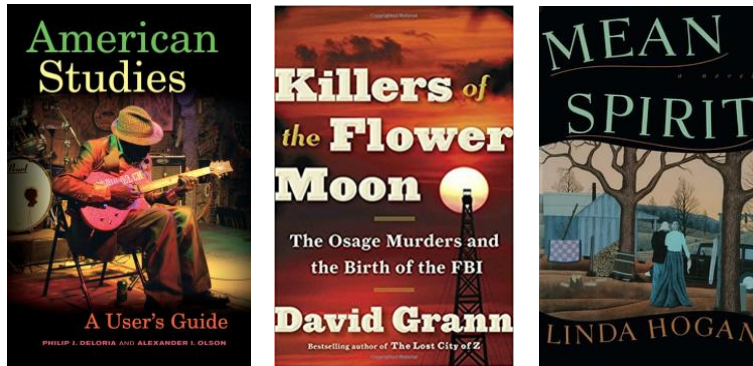


AMST3223: Theories & Methods of American Studies

Professor Stacy Takacs



Course Description

This course surveys the history, theory, and methods of the discipline known as American Studies. Unlike your other American Studies courses, this one requires you to think consciously about the ways you undertake the analysis of cultural and social phenomena. We will address such questions as: What is American Studies? What is its history? What is the proper subject matter of American Studies? What methods of analysis might help us understand this subject matter? Finally, what can or should we do with this "knowledge" once we have it? **This course is required to Major or Minor in American Studies and will be offered in a hybrid format (half online, half face-to-face) to accommodate students on both campuses.**

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Recognize and recall key authors, ideas, methods, and movements in the American Studies field over its history.
- Ask compelling questions about American culture, questions that go beyond the "who, what, where" of reportage into the "how, why and what for" of critical thinking.
- Analyze, evaluate and use primary source materials to build arguments.
- Find, evaluate, and use secondary source materials to build arguments.
- Negotiate differing academic opinions about a subject.
- Integrate and cite source materials using proper technique.

Required Texts

- Philip DeLoria and Alexander Olsen, *American Studies: A User's Guide*
- David Grann, *Killers of the Flower Moon*
- Linda Hogan, *Mean Spirit*
- A selection of readings and exercise on the course D2L