

## UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: AMST 480: Community in America Research Seminar

Date Submitted: 3/16/2017

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2017 semester

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**COURSE INFORMATION:** (please provide all information in the “current” column, and only the information changing in the “proposed” column)

change		current	proposed
	Course Number(s)	480	480
X	Formal Title	Community in America	Community in America Research Seminar
X	Transcript Title (≤30c)	Community in America	Comm in America Research Sem
X	Recommended Course Preparation	Six credits in American Studies courses, 3 at the upper-level, or permission of the instructor.	Six credits in American Studies courses, 3 at the upper-level
X	Prerequisite <b>NOTE:</b> Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a “D” or better.	You must complete AMST 300 with a C or better before taking this class.	None
	# of Credits Must adhere to the <a href="#">UMBC Credit Hour Policy</a>	3	3
	Repeatable?	Yes No	Yes No
	Max. Total Credits	3	<b>3 Max. Total Credits:</b> This should be equal to the number of credits for courses that cannot be repeated for credit. For courses that may be repeated for credit, enter the maximum total number of credits a student can receive from this course. E.g., enter 6 credits for a 3 credit course that may be taken a second time for credit, but not for a third time. Please note that this does NOT refer to how many times a class may be retaken for a higher grade.

	Grading Method(s)	Reg (A-F)    Audit Pass-Fail	Reg (A-F)    Audit    Pass-Fail
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**CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Intended for students undertaking advanced research, the seminar focuses on a particular issue in the study of American community. Special topics (listed for each semester offered) address questions of broad relevance to communities nationally or focus on studies of specific communities, many drawn from the Baltimore metropolitan area. In some semesters, the goal may be for public presentation of research findings. Recommended Preparation: Six credits in American Studies courses, 3 at the upper-level, or permission of the instructor. Note: [AMST 380](#), [HIST 301](#), [HIST 429](#), [GES 341](#), [GES 342](#) or comparable courses in related fields strongly recommended.

Course ID: 52187

Consent: No Special Consent Required

Components: Lecture

Requirement Group: You must complete AMST 300 with a C or better before taking this class.

**PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION** (Approximately 75 words in length. Please use full sentences): leave blank if no changes are being proposed to the catalog description. NOTE: information about prerequisites should NOT appear in the catalog description.)

Intended for students undertaking advanced research, the seminar focuses on a particular issue in the study of American community. Special topics (listed for each semester offered) address questions of broad relevance to communities nationally or focus on studies of specific communities, many drawn from the Baltimore metropolitan area. In some semesters, the goal may be for public presentation of research findings. Recommended Preparation: Six credits in American Studies courses, 3 at the upper-level, or permission of the instructor. Note: [AMST 380](#), [HIST 301](#), [HIST 429](#), [GES 341](#), [GES 342](#) or comparable courses in related fields strongly recommended.

Course ID: 52187

Consent: No Special Consent Required

Components: Lecture

**REMOVED: Requirement Group: You must complete AMST 300 with a C or better before taking this class.**

**RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:**

We are removing the prerequisite requirement of AMST 300 for all Department of American Studies 400-level seminars. Requiring AMST 300 (a methods course primarily for AMST majors) limits access to students from other departments or programs adding AMST 400-level seminars, like AMST 480, without instructor permission. As practice, requests to add our 400-level seminars are granted to interested students and we want to limit barriers for students interested in registering for these seminars, some of which count towards credit for degrees in other departments or programs such as Africana Studies, the Entrepreneurship minor, or the undergraduate public history track.

In addition, the title for AMST 480 has been edited from “Community in America” to the more specific “Community in America Research Seminar” to clearly reflect in the title (as well as course description) that this is a research seminar where students will complete and present original research. This more clearly differentiates the AMST 480 course from the Department’s AMST 380: Community in America readings/survey course in the catalog.