

Spring 2010 MAST Courses

AMST 7100: AMERICAN STUDIES METHODS
Dr. LeeAnn Lands, Thursdays, 5:00 - 7:45 p.m.

This course introduces students to current methods in American Studies research and public practice. What questions do practitioners of American Studies ask? What methods do they use? What objects do they study? And toward what end? We will become practiced in designing and implementing research and interpretive projects. And we will consider the various professional and personal contexts for "doing" American Studies, such as professional organizations and journals, classrooms, the workplace, public settings, and civic organizations.



LeeAnn Lands, PhD

AMST 7400: FILM INDUSTRY IN AMERICAN CULTURE: Cinematic Transactions: US and Japan - Dr. Ed Chan, Mondays, 6:30 - 9:15 p.m.

This course explores the often circular transactions between the cinemas of the US and Japan. In some cases, these transactions involve direct borrowings or influences, in others one nation's way of imagining the other. Films covered in the course will span many genres and thematic categories, such as samurai films and westerns (*Seven Samurai/Magnificent Seven*); World War II (*Pride/Letters from Iwo Jima*); films noir (*The Naked City/Stray Dog*); monster movies (*King Kong/Godzilla*); anime (Disney/Miyazaki); cyberpunk (*Ghost in the Shell/The Matrix*); horror films (*Ringu/The Ring*); and cultural mis/understanding (*Because of You/Lost in Translation*). Throughout the class, we will try to understand both the cultural politics embedded within and surrounding these films, as well as the aesthetic and technical contributions they represent. Students will be responsible for weekly critical and theoretical readings, an annotated biography, one presentation, and a seminar paper.



Ed Chan, PhD

AMST 7440: ENTERPRISE AND LABOR
Dr. Randy Patton, Tuesdays, 5:00 - 7:45 p.m.

This course will explore the social and cultural origins of business institutions and conceptions of work, and the reciprocal impact of emerging business practices institutions and conceptions of work, and the reciprocal impact of emerging business practices and trends on society and culture. We will sample both classic and recent scholarship on American economic and labor history, and the cultural history of American capitalism. The range of topics to be covered is suggested by the titles of some of the assigned readings. We will also examine cultural representations of business enterprise and labor in American popular culture, including films such as *Norma Rae*, *The Aviator*, *Network*, *Wall Street*, *Tucker: A Man and His Dream*, *Matewan* and others. Students will be responsible for weekly critical readings, one presentation, a mid-term exam, and a seminar paper.



Randy Patton, PhD

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS

The Siegel Institute
for Leadership, Ethics & Character

This completely on-line education opportunity is offered to MAST students through a partnership with The Siegel Institute at KSU. To complete the partner Certificate in Leadership and Ethics, take a total of 15 credit hours of designated courses: Six hours in specified courses from your master's program and nine hours of ILEC courses. These nine hours can be counted as your MAST elective courses.

Find out more about this certificate here: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/siegelinstitute/partnerreqs.htm>



MA in American Studies @ KSU

Extracting One Paper Clip: Experiencing the Holocaust by MAST Student, Karen Burton

As an undergraduate majoring in history and public history, MAST student Karen Burton took the opportunity to study abroad to learn more about the Holocaust. We asked Karen to tell us about her experience and how it relates to her enrollment in the MAST Program.

Q: What was the most surprising learning experience you took away from your study abroad experience?

KB: Perhaps the most surprising experience was the bonding that occurred within our modest-sized group of students. The composition of our group was surprising, with an age difference of almost two decades between our youngest and oldest students, disciplines as varying as nursing and theatre, and backgrounds as diverse as Hispanic, Eastern European, and a few native Georgians. Travelling by chartered bus from city to city and sharing small hotel rooms, commonalities quickly emerged. Each evening we would take off in small groups to explore our surroundings and it was great to watch the camaraderie that developed. Everyone looked out for each other and a real sense of community emerged despite our displacement as travelers. I soon became fascinated by my colleagues' interactions with the docents, waiters, and shopkeepers we encountered while experiencing such cultural delights as shopping, bars, night clubs, and the theatre. Our behavior as outsiders studying a very sensitive subject was sometimes naïve and occasionally embarrassing, but always guided by a sincere desire to understand and somewhat fit in with the cultures we were immersed in.

(Paper Clip, cont. on pg. 2)

Q: Tell me about your study abroad experience when you were an undergraduate public history major.

KB: While still an undergraduate at KSU, I had the opportunity to participate in a whirlwind European study abroad trip. For two weeks in the spring of 2007, I hurried through Holland, Germany, and the Czech Republic visiting monuments, museums, and historic sites important to the Holocaust. My original intent for the trip was simply to further my study of the history of the Holocaust. I was excited to see more of Europe, but I saw the trip as more of an opportunity for me to experience firsthand some of the sites specific to the Holocaust. I hoped that indulging my own senses in the sounds, smells, shadows, and even temperatures of concentration camps and cities would somehow deepen my understanding of the Holocaust as a unique historical event. The trip proved to be far more informative than I ever could have anticipated. Two years later, I find myself still contemplating observations I made.



Anne & Margot Frank marker at Bergen Belsen

Aug/Sept.
2009

Paper Clip 1

Paper Clip (cont.) 2

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The gate at Sachsenhausen concentration camp.