AMST 7100 - American Studies Methods
T 6:30-9:15pm
The methods course 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. In this class, 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 works emphasizing methods of historical research, visual culture analysis, ethnography, literary criticism, as well as wholly interdisciplinary projects. While critiquing notable examples from the field, and working on their own research projects, students will also consider various 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 7330 Identities and Social Groups: Disability Studies
M 6:30-9:15pm, Ari Eisenberg
Disability Studies is an emerging interdisciplinary field that explores disability not just as a medical phenomenon affecting individuals, but as a socially constructed category that intersects with race, gender, sexuality, and nationality. Disability Studies scholars explore numerous questions with which American Studies scholars should also grapple, including: How are national citizenship and belonging constructed upon ableist notions of personhood?; How has disability been used as a metaphor in American literature and popular culture?; How does disability identity and the disability rights movement intersect or conflict with other social movements and identities?

AMST 7420 Popular Culture:The Superhero in American Comics, Culture, and Cinema
W 6:30-9:15pm, Larrie Dundenhoeffer
Starting with the debuts of Superman in 1938 and Batman in 1939, this course will examine the origins, the history, and the importance of the superhero to American culture. We will discuss the aesthetic conventions of the superhero comic, and the ways that film, television, and new media adapt them for the screen. We will also explore issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, immigration, and fandom in relation to such iconic figures as Wonder Woman, Spider-Man, the X-Men, and the Avengers, as well as a few select non-Marvel and non-DC superheroes. Finally, we will attempt to figure out the reasons as to why the figure of the superhero continues to enjoy so much critical and commercial success in the post-9/11 era.

AMST 7510 Passages to America: Migration Studies
R 6:30-9:15pm, Rodolfo Aguilar
Migration Studies is the study of human mobility. It includes internal migration within a nation’s borders and across international boundaries. Migration Studies and American Studies converge as both fields theorize race, immigrant communities, gender, class, citizenship, and labor. Often times, immigration is exclusively bounded to a discussion of economics. This course will explore global economies as well as forced migration studies to examine political turmoil and refugees, gendered immigrants, assimilation, transnationalism, push/pull theories, popular culture, and tensions between immigrants and native born residents. The overall goal of the course is to center the lives of immigrants into the larger migration, and globalize the 20th/21st century. Some of the more pressing questions this course will tackle include how does U.S. society incorporate newer waves of immigration? How does migration affect sending societies and host societies? What conditions do migrants find in the host society? What are the benefits and/or drawbacks to migration? What does Migration Studies look like in the age of Neoliberalism and reified national borders?

with permission
AMST 7700: Practicum
AMST 7901: Literature Review (Capstone 1)
AMST 7902: Capstone
All About AMSTO
American Studies Student Organization 2016-2017

AMSTO President Stephanie Craven and Tanya Brinkley hosted a fun pre-Dragon Con chat for any interested parties.

Students, faculty, and staff showed up to enthusiastically discuss their cosplay and plans for DragonCon weekend. At the event, Stephanie led an excellent conversation about American Studies research, Dragon Con, and fandom.

Recap
#KSUatDragonCon
By Tanya Brinkley

I was a first time participant at DragonCon 2016. I was looking for connections between my fascination with ghost stories and the DragonCon Paranormal Track. I had an opportunity to explore problematic themes that arise in popular culture through movies and television.

Because I am a KSU American Studies graduate student, I was introduced to the works of American Studies scholar Tiya Miles. In her most recent book, *Tales from the Haunted South: Dark Tourism and Memories of Slavery from the Civil War Era*, Miles connects the “ghost stories” to the dark tourist trade as a means to capitalize on enslaved black specters and promulgate an “Old South” narrative.

Participating in DragonCon allowed me a space to discuss, for example, a problematic character sensationalized by *American Horror Story: Coven*, Marie LaVeau, who reached fame because she was notorious for abusing her slaves, and is now a money making source as a tale to be told on New Orleans ghost tours.

I will return, and continue to review my DragonCon participation, with an American Studies lens.

New AMSTO Leadership!
Welcome, and thank you for what you do for American Studies students!

Stephanie Craven,
President
Elizabeth Hensley,
Vice President
Sanaz Mousavi,
Secretary
Suzie McWhirter,
Treasurer
Tanya Brinkley,
Reservation Delegate
Lissa Small,
Public Relations

American POP! Pin-on Culture

One of a kind buttons hand made, primary-sourced, print-media, inspired by popular icons
Funds raised go directly to AMSTO
November 10th
(Social Science Atrium)
Only $1!