

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
Graduate Program for Cultural Studies  
SPRING 2012 (Term 2124) OFFERINGS  
; PLEASE NOTE THIS BULLETIN IS TWO PAGES LONG !

**CLST 2050 and HAA 2401:**

***Cultural Formation Now: Contemporaneity, Connectivity, Planetary***

Terry Smith

Wednesdays 2:30-5:00

FRK ART 104

World picturing, placemaking, and the connectivities between them are processes that seem fundamental to contemporary culture. They certainly inspire many contemporary artists, and drive social media of all kinds. Yet their prominence raises a deeper question. If the contemporaneity of difference is, arguably, definitive of contemporary experience, is the tentative, embattled emergence of a planetary consciousness indicative of a more constructive possibility?

Towards the end of the last century, certain powerful models and effective images—especially those associated with the idea of “globalization”—achieved prominence in public debate, and drove much governmental policy, institutional action and market decision, while at the same time shaping the sense of self held by millions. Counter-forces arose: not least assertive national economies, anti-globalization movements, and spectacular fundamentalisms. All claimed universal, or at least region-wide, validity, and each has won the consent of multitudes. Yet they seem incompatible, and their fierce—at times deadly—contestation poses a danger to all. These forces—and the institutions and beliefs that they built (including those designed to contain their conflicting interests)—have spun into crisis. We have reached a situation in which the enriching multiplicity of distinct, different ways of imagining the world is contemporaneous with anxious awareness that the most prominent of these perspectives are incommensurable, that a framework able to bring them all into productive relationship has yet to be imagined, while the earth is signaling that the time to do so may be short.

This course will explore key conceptualizations of worlds, place and connection in modern and contemporary philosophy, critical theory, cultural studies, history, information theory, art, literature, film, mass media and social media with a view to assessing their contribution to a sharper definition of contemporaneity and a deeper imagining of planetary. It will benefit from the seminars, workshops, exhibitions and conferences being organized by the “Defining Contemporaneity, Imagining Planetary” project, being undertaken 2011-14 by scholars from the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University.

**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 or from category C
- 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](http://www.pitt.edu/~cultural) or write to

Giuseppina Mecchia, Director, Graduate Program for Cultural Studies ([mecchia@pitt.edu](mailto:mecchia@pitt.edu))



Category A:	Category B:	Category C:	Category D:
<i>Text and Theory</i>	<i>Disciplines &amp; Intellectual Movements</i>	<i>Cultural Antagonisms &amp; Cultural Crises</i>	<i>Designated Courses</i>
<b>ENGLIT 2606</b> Utopian and Dystopian Literature  Philip E. Smith	<b>ANTHRO 2750</b> Contemporary Theory in Anthropology  Andrew Strathern	<b>COMMRC 2220</b> Readings in Critical Theory: Power/Knowledge  Olga Kuchinskaya	<b>ANTHRO 2782</b> Special Topics in Anthropology: Ritual  Andrew Strathern
<b>FR 2600 / IT 2600</b> Crossings: From Decadence to High Modernity in Italy and France  Giuseppina Mecchia	<b>ANTHRO 2782</b> Language Ideologies: Defining Difference, Place, and Morality  Laura Brown	<b>COMMRC 3326</b> Audience and Difference: Race, Class, and Gender  Ronald J. Zboray and Mary Saracino Zboray	<b>HIST 2716</b> Empires in World History  Holger Hoock Pinar Emiralioglu
<b>GER 2605 / 3605</b> Goethe's Metaphysics of Immanence  Clark Muenzer	<b>CLST 2006</b> Special Topics: Interdisciplinary Methodology  Pat Manning	<b>ENGLIT 2395</b> Caribbean Literature  Shalini Puri	
<b>MUSIC 2611</b> Baroque Perspectives: Music, Society, and Culture in Early Modern France  James Cassaro	<b>COMMRC 2203</b> Readings in Critical Theory: Frankfurt School  Lynn Clark	<b>HAA 2101</b> Global Preservation: A Modern History  Mrinalini Rajagopalan	
<b>THEA 2216</b> Advanced Theory & Methodology: Performance Studies Theory and Methods  Jocelyn L. Buckner	<b>ENGFLM 2457</b> Film and Ethnography  Neepa Majumdar	<b>SOC 3397</b> Topics in Social Movements and Culture  Mohammed Bamyeh	
	<b>ENGFLM 2467</b> Cinema and Trauma  Adam Lowenstein		
	<b>ENGLIT 2327</b> Aesthetics and Politics: Modernism and Mass Production  William Scott		
	<b>HIST 2130</b> Gender in Modern Europe  Irina Livezeanu		
	<b>HIST 2721</b> Atlantic Readings  Marcus Rediker		



## SPRING 2012

*\*New\* course in Cultural Studies (Category C)*

The Humanities Center at University of Pittsburgh presents:

**ENGLIT 2234**

***The Worlding of American Literature (1 credit)\****

**Fridays: times vary (see below)**

**Nancy Glazener**

This is a non-traditional one-credit graduate course organized in preparation for the Humanities Center seminar, "American Literature in the World," scheduled for Apr. 30-May 4, 2012. "American Literature in the World" will be led by Wai Chee Dimock, the William Lampson Professor of English and American Studies at Yale. The goal of this seminar is to allow graduate students to read and discuss work on transnational cultural studies and deep time in advance of Dimock's visit. American literature is the key frame of reference for Dimock's visit and for the book by Dimock that we'll be reading in this seminar, but the course will take an interdisciplinary approach to culture's spatial flows and fluctuating temporalities and welcomes students' interests and commitments that beyond literature or the U.S. Readings will include works by Arjun Appadurai, Wai Chee Dimock, and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak.

The course will meet on **four Fridays**: from 10 a.m. to noon on Jan. 13, then from 1-3 pm on Feb. 24, Mar. 23, and Apr. 20. A short paper on a topic related to the readings (5-7 pages) will be due by Apr. 27 for students who wish to receive credit for the course. CR/NC grading. Students who sign up for an official audit are not required to write a paper but must attend all sessions.

***\*(can be added to other 1 or 2 credit courses to add up to C requirement in Cultural Studies)***