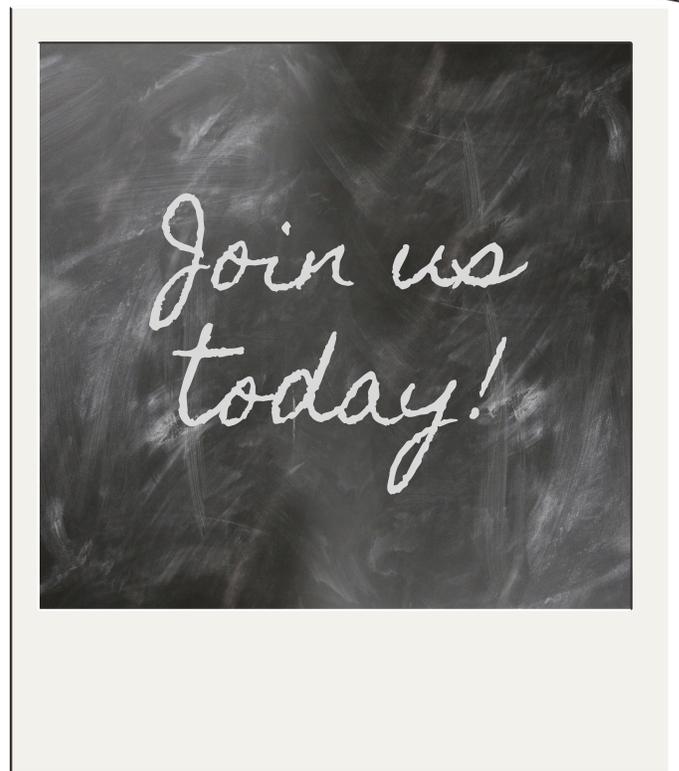


2021 SPRING CATALOG



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Page 1. Who Are We?
- Page 2. Spring Courses
- Page 8. Program Milestones
- Page 9. Alumni Careers
- Page 10. Student Testimonials
- Page 11. First Fridays Symposia
- Page 12. 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.

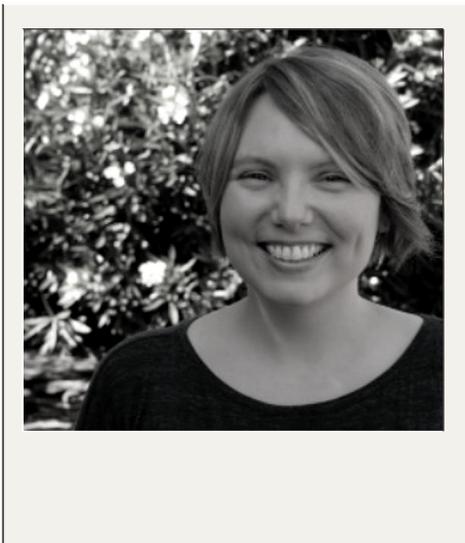
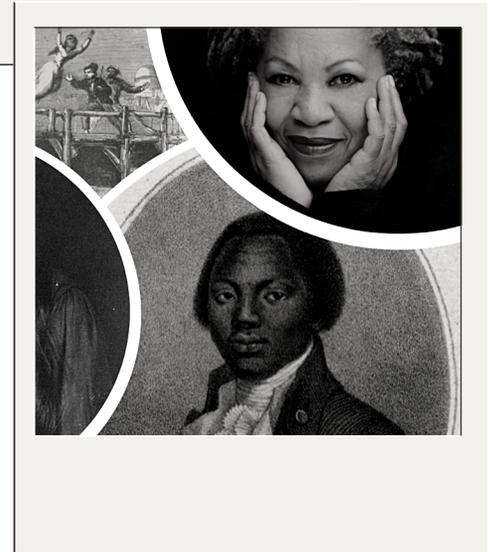


Imagine making a career out of your passion! Getting real experience. Producing real results.

***For more information, contact Stacy Keltner,
Director of American Studies, or visit us online at
chss.kennesaw.edu/mast***

AMST 6401 - LITERATURE & CULTURE OF THE AMERICAS

This class will explore the ways that the American national identity has been created, maintained, and transformed by the development of a distinctly American literary tradition. At the heart of our inquiry will be the paradoxical nature of American identity: although the U.S. often imagines itself as a nation of immigrants, it continues to wrestle with the legacy of colonialism that underlies its founding. These opposing ideologies have once again risen to the surface in our current national discourse as we find ourselves engaged in heated debates about what kind of place America has been in the past and what kind of country we hope to become in the future. Through the lens of American literature, we will trace the development of these conflicting narratives from the truly diverse and transnational colonial period, to the more rigidly defined character of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, through the multicultural and postmodern literary traditions of the past fifty years. Possible authors may include Mary Rowlandson, Olaudah Equiano, William Wells Brown, Mark Twain, Zitkala-Sa, William Faulkner, Leslie Marmon Silko, Gloria Anzaldua, Maxine Hong Kingston, Toni Morrison, and Junot Diaz.



Miriam Brown Spiers is joint appointed in the English and Interdisciplinary Studies departments. She is the coordinator of the Native American and Indigenous Studies program, and she also teaches American Studies and Gender and Women's Studies. She is originally from Marietta, but, before coming to KSU, she taught at the University of California Merced and Miami University of Ohio Middletown. Outside of the classroom, she stays busy with her four-year old (Theo) and three cats (Jasper, Charlie, and Vlad). She also enjoys playing board games, baking, and playing the piano (badly).

Dr. Brown Spiers' research focuses on formal and generic experimentation in contemporary Indigenous literature. Her work has appeared in journals such as *Studies in American Indian Literatures*, *Transmotion*, and *Native South*. Her current book project, *The Sovereign Other: Encountering Difference in Indigenous Science Fiction*, examines the ways that American Indian novelists have adapted the generic tropes of science fiction as a means of resisting cultural assimilation and reasserting the value of Indigenous knowledges in the twenty-first century. While she enjoys teaching many different classes, some of her favorites have included Race and Gender in Science Fiction, Literature of the Native South, and Contemporary Indigenous Women Writers.

AMST 7000 - AMERICAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP



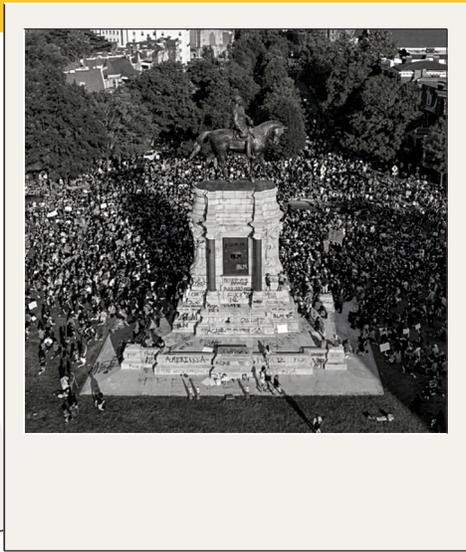
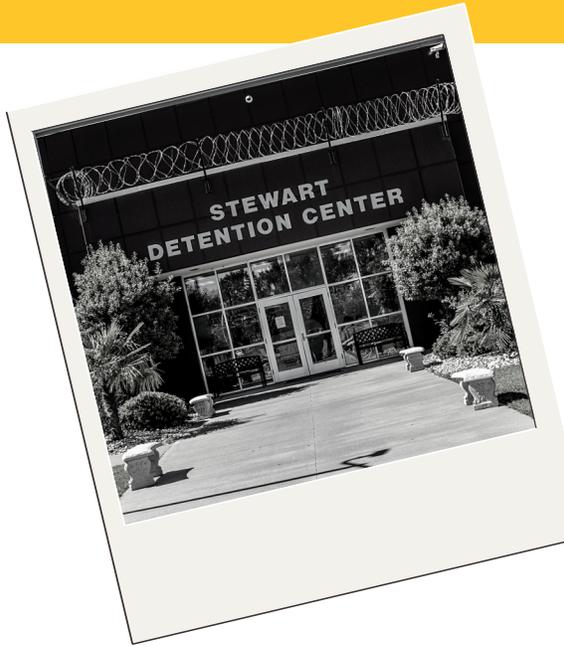
This course explores a variety of themes, theoretical influences, and methodological approaches current in American Studies. Through close reading and discussion of secondary sources, we'll examine the historical development of the field of American studies; explore various myths about America and the impact of these myths on individuals and the larger society; interpret the ways in which race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality shape American culture; read and analyze scholarship in the field of American Studies, with attention to the globalization of American culture and to current pressing issues such as the climate crisis.



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 7230 - PUBLIC HISTORY & CULTURE



This course explores the presentation of history to the public and includes a hands-on component. We will investigate the ways in which collective memory shapes how the past is interpreted for public consumption and the role that cultural change has on how we perceive the past. We will discuss how the history wars that have emerged from the culture wars have shaped the public's understanding of our past as well as the obligations and ethics of being a public historian. Students will visit museums and historic sites, and we will examine how current events, such as the ongoing efforts to remove Confederate Memorials, have changed the ways in which such sites interpret the past. Students will contribute to an online exhibition, *States of Incarceration*, for the Humanities Action Lab.



Dr. Jennifer Dickey is an associate professor of history and the Coordinator of the Public History Program at Kennesaw State University (KSU). She has a master's degree in heritage preservation and a Ph.D. in public history from Georgia State University.

She is the author of *A Tough Little Patch of History: Gone with the Wind and the Politics of Memory* and *A History of the Berry Schools on the Mountain Campus*. She served as co-editor of *Museums in a Global Context: National Identity, International Understanding*. She is co-author, along with Dr. Catherine Lewis and First Lady Sandra Deal, of *Memories of the Mansion: A History of the Georgia Governor's Mansion*.

Prior to coming to KSU, Dr. Dickey served as the campus preservation specialist and the director and curator of Historic Berry at Berry College in Rome, Georgia. She has also worked as a historian for the National Park Service.

DR. JENNIFER DICKEY

AMST 7330 - FEMINIST RHETORIC



This course invites students to examine and to theorize the rhetorical strategies of women and other marginalized rhetors throughout history, with a focus on feminist rhetorical theory as a foundation for this analysis. We will explore the significant body of work disrupting dominant Western rhetorical theory and practice in which scholars in rhetoric and women's studies demonstrate how feminist interventions and acts of interruption foreground issues of gender, race, sexuality, class, and ability, uncover exclusions and silences, create spaces for women's stories and voices, and challenge assumptions of how and when women and other marginalized groups contribute to and shape public discourse. Course assignments and engagement with course texts will reveal feminist rhetoric's role in fostering and facilitating participation in ongoing movements for change, including acts of resistance through digital and social media.



Letizia Guglielmo is professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies at Kennesaw State University (KSU). She teaches courses in professional writing and gender and women's studies and serves as a faculty fellow in KSU's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, supporting colleagues in writing, publishing, and mentoring, among other areas of faculty success. 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. She is coeditor and author with Sergio C. Figueiredo of *Immigrant Scholars in Rhetoric, Composition, and Communication: Memoirs of a First Generation* (NCTE), editor and author of *Misogyny in American Culture: Causes, Trends, Solutions* (ABC-CLIO), coauthor with Lynée Lewis Gaillet of *Scholarly Publication in a Changing Academic Landscape: Models for Success* (Palgrave), coeditor with Lynée Lewis Gaillet of *Contingent Faculty Publishing in Community: Case Studies for Successful Collaborations* (Palgrave), and editor and author of *MTV and Teen Pregnancy: Critical Essays on 16 and Pregnant and Teen Mom* (Rowman & Littlefield).

DR. LETIZIA GUGLIELMO

AMST 7420 - AMERICAN HORROR CINEMA



Peter Hutchings traces the foundations of "horror cinema" to the early 1930s, a time when U.S. artists, critics, audiences, and distributors came to recognize the conventions intersecting this new type of filmmaking. Hutchings, among other theorists, argues that these conventions remain open to revision, reinterpretation, and misunderstanding. Thus, in this class, we will explore, map, and tease meaning from changes that horror cinema underwent from the 1930s to contemporary times. Along the way, we will also explore different theoretical approaches to the representation of the body in these films, thus deepening our engagement with the sexual, identarian, and sociohistorical issues that over-code them.

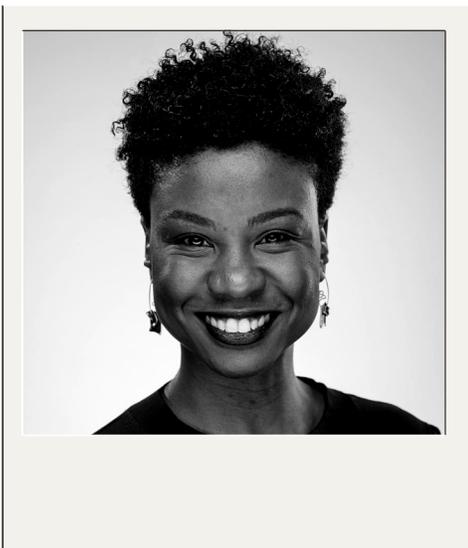


Larrie Dudenhoeffer is a Professor of English, Film, and American Studies at Kennesaw State University in the metro Atlanta area, specializing in media and critical theory. He is the author of *Embodiment and Horror Cinema* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), *Anatomy of the Superhero Film* (Palgrave, 2017), and the forthcoming *Walls Without Cinema: State Security and Subjective Embodiment in Twenty-First-Century US Filmmaking* (Bloomsbury, 2020).

DR. LARRIE DUDENHOEFFER

AMST 7520 - BLACK RESISTANCE IN THE AMERICAS

In the wake of the police killings in recent months, Blacks in different African Diasporic cities have taken to the streets and the workplace to denounce antiblack racism and call attention to the ongoing devaluation of Black lives. The wave of uprisings that have swept the U.S and globe represent part of a long struggle of antiracist organizing—one that can be traced back hundreds of years – The Black Radical Tradition. Resistance can operate at any scale, from tiny daily subversions to mass movements in a trajectory of step-by-step progress. This course seeks to provide a broad overview of this rich and dynamic history by focusing on the roots, ideology, and resistance to antiblack racism. Articulating the fields of Anthropology, Black feminist, Black Studies, and Latin American Studies, this course will introduce students to the established tradition of scholarship focused on the Black experience of resistance. It also will examine the development, spread, and articulations of resistance to antiblack racism in the Americas. The course will pay attention to the range of political strategies and tactics Black activists and their allies have used to secure life and thoughts through an intersectional analysis of resistance.



Luciane Rocha is an assistant professor of African and African Diaspora Studies at Kennesaw State University. She holds a PhD in Social Anthropology with a specialization in African Diaspora Studies and Gender and Women's Studies from the University of Texas at Austin (2008-2014). She was a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Human Rights at UFRJ; and a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Manchester, UK. This Summer, she participated in several webinars including the panel "Feminist Insurgencies in Times of Pandemic" at CIESAS University, Mexico. Participated in the podcast *Papo Preto* (Black Talk) at UFRB, Brazil discussing the theme *Afropessimism e Antirracismo*. She also organized two panels with social movements in Brazil to discuss racism and urban violence: "Black Women Analyzing State Violence", and "Militarization in the lives of Black women". Finally, along with two researchers, Luciane signed a contract with the Demeter Press for the publication of the edited book *Mothering and Motherwork in the Time of Black Lives Matter*.

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!

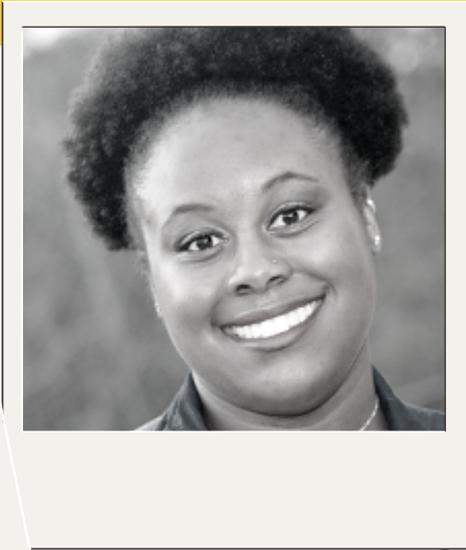
MAST alumna Mandy McGrew thought she wanted to study the Romani in her graduate career, but after she was introduced to her mentor, Dr. Alan LeBaron, she became an integral part of his Maya Heritage Project, in which she helped create a Maya healthcare toolkit. Similarly, alumna Kimmy Rae Fisher worked 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

FIRST FRIDAYS SYMPOSIA

GRAB THE POPCORN AND A DRINK OF YOUR CHOICE! EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, IT'S ANOTHER AMST TOPIC!



UP NEXT

Join us on **11/6 at 5 pm** for a

Post-election Decompression Session

We invite participants to share short two- to three-minute speeches on the 2020 election. Give us a shout for more information!

RECENT SESSIONS

OCTOBER: DR. ERNESTO SILVA

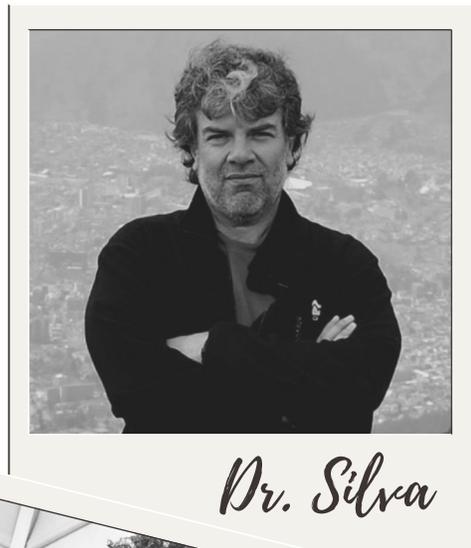
The History & Future of KSU's Latin American Film Festival

SEPTEMBER: DR. SENECA VAUGHT

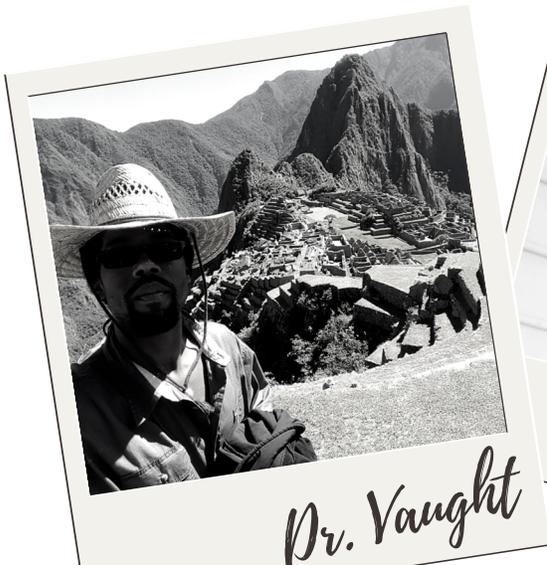
'Storming, Norming, & Forming in the Middle Passage:
Circumnavigating Slavery & Its Legacy Aboard Semester at Sea

AUGUST: DR. LUCIANE ROCHA

The New Normal: Coronavirus Pandemic, Violence, & Black Resistance



Dr. Silva



Dr. Vaught



Dr. Rocha

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*