



**KENNESAW STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

NORMAN J. RADOW COLLEGE OF  
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
*Interdisciplinary Studies Department*

## **AMERICAN STUDIES**

Spring 2026  
Course Descriptions



EXPLORING CULTURES, HISTORY  
AND IDENTITIES IN THE AMERICAS

# UNDERGRADUATE

## **AMST 1102: American Identities** **Instructor: Various**

**Available Face-to-Face, Hybrid and  
Asynchronous Online**

This course explores what it means to be “American.” Examining “American Identities” from local and global perspectives, and through a variety of disciplinary frameworks, this course focuses on the diverse forms of “American Identity,” as well as the social and cultural histories that have shaped these identities. Students examine their own and others’ identities. Students gain knowledge and skills related to intercultural relations through various methods that include research, reading, writing, performance, and class activities.

## **AMST 3620: Life and Death in America** **Instructor: Dr. Lauren Thompson**

**Hybrid**  
**Tuesdays 11:00am - 12:15pm**

This course introduces students to the historical and contemporary issues surrounding birth and death in the United States. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the course surveys methods, concepts, and frameworks relevant to understanding birth, death, and life in between as human rites of passage within various historical, cultural, ethnic, and ethical contexts. Students engage in the close reading of scholarly work, learn and practice a variety of research methods, and analyze historical sources.

## **AMST 3670: Greening America** **Instructor: Dr. Carlton Usher**

**Asynchronous Online**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to sustainability, focusing on its three foundational pillars: environmental respect, social equity, and economic viability. Students explore the dynamic interactions between these pillars and their implications for social justice, environmental stewardship, and economic development. Through critical analysis, discussion, and practical application, students develop a thorough understanding of sustainability and its relevance to both global and personal contexts.

## **AMST 3740: American Popular Culture** **Instructor: Dr. Lydia Ferguson**

**Asynchronous Online**

Critical analysis of popular culture in American society. A particular offering of the course could focus on a specific area of popular culture (e.g., books, music, sports, food, mass consumption or advertising) or survey several of those topics. Historical and theoretical readings will support students’ analysis of primary texts, including examples highlighting the globalization of American popular culture, mass markets and niche markets, the social formation of taste, and shifts in society’s preferences for mass consumption in different time periods.

# GRADUATE

**AMST 6401: Literature and Culture of the Americas**  
**Instructor: Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers**

**Synchronous Online**  
**Wednesdays 6:30pm - 7:45pm**

This section will trace the development of American identity through various literary movements, from the colonial and early national periods up to postmodern and contemporary literatures. We will focus on authors and texts that have both shaped and challenged mainstream ideas of American literature, considering the ways that our country has been engaged in and formed through transnational and multicultural conversations since its very beginnings. We'll sample a broad range of genres, ranging from poetry to travel narratives, from literary theory to novels, and we'll hear from authors who represent a broad range of periods and perspectives. Ultimately, this class will explore the ways that America imagines itself through the stories we tell.

**AMST 7100: American Studies Methods**  
**Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Hill**

**Synchronous Online**  
**Mondays 7:00pm - 8:40pm**

The methods course introduces students to current methods in American Studies research and public practice, preparing students to write their MA theses or capstone projects. 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 research project in American Studies. Students will read works emphasizing methods in historical research, visual culture, ethnography, literary criticism and combinations of these methods, and will practice applying those methods to their own original research projects.

**AMST 7200: American Social Movements**  
**Instructor: Dr. Katharine Schaab**

**Synchronous Online**  
**Thursdays 6:00pm - 7:40pm**

In this course, we will examine the evolution of various women's and feminist movements around the world including their priorities, challenges, and successes. Drawing upon a range of sources and the work of activists and scholars, we will consider the formation, expansion, and intersections of select movements and how transnational feminism has shaped geopolitical landscapes. Further, we will discuss the role of women's and feminist movements in shaping political and cultural discourses on human rights around the world.

# GRADUATE

## **AMST 7300: American Cities, Suburbs, & Countryside**

**Asynchronous Online**

**Instructor: Dr. LeeAnn Lands**

We will examine the history of suburban development in metro Atlanta since 1945, starting by studying suburban trends in general and what encouraged Americans to move to the suburbs in the post-World War II era. We'll discuss how suburbs changed from 1945 to the 2020s, and investigate different forms suburbs took. In addition to reading a variety of scholarly analyses, we'll use our own research and observations of how Atlanta evolved "outside the perimeter" to consider new arguments about Atlanta's suburban infrastructure, culture, immigration patterns, environment, and political landscape. We'll talk about malls, traffic, stadium building, placemaking, environmental challenges, suburban stereotypes, housing, skyscrapers and business parks. All are welcome, and no previous knowledge of Atlanta or suburban development is necessary.

## **AMST 7901: Capstone Literature Review and Proposal**

**Synchronous Online**

**Instructor: Dr. Letizia Guglielmo**

**Tuesdays 5:00pm - 7:45pm**

In the first part of the American Studies capstone experience, students work with faculty advisors to review scholarly literature and write a research or project proposal. The research reviewed will consist of interdisciplinary scholarship from American Studies and related fields that investigates questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to review literature and develop a proposal related to their topic or project aims.

## **AMST 7902: Capstone Experience**

**Synchronous Online**

**Instructor: Dr. Letizia Guglielmo**

**Tuesdays 5:00pm - 7:45pm**

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 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.