COURSE CATALOG

MASTER OF ARTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES

SPRING 2027

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
NORMAN J. RADOW COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Interdisciplinary Studies Department

WHO ARE WE?

The only program of its kind in the University System of Georgia, Kennesaw State University's Master of Arts in American Studies program (MAST) boasts fifteen years of boundary-crossing excellence in creative — and innovative — scholarship and programming related to the Americas. Situated in KSU's Interdisciplinary Studies Department, our faculty affiliate from multiple colleges and departments – from the Departments of History, English, Art, and Theatre and Performance Studies, to interdisciplinary programs in Black Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, Latin American and Latinx Studies, Native American and Indigenous Studies, and Peace Studies. Our students, likewise, come from multiple academic backgrounds to study and engage communities and issues from across the Americas.





This 30 credit hour program includes four required courses (History, Literature, Methods, and Scholarship) and is **designed to be flexible so that students can devise pathways reflecting their individual research interests and career goals.** Remaining courses are taken in three clusters: Cultural Production; Place and Identity; and Historical Studies. We encourage interdisciplinary approaches, traditional and public scholarship, and civic and community engagement. As part of the program requirements, students finish the degree by working with a faculty advisor to complete a Capstone thesis or project of their own design.

We produce informed and motivated citizens who often point to the openness of the field of American Studies and to our individualized approach to guiding students through the MAST program as highlights of their grad school experience.

Engage in intersectional research, receive one-on-one mentorship from interdisciplinary faculty – and make your intellectual curiosities a career!

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Core Requirements (12 hours)

AMST 6201 History and Culture of the Americas
AMST 6401 Literature and Culture of the Americas
AMST 7000 American Studies Scholarship
AMST 7100 American Studies Methods

Disciplinary Electives (9 hours)

Any 7000-level AMST courses

Related Electives (3 hours)

Any 6000-7000 level AMST courses or other approved graduate-level courses

Capstone Experience (6 hours)

AMST 7901 Capstone Literature Review and Proposal
AMST 7902 Capstone Experience

PROGRAM TOTAL: 30 CREDIT HOURS

Check out the American Studies Catalog

PROGRAM ELECTIVES



Historical Studies

AMST 7200 American Social Movements
AMST 7210 Historical Period
AMST 7230 Public History and Culture
AMST 7240 Enterprise & Labor in American Culture



Cultural Production

AMST 7410 Literature and Performance in American Culture
AMST 7420 American Popular Culture
AMST 7430 American Popular Music
AMST 7450 American Visual Culture
AMST 7460 Movements in American Culture

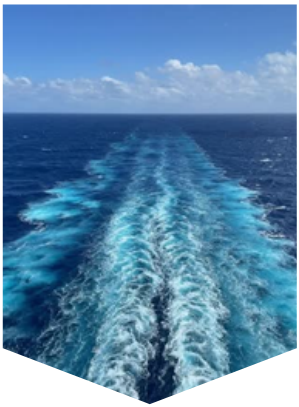


Place and Identity

AMST 7300 American Cities, Suburbs, and Countryside
AMST 7330 Identities and Social Groups
AMST 7510 Passages to America
AMST 7520 America in Transnational Context

AMST 6401: Literature and Culture of the Americas

SPRING 2027
SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
WEDNESDAYS 6:00PM-7:20PM



Focus: black women writing in the wake.
In this interdisciplinary course, students learn about major transnational literary movements in the Americas, with an emphasis on understanding literature in a global context. Course readings and assignments provide an overview of important questions, methods, and theoretical approaches in contemporary American Studies literary scholarship as well as an advanced introduction to important literary works.

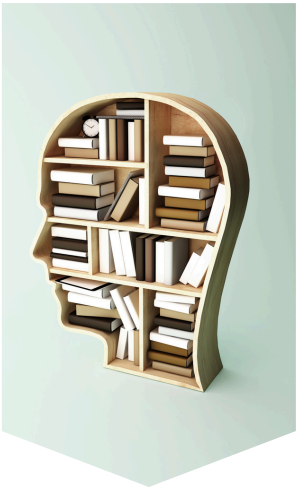
Dr. Griselda Thomas' teaching, scholarship, and service are guided by her commitment to diversity and racial equity, interdisciplinary studies, and the intersectional inquiry of systems of oppression. She is a Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies at Kennesaw State University, where she teaches courses in African American literature and culture, Black feminist studies, and Black Studies. Two of her most popular courses are "Black Women Writers" and "The Black Woman. As a first-generation college student, she is committed to the mentoring and professional development of students living and working at the margins. This commitment has resulted in several awards, including the Presidential Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity R.O.H. Social Justice Award and the Kennesaw State University Diversity Advocate Award.



AMST 7100:
American Studies Methods

SPRING 2027
SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
THURSDAYS 5:45PM-6:40PM

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. While critiquing notable examples from the field, students consider various dynamic professional contexts for “doing” American Studies, such as professional organizations and journals, classrooms, the workplace, public settings, and other diverse communities outside the university.





Rodolfo “Dr. Rudy” Aguilar is Associate Professor of Latin American/Latinx Studies (LALS) and American Studies and currently serving as the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the LALS program coordinator. He earned his PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota. His scholarly interests include Mexican and Chicana/o/x communities in the Midwest and the U.S. South, popular music, sound studies, immigration, labor, and informal economies. He has written on Latina/o/x engagements with Mexican sonidero subcultures, trap rap, and country music. His peer-reviewed works have appeared in Aztlan, The Black Scholar, and Interdisciplinary Humanities. Most recently, he co-authored a book chapter on Atlanta's Mexican American Chef Smokey and birria.

AMST 7230:
Public History and Culture

SPRING 2027
SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
TUESDAYS 6:30PM-8:20PM



Public History and Culture examines the popular uses and presentations of the American past. Exploring historical memory's role in American culture, the course draws on a range of methods (e.g., site visits, research in popular publications, study of historical documentaries) to understand and critique ways that the past is recorded and transmitted. This course will apply historical theory and scholarly works to the analysis of imaginative, alternative, and immersive historical reconstructions including historical novels and feature films as well as living history museums and reenactments. Students will conduct their own independent research projects on important events, sites, or individuals with an emphasis on understanding the relationship between historical narrative and the construction and contestation of national identity.

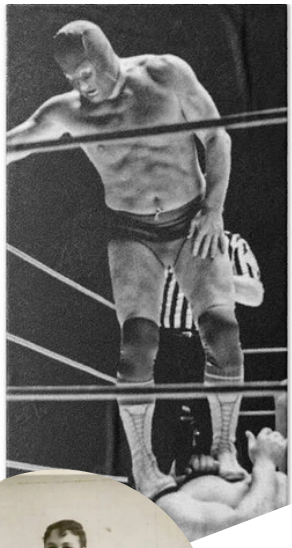
Dr. Rebecca Hill completed her PhD in American Studies minoring in Gender Studies at U of MN in 2000, going on to teach at City University of New York until 2010 when she began directing the MAST program at KSU until 2020. Her research focuses on intersections between social movements, state power, and popular culture with attention to race and gender. Her early publications are on the history of the Communist Party of the US, later broadening her scope to anarchism and socialism. Her academic work has generally come from questions developed in the context of grassroots organizing and activism.



AMST 7410: Literature and Performance in American Culture

SPRING 2027
SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
MONDAYS 6:45PM-8:05PM

Focus: American performance traditions. This course focuses on the evolution and impact of popular entertainment in the United States over the last 100 years. In this context, "popular entertainment" refers to entertainment designed for the masses and rarely understood as "high art" in its time. We will specifically focus on popular entertainment in the form of live performance. As such, this course addresses subjects such as burlesque, drag, stand-up comedy, and professional wrestling. Students will produce an original research project on a subject relevant to the course as their final assignment and complete weekly reading response assignments.







Dr. Charles Parrott is a Full Professor in the Department of Theatre & Performance Studies and affiliate faculty in the MA in American Studies program. Dr. Parrott also directs the KSU Tellers storytelling troupe and has won numerous awards for his teaching, research, and creative activity.

AMST 7901: Capstone Literature Review

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

Students complete 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.

SPRING 2027
SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
TUESDAYS 6:00PM-7:20PM



Dr. Sergio Figueiredo is Professor in the Department of English. He earned a B.A. in English from Rowan University (NJ), an M.A. in English from Marshall University (WV), and a Ph.D. in Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design from Clemson University (SC). His works focuses on the intersection of rhetoric, technology, and culture from the mid-19th century to present day, particularly around the historical avant-garde arts tradition.

HOW TO APPLY

MAST IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW!

To be considered for admission to the program, applicants must complete the application process through KSU's Graduate Admissions Office. The following application materials must be included for consideration:

- **Letter of Application**: The letter should be specific to the program and should be 2-3 double-spaced pages in length.
- **Writing Sample**: The sample should be relevant to the field of American Studies broadly defined, and it should be refined and revised to fit within 5-7 double-spaced pages.
- **GPA**: The program minimum is 2.75 for all undergraduate courses from the degree-granting institution, but we expect the class will average above 3.0.
- **Two Letters of Recommendation**: At least one letter should be from a faculty member at the last school you attended (unless you have been out of school for more than five years).
- **C.V./Resume:** (Optional)
- **$60 application processing fee:**
  The MAST program can offer application fee waivers as needed. Please contact the program director, Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers, to request a waiver.

We also offer **Graduate Research and Teaching Assistantships** on a competitive basis. If you are interested in obtaining a graduate assistantship, you are encouraged to apply early for consideration. GAs come with a tuition waiver and a small stipend.

Deadlines for Applications:
Fall: July 1
Spring: November 1
Summer: April 1

For more info, visit us online or contact the Program Director
Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers
mspiers1@kennesaw.edu