



**AMST 2103: Introduction to American Studies (D, H) (CRN 60076)**  
**Exa von Alt**  
**TR 10:30-11:45**

This course uses the concepts of theories of American Studies to examine how race, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and socioeconomic conditions shape our understanding of who and what defines America and American identity. Coursework begins with an introduction to key concepts such as exceptionalism, nationalism, democracy, and citizenship, before exploring how Americans have used the Native American “other” and “playing Indian” to define these very concepts. African American civil rights and the growth of the carceral state will further flesh out these themes. The course will center on an in-depth exploration of the malleable and elusive American Dream as it has defined and continues to define our shared national experience. Finally, the course will conclude with an exploration of how national food culture reflects the American Dream and our struggles with racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic differences. This class meets both Humanities (H) and Diversity (D) credit requirements.