

AMERICAN STUDIES 310: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES

Reading American Culture Through Graphic Novels: A Study into Gender, Race, and American Fears



This course will investigate how graphic narratives, literature, film, and non-fiction underscore the driving forces, and fears, within American culture. Where do our attitudes and beliefs about gender and race come from? How have they changed over time? How are current fears surrounding sex and sexuality (homophobia and transphobia) as well as miscegenation underscored by a national rhetoric that prioritizes “normalcy” over difference? What larger fears that shape American consciousness? Government control, war, violence, even zombies? Why do these fears play such an active role in shaping American lives? Are they metaphors for larger fears (as in the case of zombies and post-apocalyptic narratives) or do they have a direct correlation to our real-world concerns (like the spread of disease, war, and violence)?

This course counts as an upper-level US Studies requirement and toward the American Studies minor.

SUMMER SESSION 2: JULY 6-AUGUST 6

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