Faculty Spotlight: Larrie Dudenhoeffer
Associate Professor of English

Dr. Larrie Dudenhoeffer teaches film appreciation, media studies, and critical theory in the Departments of English and Interdisciplinary Studies. His research and teaching interests cover such topics as media convergence, affect theory, psychoanalysis, phenomenology, post-9/11 American cinema, and the aesthetic significance of the horror film, the superhero film, the Western, and the experimental film. His film courses (FILM) are frequently cross-listed as American Studies courses (AMST).

Next spring, Dr. Dudenhoeffer will teach AMST 7420: Convergence Culture in the MA Program in American Studies. This course will explore current media developments that combine the functions and the aesthetic markers of cinema, television, computer databases, video games, search engines, digital video devices, mobile texting devices, and cybernetic systems. This new course will ask serious questions about the effects of digitization, social media, technological convergence, and the concept of the cyborg on our culture, our taste in entertainment, our ways of communicating with one another, and our conventions for representing race, gender, nationality, sexuality, and disability.

Larrie Dudenhoeffer’s book, Embodiment and Horror Cinema, will be released by Palgrave Macmillan on December 4, 2014. The book expands the notion of “body horror” to include such films as Paranormal Activity, The Ring, and The Texas Chain Saw Massacre.

Important Dates

September 3: First AMSTO Meeting
September 3: American Studies Meet and Greet
September 20: Year of the Arabian Peninsula Day
October 24: MAST-oween
October 27: MAST Open House
November 1: Last Day to Petition to Graduate in Spring 2015
November 3-December 18: Early Registration for Spring 2015
November 18: MAST Open House
December 1: Final Deadline for Spring 2015 MAST Applications
December 15: Wine and Cheese Reception
December 16: Fall 2014 Graduation - Congratulations Fall 2014 Graduates!
MAST Welcomes our New Students!

Tanya Brinkley received a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University in February 2014, a Master of Social Work (MSW) with a Certificate in Labor and Industry from the University of Pittsburgh in 1985, and a Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) from Edinboro University in 1983 and is currently a part-time faculty member with Northcentral University in Prescott Valley, Arizona. Tanya served in the United States Army as a Military Police Officer in the Georgia Army National Guard for twenty-five years until she medically retired in June 2008. While enrolled in MAST, Tanya intends to focus on women's policy issues, women veterans, and disabled veteran policy and hopes to teach Gender and Women's Studies courses following completion of her degree.

A 2014 graduate of Kennesaw State University with a B.S. in Anthropology, Paola Garcia has been the recipient of multiple awards including KSU University Scholar and Outstanding Senior in Anthropology. Her research interests include sociopolitical aspects of Uruguay and its Carnival, transnational migration, diasporic identity, and Latin American decolonial philosophy. After completing her MA, Paola imagines herself working alongside Atlanta’s community of Uruguayans, both those who continue living within its geographical boundaries and those who have returned to the homeland. She daydreams of further graduate studies in Montevideo, Uruguay, and working with Museo del Carnaval.

Paul Hackert received his Bachelor’s of Social Science from Mercer University in 2013, graduating magna cum laude. Following his graduation from Mercer, he enrolled in the MA Program in American Studies because he likes the interdisciplinary nature of the program and enjoys learning about sociology, political science, foreign languages, and history. Upon completion of his MA in American Studies, Paul intends to further his education to become either an immigration attorney or a college professor.

In 2012, Stephanie Hogue received a Bachelor of Arts in English and graduated magna cum laude from Kennesaw State University. She currently works at Kennesaw State in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. While enrolled in the MA Program in American Studies, Stephanie intends to focus on disability studies, prison systems, social justice movements, and 20th century American literature. Following graduation, she would like to teach English as a Second Language abroad.

Camille Kleidysz attended Kennesaw State University and received a B.A. in English. She is the author of a compelling series of inspirational young adult novels titled Nazareth Heights and Spiritual Eyes. This is the first in a series of novels, with work progressing quickly on the follow-up. While enrolled in MAST she would like to focus on Gender and Women's Studies and African American history and after completion of her MA, Camille intends to continue her education so that she can follow her dream of becoming a professor.

A graduate of Christendom College in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, Lissa Small received her B.A. in History. Her senior thesis discussed the correlation between the development of 18th century fashion and the social and political changes of that century. Lissa currently works at Kennesaw State University with international students coming to the United States to learn English, which affords her an up-close look at intercultural interaction and world perceptions of American culture. She hopes to study cultural change, immigration, material culture, history and culture of Catholicism, and intercultural communication as she completes her degree, and she intends to further her career in international student services upon completion of the program.

Anna Tussey graduated with honors from Transylvania University in 2013 with a B.A. in Spanish and Sociology/Anthropology and an English minor. As a recipient of the Kenan Research Grant, she analyzed transcripts from undocumented Mexican immigrants living in the United States and organized the material into quantitative data, ultimately assisting in a presentation at the Anthropologists and Sociologists Conference of Kentucky. Anna’s current research focuses on Latin American immigrants in the United States, border conflict, ethnicity, and ethnicity in feminism and she hopes to either work in human rights or continue to a PhD program with a focus on human rights.

Student Capstone Projects

Yen Rodriguez will be designing a faculty/student learning community for KSU centered on Afro-Cuban identities. It will include a semester long curriculum with collaboration with professors from universities in Cuba.

Joann Trodahl will be finishing “The Salzburger Story and Its Legacy in Rincon, Georgia” this semester as she completes an account of the Salzburgers, a group of religious exiles, some of whom moved to Georgia, and what the story means to their descendants today.

Emmie Trull will be completing an applied research project titled “There is No I in Team: A Look at Gender Equality in Athletics, Fandom, and Sports Marketing.” Her capstone will include the Implementation of a marketing plan for the Reinhardt University softball team which will include company sponsorship, promotions, game day activities, and fundraisers.

Sean Watkins is writing a thesis titled “From Colonialism to Capitalism: The Selling Out of Colored Skin in Sidney Lumet’s The Wiz.”

Christi Williams will be exploring why horror programs have become exceedingly popular and what cultural implications may be drawn from this. Titled “American Horror Story: Televising the Dark Side of American Dreams,” she will be focusing on FX's American Horror Story with selected analysis of The Walking Dead and Breaking Bad.

Nikkesha Wilson is completing a project titled “Finding the Tuttys: The History of the Marriage of Charles Tuttty and Rose Ward Tuttty, 1889” which seeks to highlight the under-researched narrative of the Tuttys’ interracial marriage, referenced frequently in current scholarship on marriage rights, which was declared void by the State of Georgia in 1890.

Transnational Concentration Available to MAST Students

The Transnational Concentration is an elective concentration for interested students enrolled in the MA Program in American Studies. Students are not required to pursue a specialization in Transnational American Studies. This concentration consists of nine elective credit hours in courses with a transnational emphasis, an advanced foreign language requirement, and a study abroad requirement as follows:

Nine Elective Credit Hours: Students shall complete their nine elective credit hours of graduate-level study in courses beyond the transnational cluster requirement. The courses that meet the transnational course objectives are: AMST 7510, AMST 7520, Graduate-Level Study Abroad Program, or courses designated as transnational in the course offerings. Courses not previously approved as transnational in content must be approved by the Program Director. Students must complete at least six of these credit hours in AMST courses.

Language Requirement: Each student in the Transnational Concentration must pass a 3000-level proficiency exam administered by the Department of Foreign Languages, complete a 3000-level language course with a grade of “C” or better, or complete graduate-level coursework indicating proficiency. Native speakers of languages other than English may apply to the Program Director for a waiver of this requirement.

Study Abroad Requirement: Students in the Transnational Concentration must participate in and receive a grade of “B” or better in any approved graduate-level study abroad program. All graduate-level study abroad courses offered by AMST-affiliated faculty at KSU can fulfill this requirement. Other graduate study abroad courses offered at KSU or by other institutions must be approved by the Program Director.