FALL 2012
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AMERICAN?  WHAT DOES AMERICA MEAN?

AMS 10
Introduction to American Studies
10:30-11:50 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays
CRN 10739, 10740, 10741, 10742 WELLMAN 234

We will explore the ideals, conflicts, and realities that have defined American cultures, constructed through identities, landscapes and practices. Being “American” means something more than U.S. Citizenship.

Who is an American?  Where do the boundaries of the nation begin and end?  What metaphors, images, and sounds have been used to envision the nation?  How have and do Americans conceive of national belonging and citizenship through culture?

We analyze these questions through objects, texts and cultural artifacts (popular music, literature, paintings/ photographs) and core themes (immigration, technology/nature, globalization).  The class focused on making connections-- between the past and the present and between the ideas of culture and politics we explore in this course and our personal lives- particularly in the fall during the national Presidential election.

AMS 10 is a General Education course and counts for the ArtHum or SocSci, Div, Wrt, ACGH, AH, DD, SS, WE requirements