



**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.”

FALL: UNDERGRADUATE

AMST 1102: American Identities
Instructor: Various

Available as Hybrid, Asynchronous Online and Synchronous Online

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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.