The American Studies Student Organization (AMSTO) is the newly founded student society created with the hopes of being a voice for the students of American Studies.

AMSTO is a registered Kennesaw State Student organization and is open to undergraduate and graduate students. AMSTO plans to develop workshops, bring American Studies related speakers to campus, sponsor film nights, as well as other activities.

The aim is to have this student organization be a vehicle for building a community for undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and others who are interested in the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary methods of studying American cultures. The biggest aspiration of AMSTO is to sponsor an interdisciplinary conference with other ISD programs in Spring 2014. AMSTO has already held the first sponsored mock panel on March 26th and plans to hold additional panels in the near future.

Starting in summer 2013, AMSTO will offer an opportunity for crossing borders and engaging cultures by hosting the summer reading group.

The first book chosen is *Strange Affinities: The Gender and Sexual Politics of Comparative Racialization* edited by Grace Hong and Roderick Ferguson. Officially kick starting in Fall 2013, AMSTO is co-chaired by Dudgrick Bevins and Blaine McCarty, with Christi Williams as secretary. If you would like to get involved or have any questions, please feel free to email Dudgrick at DudgrickBevins@yahoo.com or Blaine at BlaineMcCarty711@gmail.com. The time to get excited is now!

**Application Deadlines for 2013 Admission:**

**Summer & Fall: June 1, 2013**

**Before coming to KSU Robbie Lieberman was Professor of History at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Originally from Los Angeles, she received her B.A. from U.C.-Berkeley and her M.A. and Ph.D. in American Culture from the University of Michigan. She is the author of *My Song Is My Weapon: People’s Songs, American Communism, and the Politics of Culture, 1930-1950*, which won the Deems Taylor Award from ASCAP; *The Strangest Dream: Communism, Anti-Communism, and the U.S. Peace Movement, 1945-1963*; and *Prairie Power: Voices of 1960s Midwestern Student Protest*. Recent publications include a book co-edited with Clarence Lang, *Anticomunism and the African American Freedom Movement*, and an article, "'Measure Them Right': Lorraine Hansberry and the Struggle for Peace."

Dr. Lieberman served as editor of *Peace & Change: A Journal of Peace Research* from 2006-2011. Her current project focuses on African American proponents of peace in the early Cold War years.**

**Welcome Robbie!**
Fall 2013 MAST Courses

AMST 7000: American Studies Scholarship - Rebecca Hill - (W 6:30-9:15 pm) - 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. That 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. These classics will go in nearly chronological order, creating a history of the field that places it within an international context of cultural studies scholarship.

AMST 7200: American Social Movements: U.S. Peace & Social Justice Movements since 1945 - Robbie Lieberman - (T- 6:30-9:15 pm) - In this reading and research seminar, we’ll examine and critique 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, 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.

AMST 7450 - American Visual Culture – Diana McClintock (Mondays) - This course will focus on the history and cultural influences of art that is frequently termed “outsider,” “folk” or “vernacular” because it was created and exists outside of the mainstream art institutions. Students will examine the impact this alternative artistic practice on popular culture in the United States, as well as in a global context. Emphasis is on the aesthetic, economic, and cultural contexts of this art; the role of particular artists, collectors, curators and critics in shaping the reception of this art and the impact that it has had on popular culture; tensions between high art, popular and commercial culture; and the role of this manifestation of visual culture in the American landscape. Students read from the texts to gain historical perspective, see documentary films dealing with “Outsider” artistic practice, analyze the work of selected individuals, and consult reviews and current journals to ascertain their critical reception and their impact on the community. The course may involve visits to off-campus sites.

AMST 7520 America in Transnational Context- (Transnational)- L. Arnsperger (TH 6:30-9:15 pm) In 1898, in the wake of the Spanish-American War, Albert Beveridge touted the expansion of American civilization in Asia, Latin America, and elsewhere, urging that “the empire of our principles” be established “over the hearts of all mankind.” What followed was a century of American expansionism and global interventions, of the Americanization of cultures and political systems across the globe. The currents of influence have flowed both ways, of course, as economic and cultural exchanges as well as continued waves of immigration have brought “foreign” people, ideas, and beliefs into the United States. Engaging with the recent transnational turn in American Studies, we will discuss a range of texts, from Claude McKay’s Banjo and Paul Gilroy’s The Black Atlantic to Dave Eggers’ What is the What, which all address various movements across national boundaries. Topics include the slave trade, immigration, refugees, globalization, and the global impact and origin of 9/11. As part of the class, we may take a half-day field trip to one of the Atlanta area organizations assisting refugees.

AMST 7700: PRACTICUM (Internship or Applied Research Project) The practicum may be offered as an internship; applied research project; teaching practicum; or other applied experience as approved by the MAST Program Director. (Prereq. AMST 7000 + 7100.)

AMST 7900: Capstone Experience (1-6 hours Credit Hours) 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 individualized study.

The MAST Program welcomes Emory doctoral candidate, Levin Arnsberger for the next academic year. He is here as a visiting asst. professor, in a temp. full-time position between Interdisciplinary Studies Dept. & the English Dept. This fall he’ll be teaching in the MA Program.

Arnsperger graduated from the Freie Universität Berlin in Germany with a Master of Arts in American Studies, Modern History, and Political Science. He plans to complete his dissertation about depictions of Muslim and Arab “terrorists” in September 11 literature this summer. His research interests include Native American literature and contemporary American literature. He has presented at many conferences, including at the Native American Literature Symposium, the annual meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, and the American Literature Assn. conference. An article entitled, Paranoia after September 11: Submitting to the Specter of Terrorism, will be published this year by the German journal LWU - Literatur für Wissenschaft und Unterricht. Arnsperger has translated a selection of Obama’s speeches into German (published in 2009), In addition to English and German, he speaks French, Arabic, and Italian. We are very pleased to have Professor Arnsperger with us for the year. Please welcome him to KSU the next time you see him!