American Civilization (Master Year 1 / Fall)

Master in English and American Language, Literature and History / Faculty of Liberal Arts

Introduction

This seminar offers to approach the history of the North-American space through cultural productions that have been made near and about rivers that cross the subcontinent. Rivers have been at the same time - and for different social groups - borders and communication axes, means to escape or to oppress; the river feeds but it also destroys when it overflows. It also allows us to understand under a new light the relationships between the people that inhabited those spaces that have ultimately become the United States of America. Starting with eleventh century populations of the Mississippi and San Juan basins and up to the present day, each class will focus on a major river stream. By analyzing its history, the visual and literary production of the different social groups that lived around it, this seminar will tentatively define another geography of the United States that goes beyond the Manifest Destiny.

Objectives

Learning alternative histories of the United States
Introduction to historical and art-historical concepts (nationalism, eco-criticism)

Admission

Prerequisite

Prerequisites training

Methods for research and writing research-based essays.
At least one undergraduate level American studies class and/or Introduction to art-history class.

Program

Methods of Instruction

Duration

1 semester

Teaching languages

- English

Conditions of submission

If you need more information about this course, kindly send an email to: incomingdri@icp.fr

This is a discussion-based seminar. All readings will be scanned and circulated (by email or through a Drive system) before classes. Every week, each text will be introduced critically by one student and then discussed by the whole class. Students will also be asked to react to texts, images, or any other kind of cultural emanation produced by the groups we will study.

Assessment and Final Grade

60% In-class participation (introductions of texts throughout the semester, interventions and questions, oral presentation of the essay on Week 7 or 8) 40% Essay (5 p. + bibliography : 1.5 space / Arial / 12pt.)

Course Requirements

In class Participation
Oral presentation
5-page essay to hand out at the end of the semester