

Spring 2022
AMST 294-03/ENVI 294-02
AMERICAN CULTURE IN THE ATOMIC AGE
MWF 1:10-2:10pm CST/Room 212, Humanities



"Natural Resource Management." Bunkv Echo Hawk. 2006.

Professor Kiri Sailiata
Email: ksailiat@macalester.edu
Office: 101 Humanities
Office Hours: Wed, 3:30-5:30pmCST

Teaching Assistant: Adam Marquardt
Email: amarquar@macalester.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to American Culture in the Atomic Age! In this course, we will explore the nuclear politics, culture and infrastructure. Since the development of the first atomic weapon, nuclear power, time and space has come to define the American political landscape and cultural sensibilities. Fantasies of annihilation and apocalypse not only define the contemporary popular imagination but, also, disciplinary bounds of time, space, and futurity. In this exploration, we will center race, indigeneity and sexuality and gender to push back against these forms of enclosure. During our final section, "The Wasteland Writes Back", students will produce a creative final multimedia project. No special background is needed. All students are welcome. *Note: This syllabus is subject to change. The most updated version will be accessible via our course Moodle.*

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will learn key terms, concepts, and frameworks of American Studies, History and Environmental Studies
- Students will learn about U.S. histories of empire and militarism in the Atomic Age
- Students will apply interdisciplinary research methods to create an original research project on around nuclear politics and history

REQUIRED TEXTS

No texts are required for purchase

COURSE POLICIES

For students to thrive and be successful in this course will require advanced preparation, organization discipline and communication. The following are guidelines to ensure student success:

Students are expected to check the university-listed e-mail account before every class. This will ensure that you have the most recent updates regarding assignments, changes in the course syllabus or announcements about class cancellations and related events.

Strive to be respectful peers, willing to learn and be intellectually challenged. This classroom is designed to be a safe learning environment for all, and therefore, discriminatory behavior of any sort including race, sex, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, or class will not be tolerated. Not all identities are visible so please be thoughtful as we get to know each other over the course of this term. Points will be deducted for participation and, in some cases, disruptive students will be asked to leave the classroom, either temporarily or permanently, depending on the impact and extent of their behavior.

E-mail Correspondences: E-mails should always begin with “AMST 294” in the subject line. This will enable a timely response. Allow 48 hours to pass, if the instructor does not respond, then please re-send your e-mail.

Please check the syllabus before e-mailing either the TA or Professor. If you have questions regarding the course schedule, assignments, attendance or due dates, then always consult the syllabus first.

COURSE GRADES

Assignments:

- 30% Participation (Annotations, Weekly Labs & Assignments, Discussion)
- 30% Group Led Discussion Assignment
- 30% 5-10 page Final Research paper
- 10% Peer Research Paper Workshop

ATTENDANCE: During the global pandemic, attendance will not impact overall course grades. Remote participation options will be available throughout the course should you require them to ensure collective health.

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SUPPORT: We are learning and working together under enormous constraints during a global pandemic, increasing acts of state violence, community organizing against antiblack and settler colonial state violence, unprecedented levels of unemployment and evictions, all while under quarantine. Most students are young people leading active lives outside of college. Urgent conditions may arise for you or your family members during this course. While I do not require precise details (significantly, in some circumstances it may be against your interests to inform me fully), I do need to be made aware when students require additional support or flexibility during this course.

LATE WORK: The final project is a firm deadline. If you need an extension, please email Prof. Saliata in advance.

GRADE GRIEVANCE: If you have a grade grievance you must wait 48 hours before submitting a written response to the instructor about your grade. Grade grievances are as likely to result in a higher grade as they are in a lower grade.

EXTRA CREDIT: Worth a half-letter grade applied to either the “A” or “B” track, students will attend a relevant virtual event or screening outside of our course. Thoughtful analysis is required; you will receive extra credit only if you make explicit connections between your selected event or text with concepts explored in the course materials. Extra credit papers are expected to follow these formatting conventions: two pages, double-spaced, with 1” margins and 12 pt Times New Roman font. The deadline for the extra credit assignment is on the last day of class, **Mon, May 2nd, 5pm.**

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any disabilities (either permanent or temporary) they have which might affect their ability to perform in the class. Students who require accommodations for access must be registered with Disability Services office in Kagin Hall. Such documentation must be provided to the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester. Adaptations of methods, materials or testing may be made as required to enable student’s participation. However, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for such arrangements to be made if students choose to inform the instructor after a course assignment is due. More information may be found at:

<https://www.macalester.edu/disabilityservices/information-for-students/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty in their college work; violations of academic integrity are serious offenses. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty -- including, for instance, forgery, cheating, and plagiarism - - are subject to disciplinary action. Examples of behavior that violates this policy, as well as the process and sanctions involved, can be found on the Academic Programs website, <http://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/academicintegrity/>.

Weekly Schedule

Mondays & Wednesdays: Mini-lectures & labs

Fridays: Perusall Annotations Due + Group Led Readings Discussion

What are Office Hours? They are time reserved for 1:1 or small group meeting to chat informally with me the instructor about the course, advising, relevant texts or events, personal topics, etc. It always helps to prepare questions or materials in advance of our meeting just so that we have a starting point. Typically, these sessions run about 20-30mn in length.

What is Study Hall? 90 minutes of dedicated time spent co-working with myself and your peers. Using the pomodoro method, we independently set goals for 3 x 30 mn work sessions. These goals can include finish your course readings from the weekend, drafting questions for our guest speaker or small group discussion, watching the course lectures and taking notes, or working on vocabulary or on reflection prompts set for the week.

What are Mini-lectures? Small lectures offering an overview of our themes or topics. They will generally revolve around an argument clarifying one of our four main themes, vocabulary and close analysis of a visual text (film, media, photography, etc). They will also refer back to the course readings and include prompts for small group activities/discussion or individual reflections.

What is an Annotation Assignment? Using Perusall, an annotation website, students will annotate weekly readings. For participation points, students are expected to upload **at least 3 annotations per assigned reading**. An annotation can take the form of commentary or questions in the margins.

What are Lab Activities? A range of supplementary activities such as films, guest speakers, or independent research or reflection worksheets that serve to deepen student engagement. These are also graded as part of your weekly participation

What is Group Led Discussion? Students will be divided into groups during the first full week of the course. Each group will be assigned a week to create a key concepts and discussion questions hand-out. A template will be provided.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 0: Course Overview

Friday, Jan 21

- Registration Overrides
- Introductions
- Course Overview & Set-up

WEEK 1: FOUNDATIONS

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Readings:

- Course Syllabus
- Michel-Rolph Trouillot. *Silencing the Past* (Excerpt)
- Transnational Nuclear Imperialism

Weekly Schedule

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab

WED: Mini-lecture + Lab

FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 2:Readings

- Kyoko Matsunaga. *Indigenous Antinuclear Literary Resistance*
- Winona LaDuke. *Wiindigo Infrastructure*
- Kyle White. *Indigenous Science (Fiction) for the Anthropocene*

Schedule

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab

WED: Mini-lecture + Lab

FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 3:Readings

- Ramzi Fawaz. *Flame On!*
- Elaine Tyle May. *Explosive Issues: Sex, Women And the Bomb*

Weekly Schedule

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab

WED: Mini-lecture + Lab

FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 4:Readings

- Jessica Hurley. *Civil Defense and Black Apocalypse*
- Michael Boyce Gillespie & Rebecca Wanzo. *Thinking About Watchmen*
- Viet Nguyen. *How "Watchmen's Misunder Misunderstanding About Vietnam Undercuts its vision of racism.*

Schedule

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab

WED: Mini-lecture + Lab

FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 5:

Readings

- Erin Suzuki. *Beasts From the Deep*
- Godzilla (Screening)

Schedule

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab

WED: Mini-lecture + Lab

FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 6:

Weekly Readings

- Teresia Teaiwa. *Bikinis And Other S/Pacific N/oceans*
- Fiona Amundsen & Sylvia Frain. *The Politics of Invisibility: Visualizing Legacies of Nuclear Imperialisms*

Schedule

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab

WED: Mini-lecture + Lab

FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 7:

Weekly Readings

- Holly Barker. *Unsettling SpongeBob and the Legacies of Violence on Bikini Atoll*
- Claire Slatter & Talei Luscia Mangioni. *“Will to Fight Together”*

Schedule

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MON: Mini-lecture + Lab
 WED: Mini-lecture + Lab
 FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 8

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9

Schedule

- Traci Brynne Voyles. Wastelanding. (Excerpts)

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab
 WED: Mini-lecture + Lab
 FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 10

Schedule

- Traci Brynne Voyles. Wastelanding. (Excerpts)

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab
 WED: Mini-lecture + Lab
 FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 11

Schedule

- Jessica Hurley. Ch 4 Nuclear Waste, Native America, Narrative Form

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab
 WED: Mini-lecture + Lab
 FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 12

Schedule

- Jessica Hurley. Intro & Ch 1 White Sovereignty and the Nuclear State

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab

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WED: Mini-lecture + Lab
FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 13

Schedule

- Jessica Hurley. Ch 3 Star Wars, AIDS & Queer Endings + Nuclear Entanglements

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab
WED: Mini-lecture + Lab
FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 14

Schedule

- Jessica Hurley. Ch 3 Star Wars, AIDS & Queer Endings + Nuclear Entanglements

MON: Mini-lecture + Lab
WED: Mini-lecture + Lab
FRI: Perusall Annotations & Group led Discussion

WEEK 15

Schedule

Mon, May 2: Final Class Session
*Final Papers Due by 5pm