

The following MAST'ers will be presenting at the following conferences:

Southern American Studies Conference - February 17-19, 2011

Wende Ballew's paper: "Rock of Ages: The Sexual and Religious Control of Women's Bodies in Georgia Prisons"

Dionne Blasingame's paper: "Postcolonialism and the U.S. South"

Mandy McGrew's paper: "Women's Health Across Cultures: The Maya in Georgia"

Chris Smith's paper: "Alla Lejos: Exile, Asylum and Return and the Disruptions of a Transnational Maya Community"

Dr. Rebecca Hill will chair a session on "Black Radicalism, Class Struggle & Social Movements in the U.S. South."

Southeastern Women's Studies Association - March 24-26, 2011

Wende Ballew's paper: "Structural Adjustments: Queering Privatization, Framing Disaster"

Gulf-South Summit on Service Learning & Civic Engagement - March 2-4, 2011

Mary Elizabeth Tyler's paper: "Curricular Without the Credit: Utilizing Classroom Strategies to Strengthen Co-Curricular Service Programs"

Save the date to for future special speakers with MAST:

Who: Melissa Checker: author of "Polluted Promises" - March 17

Who: Sam Quinones: author of "Antonio's Gun and Delfino's Dream" - April 12

Jan./Feb. 2011

The MA in American Studies Program

Crossing Boundaries
Building Community
Engaging Culture

Apache Cafe Event: Nov. 5, 2010



Spectac bringing down the house.

- Dr. Cecil Brown, author of *Stagolee Shot Billy* and *I, Stagolee*, gave the historical background.
- KSU's own Hermina Glass-Avery (of The Civil War Center) performed a Frankie & Johnny poem, "He was Her Man and He Sure 'nuff Done Her Wrong!"
- KSU's Poetica Ensemble which is made up of theater and performance majors created a Staggo Lee spoken word event.
- Mudcat, a famous Atlanta blues artist, performed the Staggo Lee Ballad and Frankie & Johnny.
- Spectac (in picture left) performed an impromptu rap about the event and performed Staggo Lee and a Frankie & Johnny freestyle rap.

Who knew that history could be so much fun? The first event of 2010-2011 semester was a terrific blend of history, music, and two spoken word performances. Mix in the cool atmosphere of the Apache Cafe, in downtown Atlanta (next door to The Varsity), and you have a MAST first. Dr. Cecil Brown, author of *Stagolee Shot Billy*, hosted a talk, live music, and spoken word performance about "Stagolee" and "Frankie and Johnny" which are two ballads based on real events and people who have created Black-American folk heroes. He talked about the history of the ballads in the culture of brothels and bar rooms of the late nineteenth century to introduce and explain performances of different variations of the ballads by spoken-word, blues, and hip-hop artists.



Dr. Hill &
Dr. Cecil Brown



Poetica: Kennesaw Spoken Word Society



Mudcat

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AMST 7200: American Cultural Movements: The 1st Amendment in American Media (8 weeks)
with Josh Azriel, Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:00 – 4:45 p.m.

This section of AMST 7200 analyzes the historic role the First Amendment has played in American Media. We define American media as newspapers, magazines, radio, television, film, and Internet. This course begins with the philosophical underpinnings of the First Amendment and ends with the role it plays in today's contemporary use of the Internet. Students will learn the origins of the First Amendment, the role the U.S. Supreme Court has played in determining its applicability to different forms of media, and will see how technology affects how we interpret the law.

AMST 7310: Regional Studies: The Queer South
with Ugena Whitlock, Tuesdays/Thursdays 5:00 – 8:45 p.m. (6 weeks)

Regional studies offers a thematic study of cultural, social, and economic patterns of a representative region using texts and methods from a variety of disciplines, such a history, literature, and sociology. Students interrogate texts ranging from literary prize-winning novels to primary historical documents located in the earliest settlement using contemporary literature and historical analysis. This course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

AMST 7410: Literature and Performance in American Culture: The Life of Thomas Merton: Writer, Monk and Social Activist - with David King, Mondays/Wednesdays 5:00 – 8:45 p.m. (8 weeks)

In the more than 40 years since his death, Thomas Merton's reputation as a gifted writer, monk, and social activist has continued to grow. Merton's work has never been more available, and the wealth of excellent scholarship associated with his writing has continued to attract the attention of a secular audience. In its growing desire for contemplation, peace, and solitude, this new audience represents perhaps Merton's ideal reader. This graduate course will place Merton in a variety of American contexts: as part of the American contemplative tradition; as a member of the 20th Century Catholic Literary Renaissance; as a product of the Beat Generation; and as a remarkable social activist, who from his position as a cloistered Trappist monk, served as both conscience and compass for the generation of Americans who came of age during the Cold War and Civil Rights eras. Merton's early life and background were both international and cosmopolitan, and though his monastic vocation was rooted in one of the world's most ancient religious traditions, he understood his calling as one that was uniquely American, and it was through this identity that he achieved some of his greatest insights and achievements in becoming one of the most profound voices of America's most tumultuous era of social change. Students in this seminar will read most of Merton's most important works and will have as well the opportunity to visit the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia, the daughter house of Merton's Kentucky monastery. Finally, the course will feature a visit from the founding editor of the Thomas Merton Annual, the foremost journal on Merton studies.

AMST 7500: PRACTICUM (Internship or Applied Research Project)
AMST 7900: Capstone Experience (1-6 Credit Hours)
Rebecca Hill, *Permission of the Director Required.*

American Studies in the World

Study Abroad in Summer 2011



AUSTRIA – University of Graz – July 15-August 1, 2011

SA8890/AMST7320 — America in Transnational Context w/Emron Esplin

This program provides an intensive two-week study of the Americas from a global perspective at Seggau Castle near Leibnitz, Austria. Students attend lectures by professors of film, literature, art, sociology, or law each morning. Students choose a seminar stream (Literature; Film & Society; Identities; Economics, Politics & Society; or Sustainability) and a transferable skills workshop (e.g. Writing about Literature; Writing for the Media). They attend the seminar three afternoons per week and the workshop two afternoons per week. The evening program includes film screenings, informal "meet the professor" lectures, and free time in the castle's courtyard, café, and pool. Application deadline: March 1, 2011.

GERMANY – Contextualizing the Holocaust – June 15-28, 2011

SA8890/AMST 7230 Public History & Memory with Catherine Lewis and Sabine Smith

During this thematically focused, interdisciplinary Summer Session I experience, students and faculty function as a team to explore four German cities, numerous memorial sites, and four concentration camps, including Auschwitz. We will study the Holocaust and the rise and fall of the Third Reich on campus for the first two weeks. Then from June 15-27 we will travel to Munich, Nuremberg, Bernburg, Berlin, and Krakow. In a journey that connects history with the present, we interact with scholars, curators, and survivors. The course and trip offer a life-changing opportunity to experience the beauty of central Europe while wrestling with its tragic past. Students must enroll in at least two courses, but can enroll in three. The cost covers airfare, ground transportation, accommodations in youth hostels and hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, and admissions to most sites. Application deadline is March 1, 2011.

JAPAN – Tokyo Japanese Culture: Old & New Art, Literature – May 10-June 1, 2011

SA8890/AMST 7320 America in Transnational Context with Ed Chan

During the past century and a half, Japan and the United States have had a perhaps unique and at times tumultuous relationship as rival nation-states, military foes, economic competitors and trade partners, as well as mutual admirers. Recent generations have developed new connections between Japanese and American culture through everything from anime, manga, J-pop, visual kei, and J-horror, to baseball, Hello Kitty, and sushi. Yet, historically Japan was known as the land of Zen Buddhism, sumo wrestling, and samurai warriors. For this study abroad Program, we will spend three weeks in Kobe, Kyoto, and Tokyo, exploring both the old and the new. Highlights of the trip include World Cultural Heritage Sites, interactions with Japanese college students, scenic landscapes, and some of the most unique food to be found anywhere. Students can earn from 3 to 9 credit hours in three courses that count toward minors in Asian Studies and American Studies, or toward free electives. Application deadline is February 1, 2011.

ITALY-Intensive Italian Language in Siena May 22-June 19, 2011 ITAL2001 and ITAL2002 with Federica Santini, Application deadline: Feb. 1, 2011.

MEXICO- Intensive Spanish Language and Culture – June 11 – July 12, 2011 SPAN1001 and SPAN2002 with Linda Niemann, Application deadline: March 1, 2011.