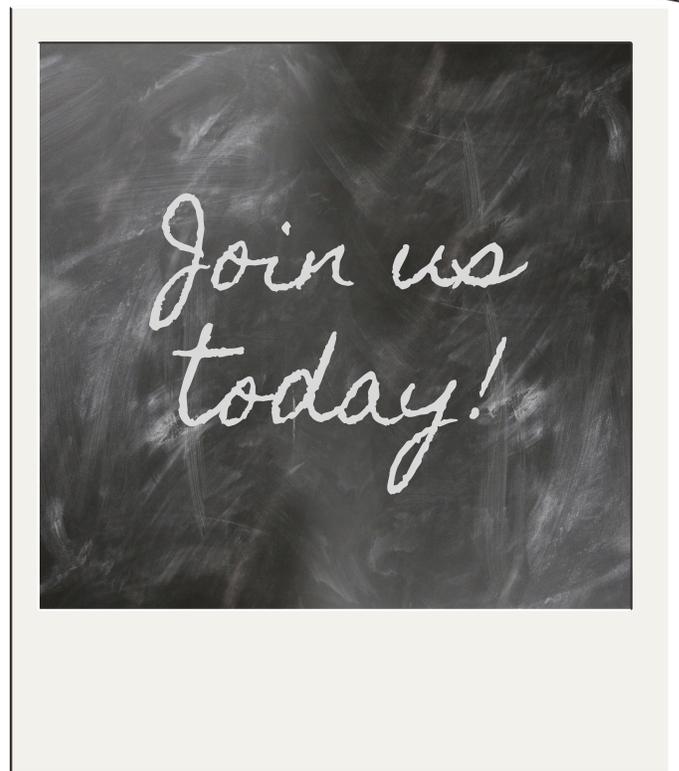


# 2021 FALL CATALOG



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Page 1. Who Are We?
- Page 2. Fall Courses
- Page 8. Program Milestones
- Page 9. Alumni Careers
- Page 10. Student Testimonials
- Page 11. How to Apply



# 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 ten years of boundary-crossing excellence in creative — and innovative — scholarship and programming related to the Americas.

This 36 credit hour program includes four required courses (History, Literature, Methods, and Scholarship) and is designed to be flexible so that student can devise pathways reflecting their individual research interests and career goals. Remaining courses are taken in four clusters: cultural production; place and identity; historical studies; and transnational American Studies. We encourage interdisciplinary approaches, traditional and public scholarship, and civic and community engagement. As part of the program requirements, students complete a Practicum (internship or applied research project) and a final Capstone thesis or project.



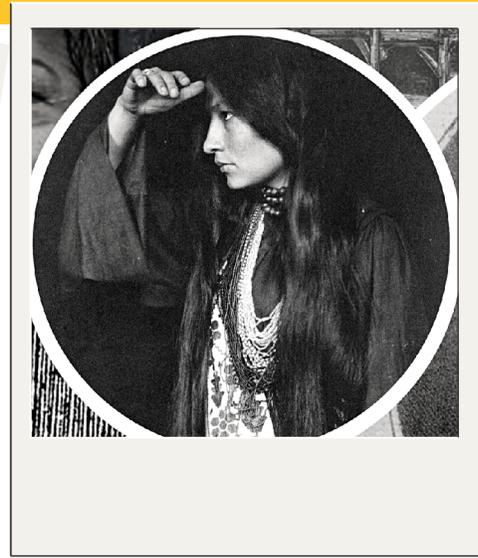
We produce informed and motivated citizens who often point to the openness of the field of American Studies and to our individualized approach to guiding students through the MAST program as top highlights of the MAST experience.



Imagine making a career out of your passion! Getting real experience. Producing real results.

***For more information, contact Stacy Keltner,  
Director of American Studies, or visit us online at  
[chss.kennesaw.edu/mast](http://chss.kennesaw.edu/mast)***

# AMST 6201 - HISTORY & CULTURE OF THE AMERICAS



## History & Culture of the Americas

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.

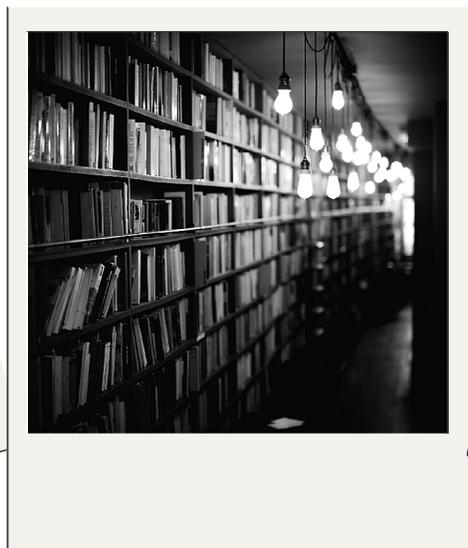
**ONLINE – ASYNCHRONOUS**



Nathalia E. Jaramillo is Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies. She is the author of *Immigration and the Challenge of Education* (Palgrave-MacMillan, 2012) and co-editor of *Epistemologies of Ignorance in Education* (Information Age Publishing, 2011). More recently, she has a forthcoming edited book, *Disrupting Colonial Pedagogies* (University of Illinois Press). Nathalia 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 inter-disciplinary and examines questions around culture, politics, gender and epistemology utilizing the frameworks of decolonial and feminist thought.

**Dr. Nathalia Jaramillo**

# AMST 7100 - AMERICAN STUDIES METHODS



## American Studies Methods

This course 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.

**ONLINE – ASYNCHRONOUS**



Rebecca Hill finished her PhD in American Studies with a minor in Gender Studies at the U. of Minnesota in 2000, and from 2000 to 2010 taught at the City University of New York before directing the MAST program at KSU from 2010 to 2020. Her research focuses on intersections between social movements, state power, and popular culture with particular attention to race and gender. Her early published work was about the history of the Communist Party of the United States. Later, she broadened her scope to anarchism and socialism and is currently writing a book on the culture and politics of Anti-Fascism in America from the 1930s-present. Her academic work has generally come from questions developed in the context of grassroots organizing and activism.

**DR. ROBBIE LIEBERMAN**

# AMST 7200 - AMERICAN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS



## Black Lives Matter: Confronting Racism, Militarism, and Poverty in the 20th-21st centuries

Toward the end of his life, Martin Luther King, Jr. called on Americans to address the "triple evils" of racism, militarism, and poverty, but Dr. King was not the first activist to highlight how these issues were intertwined. This class explores the work of the black freedom struggle in the 20th and 21st centuries as it challenged the "triple evils" from the local level to the transnational. Our approach will be historical, but we will bring to bear perspectives from several interdisciplinary fields as we explore attempts to identify the causes of violence and create alternatives based on justice and peace.



**ONLINE – TUESDAYS 5 - 7:45 PM**

Robbie Lieberman is Professor of American Studies in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department. Her publications include the award-winning *My Song Is My Weapon: People's Songs, American Communism, and the Politics of Culture*; *Anticommunism and the African American Freedom Movement* (co-edited with Clarence Lang); and a *Journal of American History* essay on "Teaching the Vietnam Antiwar Movement: Myths and Misconceptions." Her book chapter, "The Black and Red Scare in the 20th Century United States" is due out in 2020 as part of the Palgrave *Handbook of Anticommunist Persecutions*.

**DR. ROBBIE LIEBERMAN**

# AMST 7330 - IDENTITIES & SOCIAL GROUPS

## Black Biographies of the Americas

This course explores applications of the personal narrative as an interdisciplinary approach to the global black experience. Focusing on the Americas, we will examine a range of subgenres in biographical writing including: autobiographies and memoirs, political and historical biographies, fugitive and captivity narratives, biographical documentaries, and comic biographies. Experimenting with techniques and themes from biographical storytelling, students will create a historical narrative based on oral history interviews and participate in community-engaged research projects using descriptive, corrective, and prescriptive functions of Black History.



**IN PERSON  
THURSDAYS  
5 - 7:45 PM**

Seneca Vaught's teaching and research specializations focus on global intersections of race, culture, and policy. He loves to talk about movies, music, and how popular culture influences policy and politics. He is a seasoned world-traveler and has co-directed numerous study abroad programs to West Africa, South America, and Europe. Most recently, Dr. Vaught has focused on Peru and Ecuador where he uses an adventure-based approach to education abroad and community engagement with Ernesto Silva and Bobby Gutierrez. While there, he mentors students working on "grassroots mini-documentaries" and micro oral history projects using game-based play maps.

"Dr. V" was born in Tennessee but grew up in the Midwest (Michigan and Chicago, Illinois). He earned his Ph.D. in policy history from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He has taught history, Africana Studies, and interdisciplinary studies for more than a decade at universities including Heidelberg College, Niagara University, State University of New York at Buffalo, and Kennesaw State University. His research and teaching agenda focuses on how to apply historical methods and use historical content in grassroots policy, social entrepreneurship, and cultural diplomacy. He has been published in *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History*, *Souls*, and *Spectrum*. "Dr. V" is currently collecting oral histories about "glocal" activists who creatively used cultural diplomacy and the politics of performance to achieve policy objectives across the Americas.



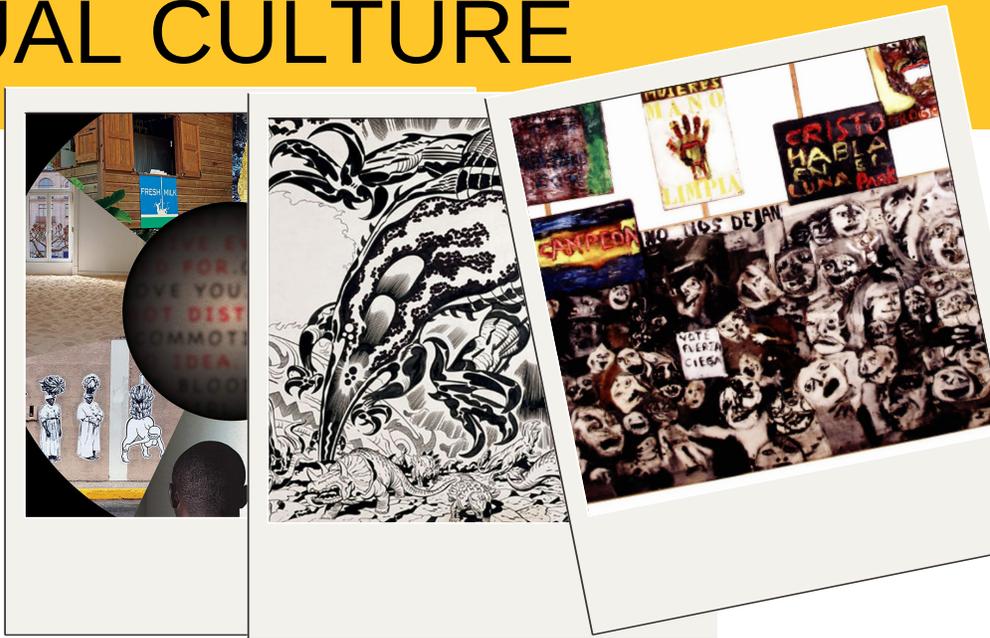
**DR. SENECA VAUGHT**

# AMST 7450 - AMERICAN VISUAL CULTURE

## Rhetorics of the American Avant-Garde(s)

This section of American Visual Culture focuses on the rhetorics of twentieth and twenty-first century aesthetic (focused on transforming society and ways of sensing the world through political means) and artistic (focused on transforming representation) avant-gardes across the Americas. Students in this course can expect

to read and/or view a number of theoretical, methodological, and applied works by scholars and artists focused on the roles that arts play in social, cultural, and institutional contexts. Our guiding framework comes from Henri de Saint-Simon's 1825 essay, "The Artist, the Savant, and the Industrialist," credited with being an early influence in avant-garde movements like Futurism, Dada, and Surrealism, among others. The first unit will introduce how artists and scholars of the late twentieth century understand the role of the arts in social life. The second unit will cover a series of particular avant-garde movements across the Americas, including works by and about Latin American avant-garde movements, Afro-Caribbean avant-garde movements, Canadian avant-garde movements and select U.S. avant-garde movements. In the third and final unit, we will focus our attention on contemporary applications of avant-garde theories, philosophies, and methods to scholarly and creative work.



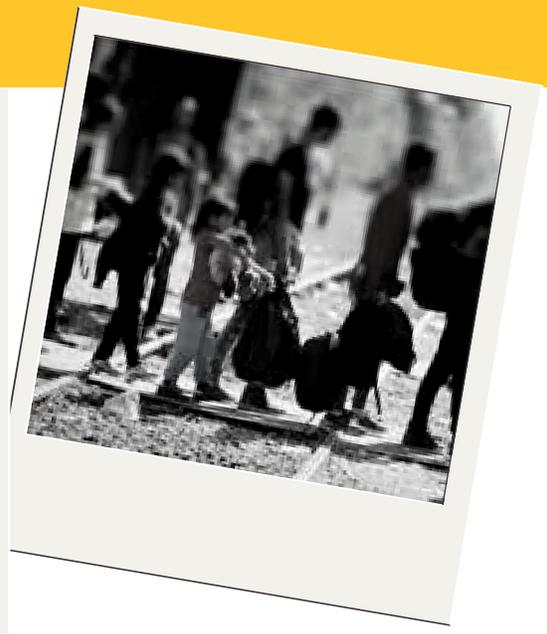
**IN PERSON – MONDAYS 5 - 7:45 PM**



Sergio C. Figueiredo is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Kennesaw State University. Born and raised in southern New Jersey to two immigrants from rural Portugal, he attended Rowan University for his undergraduate work in literary studies, Marshall University for his master's work in rhetoric and composition, and Clemson University for his doctoral work in rhetorics, communication, and information design. Sergio has been teaching at Kennesaw State University since August 2012. He is the translator of *Inventing Comics: A New Translation of Rodolphe Töpffer's Essays on Graphic Storytelling, Media Rhetorics, and Aesthetic Practice* (Parlor Press, 2017) and co-editor of the collection, *Immigrant Scholars in Rhetoric, Composition, and Communication: Memoirs of a First Generation* (NCTE, 2019). His current research and scholarship focuses on the early-nineteenth century aesthetic and artistic avant-garde and how the histories of rhetorics influenced early thinking about the role of the arts and humanities play in industrial and post-industrial societies: to lead the charge in the pursuit of greater social well-being and equity.

**DR. LARRIE DUDENHOEFFER**

# AMST 7510 - PASSAGES TO AMERICA



## Migration Studies

Migration Studies is the study of human mobility. It includes internal migration within a nation's borders and across international boundaries. Often, immigration is exclusively bounded to discussion of economics. Migration Studies and American Studies, however, challenge this popular notion as both fields theorize race, gender, class, citizenship, and labor history in relation to migrancy. This course explores migration broadly in order to center refugees, gender & sexual politics, assimilation, transnationalism, whiteness studies, and popular culture.

**IN PERSON – WEDS 6:30 - 9:45 PM**

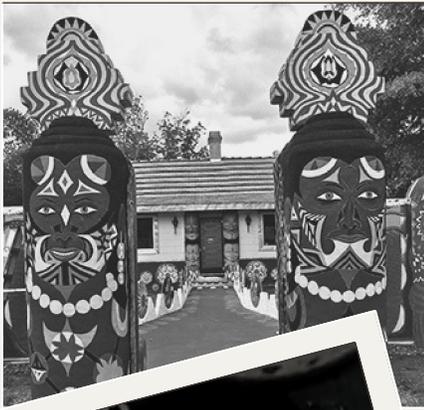


Rodolfo Aguilar is Assistant Professor of Latin American/Latinx Studies & American Studies in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department at Kennesaw State University. Dr. Aguilar earned his B.A. in Latin American & Latino Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago and PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota. His scholarly interests include U.S. Latino Studies, popular music, American Studies, immigration, and Midwestern Latina/o communities.

His scholarship on the baile economy and symbolic networking among Mexican Sonidos was published in *Aztlan: A Journal of Chicano Studies*. Dr. Rudy has also penned several popular essays for online sites including *The Society Pages*, and *Contratiempo*. His "Everybody's Going Uptown" op-ed will be featured in the forthcoming edited collection, *Sparked: George Floyd, Racism, and the Progressive Illusion*. The edited collection is due out in May 2021 and will be published by the Minnesota Historical Society. Outside of KSU, Dr. Rudy enjoys running (aspiring marathon runner), collecting music on vinyl, and occasionally DJing for local venues and on social media.

**DR. RUDY AGUILAR**

# CAPSTONES & PRACTICUMS



Practicums and Capstones are the signature features that allow students to creatively individualize their degrees in American Studies. Aside from choosing a pathway that relates to the broad field of American Studies, there is no limit to what you can do to fulfill these requirements. Over the years, we've seen students choose a wide variety of ways of completing this portion of the program, from documentary films and screenplays to literary explorations of Big Foot culture. We've seen a lot in the last ten years!

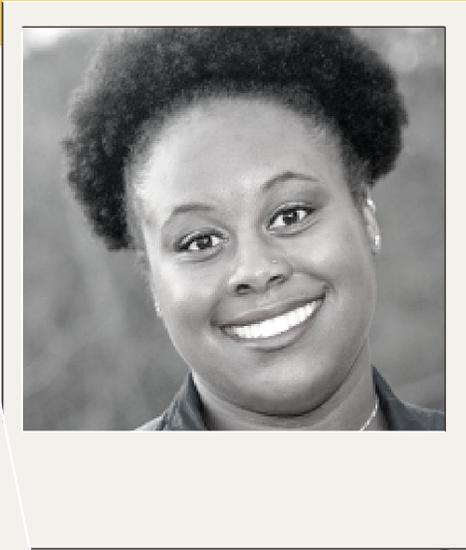
MAST alumna Mandy McGrew thought she wanted to study the Romani in her graduate career, but after she was introduced to her mentor, Dr. Alan LeBaron, she became an integral part of his Maya Heritage Project, in which she helped create a Maya healthcare toolkit. Similarly, alumna Kimmy Rae Fisher worked with Dr. Amy Donahue in Philosophy for her Practicum, and she researched arguments about transgender rights for Dr. Donahue's on-going Vada project.

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.

In graduate school, you never know what will grab your interests or what will inspire you, and we like our students to get creative with their Practicums and Capstones!



# ALUMNI & CAREERS



Our graduates work in a variety of fields but are especially drawn towards jobs in education, museums, nonprofits, human relations, and diversity. Several students go on to enter PhD programs, such as 2017 graduate, Meya Hemphill-Hodges, 2011 graduate Wende Ballew, and 2018 graduate Kimmy Rae Fisher. As part of her Capstone project, Ballew even established her own nonprofit, 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 recently received a promotion to Education Assistant at the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center, alumna Kaci Schmitt is a counselor in the Pacific Northwest, and Paola Garcia is leading diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives across the Southeast through her role at Year Up.

# 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 Admission Office](#). The following application materials must be included for consideration:

- **Letter of Application:** The letter of application should be in the form of a narrative which describes your educational and/or professional background, your future goals, and how admission into the American Studies M.A. program at Kennesaw State University will help you accomplish these goals. The letter should be specific to the program and should be 3-5 double-spaced pages in length.
- **Writing Sample:** The writing sample should demonstrate the writing skills you have developed as a student and/or professional. 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.
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Applicants should ask recommenders to submit letters of recommendation through the KSU Graduate College online admission system. At least one letter should be a faculty member at the last school you attended (unless you have been out of school for more than five years). Substitutions for faculty recommendations may include work associates or others who can comment on your academic potential for graduate work.
- **C.V./Resume** (Optional).

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 information about the website, visit us online  
or contact the Director, Stacy Keltner, at [skeltner@kennesaw.edu](mailto:skeltner@kennesaw.edu)*