

University of Texas at Austin, Spring 2019  
AMS 310/HIST 315 G  
GAR 0.102  
T/TH 9:30-11:00

Professor: Lauren Gutterman  
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Office hours: T/TH 3-4pm or by  
appointment

TA Ja'nell Ajani  
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T/TH 8:30-9:30  
GAR 0.102

SI/TA Christine Castro  
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T/TH 12-1  
BUR 436

Taylor Johnson  
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T 12-1:30, TH 11:30-1  
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TA Kristen Wilson  
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TH 12-3  
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*Introduction to American Studies: Closer to Home (31005/38735)*

**Course Description:**

AMS 310 is designed to provide an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of American Studies, the study of American history, culture, and politics. Though not a comprehensive U.S. history survey, this course will cover a broad time period, beginning at the turn of the twentieth century and extending into the present day. "Home" will serve as our central theme and organizing framework, allowing us to track changes and ideas in the American past in three major ways. First, we will examine "home" in a literal sense, as a dwelling place or lack thereof, to help us uncover persistent forms of racial and economic inequality. Second, we will consider "home" in a metaphorical sense, as a powerful and enduring symbol of the nation as a whole, drawing our attention to issues of immigration and citizenship. Finally, we will consider "home" in an ideological sense, as a place where ideas about family, gender roles, and sexuality cohere. Throughout, this course will examine shifts in what it has meant to be American, the ways in which that identity has worked to bring people together and push them apart, to bestow power and privilege on some while taking them away from others. Hopefully, students will come away from this course with a firm grounding in the diverse methods of American Studies research, a richer understanding of the American past, and a deeper sense of the multiple meanings of home in the present.

**Goals:**

- To introduce you to a range of materials and methods that can be used to analyze American history, culture, and politics.
- To gain a better understanding of American history over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- To learn how to identify and construct arguments.
- To understand the ways that the domestic sphere is always connected to the broader world.

**Major Questions:**

- What is American Studies?
- Who is does the term "American" include? Who does it exclude?
- How has "home" functioned as a symbol in American political, cultural, and social dialogue?
- What can a focus on the home reveal about transformations in this nation over the past century?
- Where are you most "at home?" How have your homes (in both literal and metaphorical senses) impacted you?

**Required Reading:**

Mae Ngai, *The Lucky Ones: One Family and the Extraordinary Invention of Chinese America* (2012)  
Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949)  
Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959)  
Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* (2007)

All books are available for purchase at the University Co-op and through online vendors. They are also on reserve at the Perry–Castañeda Library (PCL). You may check them out for a 24-hour period.

(FYI: The co-op's new copies of *The Lucky Ones* are expensive. You can get the book much cheaper used or read it with a Kindle app.)

### **Evaluation:**

**Participation: 10%**

**Online reading quizzes: 15%**

**First essay: 20%**

**Second essay: 25%**

**Third essay: 30%**

**Participation: Attendance in this course will not be recorded, but you will not be able to succeed if you do not regularly attend lecture.** Over the course of the semester you will be asked to turn in 10 brief in-class writing assignments which will be graded credit/no credit. Of these 10 writing assignments, 8 will take place on unannounced class days. The other two are related to the following in-class scheduled activities:

- 1) Visit the Harry Ransom Center to analyze primary materials from their collection related to our course themes. Half the class will visit the archives on March 5<sup>th</sup> and the other half of the class will visit the archives on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Visit the Christian-Green Gallery to examine an exhibition of the LA-based photographer Genevieve Gaignard. Half the class will visit the gallery on April 9<sup>th</sup> and the other half of the class will visit the gallery on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

**First and third essays:** The first and third essays will ask you to define key terms from lecture and to connect them to course readings. For each essay you will have a choice of two prompts which will be announced no less than two weeks in advance. The first 4-5 page essay will be based on your historical understanding of *The Lucky Ones* and lecture material from the first third of the course. It will be due **Friday, February 22nd**. The third essay will be due on **Friday, May 10** and will be 5-6 pages. This essay will require you to draw on readings and lectures from the last two-thirds of the semester. These essays should refer ONLY to course material, and do not require additional research.

**Second essay:** Much of this course will be devoted to analyzing domestic spaces and to understanding how the home is always connected to larger social, political, and cultural transformations. For this essay you will be required to describe and analyze a residence in which you have lived for at least a year. You will have to do some background research about this place: When was it built? For whom? How did you come to live there? How did the structure and location of this place affect your life at the daily level and/or in the long-term? This essay will also be 4-5 pages in length, plus a creative rendering of the space. This essay will be due **Friday, April 5th**.

**Online reading quizzes:** There will be one online reading quiz for each of the four central texts in this course. You will be able to take these quizzes whenever you choose within the section of the course to which they correspond. You will have until **11:59 pm Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** to complete the first quiz. You will have until **11:59 pm Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** to complete the second and third quizzes. You will have until **11:59 pm Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** to complete the fourth quiz. No extensions will be granted for quizzes.

All essays should be turned in on CANVAS and printed out and delivered to the American Studies Department on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Burdine Hall by 4pm the day they are due.

### **Grading scale:**

100-93 = A	92-90 = A-	89-87 = B+	86-83 = B
82-80 = B-	79-77 = C+	76-73 = C	72-70 = C-
69-67 = D+	66-63 = D	62-60 = D-	59-0 = F

### **Additional Notes:**

**Cultural diversity flag:** This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. “The Cultural Diversity requirement increases your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. Courses carrying this flag ask you to explore the beliefs, practices, and histories of at least one cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization. Many of these courses also encourage you to reflect on your own cultural experiences.” <https://ugs.utexas.edu/flags/students/about/cultural-diversity>

**Class conduct:** Students are expected to be attentive, respectful, and polite to all classmates and instructors. **Cell phones, laptops, and hand-held electronic devices must be turned off and stowed during class.** Students who engage in disruptive or disrespectful behavior (e.g. falling asleep, engaging in side conversations, using cell phones) will be asked to leave the classroom.

**Supplemental Instruction (SI) Sections:** This course includes SI discussion sections. Ms. Christine Castro will be leading two SI sessions per week. SI sections provide an opportunity to analyze, review, and reinforce all aspects of the course material—from specific details on lectures and reading assignments to wider thematic connections across different time periods. Although optional, SI sections represent an invaluable learning opportunity in a helpful, supportive, and smaller learning environment. Moreover, regular SI attendance has shown to improve overall student performance by an average of one-half to a full letter grade above the class mean. **SI sessions will be held Wednesdays 6-7pm in GDC 2.210 and Fridays 2-3pm in GDC 2.210.**

**Writing assistance:** I strongly encourage you to use the Undergraduate Writing Center, FAC 211, 471-6222, <http://www.uwc.utexas.edu>. The Undergraduate Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis.

**Academic honesty:** I will use Turnitin software on CANVAS. Students who commit acts of academic dishonesty (ex. plagiarism) will receive a 0 on the assignment, and will be referred to the Student Judicial Services and the Office of the Dean of Students. Please visit the Student Judicial Services website for additional information: [www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/](http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/). Plagiarism occurs if you represent as your own work any material that was obtained from another source, regardless of how or where you acquired it. For examples of plagiarism, see [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis\\_plagiarism.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php)

**Students with disabilities:** Any student with a documented disability that requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) through the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at: 471-6259 (voice), or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. Please submit this official letter to me within the first two weeks of class (**by Thursday, January 31**). For all other SSD information, please see: <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>.

**Essay extensions:** Failure to hand in an essay without making prior arrangements with the Teaching Assistants or me will result in a 0. I will allow you to have an essay extension **only** in the event of a documented medical or family emergency, or if you have official, documented University of Texas at Austin business outside of campus. In both cases, you must notify the TAs or me **BEFORE** the assignment is due. Assignments turned in late without a permitted extension will lose one letter grade for each day past the due date.

**Grievance procedure:** If you would like the teaching team to review your essay after it has been graded, please carefully review the comments of the TA who graded your assignment and wait a minimum of 24 hours before contacting the TA. Thereafter, you should make sure to address all questions about your grade **WITHIN** 8 days after you have received your essay back. If you do not reach an understanding with your TA, then I will be happy to review your essay, as well. Please bear in mind that this process—including my review—should occur within this same 8-day period.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

#### **Part I: Home/land: 1880s-1920s**

Tuesday, January 22

Introduction/What is American Studies?

Read Dolores Hayden, “Housing and American Life” in *Redesigning the American Dream*, (2002), and other pages online.

Thursday, January 24

Immigration, Americanization, and the “Unassimilable” Asian

Begin *The Lucky Ones*, author’s note and chapters 1-2

Tuesday, January 29	<u>Imperialism and Domesticity</u> Read <i>The Lucky Ones</i> , chapter 3-4
Thursday, January 31	<u>Industrialization and Urban Inequality</u> Read <i>The Lucky Ones</i> , chapters 5-6 <b>*All class documents related to planned absences and special accommodations due TODAY</b>
Tuesday, February 5	<u>American Indians and Forced Assimilation</u> Read <i>The Lucky Ones</i> , chapters 7-8
Thursday, February 7	<u>Progressivism and the Settlement House Movement</u> Read <i>The Lucky Ones</i> , chapters 9-10
Tuesday, February 12	<u>Propaganda and Public Opinion during WWI</u> Read <i>The Lucky Ones</i> , chapters 11-12
Thursday, February 14	<u>"Social Housekeeping" and Woman's Suffrage</u> Read <i>The Lucky Ones</i> , chapters 14-15 (skip 13) Begin drafting Essay #1.
Tuesday, February 19	<u>Affluence and Consumerism in the 1920s</u> Read <i>The Lucky Ones</i> , chapter 16 and Epilogue Continue drafting Essay #1.
Thursday, February 21	<u>"True Americanism" and the Second KKK</u> Finish writing Essay #1.
<b>Friday, February 22</b>	<b>Essay #1 Due on CANVAS and in hard copy to American Studies Department by 4pm</b>
<b>Sunday, February 24</b>	<b>First quiz due on CANVAS by 11:59pm.</b>
<b>Part II: Homebound: 1942-1960s</b>	
Tuesday, February 26	<u>Japanese Internment</u> Read first half of <i>Death of a Salesman</i> .
Thursday, February 28	<u>Redrawing the Boundaries of Citizenship</u> Read second half of <i>Death of a Salesman</i> .
Tuesday, March 5	<u>Suburbanization and the Mass Consumption Economy</u> *Half of class to visit Harry Ransom Center Read first half of <i>Raisin in the Sun</i> .
Thursday, March 7	<u>Suburbanization and the Mass Consumption Economy</u> *Half of class to visit Harry Ransom Center Read second half of <i>Raisin in the Sun</i> .
Tuesday, March 12	<u>Domesticating the Cold War</u> Begin research for Essay #2.
Thursday, March 14	<u>Guest Lecture: Christine Castro The Bracero Program</u> Continue research for Essay #2.
Tuesday, March 19	Spring Break
Thursday, March 21	Spring Break
Tuesday, March 26	<u>The Civil Rights Movement</u> Continue research for Essay #2.
Thursday, March 28	<u>The Civil Rights Movement continued</u> Begin writing Essay #2.

Tuesday, April 2	<u>Gender and Sexual Non-Conformity</u> Continue writing Essay #2 and work on creative component.
Thursday, April 4	<u>Foundations of the Feminist Movement</u> Finish Essay #2 and creative component.
<b>Friday, April 5</b>	<b>Essay #2 Due on CANVAS and in hard copy to American Studies Department by 4pm</b>
<b>Sunday, April 7</b>	<b>Second and third quizzes due on CANVAS by 11:59pm.</b>
<b>Part III: Home Free? 1980 to 2000s</b>	
Tuesday, April 9	<u>The Tax Revolt and the New Right</u> *Half of class to visit Christian-Green Gallery Begin reading <i>Fun Home</i> .
Thursday, April 11	<u>The Tax Revolt and the New Right</u> *Half of class to visit Christian-Green Gallery Continue reading <i>Fun Home</i> .
Tuesday, April 16	<u>Economic Inequality and the American Dream</u> Continue reading <i>Fun Home</i> .
Thursday, April 18	<u>The HIV/AIDS Epidemic</u> Continue reading <i>Fun Home</i> .
Tuesday, April 23	<u>Family Values and the Culture Wars</u> Continue reading <i>Fun Home</i> .
Thursday, April 25	<u>Guest Lecture: Josh Kopin How to Read a Graphic Novel</u> Continue reading <i>Fun Home</i> .
Tuesday, April 30	<u>The Modern Family</u> Finish reading <i>Fun Home</i> .
Thursday, May 2	<u>9/11 and Homeland Security</u> Begin writing Essay #3.
Tuesday, May 7	<u>Debating the DREAM Act</u> Continue writing Essay #3.
Thursday, May 9	<u>Wrap-up/Review</u> Finish writing Essay #3.
<b>Friday, May 10</b>	<b>Essay #3 Due on CANVAS and in hard copy to American Studies Department by 4pm</b>
<b>Sunday, May 12</b>	<b>Fourth quiz due on CANVAS by 11:59pm.</b>