Largely a reading course, this seminar provides graduate students a background in the primary texts, history, and major topics of critical theory. Our central focus is to illuminate these theories so students can use them in their own work and go on to explore topics of specific interest. The first portion of the term will look at Marxist, Linguistic, and Psychoanalytic theories as three streams of thought that influenced many subsequent cultural and film theories. Then we will read about a range of topics, including: mediation, phenomenology, and affect; feminist, gender, and queer theories; and ethnicity and postcolonial theories.

HUM 6587: National Cinemas

Course will explore key films, filmmakers, and cinematic techniques and approaches of selected national cinema styles from around the globe. Topic varies.

HUM 6588: Film Noir and the Western

In this course, we will examine two genres popular during the classical Hollywood period in order to think more intently about what constitutes a genre and how genre relates to larger issues of authorship, history, and ideology. This class examines the historical shape of both movements, articulating them through close readings, analysis, film theory, and genre studies.

HUM 6801: Theories and Methods of Cultural Studies

This course acquaints students with the most important theories and methods in the field of cultural studies, such as semiotics, feminist and postcolonial theory, affect theory, and phenomenology.

HUM 6939: Utopia & Science Fiction

This is a course that explores the idea of utopia—a perfect place and society—through works of science fiction. In this course we will address not only the meaning of utopia, but explore how it has been conceived, attempted, thought about, and represented in literature and film. Finally, we will be concerned not only with fictional representations, but about the ideas of utopia in real life.

Fall 2023

HUM 6583: Global Cinema & New Media to 1960

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

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HUM 6588: Film, Sound, Music

This course provides an overview of sound and music in film history, including both aesthetic and technological aspects. In addition to a historical survey, this course covers important concepts and theories for the analysis of sound and music in cinema.

HUM 6588: Video Art

This course offers an intensive introduction to video art and a selection of discourses informing it. [W]e will follow a number of narratives, witnessing the changing shape of postmodern aesthetics, the gradual influx of high technology into gallery and installation, and the re-territorialization of video in digital contexts.

HUM 6588: Ethics and Film

This course examines contemporary ethical problems and their representation in film.

HUM 6588: The Hollywood Blockbuster

This course surveys the technological, aesthetic and social significance of the New Hollywood blockbuster from its emergence in the 1970's until the present day. Linking aesthetic shifts in American moving images to broader transformations in political economy, the course traces the historical transformation of screen action from the ethereal “dream factory” of pre-1960s cinema to the impact-driven “thrill ride” of the post-1970s blockbuster.

HUM 6814: Introduction to Graduate Study

An introduction to graduate study in humanities and cultural studies. This course introduces incoming graduate students to the research interests of the departmental faculty and the program emphases, including textual analysis and analytical writing.

HUM 6815: Research Seminar

A course emphasizing the practical aspects of research in the liberal arts including analyzing primary sources, assembling a bibliography, synthesizing secondary sources, and defining an argument.

Summer 2023

HUM 6588: Documentary & Experimental Cinema

This course rethinks conventional oppositions between experimental and documentary cinema by exploring their aesthetics, histories, and dominant theories.

Spring 2023

AMS 6805: Enduring Questions in American Culture: American Identities

This course explores the issue of identity as an enduring theme in American life since the 19th century. How have we “pulled ourselves together” as individuals, as groups, and as a nation, and at what cost? Topics include the frontier hero and heroine, immigration and ethnicity, the intersection of regional and class identities, and gender.

AMS 6805: Black American Cinema

This course provides students with the historical and intellectual grounds of cinema made by Black Americans. [W]e'll cover a broad variety of cinema, moving from the birth of cinema all the way into web series and digital video installations.

AMS 6805: About Face: Race & Performance

Course uses contemporary issues around identity and power to explore American culture, past and present. Topic varies.

HUM 6588: Animation History and Theory

This course critically explores animated media around the world from the late-nineteenth century until the present. Taking seriously animation's status as a distinctly abstract process, we raise fundamental and often unexamined questions about movement, color, rhythm, space, time, collectivity, race, gender, sexuality, nationality, politics, economics, computation, colonialism, and ecology.

HUM 6588: New German Cinema to Present

In this course, we will look at post-1945 German films from the New German Cinema (1960s-early 80s) to the films of the united Germany (1990-today). Themes include Germany's division in two states, the student rebellion and domestic terrorism, Germany's unification and nostalgia for the East, immigration and the multicultural society, the haunting legacy of Fascism and the Holocaust, the European refugee crisis, and the destruction of the environment.

HUM 6815: Research Seminar

A course emphasizing the practical aspects of research in the liberal arts including analyzing primary sources, assembling a bibliography, synthesizing secondary sources, and defining an argument.

HUM 6939: Representing Trauma & Disability

This course will focus on empathy, trauma, and disability with a particular focus on arts, culture, representation, and mediation. My main focus is to introduce you to the main theoretical sources and debates in each field. In focusing on representation (be it literary, visual, or auditory), there are overlapping questions, such as: How are audiences meant to relate to representations of others' bodies? For this reason, the issue of empathy will work as a frame for the work we do in this class.

Fall 2022

AMS 6805: Crossings, Experiments, Future

Explores the historical changes and continuities of an enduring theme, issue, pattern, or practice in American culture across multiple cultural eras. E.g., democracy, wilderness, jazz, domesticity, regionalism, ethnicity. Topic varies.

HUM 6494: The World of Dante's Paradiso

Focuses on relationships between geographical location and cultural dynamics. Emphases include the roles of natural environments, core-periphery relations, and local identities in the development of cultural practices. Topic varies.

HUM 6583: Global Cinema to 1960

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

HUM 6588: History of Video Art

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

HUM 6588: Screening the Holocaust

In this course we will analyze the properties of cinematic language, reconstruct the sociohistorical and psychological formation of memory and imagination, and question our own reception of films. We will examine aesthetic and philosophical controversies surrounding these representations as well as analyze the narrative and editing strategies filmmakers use to relate collective history and individual trauma.

HUM 6588: Themes/Genres in Film & New Media

This course focuses on a particular aesthetic genre or medium. Emphasis is on close readings of generic paradigms and how these shape social ideas and identities. Topic varies.

HUM 6814: Introduction to Graduate Study

An introduction to graduate study in humanities and cultural studies. This course introduces incoming graduate students to the research interests of the departmental faculty and the program emphases, including textual analysis and analytical writing.

HUM 6815: Research Seminar

A course emphasizing the practical aspects of research in the liberal arts including analyzing primary sources, assembling a bibliography, synthesizing secondary sources, and defining an argument.

Spring 2022

AMS 6805: Enduring Questions in American Culture

Explores the historical changes and continuities of an enduring theme, issue, pattern, or practice in American culture across multiple cultural eras. E.g., democracy, wilderness, jazz, domesticity, regionalism, ethnicity. Topic varies.

AMS 6254: Cultural Era

Interdisciplinary analysis of American life during a specific cultural era.

AMS 6805: About Face: Race and Performance

Course uses contemporary issues around identity and power to explore American culture, past and present. Topic varies.

HUM 6475: War, Violence, and Memoir

Concentration on major artists and recent trends.

HUM 6584: Global Cinema since 1960

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

HUM 6588: Animation History and Theory

This course critically explores animated media around the world from the late-nineteenth century until the present. Taking seriously animation's status as a distinctly abstract process, we raise fundamental and often unexamined questions about movement, color, rhythm, space, time, collectivity, race, gender, sexuality, nationality, politics, economics, computation, colonialism, and ecology.

HUM 6801: Theories and Methods of Cultural Studies

This course acquaints students with the most important theories and methods in the field of cultural studies, such as semiotics, feminist and postcolonial theory, affect theory, and phenomenology.

HUM 6939: Utopia and Science Fiction

This is a course that explores the idea of utopia—a perfect place and society—through works of science fiction. In this course we will address not only the meaning of utopia, but explore how it has been conceived, attempted, thought about, and represented in literature and film. Finally, we will be concerned not only with fictional representations, but about the ideas of utopia in real life.

HUM 6939: Film Noir and the Western

In this course, we will examine two genres popular during the classical Hollywood period in order to think more intently about what constitutes a genre and how genre relates to larger issues of authorship, history, and ideology. This class examines the historical shape of both movements, articulating them through close readings, analysis, film theory, and genre studies.

Fall 2021

AMS 6805: Enduring Questions in American Culture

Explores the historical changes and continuities of an enduring theme, issue, pattern, or practice in American culture across multiple cultural eras. E.g., democracy, wilderness, jazz, domesticity, regionalism, ethnicity. Topic varies.

HUM 6584: Global Cinema since 1960

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

HUM 6814: Introduction to Graduate Study

An introduction to graduate study in humanities and cultural studies. This course introduces incoming graduate students to the research interests of the departmental faculty and the program emphases, including textual analysis and analytical writing.

HUM 6815: Research Seminar

A course emphasizing the practical aspects of research in the liberal arts including analyzing primary sources, assembling a bibliography, synthesizing secondary sources, and defining an argument.

HUM 6588: History of Video Art

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

HUM 6588: Video Art

This course offers an intensive introduction to video art and a selection of discourses informing it. [W]e will follow a number of narratives, witnessing the changing shape of postmodern aesthetics, the gradual influx of high technology into gallery and installation, and the re-territorialization of video in digital contexts.

HUM 6588: Themes/Genres in Film & New Media

This course focuses on a particular aesthetic genre or medium. Emphasis is on close readings of generic paradigms and how these shape social ideas and identities. Topic varies.

Spring 2021

HUM 6584: Global Cinema since 1960

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

HUM 6588: Ethics and Film

This course examines contemporary ethical problems and their representation in film.

HUM 6801: Theories and Methods of Cultural Studies

This course acquaints students with the most important theories and methods in the field of cultural studies, such as semiotics, feminist and postcolonial theory, affect theory, and phenomenology.

Fall 2020

HUM 6584: Global Cinema since 1960

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

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HUM 6588: Film, Sound, Music

This course provides an overview of sound and music in film history, including both aesthetic and technological aspects. In addition to a historical survey, this course covers important concepts and theories for the analysis of sound and music in cinema.

HUM 6939: Marriage: Culture and Critique

Each topic is a course of study in a subject not covered by a regular course.

HUM 6939: Heimat (Home) and Migration

Each topic is a course of study in a subject not covered by a regular course.

HUM 6939: Dante's Inferno

Focuses on relationships between geographical location and cultural dynamics. Emphases include the roles of natural environments, core-periphery relations, and local identities in the development of cultural practices. Topic varies.

Spring 2020**AMS 6254: Cultural Era American Culture in the 70s**

Interdisciplinary analysis of American life during a specific cultural era.

HUM 6584: Global Cinema since 1960

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

HUM 6587: German Directors in Hollywood

Course will explore key films, filmmakers, and cinematic techniques and approaches of selected national cinema styles from around the globe.

HUM 6588: Movie Musicals

This course focuses on a particular aesthetic genre or media. Emphasis is on close readings of the media or genre in question, and on how media or generic paradigms shape ideas and identities. Topic varies.

HUM 6939: Perspectives on Emotions

Each topic is a course of study in a subject not covered by a regular course.

HUM 6939: Social Movements in the Americas

Each topic is a course of study in a subject not covered by a regular course.

Fall 2019**AMS 6805: Enduring Questions in American Culture**

Explores the historical changes and continuities of an enduring theme, issue, pattern, or practice in American culture across multiple cultural eras. E.g., democracy, wilderness, jazz, domesticity, regionalism, ethnicity.

HUM 6456: Human Rights in Latin America

Examples from the arts and letters of the U.S.; analyses of their relationships to the concepts of progress and aesthetic judgement. From 1890 to present.

HUM 6583: Global Cinema to 1960

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

HUM 6587: National Cinemas: Bollywood Film

This course focuses on a particular aesthetic genre or media. Emphasis is on close readings of the media or genre in question, and on how media or generic paradigms shape ideas and identities. Topic varies.

HUM 6814: Introduction to Graduate Study

An introduction to graduate study in humanities and cultural studies. This course introduces incoming graduate students to the research interests of the departmental faculty and the program emphases, including textual analysis and analytical writing.

HUM 6815: Research Seminar

A course emphasizing the practical aspects of research in the liberal arts including analyzing primary sources, assembling a bibliography, synthesizing secondary sources, and defining an argument.

HUM 6939: Feminine Theory and Cultural Practice

Each topic is a course of study in a subject not covered by a regular course.

HUM 6939: Trauma, Disability, & Representation

This course will focus on empathy, trauma, and disability with a particular focus on arts, culture, representation, and mediation. My main focus is to introduce you to the main theoretical sources and debates in each field. In focusing on representation (be it literary, visual, or auditory), there are overlapping questions, such as: How are audiences meant to relate to representations of others' bodies? For this reason, the issue of empathy will work as a frame for the work we do in this class.

Summer 2019

HUM 6588: Documentary and Experimental Film

This course rethinks conventional oppositions between experimental and documentary cinema by exploring their aesthetics, histories, and dominant theories.

Spring 2019

HUM: Contemporary Arts & Letters

HUM 6584: Global Cinema since 1960

This course offers students an advanced survey of film and film culture from the birth of cinema in the 1880s to the collapse of the Hollywood studio system in the 1960s. We examine cinema's development as an aesthetic and cultural practice through a global lens, looking at the development of cinema across cultures and between various historical moments.

HUM 6588: Hollywood Blockbuster

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HUM 6801: Theories and Methods of Cultural Studies

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