

## Faculty

- Kevin Britz  
*Associate Director, Assistant Professor of American Studies*
- Melissa Dabakis  
*Professor of Art History*
- Ennis Edmonds  
*Assistant Professor of Religious Studies*
- John M. Elliott  
*Professor of Political Science*
- Kirk R. Emmert  
*Professor of Political Science*
- Lewis Hyde  
*Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing (on leave, second semester)*
- P. Frederick Kluge  
*Writer-in-Residence (on leave, second semester)*
- David H. Lynn  
*Professor of English*
- Janet E. McAdams  
*Robert P. Hubbard Professor in Poetry; Assistant Professor of English (on leave, second semester)*
- Kim McMullen  
*Associate Professor of English*
- Peter Rutkoff  
*Director, Professor of American Studies*
- Howard L. Sacks  
*Professor of Sociology (on leave)*
- William B. Scott  
*Professor of History*
- Ric S. Sheffield  
*Associate Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies*
- Judy R. Smith  
*Professor of English*
- Gregory P. Spaid  
*Provost; Professor of Studio Art*
- Thomas P. Stamp  
*Associate Vice President for Communications*
- Jan E. Thomas  
*Assistant Professor of Sociology*
- Jonathan E. Tazewell  
*Associate Professor of Drama (on leave)*

American studies provides a broad framework for the exploration of the people, places, society, and culture of the United States. American studies accomplishes this by appropriating ideas and methodologies from one field and applying them to another and by transcending established boundaries among disciplines to create a new structure that combines traditional values and new visions.

## Requirements for the Major

The major in American studies consists of 6 units:

- AMST 108 Introduction to American Studies (1/2 unit)
- Four diversification courses (2 units)
- Five courses of elective study (2 1/2 units)
- The Senior Seminar (1 unit)

**AMST 108 Introduction to American Studies (1/2 unit).** This course is normally taken during the first or second year at Kenyon.

**Diversification courses (2 units).** See the list of courses below. One unit must be from A. History and Politics, and one unit from B. Culture and Society. Some courses may have prerequisites in the home department; others may have limited enrollment. Students majoring in American studies should work closely with their advisors to ensure their acceptance.

**A. History and Politics.** Two courses (1 unit) from the following:  
AMST 391 American Culture and the Environment  
HIST 101 U.S. History, 1492-1865  
HIST 102 U.S. History, 1865-Present  
HIST 175 African-American History: Slavery to Emancipation  
HIST 176 Contemporary African-American History  
HIST 205/PSCI 309 U.S. Political History

PSCI 200 Liberal Democracy in America  
PSCI 301 The American Presidency  
PSCI 331 American Political Thought  
**B. Culture and Society.** Two courses (1 unit) from the following:  
AMST 109 American Art and Culture  
ARHS 227 American Art to 1900  
ENGL 270 American Fiction  
ENGL 280 American Modernist Literature  
MUSC 302 The History of Jazz  
RLST 230 Religion and Society in America (U.S.)  
RLST 332 African-American Religions  
SOCY 111 American Society  
SOCY 246 American Folk Music

**Elective study (2 1/2 units).** Five courses from a single area, discipline, or set of disciplines that form a coherent program in American studies. Examples of such areas would be: writing and literature, race and ethnicity, history and society, politics and economics, African-American studies, women's studies, law and society, landscape and the environment, or another category of student and faculty agreement. The elective-study program undertaken by the student requires approval of the director of the American Studies Program. At least one unit (2 courses) must be at the 300 or 400 level.

**Senior Seminar (1 unit).** A two-semester sequence taken during the senior year. The Senior Seminar will typically entail collaborative research and public presentation.

## Honors

The Honors program in American studies entails a two-semester (1 unit) sequence of independent work integral to the elective-study program in the major, taken during the senior year (AMST 497-498). The program will result in an Honors project which may take a variety of forms but which shall include a written component and a public presentation or performance. Honors work will be

evaluated by an external examiner. Students with an overall GPA of 3.20 and a GPA of 3.5 in the major may, during the second semester of their third year, apply for admission to the Honors program. The application, a formal proposal containing a statement of intent, a tentative bibliography, and a project outline should be sent to the project advisor and the director of American studies for approval by April 1. Exceptions to the GPA requirements may occasionally be granted by petition.

## The Senior Exercise

The Senior Exercise in American studies may take several forms. But it must draw on the elective-study component of the major, identifying and then developing, through original research, a major theme that the student has identified as central to his or her work in American studies. By the final Friday in October, majors in American studies will present their plans for the Senior Exercise to their advisors and to the program director.

The exercise itself will have two parts: (1) a presentation (visual, oral, electronic) to selected majors and faculty in American studies; and (2) a written analysis or documentation of the work presented. The Senior Exercise will be presented on the last Friday in April in the spring semester.

## The Concentration in American Studies

The concentration in American studies, encompassing 3 units of work, consists of three components: a one-semester introductory course, AMST 108 (1/2 unit); three semester courses in curricular options (1 1/2 units); and a two-semester senior seminar (1 unit). Students may choose among several pathways that will fulfill the curricular-options requirement. To obtain a list of specific courses that fall under these categories, students should consult the director of the American Studies

Program. Courses required for a student's major cannot count toward completion of the American studies course requirements. Coursework undertaken for American studies must be over and above work required by a major department.

Students who are considering the concentration should consult with Peter Rutkoff, director of American studies, before enrolling in classes.

## Year Course

### Senior Seminar in American Studies: Museums and Memory: World War II Era

AMST 383Y-384Y (1 unit)  
*Britz*

American museums play an important role in the way our culture's memory is preserved and presented. In recent years, they have become battlegrounds between groups with widely different perspectives on the collection of artifacts and the means of exhibition.

Museums and Memory is designed to show how American museums act as keepers and displayers of national and community memory. The course will outline the changing—and often controversial—role of museums in American society. It will serve as an introduction to basic modern practices, paying special attention to the politics of public display. Students will collaborate on research, developing collections, and create an exhibit based on a special topic: World War II in Knox County. This course includes field trips, extensive field research, and hands-on experience. It is designed for seniors interested in local history or contemplating a career in public history or museums. Limited enrollment. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. Priority will be given to senior American studies majors.

## First-Semester Courses

### The West and American Culture

AMST 222 (1/2 unit)  
*Britz*

Some historians have called the West America's defining myth. Others see it a place of conquest. What is the *real* West? This course will examine the role the West played in shaping America's national character as settlement advanced in the nineteenth century. Students will look at the interaction between diverse cultures, the role of the environment, and the ways the West is portrayed in various forms of popular culture, including dime novels, wild west shows, celebrations, literature, films, television, and material culture. Most importantly, the course will look at the power of the frontier myth—how it shaped and still shapes America's national identity. Limited enrollment.

### Baseball and American Culture

AMST 382 (1/2 unit)  
*Rutkoff, Lynn*

Baseball and American Culture will look at the wide range of representations of the national game in American culture. The course will examine literature, poetry, and drama as well as the visual arts as a way of understanding the power of baseball on our cultural imagination. The seminar will focus on group discussion, collaborative presentations, and individual analysis. Students may take the course for credit in American Studies or English. Limited enrollment. Prerequisite: permission of the instructors.

## Second-Semester Courses

### Introduction to American Studies

◆ AMST 108 (1/2 unit)  
*Britz, Dabakis*

This course, focusing on American culture between 1936 and 1945, will explore artifacts such as an African-American Western, Richard Wright's *Native Son*, Japanese-American

internment, and “Rosie the Riveter.” Guest lectures and presentations will complement the course, and students will be asked to engage actively in its development. This course is cross-listed in the Department of Art and Art History. No prerequisites. Enrollment limited.

**Special Topic: American College and University Architecture**

AMST 392 (1/2 unit)  
*Stamp*

College and university campuses, from picturesque Gothic and Georgian wonderlands to the starkly modern and utilitarian assemblages of more recent years, have long been a source of fascination for Americans. They play a large role in the romantic ideal of college life, they evoke images of privilege or openness, and they are increasingly seen as a sales tool by marketers. If we look beyond the most superficial aspects of campuses, though, their physical appearances can reveal a great deal about an institution’s history, its goals and philosophy, even its relative place in the nation’s higher-education hierarchy. This course will look at a variety of campuses and campus types—urban, suburban, and rural, public and private, old and new—and end with a class project involving development of an ideal campus. Limited enrollment. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

**The following courses, offered in 2004-05, may be taken for credit toward the major or concentration in American studies:**

(Other courses may apply as well. Please consult with the program director, Peter Rutkoff.)

ENGL 270 American Fiction  
ENGL 271 The Confidence Game in America  
ENGL 288 Introduction to African-American Literature  
HIST 101 United States History, 1492-1865  
HIST 102 United States History, 1865 to Present

HIST 175 African-American History: Slavery to Emancipation  
HIST 176 Contemporary African-American History  
HIST 210 History of the South  
PSCI 365 Terrorism: Origins, Dangers, and Prospects  
RLST 230 Religion and Society in America (U.S.)  
RLST 411 Trials, Debates, and Controversies in American Religious History  
RLST 442 Religion and Popular Music in the African Diaspora  
SOCY 111 American Society

**Additional courses available another year include:**

AMST 109 American Art and Culture  
AMST 378 Memory and Commemoration in American Culture  
AMST 381Y-382Y North by South: The Great African-American Migration, 1900-1960