

American Studies 335  
New England  
M. W. F. 1:00 - 1:50  
CAS 120  
Roger Williams University  
Fall Semester 2011

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Hours: M. W. F 11:00 - 12:00  
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### **Week of August 31**

*This was all supposed to happen Wednesday, August 31, but Irene messed things up—chiefly the electricity on campus. I hope those of you who lived in the hurricane's path survived with minimum damage to those you love and to your property. Hurricane's don't often happen in New England. I wish one less had happened.*

### **For Friday September 2**

I'm going to do the traditional things one does on the first day of class for the semester. I'm going to pass out the course introduction, which serves as the general syllabus for the semester, and this sheet, which serves as a model of the kind of information you'll get on a regular basis throughout the semester.

Then I'll take a few minutes to explain the material on the syllabus and to introduce the class website to you. Those of you who have taken other courses from me know that the real syllabus for the course is an Internet document—the web pages I create allow me to broaden the course out and share with you resources impossible to share by paper alone;.

I'll survey the class to learn two things. First, whether or not it will be possible on occasion to extend the class a bit. There are some films I'd like to share with you but the time period is just a bit short to squeeze them in. Second, I'm going to inquire how many of the class could clear a Saturday for a field trip, given enough advanced notice. I'll also see where people have not gone. There are many alternatives within an easy distance of Bristol.

### **And to the degree that there's time...**

I'm going to do a bit of a tutorial on internet resources and how we're going to use Blackboard I'm not all keen on having you bring a laptop every class period. I'll tell you periods where it will be useful, and, while you can bring it with you whenever you want, I get grumpy when I see students looking at facebook or in chatrooms during class. The same is true of texting. All Cell Phones AWAY, please.