



COURSE CATALOG

**MASTER OF
ARTS IN
AMERICAN
STUDIES**

SUMMER & FALL 2026



**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!

CONTENT OF THE CURRICULUM

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**

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 6201: History and Culture of the Americas

SUMMER 2026
ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE



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.

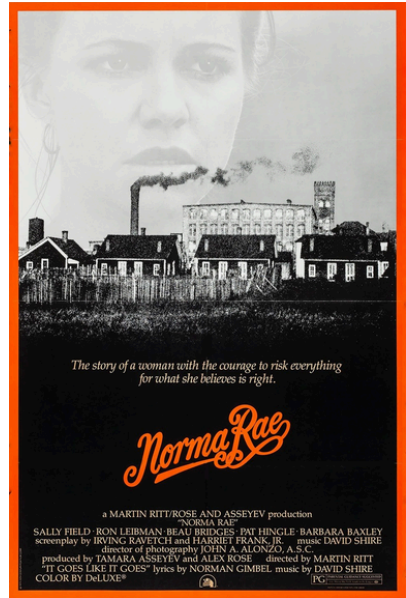
Dr. Rebecca Hill completed her PhD in American Studies minoring in Gender Studies at U of MN in 2000, going on to teach at City University of New York until 2010 when she began directing the MAST program at KSU until 2020. Her research focuses on intersections between social movements, state power, and 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 7240: Enterprise & Labor in American Culture

SUMMER 2026
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.



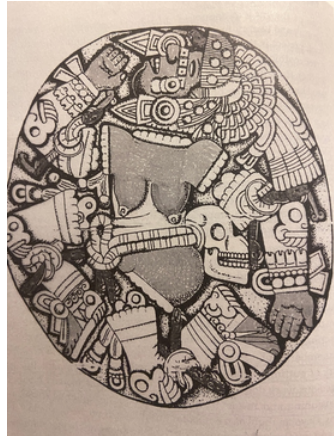
Dr. Randall Patton received his PhD in History from the University of Georgia. A native Georgian, his teaching interests include the since 1865, labor history, business and economic history, and the US since 1945. His books include *Carpet Capital: The Rise of a New South Industry* and *Lockheed, Atlanta, and the Struggle for Racial Integration*. He also enjoys incorporating popular culture into his classes and is a regular attendee at Dragon Con.



AMST 7460: Movements in American Culture

SUMMER 2026
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.



Coyolxauhqui in Glora Anzaldúa's dissertation work (circa 1975)



Combahee River Collective Members March and Rally for Bellana Borde against Police Brutality (1980)

Dr. Porntip (Ploy) Israsena Twishime

(she/they) is a storyteller, scholar, and Assistant Professor of Performance Studies in the KSU Geer College of the Arts. Her teaching and research draw upon the political and theoretical traditions of Asian American cultural production and literature, queer and feminist of color critique, and performance studies. Dr. Ploy's work has been published in journals including *Text and Performance Quarterly*, *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism* and *Women, Gender, & Families of Color*.



AMST 6201: History and Culture of the Americas

FALL 2026

SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE

TUESDAYS 7:00PM - 8:20PM



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Dr. Nathalia Jaramillo is Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at KSU. She has written extensively in the fields of critical educational thought and politics of education. Nathalia has lectured throughout Latin America, Spain, Finland, Turkey, Greece and Portugal. A selection of her co-authored and single-authored work has been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Greek and Turkish. Her work is interdisciplinary and examines questions around culture, politics, gender and epistemology utilizing the frameworks of decolonial and feminist thought.



AMST 7000: American Studies Scholarship

FALL 2026

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.

Dr. Katharine Schaab's work is situated in American Studies, Women's & Gender Studies, and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Her recent work has appeared in *The Journal of Popular Culture*, *Women's Studies*, *Critical Studies in Television*, *Feminist Formations*, *The Journal of American Culture*, and *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*.



AMST 7210: Historical Period

FALL 2026
SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
TUESDAYS 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.



Dr. Lauren Thompson is a historian of reproductive health, women's rights, and the law. She is an Assistant Professor of History and Interdisciplinary Studies at Kennesaw State University and also serves as the faculty fellow at the Georgia State University College of Law's Center for Law, Health, and Society.

AMST 7520: America in Transnational Context

FALL 2026
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.

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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.

FALL 2026
SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
MONDAYS 6:00PM - 7:20PM

Dr. Letizia Guglielmo is professor of English and joint-appointed in the Department of English and the Interdisciplinary Studies Department at KSU. She teaches courses in professional writing and rhetoric and gender and women's studies, often at the intersection of these areas of study. Her research and writing focus

on feminist rhetoric and pedagogy, gender and pop culture, the intersections of feminist action and digital communication, and professional development for students and faculty.



CAPSTONES & PRACTICUMS

Required capstones and optional practicums are the signature features that allow students to individualize their MAST degrees. Aside from focusing on a topic that relates to the broad field of American Studies, there is no limit to what you can do in these courses. Over the years, students have completed their capstones in a variety of ways, from creating documentary films to analyzing representations of race in pop culture to designing public history exhibits for local museums.

MAST alumna Mandy McGrew thought she wanted to study the Romani in her graduate career. But, after she met her mentor, Dr. Alan LeBaron, she became an integral part of his Maya Heritage Project. For her capstone, she created the Maya Healthcare Toolkit, which was shared with local hospitals that often treat Maya immigrants. Similarly, alumna Kimmy Rae Fisher engaged in public scholarship by researching arguments about transgender rights for Dr. Amy Donahue's Vada project, a collaborative debate platform designed for classroom use.

MAST graduate Ann Burkly fulfilled her Practicum by cleaning up and documenting the most famous, and arguably most gorgeous, section of Howard Finster's Paradise Gardens in Summerville, Georgia, in what's known as Mosaic Garden. Along similar lines, for her Capstone, Annie Moye created a digital archive for her partners at the Pasaquan Preservation Society, which later contributed towards a major restoration effort at the site, funded by the Kohler Foundation.



ALUMNI & CAREERS



Our graduates work in a variety of fields but are especially drawn towards jobs in education, museums, nonprofits, human relations, and community engagement. Our students also go on to enter Ph.D programs at schools like University of Massachusetts Amherst (Afro-American Studies), Georgia State (Sociology), and University of South Florida (Anthropology). As part of her Capstone project, 2011 graduate Wende Ballew even established her own non-profit, which she still operates today. A few graduates have landed lucrative careers in marketing in the Atlanta area, and a few more have followed their passions into the art world. 2016 graduate Gabriel Greaves works as an Education Assistant at the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center; alumna Paola Garcia leads diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives across the Southeast through her role at Year Up; and 2023 graduate Breighlynn Polk recently became the inaugural fellow for the HBCU Radio Preservation Project.

TESTIMONIALS



"The MAST program at Kennesaw State was a great way to do in-depth graduate study on a variety of topics in American culture and history. The interdisciplinary nature allowed me to take classes toward both my professional goals and personal interests. Through MAST, I was also able to participate in a study abroad program in Oaxaca, Mexico for 2 weeks during the summer — it was an amazing opportunity I will never forget."

-Jacqueline Winters-Allen



"The MA in American Studies opened doors for me. Before this program, I did not know what I wanted to do professionally other than find a way to earn a living writing. I especially did not envision a career in academia, because I wasn't a particularly involved undergraduate. I stayed quiet, completed my work, and hurried off campus as quickly as I could once class was over. My experience in graduate school was completely different. Though the program was rigorous, I learned I enjoyed the challenge. I learned that I liked unpacking difficult theoretical concepts and talking about them with others. I learned that I could do something with my passion for social justice. I loved the flexibility of the program. The students I took classes with all came from different academic backgrounds. I was an English undergrad, but I learned with students with degrees in Theatre and Performance Studies, History, Education, Sociology, Anthropology, and Business. The faculty I studied under are brilliant, dedicated, and passionate about helping students succeed. Since I have graduated, I continue to collaborate with some of my professors from American Studies for writing projects, conference presentations, scholarly service work, and activism."

-Ashley McFarland



"The MAST program changed the way that I see the world; it opened my mind to the many varied perspectives of everyone around me and helped me take a critical view of everyday experiences. This practice has helped me to be successful in my career as an educational developer where I work with faculty and students from different backgrounds, motivations, and views of the world. The high expectations set by my professors and faculty mentors in the program showed me what I was capable of accomplishing."

-Mandy McGrew

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

DOUBLE OWL PATHWAYS

The American Studies program offers 6 pathways:

- Anthropology BA
- English BA
- English Education BS
- History BA
- History Education BS
- Interdisciplinary Studies BS



Double Owl Pathway Info

Double Owl Pathways afford undergraduate students the opportunity to **obtain their undergraduate and graduate degrees faster and at a significantly lower cost** than if they pursued each degree independently. By bundling both degrees into Pathways, highly motivated and committed students will graduate sooner than their peers and with a head start on their careers. KSU has a variety of Pathways to choose from.

