

AMERICAN STUDIES 2103 (D, H)
Introduction to American Studies



John M. Kinder
S CLBN 203

Spring 2021
TR 3:00-4:15

This class introduces the interdisciplinary study of “America”—as a nation, a people, and a cultural-political ideal. Working with a wide variety of texts (e.g., films, photographs, political advertisements, memoir, popular music), students will explore the shifting terrain of American culture. Along the way, they will examine how popular artists, ideologues, and ordinary citizens have attempted to challenge (or reassert) notions of American identity and power in times of crisis and cultural change.

Required: Omar El Akkad, *American War: A Novel*; Isabel Wilkerson, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*; Christopher Bader, Joseph Backer, Edward Day, and Ann Gordon, *Fear Itself: The Causes and Consequences of Fear in America*

