

Faculty

Kevin M. Britz

Director, Assistant Professor of American Studies

Melissa Dabakis

Professor of Art History (Rome and Florence Program, second semester)

Ennis Edmonds

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

John M. Elliott

Professor of Political Science (on leave)

Kirk R. Emmert

Professor of Political Science

Lewis Hyde

Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing (first semester only)

Sara Clarke Kaplan

Visiting Instructor of American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies

P. Frederick Kluge

Writer-in-Residence (first semester only)

David H. Lynn

Professor of English (Exeter Program)

Janet E. McAdams

Robert P. Hubbard Professor in Poetry; Assistant Professor of English

Kim McMullen

John Crowe Ransom Professor of English (on leave)

Peter Rutkoff

Director, Robert A. Oden Jr. Professor of American Studies (on leave)

Howard L. Sacks

Senior Advisor to the President; Professor of Sociology

William B. Scott

Professor of History

Ric S. Sheffield

Associate Provost; 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

Jonathan E. Tazewell

Associate Professor of Drama

Jan E. Thomas

Associate Professor of Sociology (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 101D U.S. History, 1492-1865
- HIST 102D U.S. History, 1865 to 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 American Presidency
- PSCI 331 American Political Thought

B. Culture and Society. Two courses (1 unit) from the following:

- AMST 109D 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 September, 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 no later than 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 Kevin Britz, director of American studies, before enrolling in classes.

Year Courses

Senior Seminar in American Studies: American Ghost Towns: An Archaeology of Place and Dreams

AMST 483Y-484Y (1 unit)
Britz

Our American landscape is marked by thousands of thriving towns and cities. Within the same spaces are the remnants of communities where dreams failed, plans ended, and residents moved on. This course will examine the theme of abandonment in the American landscape through the examination of the phenomenon of ghost towns and ruins. We will explore the different meanings of "ghost town," social context, and place in the landscape. The course includes extensive travel to local and national sites for field research. In preparation for the site visits, the seminar will meet as a regularly schedule colloquium to read and discuss the ways ghost towns have appeared in his-

tory, literature and art. In addition, students will study ways of understanding landscapes through visual and scientific methods. At the end of the year, the seminar will produce a public presentation of its work and discoveries. Prerequisites: permission of instructor. Enrollment limited. The course fulfills an American studies requirement.

Fieldwork: Rural Life

SOCY 477, 478 (1 unit)
Sacks

This course provides an introduction to fieldwork techniques and to the ethical and political issues raised by our purposeful involvement in other people's lives. Students will spend considerable time conducting original field research throughout Knox County, with the results to be presented publicly. Our research will generally consider the character of rural society, with particular focus on the local food system. Students will conduct a community food assessment, examining the character and adequacy of local food production, distribution, and access. The results of this research will provide the basis for a major effort to build a sustainable market for food produced in Knox County. This course satisfies the senior seminar requirement in American studies. Prerequisites: permission of instructor.

First-Semester Courses

United States History, 1492-1865

◆ AMST 101D (1/2 unit)
Scott

This course is a thematic survey of United States history from European conquest through the Civil War. Through lectures, discussions, and readings, students will examine the nation's colonial origin, the impact of European conquest of the native peoples, the struggle for national independence, and the formation of a national government. The second half of the course will focus on the making of a modern nation. Topics

will include the expansion of the market economy, chattel slavery, and the factory system. The course will also look at early urbanization, the rise of egalitarianism, religious movements, the first women's movements, and the defeat of the southern secessionist movement. No prerequisites. This course is the same as HIST 101D in the history curriculum.

American Art and Culture, 1900-1945

AMST 109D (1/2 unit)
Dabakis

In this course, we will study visual culture in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century. We will look at art, architecture, and popular media within a broad cultural context—in relation to film, literature, history, and politics. We will explore such themes as the search for an American identity, the issue of cultural nationalism, the interaction between European modernism and a native realist tradition, and the relationship among art, politics, and social activism. In so doing, we will employ an American studies interdisciplinary model by focusing on a number of artifacts, such as the Armory Show, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the Gambier Post Office mural. This course is the same as ARHS 109D, in the art history curriculum, and may be taken for credit in either art history or American studies. Enrollment limited.

History of Women in the United States

AMST 209 (1/2 unit)
Kaplan

Through lectures, readings, audio-visual materials, and class discussions, we will explore the history of women in the United States, focusing on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Special attention will be given to the areas of labor, immigration, reproduction, and political activism. Seeking to add depth and nuance to more traditional histories of American women, we will interrogate how race, class, and citizenship have shaped both the experiences women have had and the roles that they have

played in the last two centuries of American history. No prerequisites. Enrollment is limited to thirty. This class counts toward the concentration in women's and gender studies.

American Culture and the Environment

AMST 310 (1/2 unit)
Britz

Environmental history offers broad new insights into the understanding of American culture. From the introduction of old world pathogens by European explorers to the rise of modern environmentalism, Americans' attitudes have been shaped by their experiences in our vast landscape. This course will explore how attitudes toward nature evolved over time and how these ideas, in turn, transformed the face of the natural world. We will be looking at the environmental history of the United States through a series of questions: How have human activities historically depended on and interacted with nature? How have attitudes toward natural resources shaped patterns of life? How has technology shaped attitudes and landscapes? How did philosophies toward the land affect the reshaping of the landscape? What have been the consequences of these alterations? Students will seek to answer these questions through readings of historic case studies and examinations of literature, art, and film. This course requires extensive reading and is designed for upper-level students. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Enrollment limited.

Second-Semester Courses

United States History, 1865 to Present

◆ AMST 102D (1/2 unit)
Scott

This course is a thematic survey of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. Students will examine the transformation of the United States from a rural, largely Protestant society into a powerful and culturally diverse, urban/industrial

nation. Topics will include constitutional developments, the formation of a national economy, urbanization, and immigration. The course will also discuss political changes, the secularization of the public culture, the formation of the welfare state, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War as well as suburbanization, the civil rights movement, women's and gay rights, and the late twentieth-century conservative-politics movement and religious revival. No prerequisites. This course is the same as HIST 102D, in the history curriculum.

Narratives of our America

◆ AMST 104 (1/2 unit)
Kaplan

This course asks: How might a narrative simultaneously tell the story of both an individual and her original or adopted home? Drawing upon a variety of literary genres (novels, short stories, plays, poetry) as well as visual art, music, and film, we will explore the intersection of personal and national narratives by people of color in the United States. How are "America" and what it means to be "American" constructed in these narratives? What conceptions of identity, place, history, and politics are developed and deployed? How might these narratives be in dialogue with—or even challenge—more canonical tales of coming-of-age? We will seek to answer these and other questions by engaging in critical readings of the narratives of American-born and immigrant African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans (such as Toni Morrison, Leslie Marmon Silko, Jessica Hagedorn, Audre Lorde, Edwidge Danticat, Cristina Garcia, Fae M. Ng, Rudolfo Anaya, and Louise Erdrich). This class will also focus on developing and honing analytical writing skills. No prerequisite. Enrollment limited to fifteen. As this class is designed for first-year students, juniors and seniors must obtain permission from the instructor before enrolling.

Introduction to American Studies

◆ AMST 108 (1/2 unit)
Britz, Kaplan

This course introduces students to the principles of American studies through the exploration of American history and culture in the 1960s. We will seek to understand the nature of American society in that critical period through the study of the struggle for civil rights, the Vietnam War, the rise of environmentalism, and women's liberation. We will explore these topics through the examination of four cultural artifacts: the March on Washington in 1963, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Barbie, and Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*. Guest lectures and presentations 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.

American College and University Architecture

AMST 314 (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 institutions'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 2005-06, 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, Kevin Britz.)

ENGL 270 American Fiction
ENGL 288 Introduction to African-American Literature
ENGL 379/380 American Literature
ENGL 483 American Indian Literature
HIST 101D United States History, 1492-1865
HIST 102D United States History, 1865 to Present
HIST 176 Contemporary African-American History
HIST 210 History of the South, 1607-2005
HIST 313 Black Intellectuals
HIST 316 Jazz Age, 1900-1930
HIST 356 Vietnam
HIST 411 The Civil Rights Era
PSCI 311 American Public Policy: School Reform
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
SOCY 422 Topics in Social Stratification

Additional courses available another year include:

AMST 222 The West and American Culture
AMST 223 Race, Gender, and Nation Building
AMST 378 Memory and Commemoration in American Culture

AMST 381Y-382Y North by South: The Great African-American Migration, 1900-1960
AMST 382 Baseball and American Culture
AMST 383Y-384Y Museums and Memory: World War II Era