

AMST 290 FALL 2017 CASE STUDY PROJECT

The “case study project” will be the focus of the remaining third of our course. It asks you to selectively draw upon the lessons and methods that we have encountered over the course of the semester to address questions about the four topics below.

These topics have been selected because they are general enough to permit multiple points of entry and justify multiple objects of study. You are encouraged to **think critically and broadly** about your chosen topic. Our visit to the archive will kick off the project, but keep in mind that there are other places to locate relevant primary sources. Each of the four sections below lists multiple objects of study that you might wish to consult. You are welcome to identify and include other relevant items.

THE ASSIGNMENTS

PART 1: PRESENTATION

Work with your classmates to develop a 15 minute presentation on the topic. You might consider modeling it on a “pecha kucha” (oral presentation grounded in a slide show). Frame the discussion by giving context to the issue. Introduce how the topic has been discussed within the discipline of American Studies. Provide one or two examples of close reading and analysis.

Presentations due in class 30 Nov. and 5 Dec.

PART 2: CASE STUDY INDIVIDUAL PROJECT (CHOOSE ONE)

1. **Annotated bibliography (10–12 sources w/annotations)** Identify a question or set of questions that you would want to pose about the given topic. Be sure to indicate these in a short preface to your bibliography. Then, research and locate specific texts (articles, books, archives) that could help address and even answer those questions. Include both primary (objects of study) and secondary (critical analysis) sources in your bibliography. Comment upon (annotate) each entry in your bibliography indicating in a short but coherent paragraph what you understand this object to be, how it could aid in your study, and what you find especially useful for the questions that you are posing.
2. **Essay (7 – 10 pages/3,000 – 5,000 words)** Your final assignment -- a longer research essay -- is an opportunity for you to dig more deeply into the topic you selected for your case study. This can mean doing more research on a particular event or phenomenon, a cultural object (like a literary work or film) and its representation of America, or a concept that has or had great currency in the American Studies discipline. Your essay should **argue** a clearly articulated **thesis** and include **properly cited evidence** from primary and secondary sources to prove your claims.

Due to Moodle by 5pm on Dec.11.

THE CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY #1: NATIVE AMERICA

- Geronimo autobiography (easily located online)
- UCLA Mapping project (linked on Moodle)
- #NoDAPL movement
- Special Collections:
 - H. H. Bancroft collection of ethnographic surveys
 - Osgood Hardy Collection - documents related to the 1913-1916 Yale Peruvian Expedition to excavate Machu Picchu and personal diary of summer travels in Mexico

CASE STUDY #2: INTERNMENT & INCARCERATION

- US War dept. films (on archive.org)
- Maps and redlining
- Film: *History and Memory*
- Film: *13th*
- Special Collections
 - Japanese American Relocation collection

CASE STUDY #3: WHITENESS

- Bacon's Rebellion
- Charlottesville Syllabus
- Special Collections
 - Neighborhood covenants
 - Olympics, especially 1936
 - WWII propaganda

CASE STUDY #4: AUTOBIOGRAPHY

- Ben Franklin
- Samson Occam
- Frederick Douglass
- Film: Sadie Benning, *It Wasn't Love*
- LOC Oral History project (Works Progress Administration)
- Special Collections:
 - Diaries
 - Ephemera (such as receipts and minutes)
 - Books
 - Provenance