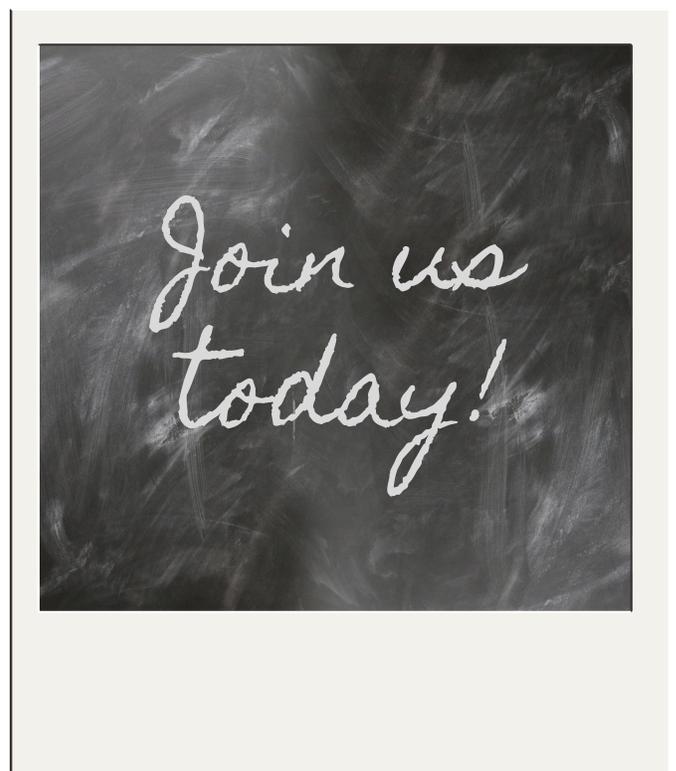


SPRING 2022 COURSE CATALOG



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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. Situated in KSU's Interdisciplinary Studies Department, our faculty affiliate from multiple colleges and departments — from Departments of History, English, Theater, Art, and Social Services to interdisciplinary programs in African and African Diaspora Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, Latin American and Latinx Studies and Peace Studies. Our students, likewise, come from multiple academic backgrounds to study and engage communities and issues from across 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.

AMST 6401 - LITERATURE & CULTURE OF THE AMERICAS



In this interdisciplinary course, students learn about major transnational literary movements in the Americas, with an emphasis on understanding literature in a global context. Course readings and assignments provide an overview of important questions, methods, and theoretical approaches in contemporary American Studies literary scholarship as well as an advanced introduction to important literary works.

Online Asynchronous



Nirmal Trivedi is Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies. He integrates his work in the disciplines of English and American Studies with the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL). His research focus is on race and American imperialism, World Literature, and narratives of trauma in wartime. His work has appeared in the *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, *Borderlands*, and the *Journal of Asian-American Studies*.

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.

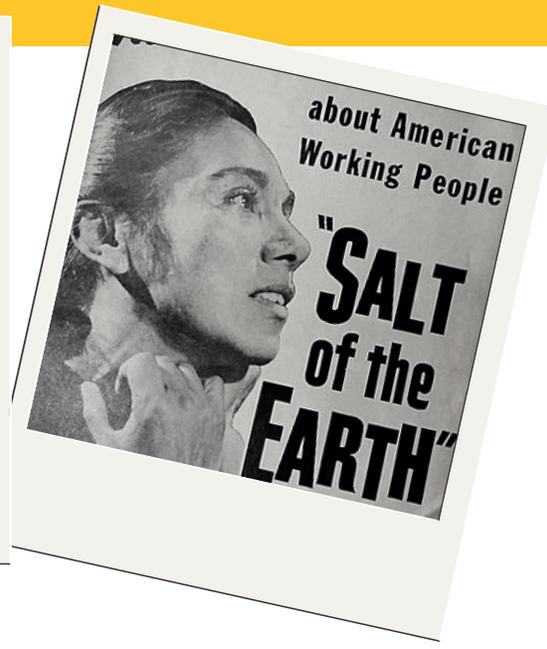
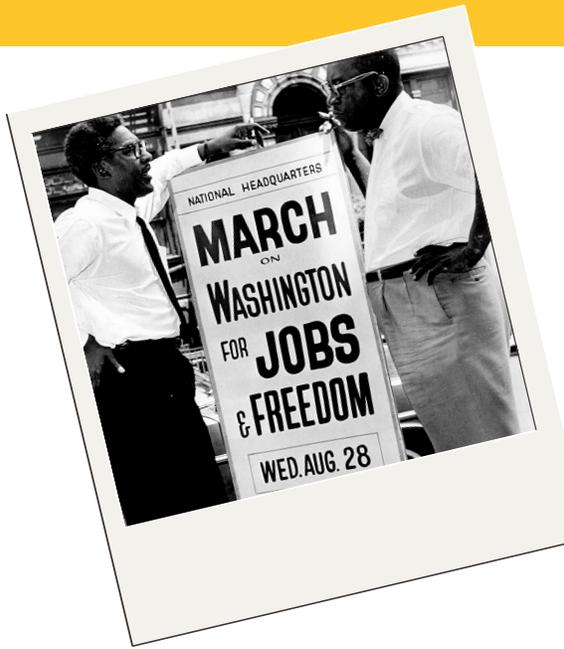
Online Synchronous
Tuesdays 5:00 – 7:45 PM EST



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" appeared in 2020 as part of the *Palgrave Handbook of Anticommunist Persecutions*.

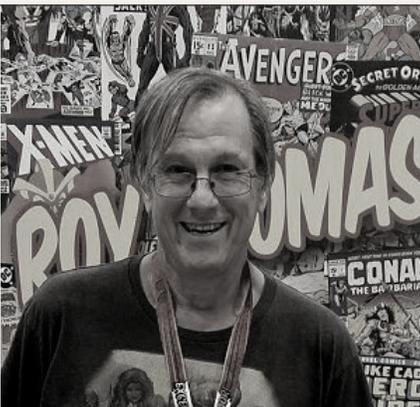
DR. ROBBIE LIEBERMAN

AMST 7210 - THE WORKERS' EXPERIENCE: THE U.S. SINCE 1939



This course explores the history of the United States since 1939 from the perspective of workers. Through an examination of the experiences of workers, the changing workplace, the broader social, cultural, political and economic contexts of labor, students will gain a broader perspective on labor in the United States. Students will use a variety of source materials to analyze and assess films such as *Salt of the Earth* and *Norma Rae*, organizing drives including Operation Dixie and the J.P. Stevens campaign, gender and work, work stoppages such as Lordstown and the air traffic controllers strike, civil rights and labor, the development of temporary work, changing perceptions of work, the politics of labor, labor's Cold War, and more.

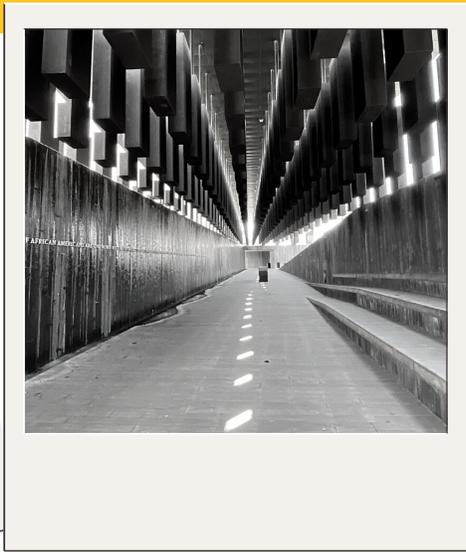
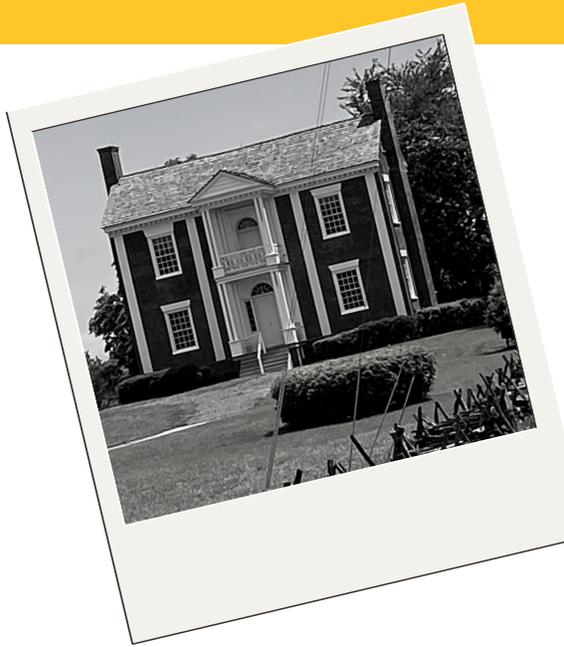
Online Synchronous
Mondays 5:00 – 7:45 PM EST



Randy Patton has taught at KSU since early in the Pleistocene. His research has focused on labor, industry, and race relations in the American South since World War II. His most recent publication is *Lockheed, Atlanta, and the Struggle for Racial Integration* (University of Georgia Press, 2019), an examination of efforts to desegregate the work force at Lockheed's Georgia facility from the 1950s to the 1980s. His earlier works include *Carpet Capital: The Rise of a New South Industry* (with David Parker, UGA Press, 1999), articles and book chapters, and the edited memoir of the first person to cross the color line in management at Lockheed-Georgia (*Working for Equality: The Narrative of Harry Hudson*, UGA Press, 2015). He is also a fan of comics from the Silver and Bronze Ages and a regular Dragon Con attendee.

DR. RANDY PATTON

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.

Online Synchronous
Thursdays 5:00 – 7:45 PM EST



Dr. Jennifer Dickey is a 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 7310 & 7410 - NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE OF THE SOUTH

This class will focus on 20th and 21st century Native American literature in the South. We will examine works of literature by Native writers who have connections to the American South, including those from southeastern tribes and those who have lived and worked in the South. In particular, we'll examine the ways that these writers have maintained a connection to their homelands despite a history of violent removal. For instance, how do Cherokee writers write about the Trail of Tears? How do Native authors whose people were removed to Oklahoma envision their relationship to lands in Georgia, Alabama, or North Carolina? How can we make sense of the stories about Native American heritage and ancestry that are so common in the South? As we ask these questions, we'll also explore the importance of land and identity in Native American cultures and communities. How can a group of people tell stories that are based in the land when they no longer remember living there? Who "counts" as Native American, and who gets to decide? Finally, how do contemporary Native writers preserve and adapt their languages and stories through novels, poems, plays, and films?



Online Asynchronous



Miriam Brown Spiers is an Assistant Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as the program coordinator for Native American and Indigenous Studies. She grew up in Marietta, attended Oglethorpe University as an undergraduate, and earned her Ph.D in English with a graduate certificate in Native American Studies from the University of Georgia. Before coming to KSU, she taught at Miami of Ohio Middletown and the University of California Merced. She is the author of *Encountering the Sovereign Other: Indigenous Science Fiction* (forthcoming December 2021), as well as journal articles in *Studies in American Indian Literatures*, *Transmotion*, and *Native South*. Her research focuses on the ways that Indigenous writers and visual artists appropriate Euro-American literary forms like science fiction and comics to challenge exclusionary practices and establish space for Native writers in the 21st century.

DR. MIRIAM BROWN SPIERS

AMST 7510 - 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.

Face-to-Face

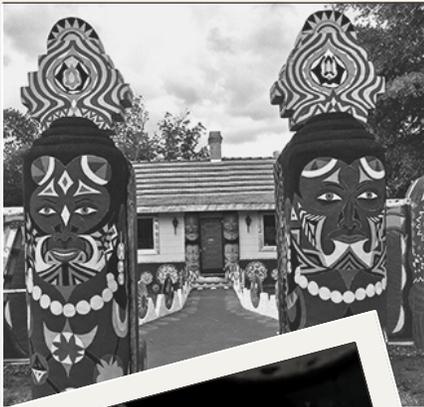
Wednesdays 6:30 – 9:15 PM EST



Rodolfo Aguilar is Assistant Professor of Latin American/Latinx Studies & American Studies. 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. RODOLFO 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!

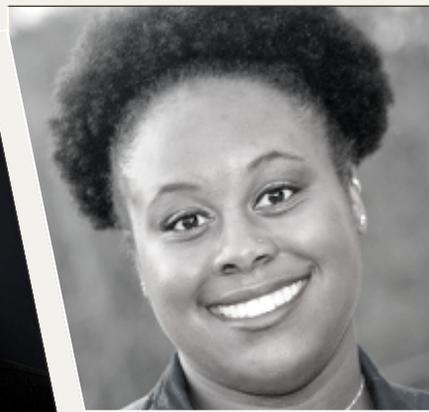
MAST alumna Mandy McGrew thought she wanted to study the Romani in her graduate career, but after she was introduced to her mentor, Dr. Alan LeBaron, she became an integral part of his Maya Heritage Project, in which she helped create a Maya healthcare toolkit. Similarly, alumna Kimmy Rae Fisher worked 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, visit us online
or contact the Director, Stacy Keltner, at skeltner@kennesaw.edu*