

Spotlight on Spring 2010 GRA

Graduate Research Assistantships - Student Application Process

A Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) is a learning opportunity for MA in American Studies (MAST) students which supports professionalism in the context of the program and provides financial support. A MAST GRA works with one or more faculty members on projects related to the faculty member's research, public scholarship, university or professional service, or teaching. GRA students are not Teaching Assistants (TA's). In the future, the MAST program plans to develop a TA initiative, but we do not have a current program. An overview of the experience follows:

- A GRA student commits to work thirteen (13) hours per week in the funded semester or academic year.
- Each GRA award comes with a stipend of \$2,000 per semester, plus tuition remission.
- Students may be asked to work on multiple projects or with multiple faculty members over the course of a semester or year. Many projects require students to complete work at archives, attend meetings, or work at sites off campus during business hours.
- Students may not work at another KSU position while a GRA.
- Only MAST students are eligible for MAST GRA positions.
- MAST will award one single-semester GRA for Spring 2010.

GRAs must have:

- Completed all requirements for an undergraduate degree by the beginning of the semester of their award.
- Applied for and been fully accepted to a graduate degree program by the beginning of the semester of their award.
- Maintained a 3.0 grade point average in any previous graduate coursework.
- Registered for a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of nine (9) semester hours of graduate credit for each semester of the award.
- Other KSU GRA policies and procedures can be found on the Graduate Program website: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/graduate/research.html>

How to Apply:

Students who would like to be considered for a GRA must submit the following materials. (Students who have not yet been notified of the decision on their MAST application may apply for a GRA.)

(1) An email or letter of application indicating the following:

- if the student would like to be considered for a GRA for one semester or for the academic year. (The student may also indicate if he/she is willing to accept either a one semester or academic year appointment.)
- a description of the skill set or experiences the student believes qualify him/her for a GRA award (e.g. research experience in courses or the work force, foreign language skills, editing skills, grant writing, interpretive program development, project management, web page design, data coding and analysis) and/or indicate his/her ability to succeed as a GRA (e.g., excellent grades).

(2) A resume, if the student did not submit one with his/her graduate application.

SUBMIT your email/letter of application and resume to: Cherie Miller, MAST Program Office, Kennesaw State University, 1000 Chastain Road MD2208, Kennesaw, GA 30144, cmille72@kennesaw.edu.

DEADLINE FOR GRA APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING 2010: 5 p.m., November 1, 2009 Applicants will be notified of the GRA decisions by December 5, 2009.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION:

Award decisions will be based on GRA application email/letter, resume, and the materials contained in the student's admission file.



The MA in American Studies Program

Crossing boundaries, Building community, Engaging culture

Consider Adding an Education Abroad Course in 2011

One of KSU's Quality Enhancement Plan Goals is to encourage Global Learning for all graduates. In order to facilitate this goal, a scholarship fund has been established to assist with the costs associated with a Education Abroad experience. Following is a brief overview of American Studies compatible Education Abroad Courses:

AUSTRIA, Graz: July 17-August 1, 2010 with Dr. Emron Esplin.

BRAZIL – Capoeira, Samba, and Carnival – July 1-August 6, 2010 with Dr. Alan LeBaron.

ECUADOR & THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS – May 9-May 25, 2010 (MayMester) with Dr. Ernesto Silva.

GERMANY – Contextualizing the Holocaust: Remembrance, Resistance, & Resilience – May 11-May 23, 2011 (MayMester Class) with Dr. Catherine Lewis.

GHANA - July 2 - August 6, 2010 with Dr. William Allen.

JAPAN – Culture, History & Technology – December 8-23, 2010 with Dr. Alan Lebaron.

JAPAN – Art, Literature, and Culture of Japan – June 21-July 16, 2011 with Dr. Ed Chan.

MEXICO– Intensive Spanish Courses – June 19 – July 20, 2011 with Dr. Linda Niemann.

PARIS– Art and French Courses – **June 19 – July 20, 2011** with Dr. Joe Thomas.

PUERTO RICO – Writers' Workshop – June 21-July 3 or July 5 – July 17 with Dr. Jim Elledge.

If you'd like more info about these Education Abroad Opportunities, please attend the Education Abroad Fair on Tuesday, October 5 from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Student Center, University Rooms A-E.

Oct./Nov.
2009

Scholarships 1

Summer Class
Schedule 2

Maymester
Study Abroad 3

GRA Application
Spring 2010 4

MAST Office
Kennesaw State
Social Science
Suite 2015
678-797-2504

Summer Class Schedule

AMST 7430/01: IDENTITIES & SOCIAL GROUPS: The Maya Nation Dr. Alan LeBaron, 1st 4 weeks, MTWTH (5/26-6/24) 2:00-4:45 pm

This course explores a variety of themes, theoretical influences, and methodological approaches current in American Studies. Through close reading and discussion of secondary sources, we'll examine the various myths about America and the impact of these myths on individuals and the larger society; explore and interpret the ways in which race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, religion, and gender shape American culture; and read and interpret scholarship in the field of American Studies, with attention to the globalization of American culture. We'll also become familiar with the basic conceptual building blocks in the field, and examine the historical development of the field (or discipline!) of American Studies

AMST 7430/02: IDENTITIES & SOCIAL GROUPS: Queer Studies Dr. Ugena Whitlock, 6 weeks T/TH (6/7-7/19) 5:00 - 8:45 pm

Examines the social construction of individual identities and social groups in American culture. Students survey and critique a range of texts expressing and representing the formation of identity constructions around such categories as race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, class, and sexuality. Students consider the various social forces that shape (and sometimes resist) various views of American identity both within and outside the U.S. and the Americas. Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

AMST 7500: PRACTICUM (Internship or Applied Research Project) Dr. LeeAnn Lands

Prerequisites: AMST 7000 or AMST 7100.

This course requires students to apply American Studies knowledge, concepts, and theory to practical issues, non-academic environments, or to new research questions. The Practicum fosters the ability to (1) read and think critically while using diverse methods to study American cultural products and practices, (2) communicate effective analysis of American culture both orally and in writing, and (3) analyze and critique relationships between cultural products and social values. The practicum may be offered as an internship; applied research project; teaching practicum; or other applied experience as approved by the program director. For more information on AMST7500 options see: http://www.ksu-amst.com/documents/AMST7500_HANDBOOK_09102009.pdf

Oct./Nov. 2009

MA in American Studies @ KSU

Maymester Study Abroad

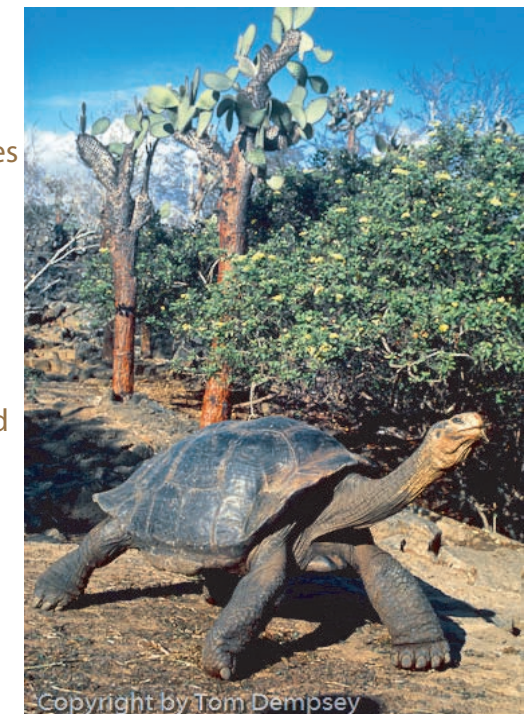
Ecuador & Galapagos Islands - Identity Through Culture

May 9-May 25, 2010 (MayMester) SA8890/AMST 7430
with Ernesto Silva

Latin American countries, as a whole, share more cultural similarities than differences. Through the careful study of historical essays, political critiques, short stories, folktales, personal accounts, and several journal articles, students will be exposed to the different ways by which Latin American identities are formed. The readings will be complemented by first-hand experiences while visiting museums, churches, markets, parks, and towns throughout the different regions of Ecuador. Emphasis will be placed on the myriad of ways in which Latin American countries have been formed, how they relate to one another and how they perceive and are perceived by people from the USA. This course will be conducted in English.

SA8890/AMST7310 - with Nancy Hoalst Pullen

Plant Geography and Ecuadorian culture— Ecuador becomes a living laboratory for you to learn, understand, and investigate the natural world of plants from biogeographical and ethnobotanical perspectives. Students will learn the natural and anthropological patterns and processes that have influenced the distribution and evolution of plant species of Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Students will also learn traditional and cultural relationships between people and plants of Ecuador, principally the consumptive, medicinal, economic, and religious uses of plants, as well as modern-day biopiracy of herbal medicines.



Copyright by Tom Dempsey

Mark the date: Oct. 13, 2009 Study Abroad Fair
Student Center – University Rooms

Do you know someone who's thinking about attending Graduate School at Kennesaw State University in 2010? Encourage them to attend the:

Graduate Schools Open House @ KSU

When: Saturday, October 20, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where: University Rooms, Student Center, Kennesaw State University



We're also attending the Georgia State Graduate Fair - October 26, 2009 & the Idealist Grad Fair on the campus of Georgia State on October 30, 2009.

<http://www.kennesaw.edu/graduate/admissions/forms.html> - Applications due 11/1/2009.