The Little Library

“To read is to fly: it is to soar to a point of vantage which gives a view over wide terrains of history, human variety, ideas, shared experience and the fruits of many inquiries.”

-A.C. Grayling

The MAST program offers a wide variety of history, culture, and ideas which are often shared to the community through the experience of reading. Aware of the Little Libraries popping up all over the country, American Studies MAST student Lynne Tipton has taken on the challenge to share knowledge gained within the interdisciplinary American Studies program at Kennesaw State University by establishing one of these small libraries in her neighborhood.

The collection of books in the library include a wide variety of interests for all ages including used text books from the American Studies program. The desired goal for this curbside library is not only to build a sense of community and promote literacy, but to also encourage others to think with an open mind. To understand how a Little Library functions, one may browse the small wooden enclosure, built by volunteers who have donated their time, labor, and material. The Little Library is then placed in a public place for the purpose of others to select a book to read. There is no fee to participate and the only catch is one must “leave a book to take a book.” Periodic housekeeping is also needed to maintain the library’s appearance and Lynne provides updates to her neighbors, through a neighborhood Facebook page when books are added or replaced by those not being read.

So far the biggest challenge of the project has been to provide children’s books for the library’s collection, but Lynne has discovered “freebie bins” in local bookstores that provide a few picks to fill this void. This spring, Lynne has plans to paint the wooden structure with a bright and colorful bohemian motif to attract additional users.

If you do not already have a Little Library in your neighborhood or area, Lynne encourages everyone to make one.

AMST 7520 American in a Transnational Context: Vietnam War
Dr. David King, MW 5:00-7:45pm

The American experience in Vietnam marks one of the great turning points in the modern history of the United States and remains a fascinating aspect of our collective memory and imagination. In this provocative course, students will learn about the history, consequences, and implications of the Vietnam War from the perspective of those who fought and those who chronicled the war in an exciting period of new American journalism and media. The course emphasizes the war’s representations in literature and film and considers as well how art influences, shapes, and often distorts our view of history. We will read and discuss fiction and nonfiction accounts of the war including among other texts Phillip Caputo’s, A Rumor of War, Michael Herr’s Dispatches, Tim O’Brien’s The Things They Carried, and James Carroll’s An American Requiem; we will also watch and discuss some Vietnam films, including the landmark documentaries In the Year of the Pig and Hearts and Minds and the notable narrative films made by Michael Cimino, Francis Ford Coppola, Oliver Stone, and Stanley Kubrick. Finally, a number of veterans will share their own captivating stories and memories of their experiences in the war. The course will challenge you, inspire you, and move you as you deepen your knowledge not only of a tragic and pivotal conflict, but also of art’s ability to promote healing, insight, and understanding.

AMST 7700 Practicum or Study Abroad

AMST 7900 Capstone Experience
The American Studies Student Organization presents

“AMERICAN STUDIES: A SHOWCASE OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY”

Wednesday March 9, 2016

Join AMSTO and the faculty, staff and students of the American Studies Program for a research symposium dedicated to exploring and celebrating the scholarship, engagement, and activism of American Studies scholars.

Morning and afternoon panel topics featuring MAST students include: “A Showcase of Possibilities,” Camille Kleidysz, Naznin Sultana, and Anna Tussey; “New Directions in Feminism,” Tanya Brinkley and Lynne Tipton; and, “Police, Policy, and Prison in GA,” Stephanie Craven, Heather Harris, and Alex Vuich.

AMSTO will host a casual colloquium of American Studies topics between panel sessions. This “Chat and Chew” will take place in the Social Sciences building atrium from 12:30 pm - 2 pm. Current topics for discussion include “If Trump Isn’t a Fascist, Who Is?” “The Hesitant Feminist,” and “Naked for Justice.”

More information to come! Stay tuned to the MAST website for final details and program information.

AMSTO will continue to accept proposals for “Chat and Chew” topics through February 15th. Please email Tanya Brinkley at tanyabrinkley@me.com if you are interested.

DONALD PEASE

“The Recent Planetary Turn in American Studies”

Keynote Address

5PM Social Sciences Auditorium (1021)

Donald Pease is the Avalon Foundation Chair of the Humanities and the Chair of the Liberal Studies Program at Dartmouth College. His 1987 book, Visionary Compacts: American Renaissance Writing in Cultural Context, won the Mark Ingraham Prize for the best new book in the Humanities in 1987. Pease is the editor or co-editor of eight volumes including: The American Renaissance Reconsidered, Cultures of US Imperialism (with Amy Kaplan), Revisionist Interventions into the American Canon, Postnational Narratives, and (with Robyn Wiegman) Futures of American Studies. Pease has directed two NEH Seminars for College Teachers and is presently the General Editor for the New Americanists book series at Duke University Press as well as the Founding Director of Futures of American Studies, a Summer Institute in American Studies held each summer at Dartmouth. The author of more than eighty essays, Pease is presently at work on American Studies after the New Americanists.