

The American Studies Mock Conference Panel & MAST Mixer

NOV. 9, 2010 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Social Science 3032, then meeting at Marlow's Restaurant to celebrate.

Presenters:

Wende Ballew - "Lesbianism in Lock-Down: Georgia's Prison Policy and the Systematic Heteronorming of Women"

Anna Golden - "The Blinding White: The North Atlanta Secessionist Movement and Their Fight for Segregation"

Kaci Schmitt - "As If You Could be More Queer!: Questioning Distinct Gender Lines in Clueless Vs. Blurred (and Crossing of) Gender Lines in the 21st Century American 'Emo' Youth."

RSVP to:
MAST Office
678-797-2504

NOV. 5, 2010 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Apache Cafe 64 3rd St. NW ATL - Admission \$5.00

This event brought to you by the MA in American Studies Program and the African & African Diaspora Studies Program.

Bad Men & Women: From Stagolee to Frankie & Johnny

featuring: Dr. Cecil Brown

the author of
Stagolee Shot Billy

Mudcat,
Spectac,

DJ Stagga'Lee Henzel from WRFG

KSU Poetica Ensemble &

Hermina Glass-Avery

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The MA in American Studies Program

Crossing boundaries, Building community, Engaging culture



The Peoplestown Project: an Update
by LeeAnn Lands

Peoplestown MYPLACE students working with MAST student, Wende Ballew

Launched in January 2009, the Peoplestown Project is devoted to studying and interpreting community-based movements and organizations in the Peoplestown neighborhood in central Atlanta. Partnering with the Peoplestown Revitalization Corporation, Emmaus House, Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, and the Atlanta History Center, the project collects oral histories and historical manuscripts (which will be available in 2011 via a wiki-portal) and facilitates local examination and interpretation of place and grassroots community organizing through neighborhood-based programming.

Since June 2010, with funding from the American Studies Association's Community Partnership Grant, CHSS, the Department of History and Philosophy, Cultural and Regional Studies, and the American Studies program, the MYPLACE segment of the project has focused on working with neighborhood middle grades and high school students to use visual and performing arts to explore overlapping themes of self, community, and civic life.

At the Emmaus House Summer Arts Camp, for example, MAST student Gwendelyn Ballew worked with artist-campers to create and perform stories relevant to and reflective of their lives. Under the guidance of Asst. Professor of English Jennifer Dail, the artist-campers crafted personal narratives utilizing digital story practices. And with photographer and GA State grad student Mary Stuart Hall, the artist-campers studied composition and used digital photography to document and interpret personally significant places. Currently, through the Emmaus House Saturday Arts Program, six middle and high school girls are using photography, audio, and visual technologies to create digital narratives about themselves, others, and their neighborhood.



Work produced through MYPLACE will be on exhibit in the Social Science Atrium in December 2010.



Spring 2011 MAST Courses

AMST 7100: AMERICAN STUDIES METHODS

Dr. Rebecca Hill, Tuesdays, 3:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Introduces students to current methods in American Studies research and public practice. The course focuses on core concepts, objects of analysis, and evolving research practices used for working in American Studies. Students will grapple with the concept of interdisciplinarity, examine the values of a variety of disciplinary methods and think consciously about which methods make the most sense for their own particular areas of interest in American Studies. Students will read both disciplinary and interdisciplinary works in American studies that emphasize particular methods: literary criticism, history, sociology, art history, as well as more thematic studies. While critiquing notable examples from the field, and working on their own research projects, students will also consider various dynamic professional contexts for "doing" American Studies, such as professional organizations and journals, classrooms, the workplace, public settings, and other diverse communities outside the university.



AMST 7310: REGIONAL STUDIES: Sex, Blood, Death and the Border - Dr. Linda Niemann, Tuesdays, 6:30-9:15 p.m.

This course will look at the literature of the American West in a historical context, focusing on the border with Mexico. Students will become better informed about border issues that have a national impact, such as immigration, the drug wars, multiculturalism, and the "Reconquista." We will read literature from the three cultures of the southwest: Native American, Anglo, and Hispanic. We will use an interdisciplinary approach that contextualizes the West in terms of geography, social history, politics, visual culture, tourism, and the cultural production of myths. We will also read poetry, stories, and non-fiction that contextualizes and interrogate ideas and histories embedded in major novels. We will view films which establish and deconstruct myths of the West and which reveal counter-histories of the region. We will take a field trip that demonstrates how museums, national parks, and retail stores are themselves borderlands. This class will function as a graduate seminar.



AMST 7410: LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE: America as Utopia

Dr. Ed Chan, Wednesdays, 3:30 - 6:15 p.m.



This course explores the United States as an experiment in utopian desires, aspirations, and imaginings through literature and history, as well as social, political, and cultural theory. We will use utopia as a conceptual framework for discussing national identity, social struggles, and the dreams of a better world that both inspire. Literary texts will range from John Winthrop's "A Model of Christian Charity" (ca. 1630) and Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* (1854) to utopian novels such as Edward Bellamy's *Looking Backward*, Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Herland*, B. F. Skinner's *Walden Two*, Marge Piercy's *Woman on the Edge of Time* and Octavia Butler's *Dawn*. In addition, we will read about real-life intentional communities in Kat Kinkade's *Is It Utopia Yet? An Insider's View of Twin Oaks in Its 26th Year*, with the possibility of a site visit depending on student interest and availability. Historical readings will draw from Leo Marx's *The Machine in the Garden* and Mike Davis' *City of Quartz*; theoretical texts will include writers such as Ernst Bloch, Fredric Jameson, José Vasconcelos, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Robin D. G. Kelley. Although the course will emphasize literary utopias of the United States, students are welcome to take historical or hemispheric approaches to utopia, as well as intentional communities for the final project.

Oct./Nov. 2010

AMST 7200: AMERICAN CULTURAL MOVEMENTS: U.S.

Social Justice Movements Since 1945

Dr. LeeAnn Lands, Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9:15 p.m.

In this reading and action seminar, we'll examine recent scholarly empirical studies of social justice movements in the U.S. post-1945. Rather than attempting a survey of the various movements in the period, we'll focus on a few movements that scholars have been probing intensely over the past few years so as to compare methods, findings and arguments, approaches, research questions, and change in scholarly emphasis over time. We might, for example, read and discuss recent scholarly treatments of student movements, the third world left, the disability rights movement, environmental organizing, and/or the living wage and jobs for justice campaigns. Through these movements we'll be able to examine what prompted people to organize around a particular issue, what facilitated the building of a "movement," who was involved and why, organizing strategies and tactics, larger community responses, and movement successes and failures. As we dig through these works, we'll also look for and discuss larger patterns in social justice movements over the period. Finally, the course will include a "service learning" component that will require you to engage directly in, study, and interpret a local, regional, or national social justice action or movement in your interest area.



AMST 7420: AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURES: Sports in America

Dr. Elsa Nystrom, Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:15 p.m.



From colonial times to the 21st century sport has played an important role in shaping and influencing American society in both overt and covert ways. In this seminar students will look at how the influence of sport and sporting events in American society relates to the development of our national culture. Sport has impacted many different areas of our society from gender relations to foreign policy. Discussion will be stimulated by selected readings, film, and discussion. The class will focus on the development and growth of American involvement in sports after the Civil War into the 20th century. Topics will include the increasing politicization of sports and the move from active participation to passive fandom as well as issues of race, gender and ethnicity, and the influence of television on sport. The class will also include a discussion of the Olympics and its effect on sports in the US and the rest of the world. We will take a closer look at the most popular sports in US history, including horseracing, running, bicycle and auto racing, baseball, football, and basketball. The class will be supported by an 8-week film festival which will provide the students (and the general public) with an opportunity to view some of the most important films on sports and discuss their impact and the veracity of the films' content.

AMST 7500: PRACTICUM (Internship or Applied Research Project)

Dr. Rebecca Hill, *Prerequisite: 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

AMST 7900: CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

Dr. Rebecca Hill, *Prerequisite: Permission of the Program Director*