AS 400, Critical Issues in American Studies (73214)
Prof. Cecelia Bucki, Tuesdays 5:00-7:30 PM

This graduate seminar provides an introduction to the field of American Studies and is the new core course for the Master's Program. Using key books and essays in American Studies, students will familiarize themselves with the diverse cultural and intellectual traditions that have created the American experience. Using interdisciplinary approaches, students will survey the following themes in American society and culture: race, ethnicity and immigration; expression and imagination; values and ethics; gender; institutional power and politics; and America and the world. All incoming students and any student who has not yet taken AS 401 or AS 402, both of which have been sunsetted, should take this required course. Three credits

AS 453, American Popular Entertainments and Social History (73253)
Prof. Marti LoMonaco, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:00-7:30 PM, September 3—October 22 (7 ½ week format)

Popular entertainments—amusements aimed at a broad, relatively unsophisticated audience—have great power. They tell us what is on the minds of ordinary people at any given moment—their concerns, biases and anxieties—and in turn refine and restate them in a palatable, easily understood way. This course examines the major live entertainment forms that flourished in the years between the Civil War and early 20th century as a means of understanding American social and cultural history. We will begin the course with P.T. Barnum, one of the foremost innovators and promoters of American culture throughout the world, and then consider Minstrel shows, Wild West Shows, Vaudeville and Revue, Burlesque and Striptease, and Chautauqua. Student research and seminar papers will consider 20th and 21st century entertainments such as Disney musicals, half-time entertainments at sporting events, Las Vegas revues, and rock star extravaganza tours. The class will meet Monday and Wednesday evenings for 8 weeks; students will have until November 24 to submit final seminar papers. Three credits.