American Studies 200E
Advanced American Studies
Tuesdays 11:30-1:30 SSC 3103

Professor Rob MacDougall
Department of History
Office Hours: Mondays 3:00-5:00 SSC 1003 or by appointment

Course Description
This course explores the history, politics, and culture of the United States from multiple points of view. We will examine the theory and method of American Studies, and we will engage in our own interdisciplinary explorations of American society, values, regions, and ideas. This class will not provide a comprehensive survey of U.S. history—instead, it highlights a number of places and moments in time where the meaning of “America” was constructed, contested, or otherwise up for grabs. Our goal is to locate and define both “American Studies” as an academic field and “America” itself.

Assignments and Evaluation
Students will write two short papers based on the required reading (each 5-8 pages long, each worth 10% of the final grade) and one longer paper demanding additional research (10-15 pages, worth 30%). Students will take turns giving in-class presentations on topics related to the readings for that week (probably 2-3 times over the course of the year, depending on class size); these presentations are worth 20% of the final grade. Class participation will account for 30% of the final grade. This is a bigger percentage than many courses assign to participation; my expectations for class participation are higher too. Active and informed involvement in class discussion is crucial in this course. There will be no midterm or final exam.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>First short paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>November 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second short paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>February 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>April 11</td>
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<td>In-class presentations</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
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Required Texts
The only required text for this course is the American Studies 200E Course Pack. There are two volumes: the first volume should be available now; the second will be available before the start of the second term. There is another optional text: Locating American Studies: The Evolution of a Discipline, edited by Lucy Maddux. We will read a number of essays from this collection, but not the whole book. You may wish to own this book, particularly if you will be continuing in American Studies. If you do not wish to buy it, however, all the articles in this collection can be found in the journal American Quarterly, which is available at Weldon Library and also online.
First Term

Week 1  September 13  What’s American about America?
From the Course Pack:
• John Kouwenhoven, “What’s American About America.”

Week 2  September 20  America and Americans
From the Course Pack:
• J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, “Letter III from an American Farmer.”
• Mark Twain, “What Paul Bourget Thinks of Us.”
• H.L. Mencken, “On Being an American.”
• John Kouwenhoven, “The Disprasing of America.”
• Sacvan Bercovitch, “The Music of America.”
• Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself.”

Week 3  September 27  Classical American Studies
From Locating American Studies or American Quarterly:
• Henry Nash Smith, “Can American Studies Develop a Method?” LAS pp. 1-16 or AQ vol. 9, no. 2 (Summer 1957) pp. 197-208.

From the Course Pack:
• Leo Marx, “American Studies: A Defense of an Unscientific Method.”
• Ann Fabian, “Back to Virgin Land.”

Week 4  October 4  The New American Studies
From Locating American Studies or American Quarterly:

From the Course Pack:
• Richard Horwitz, “Introduction to The American Studies Anthology.”
• Alan Wolfe, “Anti-American Studies.”

Week 5  October 11  Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1630-1693
From the Course Pack:
• John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity.”
• Perry Miller, “Errand into the Wilderness.”
• Sacvan Bercovitch, “The Puritan Errand Reassessed.”
• David Harlan, “A People Blinded from Birth: American History According to Sacvan Bercovitch.”
Week 6  October 18  Virginia, 1676-1776
From the Course Pack:
- Thomas Jefferson, Excerpts from “Notes on the State of Virginia.”
- Edmund Morgan, Excerpts from *American Slavery, American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia.*
- Frederick Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”

Week 7  October 25  Boston, 1773-1776
From the Course Pack:
- Philip Deloria, Excerpts from *Playing Indian.*
- T.H. Breen, “Bonfires of Tea.”

Week 8  November 1  New Orleans, 1814-1860
FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE NOVEMBER 1
From the Course Pack:
- Walter Johnson, Excerpts from *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market.*
- George Fitzhugh, “Sociology for the South.”
- Eugene Genovese, “Paternalism and Class Relations in the Old South.”
- George Frederickson, “The Role of Race in the Planter Ideology of South Carolina.”

Week 9  November 8  The Burned-Over District, 1830-1848
From *Locating American Studies* or *American Quarterly*:
From the Course Pack:
- Paul E. Johnson, “Class, Liquor, and Reform in Rochester.”
- Mary Ryan, “Middle Class Women and Moral Reform.”
- Judith Wellman, Excerpts from *The Road to Seneca Falls: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the First Woman’s Rights Convention.*
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “To Be Free as Man is Free,” and “Declaration of Sentiments.”

Week 10  November 15  Philadelphia, 1844-1865
From *Locating American Studies* or *American Quarterly*:
From the Course Pack:
- “Paddy’s Lament.”
- Noel Ignatiev, Excerpts from *How the Irish Became White.*
Week 11   November 22   Gettysburg, 1863 and after
From the Course Pack:

- Abraham Lincoln, “The Gettysburg Address.”
- David W. Blight, “Quarrel Forgotten or a Revolution Remembered?”
- Steve Goodson, Excerpt from *Highbrows, Hillbillies & Hellfire: Public Entertainment in Atlanta, 1880-1930*.
- John Hope Franklin, “*The Birth of a Nation*: Propaganda as History.”

Week 12   November 29   Chicago, 1871-1894
From the Course Pack:

- Rudyard Kipling, “A Visitor’s View of Chicago.”
- Carl Sandburg, “Chicago Poems.”
- Jane Addams, “The Subjective Necessity of Social Settlements.”
- Donald L. Miller, Excerpts from *City of the Century*.
- Louis Menand, “Chicago.”
- Alan Trachtenberg, “White City.”

Week 13   December 6   Buffalo Bill’s Wild West, 1883-1916
From the Course Pack:

- Frederick Jackson Turner, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History.”
- Patricia Limerick, “The Legacy of Conquest.”
- Richard White, “The Imagined West.”

Second Term

Week 14   January 10   Globalizing American Studies
From the Course Pack:

- Benedict Anderson, excerpt from *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*.
- Randolph Bourne, “Trans-National America.”

Week 15   January 17   Oz, 1892-1907
From the Course Pack:

- William Leach, “A Trickster’s Tale: L. Frank Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.”

Additional Material:

- L. Frank Baum, excerpt from *The Wizard of Oz*. 
Week 16    January 24    Cuba & The Philippines, 1898

From the Course Pack:
- Emily Rosenberg, excerpt from *Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890-1945*.
- Peter W. Stanley, “U.S. Misunderstanding of the Philippines.”

Additional Material:
- Theodore Roosevelt, “The Strenuous Life.”
- Albert Beveridge, “In Support of an American Empire.”
- Mark Twain, “To the Person Sitting in Darkness.”

Week 17    January 31    New York, 1920-1929

From the Course Pack:
- Joel Dinerstein, excerpt from *Swinging the Machine: Modernity, Technology, and African American Culture Between the World Wars*.
- George Chauncey, excerpt from *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the MAKINGS of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940*.

From Locating American Studies or American Quarterly:

Additional Material:
- F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Echoes of the Jazz Age.”
- Langston Hughes, “Let America Be America Again.”

Week 18    February 7    The Dust Bowl, 1931-1939

SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE FEBRUARY 7

From the Course Pack:
- James N. Gregory, excerpt from *American Exodus: The Dust Bowl Migration and Okie Culture in California*.

Additional Material:
- John Steinbeck, excerpts from *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Week 19    February 14    Hawaii, 1941-1945

From the Course Pack:

Additional Material:
- Beth Bailey and David Farber, excerpt from *The First Strange Place: Race and Sex in World War II Hawaii*.

Week 20    February 21    Suburbia, 1950-1963

From the Course Pack:
- Elaine Tyler May, “Explosive Issues: Sex, Women, and the Bomb.”
Conference Week (February 27-March 3)

NO CLASS FEBRUARY 28

Week 21 March 7 The Mississippi Delta, 1955-1966
From the Course Pack:
- Nicholas Lemann, excerpt from *The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How it Changed America*.
- Anne Moody, excerpt from *Coming of Age in Mississippi*.

Week 22 March 14 San Francisco, 1966-1969
From the Course Pack:
- W.J. Rorabaugh, excerpt from *Berkeley at War: The 1960s*.
Additional Material:
- Tom Wolfe, excerpt from *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*.

From the Course Pack:
- Lisa McGirr, excerpt from *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right*.
- Peter Applebome, excerpt from *Dixie Rising: How the South is Shaping American Values, Politics, and Culture*.
- Thomas Frank, excerpt from *What’s the Matter with Kansas: How Conservatives won the Heart of America*.

Week 24 March 28 Los Angeles, 1991-2001
Additional Material:
- Anna Deavere Smith, excerpt from *Twilight: Los Angeles 1992*.

Week 25 April 4 The Rest of the World, 2001-present
From the Course Pack:
- Mary Yoko Brannan, “Bwana Mickey: Constructing Cultural Consumption at Tokyo Disneyland.”
- Dana Heller, “Salesman in Moscow.”
Additional Material:
- Anthony Shadid, excerpt from *Night Draws Near: Iraq’s People in the Shadow of America’s War*.

Week 26 April 11
RESEARCH PAPER DUE APRIL 11