

Agenda
American Studies Program Faculty Meeting
Thursday, April 26; 12:30-1:45
WB 117

Attendance:

Program Faculty: LeeAnn Lands, Dan Paracka, Robert DeVillar, Jesse Benjamin, Linda Niemann, Jim Elledge, Dot Graham, Dede Yow, Catherine Lewis, Sarah Robbins, Ernesto Silva

AMST Students: Erin Cochran, Chris Smith, Caitlin McCannon

I. American Studies in Practice—Catherine Lewis

Catherine Lewis presented a talk based on her new book, *Don't Ask What I Shot*, which provides a cultural analysis of President Eisenhower as a golfer and the impact that his devotion to the game had on the nation. Sharing brief excerpts from the book along with commentary on her research process, Lewis whetted the group's appetites for a fuller presentation to be scheduled in July, in cooperation with the KSU Athletics Department.

See information on the book on amazon.com:

http://www.amazon.com/Dont-Ask-What-I-Shot/dp/0071485708/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1/102-4103739-5986569?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1179091274&sr=1-1

II. Approval of minutes from March meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted by Susan Rouse. The program faculty offered Rouse a strong commendation for her service as secretary throughout the academic year.

III. Curriculum Updates

A. Progress on the proposal for a B.A. major in AMST

The curriculum committee is continuing to work on the proposal for a B.A. Sarah Robbins commended the committee for their progress.

B. Procedures and timeline for proposing AMST 4490 courses for spring 2008

All proposals for AMST 4490 classes to be offered in the spring are due to the curriculum committee on or before August 15.

C. Update on the M.A. letter of intent

The letter of intent has been revised and submitted to Dean of Graduate Studies Teresa Joyce for her review. The revision provides listing of new faculty now affiliated with the program and a substantial update of the text of the proposal to emphasize its close alignment with the new KSU strategic plan for the university, including the program's global vision for American studies and its many moves to address state need (such as the needs for preparation for successful citizens and graduates prepared for Georgia's workforce in an increasingly diverse society). Dr. Joyce herself is developing a new course on business in American culture.

D. Update on the add-on of AMST courses as options in the English major and in the history major

Changes in the history and English majors to include listings of AMST offerings that are particularly relevant to those programs are progressing through the curricular review process. Sarah thanked our colleagues in English and History & Philosophy for supporting the AMST program through these changes.

IV. Morocco Partnership Update

Dan Paracka reported that, in June, KSU will host a visit by the president of our partner university in Casablanca. He also reported that a fall visit to Morocco by several members of KSU's American Studies program faculty is being planned, and that we hope a colleague from Morocco's American Studies faculty will be on hand in second semester to teach a module in Ed Chan's upcoming "America in the World" course—as well as to visit other classes.

V. Website Update

LeeAnn reported that several members of the web team met recently with a web designer, who is contracting with us to prepare a mock-up for the new website. She asked program faculty to submit their bio blurbs for the website and to be ready for picture-taking in the near future. (Faculty may submit their own individual pictures if they prefer.)

VI. Representing/reporting on Scholarship in AMST, especially for those having or considering joint appointments

Sarah asked the personnel committee to continue work preparing descriptions of scholarship in American studies inclusive enough to value public work and the scholarship of teaching. She referred the committee (Dot Graham, Catherine Lewis, and Jim Elledge) to the Imagining America project on promotion and tenure, which is seeking to document approaches to P and T which validate such models for scholarly work.

See <http://www.ia.umich.edu/tenure-team-prospectus.html>

The group discussed and affirmed the need to endorse broad models of public scholarship, especially in light of the profiles for Latino Studies hires we are incorporating into the ads for our two joint position searches in the coming year.

VII. Summer Reading

Faculty who would like to collaborate in reading on Latino Studies (especially looking ahead to our joint hires with English and History & Philosophy) were invited to request copies of the book *Latinos: Remaking America* from Jan Medearis, who has ordered a set for interested members of our group to read over the summer.

See, on amazon.com:

http://www.amazon.com/Latinos-Remaking-America-Rockefeller-American/dp/0520234871/ref=sr_1_1/102-4103739-5986569?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1179092409&sr=1-1

Other summer reading connections include a June 19 book launch for Sarah Robbins's new book, *The Cambridge Introduction to Harriet Beecher Stowe*, and another launch event in early July, for Catherine Lewis's new book, referenced above.

VIII. Asian Studies Initiative

Dan Paracka reported on the work being done by faculty interested in developing an Asian Studies major and in promoting the Asian Studies minor. The group has been encouraged to draw on the work of the American Studies program for planning governance and curricular development.

IX. Meeting dates for coming academic year: please alert your dept chairs:

August 23

Sept 27

Oct 25

Nov 29 (combined nov/dec meeting)

Jan 24 of 08

Feb 28 of 08

March 27 of 08

April 24 of 08