Fall 2011 MAST Course Offerings

AMST 7000: American Studies Scholarship - Rebecca Hill, Tuesdays, 6:30 - 9:15 pm
This course explores a variety of themes, theoretical influences and methodological approaches current in American Studies. This course is designed to introduce you to contemporary American Studies scholarship and its historical antecedents, so that you have a broad understanding of not only what contemporary scholars are doing, but where their work fits in the history of the field as a whole. This field has expanded from its own institutional origins to embrace what has come today to be known as "cultural studies," so some of the classic works that you will read have not traditionally been understood as "American Studies" works, but have become so influential in contemporary American Studies scholarship that they can be said to have formed a new canon. This class will go in nearly chronological order based on these "classics," creating a history of the field that places it within an international context of cultural studies scholarship more generally.

AMST 7200: American Cultural Movements: Flip This House - LeeAnn Lands, Wed 6:30 - 9:15 pm
Using popular media, cultural landscape analysis, and a range of disciplinary approaches, students enrolled in this course will study and analyze the popular meaning of housing and neighborhood in U.S. lives and culture. We will investigate, among other things, how housing evolved from shelter to symbol, the creation and circulation of housing and neighborhood expectations, "performances" of home, and challenges to dominant narratives about the "proper" home and neighborhood. By focusing our attention on housing and its related constellation of practices, assumptions, and expectations, we will gain a better understanding of how class, gender, and race shape and are manifested and circulated in everyday life and material culture. Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

AMST 7220: Passages to America: The Native American Experience - Jim Piecuch, Monday 6:30-9:15 pm
This course will cover key issues and events in Native American history from 1492 to 1890. Topics covered include the early colonization of the Caribbean, the subjugation of the Aztecs, early North American encounters including trade and religious conversion, the Natives' role in imperial conflicts, and cultural clashes along the frontier as it expanded from the Atlantic coast across the continent. This course will cover key issues and events in Native American history from 1492 to 1890. Topics covered include the arrival and conflict in Spanish America, the subjugation of the Aztecs, early North American encounters including trade and religious conversion, the Natives' role in imperial conflicts, and cultural clashes along the frontier as it expanded from the Atlantic coast across the continent. Students enrolled in Passages to America examine forced and voluntary migration and immigration in the historical development of American culture. The varied experiences of these individuals and their families are discussed in the context of such topics as political and linguistic borders which divide the Americas. 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 7320: America in Transnational Context: Muslims in America - Anne Richards, Tuesdays - 3:30-6:15 pm
Students will explore contemporary and historic influences and experiences of American Muslims from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. Students will read extensively on the topic of Muslims in America, view films, make presentations, and create a final, web-based project reflecting their understanding of a relevant topic.

AMST 7430: Identities & Social Groups - Jesse Benjamin, Thursdays - 3:30-6:15 pm
This course 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 or Applied Research Project - Rebecca Hill
Prerequisite: AMST 7000 and AMST 7100 and permission of the Director.
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 MAST Program Director. For more information on AMST 7500 options, see the AMST 7500 Handbook.

AMST 7900: Capstone Experience (1-6 Course Hours) - Rebecca Hill
Prerequisite: AMST 7000 and AMST 7100 and permission of the Director.
The Capstone Experience consists of a major research project or a project using interdisciplinary methods from American Studies to investigate questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to develop a proposal, carry out research related to their topic or project aims, and complete a product drawing on the content of program courses and integrating it with new, individualized study.

For further information on the curriculum requirements of the MAST Program, go to the website: http://amst.hss.kennesaw.edu or visit the MAST Office: Social Science, Suite 2015.
The MA in American Studies Program

New Transnational Curriculum

**New MAST Curriculum and “Transnational Concentration”**

In order to better fulfill the transnational goals of the original proposal documents which brought about a Masters in American Studies at KSU, the MAST faculty and the AMST curriculum committee have revised the MAST curriculum to require all students to take a minimum of one transnational course and to allow interested students to receive a concentration in transnational American Studies. Coupled with the MAST program’s strength in community engagement, this transnational curriculum places KSU’s MAST program on the cutting edge of American Studies programs both nationally and abroad.

**Curriculum Change:**

Beginning in Fall 2011, the MAST curriculum will include four rather than three clusters. The new cluster is entitled “Transnational American Studies”, and all students will take one course from this cluster. Students who began the program before Fall 2011 will have the choice of following the new curriculum or following the original curriculum with three clusters. Students beginning in Fall 2011 and afterward will be required to follow the new curriculum.

**Transnational Concentration:**

Interested students can now receive an official “Transnational Concentration” within the MAST program. The “Transnational Concentration” taps into a powerful current in contemporary American Studies scholarship. This should be attractive to students who are fulfilling a MAST degree to find or continue employment and to students who hope to further their educations after completing the MAST program. This concentration will appear on the students’ official transcripts, and students can refer to this emphasis in job interviews and/or graduate school applications.

To earn the “Transnational Concentration” students must:

- complete 3 “transnational” courses (9 credit hours) beyond the transnational cluster*
- fulfill a higher language requirement*
- participate in a study abroad program*

*For more details about each of these requirements, please see the “Transnational Concentration” page of the new curriculum on the MAST website: [http://amst.hss.kennesaw.edu](http://amst.hss.kennesaw.edu)

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**MAST Faculty/Student Accomplishments**

**Fkokolo: Railroad Memoirs**
Linda Grant Niemann
Introduction by Leslie Marmon Silko

*“Makes* the railroad experience come alive with all its grit, danger, romance, and general outrageousness. . . . Possibly the finest book I’ve ever read about the actual experience of working on the railroad.” — Kevin Keefe, Trains

*And, a special congrats to our Spring 2011 graduate: Wende Ballew!*

CHSS winner of the KSU Foundation Distinguished Service Award goes to Dr. LeeAnn Lands for the Peoplestown Project. It’s awarded for sustained service to the university, community, and/or profession. CHSS winner of the KSU Foundation Distinguished Scholarship Award was awarded to Dr. Anne Richards.

Judy Obiofuma was named President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and Nikkeshia Wilson was named the Program Resource Director.

**Dates to Remember**

Final registration for Fall is August 15-16, 2011
Sept. 22-24, 2011 - Imagining America Conference – Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN