Global Valley  
American Studies 111

It is often said that one can’t understand the global except through a study of the local; and that one can’t understand the local except in the context of the global. This course takes those ideas seriously. Drawing on a wide range of primary materials and visits to the sites of many of the topics we study, this course introduces you to American Studies through an exploration of the Connecticut River Valley that stresses both the fascination of detailed local history and the economic, political, social, and cultural networks that tie this place to the world. Topics include interactions between Native peoples and English settlers; changing uses of land and resources; witchcraft trials; the Revolution and Shays rebellion; religious revivalism; abolitionist and other reform movements; the invention of “scenic New England,” including Thomas Cole’s famous painting of the Oxbow; immigration, industrialization and deindustrialization, especially in the city of Holyoke; educational institutions and innovations; the reach of the “military industrial complex” into local educational institutions; feminist and gay activism; present social equity issues; and of course, Emily Dickinson's poetry.

Books

Available at Amherst Books at 8 Main Street in Amherst—support our local bookstores!

Mary Doyle Curran’s *The Parish and the Hill* is currently out-of-print. Used copies may be available through the Option and at Amazon and Barnes and Noble. You can also borrow a copy from the many that Prof. Couvares has in his office.

This publisher does not sell through US bookstores so you will need to purchase this book online.

Readings in these books are starred (*) on the syllabus. All other readings can be accessed on e-reserve through the Moodle main course page. These readings have also been compiled in a required course reader that will be available in 102 Morgan Hall. Amherst will assess a charge for copyright fees and an additional printing charge.

Course Work
Work for this course includes, in addition to assigned readings and active class participation, two weekend field-trips, one to Deerfield and another to Holyoke, plus other shorter excursions to nearer sites; short assignments that will allow you to practice a wide range of American Studies interpretive methods (e.g., interpreting landscapes, material culture objects, poems, archival manuscripts, photographs, and the like); a short expository essay early in the course; and a longer, more synthetic final paper that will require some research.
Global Valley Syllabus

The Valley
Tuesday, September 6
Introduction: Looking out from Memorial Hill: What do you see?
Maps of the Valley

Thursday, September 8
Guest lecture by Tekla Harms: The Geology of the Connecticut River Valley
*Mary Rowlandson, The Sovereignty and Goodness of God, Introduction (1-55)

Kwintekw/Connecticut River Valley
Tuesday, September 13
Class Field Trip to The Great Beaver/Mount Sugarloaf
*Mary Rowlandson, The Sovereignty and Goodness of God, Introduction (1-55)
*Cheryl Savageau, “First Woman,” “No Pity” and “At Sugarloaf” Mother/Land, 8, 48, 15
“The People of the Beaver-tail Hill” audio at:
http://1704.deerfield.history.museum/voices/stories.do

Thursday, September 15

Tuesday, September 20
Trial transcripts for the trial of Mary Bliss Parson available at
http://ccbit.cs.umass.edu/parsons/hmmockup/docs/histdocs.html

Thursday, September 22
“The Raid on Deerfield: The Many Stories of 1704” at:
http://1704.deerfield.history.museum

Assignment 1 DUE: Bring to class your brief reflection on “The Raid on Deerfield” website
Sunday, September 25: FIELD TRIP TO DEERFIELD
Readings on the Deerfield Plaques Controversy (please read before field trip)

Tuesday, September 27
Lucy Terry, “Bars Fight” (~1746)
Obituary for Lucy Terry Prince
Common Pot maps: http://www3.amherst.edu/~lbrooks/

Thursday, September 29
Philip Ranlet, “The British, the Indians, and Smallpox: What Actually Happened at Fort Pitt in 1763?” Pennsylvania History (Summer 2000), 427-441
Correspondence between Colonel Henry Bouquet and General Jeffrey Amherst
Edward Wilton Carpenter and Charles Frederick Morehouse, History of the Town of Amherst Massachusetts (Amherst, 1896), 68
Petition to name town for Jeffrey Amherst http://www.digitalamherst.org/items/show/33

Assignment 2 DUE Monday October 3: Essay on the import of Deerfield history.

Political and Social Revolutions in the Valley

Tuesday, October 4
*Susan Stinson, Spider in a Tree, i-iv

Thursday October 6: Class visit from Susan Stinson
*Susan Stinson, Spider in a Tree, 1-65

FALL BREAK

Thursday October 13
*Susan Stinson, Spider in a Tree, finish.
Between October 12 & 15

**TOUR (individually or in groups) PORTER, PHELPS, HUNTINGTON MUSEUM**

Review the Porter Phelps Huntington House Museum site:
[http://www.pphmuseum.org/sixgenerationsp1.html](http://www.pphmuseum.org/sixgenerationsp1.html)

Tuesday, October 18

Gregory H. Nobles, “Revolution in the Neighborhood” *Divisions throughout the Whole* (Cambridge, 1983) 155-87 and notes 238-243


“The Ballad of Daniel Shays” (1793) 26-29

View primary documents at [http://shaysrebellion.stcc.edu/index.html](http://shaysrebellion.stcc.edu/index.html)

Thursday, October 20

Meet at Archives and Special Collections for an introduction to the Porter Phelps Huntington Papers

Read prior classes’ transcriptions of at least five letters at:
[https://www.ats.amherst.edu/globalvalley/exhibits/show/pph-papers](https://www.ats.amherst.edu/globalvalley/exhibits/show/pph-papers)


Tuesday, October 25


Anti-Irish Cartoons (on Moodle)

Thursday, October 27


Constitution and Bylaws of the Northampton Association of Education and Industry at:
[http://radicalequality.emergingamerica.org/sources/#X3703_link](http://radicalequality.emergingamerica.org/sources/#X3703_link)

Sojourner Truth, “‘Ain’t I a Woman?”


**Assignment 3 DUE Monday October 31:** PPH Transcription
Artistic Valley

Tuesday, November 1 or Thursday November 3
FIELD TRIP VISIT TO THE EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM.
One section each day in class to discuss poems: the other at the ED museum.
*Final Harvest: Thomas Johnson, “The Vision and Veto of Emily Dickinson” vii-xiv;
*Poems: 51 Blazing in Gold and quenching in purple; 63 Hope is the thing with feathers; 66 There is a certain Slant of light; 78 I felt a Funeral in my Brain; 95 The Soul selects her own Society; 122 After great pain, a formal feeling comes; 126 I dreaded that first Robin, so; 140 The Angle of a Landscape; 163 ‘Twas like a Maelstrom; 176 This was a Poet—It is That; 184 I heard a Fly buzz—when I died; 243 I like to see it lap the Miles; 270 I dwell in Possibility; 307 My Life has stood – a Loaded Gun; 331 A Light exists in Spring; 427 Tell all the Truth, but tell it Slant
View manuscripts of these poems at http://www.edickinson.org/

Tuesday November 8
MEET AT the Mead Art Museum
Sylvia Plath, “Above the Oxbow” and “In Midas Country,” The Complete Poems of Sylvia Plath

Industrial Valley

Thursday, November 10: Lecture by Frank Couvares
“Immigration, Industrialization and Deindustrialization in Holyoke, Massachusetts”

Assignment 4 DUE Friday November 11: close observation of a painting or a poem

Sunday, November 13 FIELD TRIP TO HOLYOKE, noon-5PM

Tuesday, November 15
Mary Doyle Curran, The Parish and the Hill (to p. 115)

Thursday, November 17
Curran, The Parish and the Hill, finish.
THANKSGIVING BREAK

Education Valley

Tuesday, November 29

Assignment 5: Turn in Connecticut Valley Explorations Projects by November 30

Thursday, December 1
Film: “The Great Pink Scare”

Tuesday, December 6

Thursday, December 10: Class visit from Sam Lovejoy
Film: “Lovejoy’s Nuclear War”

Tuesday, December 13
*Elizabeth Aries, Speaking of Race and Class

Final Assignment due December 16 at noon