

## Fall 2009

### MA in American Studies (MAST) COURSE OFFERINGS

#### **AMST 7000: American Studies Scholarship**

**Dr. LeeAnn Lands, Assoc. Professor of History and American Studies - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm- 9:15 pm**

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 various myths about America and the impact of these myths on individuals and the larger society; explore and interpret the ways in which race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, religion, and gender shape American culture; and read and interpret scholarship in the field of American Studies, with attention to the globalization of American culture. We'll also become familiar with the basic conceptual building blocks in the field, and examine the historical development of the field (or discipline!) of American Studies.

#### **AMST 7310: Regional Studies (Literature of the American West: Crossing Borders)**

**Dr. Linda Niemann, Professor of English – Mondays – 6:30 pm-9:15 pm**

This course will enable students to become better informed about border issues that have a national impact, such as immigration, the drug wars, English-only laws, education, and national identity. We will also examine the literary possibilities of a merger of Native American, Mexican, and Anglo deep history and traditional stories. We will use an interdisciplinary approach that contextualizes the West in terms of geography, social history, politics, visual culture, tourism, and the cultural production of myths. The three major by Native American, Anglo, and Hispanic authors all cross the border. *Almanac of the Dead*, by Leslie Marmon Silko, explores the European occupation of Mesoamerica; *Blood Meridian*, by Cormac McCarthy, follows Anglos who cross the border to hunt scalps, and *The Hummingbird's Daughter*, by Luis Alberto Urrea, chronicles Urrea's family saga of crossing the border into the United States. We will also read poetry, stories, and non-fiction that contextualize and interrogate ideas and histories embedded in the major novels. We will view films which establish and deconstruct myths of the West and which reveal counter-histories of the region. We will take a field trip that demonstrates how museums, national parks, and retail stores are themselves borderlands. This class will function as a graduate seminar. Each student will develop a presentation that will be peer-reviewed and revised into a final paper by the end of the semester. You may view the texts through any lens you choose and utilize any disciplinary approach. I will encourage you to submit this to a national conference.

#### **AMST 7430: Identities and Social Groups**

**Dr. Nina Morgan, Assoc. Professor of English – Thursdays, 6:30 pm-9:15 pm**

Group membership is a contested dynamic. Are you willingly a member of what some would call "white America" or "black America" or "gay America?" Does our citizenship in a first world country famous for its consumption indict us as some of the world's most wasteful human beings? Or does our citizenship verify our faith in the ideals of individuality, free enterprise, and democracy? As a veteran, can you be defined as a "true" American? As an American Indian, were you ever really "American?" Can you be a "communist" and an "American" at the same time? What is it to be "un-American?" Identity studies in American Studies isn't just about "them," it is also about "us," as simultaneous members of a range of different groups—groups determined by law, by history, by accident, by action, by rights, by values, by wealth, and so on. In American Studies, the problem of identify formation is not only complicated by a diverse and troubled history of immigration (legal and otherwise), a series of geographical expansions and conquests, and a raging public discourse on values and ideals, but it is also complicated by issues of legitimacy, historical accident, forgetting, misinformation, fear, science, religion, the media, and many other elements that come into play in the creation of identities and groups. In this course, we will read a variety of materials to aid in our discussion of how groups are formed—and we will not exclude "enemy" groups, such as "detainees" in Guantanamo in the 21st century or "internees" in American internment camps of the mid 20th century. Additionally, we will study how groups transform their identities—how, for example, the "heathen Chinese" becomes the Asian-American who is trustworthy during World War II, or how Russian-Americans work to define their status as loyal anti-communists. Students in this class may have an opportunity to contribute research to a new Russian-American museum project in San Francisco, California.

# Spring 2010

## MA in American Studies (MAST) COURSE OFFERINGS

### **AMST 7100: American Studies Methods**

**Dr. LeeAnn Lands, Assoc. Professor of History and American Studies**

**Thursdays, 5:00 pm-7:45 pm, So.Sci - 2031**

This course introduces students to current methods in American Studies research and public practice and provides a pragmatic and theoretically sound introduction to methods for doing work in American Studies. 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.

### **AMST 7400: Film Industry in American Culture (Cinematic Transactions: U.S. and Japan)**

**Dr. Ed Chan, Assoc. Professor of English**

**Mondays, 6:30 pm-10:15 pm, So.Sci. 2031**

Our course explores the often circular transactions between the cinemas of the United States 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 [Puraido: unmei no toki]/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 bibliography, one presentation, and a seminar paper.

### **AMST 7440: Enterprise and Labor**

**Dr. Randy Patton, Professor of History**

**Tuesdays, 5:00 – 7:45 pm, So.Sci. 2031**

This course will explore the social and cultural origins of business 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: Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America*; Robert Zieger, *For Jobs and Freedom: Race and Labor in America, Since 1865*; Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and Its Discontents*; Michael Honey, *Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign*; Scott Sandidge, *Born Losers: A History of Failure in America*; Angel Kwolek-Foland, *Engendering Business: Men and Women in the Corporate Office, 1870-1930*; Mansel Blackford, *A History of Small Business in America*. 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.

# Summer 2010

## MA in American Studies (MAST) COURSE OFFERINGS

### **AMST 7430/01: Identities & Social Groups: The Maya Nation (4 weeks)**

**Dr. Alan LeBaron, Professor of History MTWTh, 2:00 pm-4:45 pm**

This course examines the question of ethnic and cultural identity among the Maya of Mesoamerica and the United States, and secondarily ethnic and cultural identity among Native Americans in the Americas. Students will consider the various theories behind ethnic/cultural identity, including the concepts of emotional ethnicity, political ethnicity, and imagined ethnicity. The Maya people have lived in the Americas for thousands of years, thus have gone through many cultural and identity transformations, however Maya continue speaking their indigenous languages and maintaining parts of their historic culture. As a class project, students will examine the recent immigration of approximately 800,000 Maya into the United States, and the quest of some Maya to establish a Native American Movement.

### **AMST 7430/02: Identities & Social Groups: Queer Theory (6 weeks)**

**Dr. Ugena Whitlock, Assistant Professor of Adolescent Education and Gender and Women's Studies  
T/Th, 5:00 pm-8:45 pm**

What is Queer Theory? Queer theory is disruptive. Queer theory refutes and destabilizes notions of essential, normative sexuality and gender. Queer theory suggests that sexuality and gender are fluid, unstable and incoherent. Queer theory represents the convergence of postmodern critical theory and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender cultural studies. Queer theory embraces the position of the "queer" as offering a powerful vantage point from which to critique common (mis)perceptions concerning the place of gender and sexuality across the full range of social relations and institutions as well as cultural discourses and practices within which we participate throughout the course of our everyday lives. Queer theory is playful and fun! Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

### **AMST 7500: PRACTICUM (Internship or Applied Research Project) (8 weeks)**

**Dr. LeeAnn Lands, Assoc. Professor of History and American Studies**

***Prerequisite: AMST 7000 or AMST 7100.***

This course requires students to apply American Studies knowledge, concepts, and theory to practical issues, non-academic environments, or to new research questions. The Practicum fosters the ability to (1) read and think critically while using diverse methods to study American cultural products and practices, (2) communicate effective analysis of American culture both orally and in writing, and (3) analyze and critique relationships between cultural products and social values. The practicum may be offered as an internship; applied research project; teaching practicum; or other applied experience as approved by the Program Director. For more information on AMST7500 options see:

[http://www.ksu-amst.com/documents/AMST7500\\_HANDBOOK\\_09102009.pdf](http://www.ksu-amst.com/documents/AMST7500_HANDBOOK_09102009.pdf)

# Summer 2010

## MA in American Studies (MAST) Study Abroad COURSE OFFERINGS

### **May 9 – May 25, 2010 (MayMester) – ECUADOR & THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS**

SA8900/AMST 7430 – Identity Through Culture with Ernesto Silva

SA8900/AMST7310 – Regional Studies: Plant Geography with Nancy Pullen

Latin American countries, as a whole, share more cultural similarities than differences. Through the careful study of historical essays, political critiques, short stories, folktales, personal accounts, and several journal articles, students will be exposed to the different ways by which Latin American identities are formed. The readings will be complemented by first-hand experiences while visiting museums, churches, markets, parks, and towns throughout the different regions of Ecuador. Emphasis will be placed on the myriad of ways in which Latin American countries have been formed, how they relate to one another and how they perceive and are perceived by people from the USA. This course will be conducted in English.

**Concurrent Course: Plant Geography** - Ecuador becomes a living laboratory for you to learn, understand, and investigate the natural world of plants from biogeographical and ethnobotanical perspectives. Students will learn the natural and anthropological patterns and processes that have influenced the distribution and evolution of plant species of Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Students will also learn traditional and cultural relationships between people and plants of Educator, principally the consumptive, medicinal, economic, and religious uses of plants, as well as modern-day bio-piracy of herbal medicines.

### **May 11-23, 2010 (MayMester) GERMANY & POLAND –**

#### **Contextualizing the Holocaust: Remembrance, Resistance, Resilience**

SA8900/AMST7230 – Public History and Culture with Catherine Lewis

This course is designed to put the Holocaust into historical perspective and reflect on what it reveals about genocide in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. This course will address the following questions, with a specific focus on the Holocaust: (1) What do we know about the past and how do we know it? (2) How does the interpretation of historical events change over time? (3) Is history a matter of fact or a matter of memory? (4) How do politics shape the presentation of the past? (5) How is the past presented to the public? As a class, we will investigate the ways in which perceptions of the past are formed and communicated from generation to generation across cultures and centuries. This inquiry will address change over time and focus on public history, with particular emphasis on museums and historic sites.

### **May 20-July 21, 2010 – THE PUERTO RICO WRITING WORKSHOP**

SA8900/AMST7500 – Practicum with Jim Elledge

This program offers committed writers time to write in a “writers’ colony”-style environment to distribute their work for work shopping among their classmates and instructor. Students will pursue a writing project of their own choice during a two-week period of intensive writing and revision. Students may bring a nearly-completed project with them to finish; a draft of a project; or develop an idea that they work into a substantial draft. The final revision of a student’s work is due two weeks after the date on which the student returns to Atlanta. Those in other disciplines with a strong desire to write, including area teachers, are welcome.

**June 21-July 9, 2010 – JAPAN**

SA8900/AMST7320 – America in Transnational Context with Ed Chan

How did a small island country like Japan become a world super power? The answer lies in its traditional values and its cultural and artistic legacy. In addition to its hardworking people and strong economic power, Japan has beautiful natural landscapes, centuries-old traditional architecture, such as Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, elegant arts and crafts, and innovative modern technology and design. Moreover, while the West has consistently held a certain fascination for Japanese culture and traditions, the popularity of contemporary Japanese culture--especially in the U.S.--is certainly on the rise through manga, anime, J- pop, J-horror, and technology. This study abroad trip will spend three weeks in Tokyo and Kyoto. We will visit some of the most popular religious festivals, distinctive Japanese gardens, traditional performances like bunraku or kabuki, art, and anime museums, ancient samurai castles, famous shopping districts, and the breathtaking Mt. Fuji.

**July 1-August 6, 2010 - BRAZIL – Capoeira, Samba, and Carnival**

SA8900/AMST7320 – The Politics of Brazilian Arts, Music, and Culture with Dr. Nuru Akinyemi

SA8900/AMST7320 – The History of Brazilian Arts, Music, and Culture with Dr. Alan LeBaron

Based in Salvador-Bahia, the program promises a unique opportunity to study and experience Brazilian history and society through immersion in its rich and diverse culture, arts, music, food and religious traditions. One of the largest emerging economies in the world, Brazil also boasts a unique history and culture as the only Portuguese-speaking country in the Americas, home to the largest population of people of African descent outside the African continent, and one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. In addition to the scheduled program activities, optional field trips will be arranged for interested participants to further explore other aspects of Brazilian society and natural environment.

**July 11-25, 2010 - AUSTRIA – University of Graz**

SA8900/AMST7320 – America in Transnational Context with Emron Esplin

This program allows KSU students to participate in an international summer school that brings together up to 50 students and 10 faculty members from several European and American nations for an intense two-week study of American identities, cultures, politics, film, and literatures from a global perspective. Students will separate into three different streams or course subjects—film and society; politics, law, and security; and literature. Each of these streams is taught by two different faculty members with each faculty member focusing on a distinct topic within their broader field.

# Fall 2010

## MA in American Studies (MAST) COURSE OFFERINGS

### **AMST 7000: American Studies Scholarship**

**Ed Chan PhD, Associate Professor of English - Tuesdays, 3:30 pm- 6:15 pm**

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 various myths about America and the impact of these myths on individuals and the larger society; explore and interpret the ways in which race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, religion, and gender shape American culture; and read and interpret scholarship in the field of American Studies, with attention to the globalization of American culture. We'll also become familiar with the basic conceptual building blocks in the field, and examine the historical development of the field (or discipline!) of American Studies.

### **AMST 7230/01: Public History and Culture: Memory & American Culture**

**Catherine Lewis PhD, Associate Professor of History - Thursdays, 3:30 pm- 6:15 pm**

Public History and Culture examines the popular uses and presentation of the American past. Exploring historical memory's role in American culture, the course draws on a range of methods (e.g., site visits, research in popular publications, study of historical documentaries) to critique ways that the past is recorded and transmitted. Course content may include a rationale and debate about defining the parameters of the historical division, as well as an emphasis upon the significance of artifacts, lore, written and oral commentary of the period, and the language that both constructs and vivifies the meanings of past. Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

### **AMST 7200/01: American Cultural Movements: U.S. Social Justice Movements since 1945**

**LeeAnn Lands PhD, Associate Professor of History & American Studies**

**Wednesdays, 6:30 pm- 9:15 pm**

In this reading and action seminar, we'll examine recent scholarly empirical studies of social justice movements in the U.S. post-1945. Rather than attempting a survey of the various movements in the period, we'll focus on a few movements that scholars have been probing intensely over the past few years so as to compare methods, findings and arguments, approaches, research questions, and change in scholarly emphasis over time. We might, for example, read and discuss recent scholarly treatments of student movements, the third world left, the disability rights movement, environmental organizing, and/or the living wage and jobs for justice campaigns. Through these movements we'll be able to examine what prompted people to organize around particular issues, what facilitated the building of a "movement," who was involved and why, organizing strategies and tactics, larger community responses, and movement successes and failures. As we dig through these works, we'll also look for and discuss larger patterns in social justice movements over the period. Finally, the course will include a "service learning" component that will require you to engage directly in, study, and interpret a local, regional, or national social justice action or movement in your interest area.

# Fall 2010

## MA in American Studies (MAST) COURSE OFFERINGS

### AMST 7310/01: Regional Studies: Greater Mexico

**Dr. Emron Esplin, Asst. Professor of English and American Studies - Wednesdays, 3:30 pm- 6:15 pm**

Mexican culture—food, language, religion, literature, politics, music, etc.—manifests itself not only throughout Mexico and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, but throughout the United States in general and throughout the American continent. Américo Paredes and several other scholars refer to this region of Mexican cultural influence as “Greater Mexico.” This course will introduce students to the concept of Greater Mexico while offering an in-depth study of literature from Mexican, Chicano/a, and U.S. literary traditions. Our readings will lead to discussions about national conflict between the U.S. and Mexico (e.g. the U.S.-Mexican War, the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, current immigration issues on the U.S.-Mexico border) and to questions of racial and ethnic identity (e.g. when/where is the term “Mexican” a national marker and when/where is it a racialized label? What are the differences between terms like Chicano/a, Mexican-American, Latino, Hispanic? What tensions exist between Mexican nationals, Mexican-Americans, and other groups throughout the Americas?). In short, the course brings diverse texts into conversation with each other and emphasizes the problems of dividing literature by nation and/or language while still recognizing the valuable differences between these rich histories and literary traditions.

### AMST 7310/02: Regional Studies: Environmental Writing in the Southeast

**Dr. Beth Giddens, Associate Professor of English - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm- 9:15 pm**

This course will explore the intersections between nature and culture in contemporary environmental literature of the southeastern United States. As the class reads a range of fiction and nonfiction, we will consider how geography and climate have influenced the social history, economic development, and culture of the southeast and how humans have used, shaped, and exploited that land throughout the ages. For example, what do the rainfall and warm temperatures of the southeast have to do with the species that thrive in the region, the agriculture that has developed here, the outdoor pastimes that Southerners have traditionally pursued, and its tales, music, and hand crafts? Many writers assert that the distinctive culture of the southeast has led to its residents’ unique sense of place, so we will examine how this sense is expressed in contemporary literature and then question the extent to which this statement seems justified by fact and/or by sentiment. Our answers may help us understand the uneven history of environmental awareness, preservation, and justice in the region and consider how the humanities can serve states and communities in a time of growing environmental crisis. Each student will develop a project [genre negotiable] focusing on a work, author, locale, or environmental problem that will result, after peer review and revision, in a written piece and presentation suitable for submission to conferences such as those sponsored by the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment and the American Studies Association, or to journals such as *ISLE*, *Environmental Communication*, and *Orion Magazine*. Readings will include *Elemental South: An Anthology of Southern Nature Writing*, (Dallmeyer, ed.), a novel by Carl Haissen, *Something’s Rising: Appalachians Fighting Mountaintop Removal*, Silas House and Jason Howard, editors; *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver; *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* by Janisse Ray; selections from the South’s early environmental literature; and texts about the region’s environmental history.

**AMST 7320/01: American in Transnational Context: Human Rights in the Americas**  
**Dr. Ken Maffitt, Assistant Professor of History and American Studies - Mondays, 6:30 pm- 9:15 pm**

This course examines interactions between Americans and other international groups. The course may address several time periods and locations or focus on a single case study (e.g., the impact of cross-cultural contact in a specific region or era). Besides secondary research from diverse disciplines, students use primary texts from popular culture to interpret the influence of American culture in other parts of the world (e.g., American television as viewed in other lands) and the ways that immigration of new groups has shaped the social landscape in the U.S. Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

# Spring 2011

## MA in American Studies (MAST) COURSE OFFERINGS

### **AMST 7220: Passages to America**

**Dr. Ken Maffitt, Assistant Professor of History and American Studies**

Students enrolled in Passages to America examine forced and voluntary migration and immigration in the historical development of American culture. The varied experiences of these individuals and their families are discussed in the context of such topics as racial and ethnic group relations, nativism, and social class formation. We examine power relations between dominant and subordinate groups, along with debates over citizenship, Americanization policies, and legal/illegal immigration. Finally, students analyze the cultural concepts of assimilation, pluralism, and multiculturalism that frame these debates. Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

### **AMST 7300: American Cities, Suburbs and Countryside**

**Dr. LeeAnn Lands, Associate Professor of History and American Studies**

This course offers a thematic study of cultural, social, and economic patterns of the American metropolis using texts and methods from a variety of disciplines, such as history, literature, anthropology, and sociology. Students interrogate texts ranging from landmarks to literature, personal histories to government documents, advertising to architecture, to explore the shifting relationships between and ideas about American cities, suburbs, and countryside. Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

### **AMST 7310/01: Regional Studies (Literature of the American West: Crossing Borders)**

**Dr. Linda Niemann, Professor of English – Mondays – 6:30 pm-9:15 pm**

This course will enable students to become better informed about border issues that have a national impact, such as immigration, the drug wars, English-only laws, education, and national identity. We will also examine the literary possibilities of a merger of Native American, Mexican, and Anglo deep history and traditional stories. We will use an interdisciplinary approach that contextualizes the West in terms of geography, social history, politics, visual culture, tourism, and the cultural production of myths. The three major themes by Native American, Anglo, and Hispanic authors all cross the border. *Almanac of the Dead*, by Leslie Marmon Silko, explores the European occupation of Mesoamerica; *Blood Meridian*, by Cormac McCarthy, follows Anglos who cross the border to hunt scalps, and *The Hummingbird's Daughter*, by Luis Alberto Urrea, chronicles Urrea's family saga of crossing the border into the United States. We will also read poetry, stories, and non-fiction that contextualize and interrogate ideas and histories embedded in the major novels. We will view films which establish and deconstruct myths of the West and which reveal counter-histories of the region. We will take a field trip that demonstrates how museums, national parks, and retail stores are themselves borderlands. This class will function as a graduate seminar. Each student will develop a presentation that will be peer-reviewed and revised into a final paper by the end of the semester. You may view the texts through any lens you choose and utilize any disciplinary approach. I will encourage you to submit this to a national conference.

**AMST 7310/01: Regional Studies: The Maya Nation**  
**Dr. Alan LeBaron, Professor of History**

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 various myths about America and the impact of these myths on individuals and the larger society; explore and interpret the ways in which race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, religion, and gender shape American culture; and read and interpret scholarship in the field of American Studies, with attention to the globalization of American culture. We'll also become familiar with the basic conceptual building blocks in the field, and examine the historical development of the field (or discipline) of American Studies.

**AMST 7400: Film Industry in American Culture (Cinematic Transactions: U.S. and Japan)**  
**Dr. Ed Chan, Associate Professor of English**

Our course explores the often circular transactions between the cinemas of the United States 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 [Puraido: unmei no toki]/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 bibliography, one presentation, and a seminar paper.

**AMST 7420: American Popular Culture: Sports in American Popular Culture**  
**Dr. Elsa Nystrom, Professor of History**

This course examines the role of popular and mass culture in the Americas by beginning with the premise that popular culture is an important site of expression, social instruction, and cultural conflict, and thus deserves critical attention. Students may examine theoretical texts as well as primary sources, and the course may include a focus on global consumerism in America as well as Americanized sites. The course may survey a range of popular texts, such as mass culture events (e.g., sports), advertising, popular music, and theme parks, and places these expressions of mass culture in political, economic, and social contexts. Alternatively, an offering may focus on a particular popular culture product (e.g., bestsellers; popular music) in depth. Course may be repeated for credit provided the content differs entirely from the previous offering.

**AMST 7500: PRACTICUM (Internship or Applied Research Project) (8 weeks)**  
**Dr. LeeAnn Lands, Assoc. Professor of History and American Studies**  
***Prerequisite: AMST 7000 or AMST 7100.***

This course requires students to apply American Studies knowledge, concepts, and theory to practical issues, non-academic environments, or to new research questions. The Practicum fosters the ability to (1) read and think critically while using diverse methods to study American cultural products and practices, (2) communicate effective analysis of American culture both orally and in writing, and (3) analyze and critique relationships between cultural products and social values. The practicum may be offered as an internship; applied research project; teaching practicum; or other applied experience as approved by the Program Director. For more information on AMST7500 options see:

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**AMST 7900: CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE**  
**MA Director**

**1-6 (6 hours required for program completion) Credit Hours**  
*Prerequisites: Admission to the graduate program in American Studies or permission of the program coordinator.*

The Capstone Experience consists of a major research project or a project using interdisciplinary methods from American Studies to investigate questions consistent with the program's mission and the student's professional goals. Students work with faculty advisors to develop a proposal, carry out research related to their topic or project aims, and complete a product drawing on the content of program courses and integrating it with new, individualized study.