

Department: ENGL/ INTD

Course No.: 265W

Title: Seminar in American Studies

Credits: 3

Contact: Jerry Phillips

WQ: W

Catalog Copy: ENGL/INTD 265W. Seminar in American Studies. Second semester. Three credits.

An in-depth study of an event, historical period, or cultural production from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Course Information: The objective of this seminar is to provide students with a capstone experience that allows them to explore a concentrated topic and use interdisciplinary sources and methods toward the completion of a substantial research project. It will also be the course required for fulfillment of the information literacy competency. Among topics considered to date are Kerouac and the Beat Generation and Race and Culture in mid 19th -century America.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed.: 1) The course helps students to become articulate because they study and discuss literature in its cultural context and because they receive the instructor's criticism and advice as they write and revise an extensive research paper.

2) The interdisciplinary nature of the course encourages intellectual breadth.

7) Because this course will also fulfill the information literacy requirement for American Studies, students will acquire a working understanding of the processes by which they can continue to acquire and use knowledge.

W Criteria: 1) Topics will teach students to analyze data and to formulate arguments. There will be short writing assignments that build up to the writing of a major research paper. A minimum of fifteen pages of revised and edited prose will be required. The W component will always count more than 50% of the grade.

2) Students will draft papers, receive either written comments from the instructor or oral comments in conference, and revise their drafts.

3) See # 2.

4) The syllabus will inform students that they must pass the "W" component of the course in order to pass the course.