



**KENNESAW STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

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

# AMERICAN STUDIES

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SUMMER & FALL 2026

# SUMMER: UNDERGRADUATE

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

**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 3650: Southern Cultures** **Instructor: Dr. Seneca Vaught**

**Asynchronous Online**

What defines the culture of the "South" and being Southern? Is it the mythic plantations of *Gone With the Wind*, the front porch blues of the Mississippi Delta, or the bustling, diverse suburbs of the Sunbelt? The answer, of course, is all of the above—and so much more.

This online course is a field guide to the American South with a heavy emphasis on Georgia and the Atlanta metropolitan area. We’ll challenge stereotypes of 'Southernness' to explore the region’s complex identity through film, literature, music, history, and food. You’ll interrogate the romantic "Agrarian Ideal," confront the historical and contemporary realities of Jim Crow, and trace the roots of the blues and country music. Our classroom extends beyond the books to the streets and landmarks of Atlanta and North Georgia with a unique "scavenger hunt" assignment, inviting you to visit historic sites, restaurants, museums, and cultural hubs and bring your experience back to the discussion. From Faulkner to Tyler Perry, from slavery to the "Nuevo South," we’ll piece together the sights, sounds, and tastes that have created this distinctive and enduring American region.

## **AMST 3710: U.S. in the World** **Instructor: Dr. Rodolfo Aguilar**

**Asynchronous Online**

This course will examine America beyond the national boundaries to situate the U.S. as a world superpower that has global consequences. We will also study how peoples around the world react and resist U.S. hegemony in global affairs. These moments will inform us of the dire need to study the U.S. in an international perspective or “from the outside, looking in.”

# SUMMER: GRADUATE

## **AMST 6201: History and Culture of the Americas** **Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Hill**

**Asynchronous Online**

At the 2026 Superbowl, Puerto Rican musical artist, Bad Bunny concluded his performance with a parade of all the nations in the Americas, with the words “God Bless America! Ser....” And proceeded to name all the nations in the Americas. This hemispheric approach is central to the goals of AMST 6201, an interdisciplinary graduate course covering the history and cultural interaction of the United States and the Americas. This summer’s course pays close attention to relationships between policy, labor dynamics, and cultural expressions across the Americas, as well as theoretical frameworks common in transnational study of the US and the Americas through select scholarly work covering different geographical regions in connection with the Atlantic slave trade; land policy and displacement; immigration policy and migrant labor; and the history and culture of transnational social movements in the Americas.

## **AMST 7240: Enterprise & Labor in American Culture** **Instructor: Dr. Randy Patton**

**Asynchronous Online**

The course examines the role of business enterprise and workers in US culture. Topics include the first and second Industrial Revolutions; the rise of trade unions and big business; patterns of business development; evolving work processes and cultures including temporary and "gig" work; and cultural representations of work and business in literature, drama, music, film, and television.

## **AMST 7460: Movements in American Culture** **Instructor: Dr. Ploy Twishime**

**Asynchronous Online**

This course examines the Third World Women’s movement in the United States from the late-1960’s and to the 1980’s. We will analyze cultural products that emerged from this movement, including historic documents, art, and literary texts, among other source materials that typify the movement. Our class will cover topics such as political activism, coalition, anti-essentialism, intersectionality, transnationalism, and the Global South. We’ll give special attention to the sociopolitical climate in/through which the movement and its visions emerged.

## **AMST 7902: Capstone Experience** **Instructor: Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers**

**Asynchronous Online**

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.

# FALL: UNDERGRADUATE

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

**Available as Hybrid, Asynchronous Online and Synchronous 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 3600: American Futures**  
**Instructor: Dr. Katharine Schaab**

**Hybrid**  
**Tuesdays 9:35am - 10:55am**

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 3660: Sounds of America**  
**Instructor: Dr. Rodolfo Aguilar**

**Hybrid**  
**Monday/Wednesday 3:00pm-3:55pm**

This course explores the cultural, social, political, and economic implications of sound and music. The course applies deep listening and critical thinking techniques for students to interrogate how American societies engage with discourses around music production, circulation, and consumption. Studying sounds and music genres as texts, students will analyze a plethora of topics, including but not limited to historical studies of jazz, cultural politics of country music, and contemporary iterations of rap music. Using hemispheric approaches, students will also interrogate sounds and music genres of the Americas to grasp how sounds travel across borders.

**AMST 3730: Intro to Native American Studies**  
**Instructor: Dr. Rochelle Harris Cox**

**Asynchronous Online**

This course serves as a broad overview of Native American cultures, history, and contemporary issues, with an emphasis on multidisciplinary approaches to the field. Students learn about Native America through a variety of perspectives and topics, including the relationship between Native nations and the U.S. government, questions of tribal identity and belonging, and Indigenous cultural productions, ranging from traditional stories to contemporary texts. Given KSU’s location, special attention is paid to southeastern tribes.

# FALL: GRADUATE

**AMST 6201: History and Culture of the Americas**  
**Instructor: Dr. Nathalia Jaramillo**

**Synchronous Online**  
**Wednesdays 7:00pm - 8:20pm**

This interdisciplinary graduate course covers the history and cultural interaction of the United States and the Americas, with attention to relationships between policy, labor dynamics, and cultural expressions across the Americas, as well as theoretical frameworks common in transnational study of the US and the Americas. Topics covered may include the Atlantic slave trade; culture and history of migrant labor; indigenous studies; and history and culture of transnational social movements in the Americas.

**AMST 7000: American Studies Scholarship**  
**Instructor: Dr. Katharine Schaab**

**Synchronous Online**  
**Thursdays 6:00pm - 7:20pm**

This course introduces major concepts and frameworks drawn from the history and current practice in American Studies scholarship to ensure you have a broad understanding of contemporary scholarship and where it fits within the history and evolution of the field. While not exhaustive, this course features six major points of interest within American Studies scholarship. Our major goals are to learn to evaluate scholarship in historical context, track the development of the field, and enhance your ability to formulate questions, analyze arguments, make connections, and produce and share knowledge. Our work this semester will help you consider how your scholarly interests fit into American Studies.

**AMST 7210: Historical Period**  
**Instructor: Dr. Lauren Thompson**

**Synchronous Online**  
**Mondays 6:30pm - 7:50pm**

This course examines U.S. politics, law, culture, and social change in the World War I era. Topics will include delving into the period's histories of voting rights, movements for public and reproductive health, the formation of nascent civil liberties law, immigration, and eugenics. Students will investigate how the forces shaping this period set the course for an emergent modern America. We will examine scholarly sources, as well as primary historical sources, literature, art, and poetry to understand the forces shaping America during the war and its aftermath.

# FALL: GRADUATE

**AMST 7520: America in Transnational Context**  
**Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Hill**

**Synchronous Online**  
**Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:20pm**

This course examines interactions between Americans and other international groups through the events of the 2007-2009 Great Recession and social movements of the 2010s-2020. Movements explored include the Arab Spring, Occupy, Extinction Rebellion, Indigenous sovereignty movements, and a variety of populist movements emerging on the left and right. Over the course of the semester, students will consider the extent to which current social movements can be considered transnational in scope, explore the role of social media and popular discourse in influencing policymakers, and study international communication networks among social movement activists.

**AMST 7901: Capstone Literature Review and Proposal**  
**Instructor: Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers**

**Synchronous Online**  
**Mondays 6:30pm - 7:25pm**

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**  
**Instructor: Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers**

**Synchronous Online**  
**Mondays 6:30pm - 7:25pm**

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.