

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Graduate Program for Cultural Studies
FALL 2011 (TERM 2121) OFFERINGS

CLST 2006: SPECIAL TOPICS IN CULTURAL STUDIES

"Issues in the Study of a National Culture:

The Case of the Transnational Turn in US American Studies"

Donald E. Pease

Three (3) Credits

Thursdays 2:30-5:30pm

CL 602 (Humanities Center)

This course will address issues related to the study of national cultures by taking the recent transnational turn within the field of American Studies as its point of departure.

The so-called "transnational turn" in American Studies has effected the most significant re-imagining of the field of American Studies since its inception. "America" remains the commonly accepted self-representation in American Studies Associations. But the term "transnational" has replaced "multicultural," "postcolonial," and "postnational" as the most frequently invoked qualifier.

Transnational perspectives have changed the way Americanist scholars imagine their relationship to their work, their objects of study, their disciplinary protocols, as well as the field in which they conduct their research. These changes have evoked contradictory accounts of the import and purpose of Transnational American Studies. Did the newly configured field foster an expanded sense of injustice and a cosmopolitan ethos? Was it a form of disciplinary imperialism designed to re-fashion social relations and cultural practices after the US neoliberal model? Did the transnational framework foster an alternative to US cultural and economic hegemony or embody the standpoint that Americanization assumed in the present conjuncture?

While their responses to these questions varied, americanists largely agree about two significant matters: that Transnational American Studies scholars have dismantled the foundational tenets and premises informing the methodology, periodization, pedagogy and geographical locations of U.S. American Studies, and that transnational americanists have not as yet added a coherent order of intelligibility to the field.

This course constitutes an effort to supply this needed intelligibility by reflecting upon transnational configurations of the field of American Studies as they have affected its politics and objects of interpretation, disciplinary protocols, pedagogies and structures of governance.

Requirements for PhD certificate in Cultural Studies:

- Common Seminar
- One course from each of categories A, B, C
- One D course in the student's home department
- One D course outside the student's home department
- Foreign-language proficiency (as required by the home department or in consultation with the Program)

Requirements for MA Certificate in Cultural Studies:

- Common Seminar
- One course from category A or B
- One D course in the student's home department
- One D course outside the student's home department
- Foreign-language proficiency (as required by the home department or in consultation with the Program)

For detailed information on the Cultural Studies MA and PhD certificates, please see www.pitt.edu/~cultural or write to Giuseppina Mecchia, Director, Graduate Program for Cultural Studies (mecchia@pitt.edu)

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Category A:	Category B:	Category C:	Category D:
<i>Text & Theory</i>	<i>Disciplines & Intellectual Movements</i>	<i>Cultural Antagonisms & Cultural Crises</i>	<i>Designated Courses</i>
ENGFLM 2485 Film Melodrama Marcia Landy	CLST 2006 Special Topics: "Issues in the Study of a National Culture" Donald E. Pease	GER 2112/3112 Theory in Cultural Studies: Theories of Work/Theories that Work Sabine von Dirke	COMMRC 3326 Seminar in Media Studies: The Media Ecology Tradition Brent Malin
ENGLIT 2024 Edward W. Said R.A. Judy	SOC 2102 Post-classical social theory Lisa Brush	HAA 2400 Special Topics Modern: Urban Modernities Mina Rajagopalan and Kirk Savage	HIST 2731 Fashion in Society since 1500 Martha Chaiklin
ENGLIT 2123 Genealogies of Modernity Ryan McDermott	WMST 2400 Queer Theory Past and Present Todd Reeser	FR 2766 Mediterranean Studies and the Countercultures of Modernity Neil Doshi	SHRS 2906 History of Medicine and Health Care Jonathon Erlen
HEA 2216 Gender, Performance, and the Body in Contemporary Latin America Lisa Jackson-Schebetta	REL 2505/HIST 2110 Religion, Communication, and Culture Adam Shear	ENGLIT 2390 Anglophone South Asian Novels Susan Andrade	FR 2402 Topics in 17 th Century French Literature: Literary Scandals Chloe Hogg
RUSS 2475 Narrative and Cultural Politics Nancy Condee			

The following **SUMMER SESSION** course will count for category "A" towards the Cultural Studies requirement:

SPAN 2464
Modern Mexican Film
Summer Session II
Joshua Lund

This course will introduce the student to modern Mexican film. The trajectory of the course covers a basic canon of essential works from the high point of Mexico's so-called "Golden Age" up until the present (roughly 1940 – 2010). Between an introductory discussion on primitive Mexican film and a closing discussion on future directions, the course will center on the work of five directors: Fernández, Buñuel, Ripstein, Sariñana and González Iñárritu. Alongside the films we will read two kinds of documents: on the one hand, a selection of film criticism and scholarship; on the other hand, a set of essays on Mexican cultural politics relevant to the themes engaged in the cinematic work. Students may choose to write a series of short papers or one long paper.

Comparative work is encouraged. The language of instruction will be English. Undergraduate students taking this course for credit toward the Spanish Major or Minor are required to complete all assignments in Spanish.