

College of Arts and Sciences

Master of Arts in American and New England Studies

Director: Kent Ryden

Professors: Cameron, Cassidy, Conforti; *Associate Professors:* Edney, Ryden

Program Description

New England, as the publisher of *Yankee* magazine recently quipped, looks more like New England today than it did 30 years ago. Such observations reflect a new self-consciousness about regional identity in general, and about New England in particular. Popular interest in regionalism also underscores new scholarly attention to the role of cultural institutions, practices, and performances in helping to shape both national and regional identities. Mythic New England embodies some of the most familiar American images and the region has historically held a special place in the American imaginary landscape. Steeped in tradition and the kinds of pastoral images celebrated by *Yankee* magazine, New England was also the nation's most urban and Roman Catholic region in the post-Civil War period. It was multicultural from the beginning.

The American and New England Studies program is committed to studying regionalism in the context of contemporary thought and scholarship. It is both a regional and an American studies program. The program's focus is on New England, but the region is examined in the broad context of American social and cultural experience as a whole. Exploring as well as destabilizing "official" New England, the program offers students a wide range of interdisciplinary approaches and methodologies—including folklore, literary studies, visual culture, landscape and cultural geography, art and architectural history, archaeology, cultural criticism, environmental studies, and ethnography—but stresses the historicity of such practices, and of the culture and society they set out to explore.

The program seeks:

- to offer students a challenging interdisciplinary program focusing on the study of New England and the "new" regionalism;
- to emphasize the critical role of the arts, humanities, and social sciences in understanding New England and in interpreting its history and culture to the public;
- to prepare students for a variety of opportunities that require critical thinking, scholarly analysis, research skills, and the ability to communicate effectively;
- to integrate the study of regionalism into American studies;
- to create new opportunities for exchanges among scholars, professionals, and graduate students with common interests in American and New England studies;
- to act as a cultural and educational resource for the region.

Through courses, lectures, conferences, and internships, the program explores New England's distinctiveness and examines the region's contributions to American culture as a whole.

Admission

Admission to the American and New England Studies program is selective. The program seeks applicants who have a bachelor's degree with a record of academic achievement and who are committed to employing interdisciplinary approaches and methodologies. The program welcomes full-time and part-time students; courses are offered in the late afternoon and evening. All applications are reviewed by an admissions committee comprised of the director of American and New England Studies and faculty who teach in the program. Interviews may be required at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

Application Materials

In addition to the materials described in the Admissions chapter, applicants for this program must submit:

1. Official scores for the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Only students with an M.A. degree in the humanities or social sciences, or those holding a J.D., are exempt.
2. Three letters of recommendation on standard application forms or stationery.

Application Deadline

Applications for the spring semester must be received by October 15. Applications for the fall semester must be received by January 15 to be considered for tuition waivers and by February 15 to be considered for graduate assistantships.

Applications received after these deadlines may be considered on a space-available basis through the end of March. Early acceptance may be considered at the request of the applicant and at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

Program Policies

In addition to the general policies described in the Academic Policies chapter, specific policies of this program are as follows:

Admissions Credit Students who have not been officially admitted to the program may take courses for admissions credit. Normally, six admissions credits are the maximum allowed. The director of American and New England Studies must approve all requests for admissions credit.

Transfer Credit A student may transfer up to six credits into the American and New England Studies Program. To be considered for transfer credit, previous coursework must be interdisciplinary and must focus on America or New England. In addition, only coursework awarded a grade of B or better will be considered for transfer credit. The Admissions Committee will review all requests for transfer credit. Course materials should accompany these requests.

Time Limit Students must complete all requirements for the degree within six years from the date of first matriculation.

Program Requirements

The curriculum is unique; unlike other regional studies and interdisciplinary programs, the curriculum consists of courses that have been created specifically for the American and New England Studies master's degree and that integrate the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Students may pursue a 30-credit program that includes a thesis or project or they may follow a 36-credit program that does not include a thesis or project. Students who elect the 36-credit program must complete two research papers in elective courses. A third option is also available in Public Culture and History. Students take 27 credits in ANE and 9 credits in nonprofit management and internship.

30-Credit Program

Required Courses			Credits
ANE 600	Creating New England I		3
ANE 610	Creating New England II		3
ANE 675	Workshop in Research and Writing		3
ANE 690	Project		
	or		
ANE 695	Thesis		<u>6</u>
			15
Elective Courses			
Five courses chosen from ANE offerings			<u>15</u>
			30

36-Credit Program

Required Courses			Credits
ANE 600	Creating New England I		3
ANE 610	Creating New England II		<u>3</u>
			6
Elective Courses			
Ten courses chosen from ANE offerings			<u>30</u>
			36

Public Culture and History (36 credits)

Required Courses			Credits
ANE 600	Creating New England I		3
ANE 610	Creating New England II		3
ANE 670	Museums and Public Culture		<u>3</u>
			9

Elective Courses		
Six courses chosen from ANE offerings		18
One of the following 9-credit tracks:		<u>9</u>
		36
Track A		
ANE 687 Internship		3
2 courses in nonprofit management		6
	or	
Track B		
ANE 687* Internship		3
ANE 687* Internship		3
1 course in nonprofit management		3

*Internships must be at different institutions or in different areas of museum work (e.g., curatorial, educational).

Both the 30-credit and the 36-credit program offer students opportunities to focus their coursework in particular areas: history, literature, material culture and the visual arts. In addition, the project and thesis offer students opportunities to demonstrate intellectual independence and creativity by developing programs of study that address individual interests.

ANE 600 Creating New England I

This required core course examines the development of New England regional identity from the 17th to the mid-19th century. Drawing on interdisciplinary approaches and materials, the course focuses on how regional identity has been both historically grounded and culturally invented. Topics include: the invention of New England as a second England; the Yankee character; the New England town; the creation of regional traditions; and the perspectives of Native Americans and African Americans on narratives of New England identity. Cr 3.

ANE 610 Creating New England II

The second part of the required core sequence, this course continues the examination of New England regional identity from the mid-19th century to the present. Topics include: the colonial revival; New England's working class and ethnic heritage; nostalgia; the regional revival of the 1920s and 30s; and regional identity and consumer culture. Cr 3.

ANE 612 Documenting America: Ethnography and Oral History

This course is an introduction to the practice, politics, and history of documentary field studies. It will focus on oral history and ethnography as both a method and as a particular genre of culture writing and representation. In class, students will explore various strategies and practices of ethnography, including travel writing, local color, anthropology, exploration literature, documentary film making, and oral history. Students will grapple with contemporary issues that confront modern practices of "field work," such as cultural authority, displacement, marginalization, modes of cultural interpretation, stranger talk, insiders/outside, "wrong" stories and "true," etc. Field work required. Cr 3.

ANE 615 Folklore and Region

This course will begin by introducing students briefly to the study of folklore, particularly in a regional context, and to the identification and analysis of folkloric "texts" broadly conceived. It will then proceed topically, examining regional folk culture as it relates to various of the elements that help comprise a regional identity: history, economic activity as it is constrained by the region, and the natural and humanly shaped physical environment. Attention will also be paid to variations in regional folk culture according to gender, ethnicity, and class. Each topic will include an extended examination of an example from New England as well as materials from other regions of the country. Cr 3.

ANE 620 Regional Writing and the Sense of Place

This course focuses on New England literature of place including fictional, historical, poetic, and autobiographical writing. It examines the subjective experience of place and the cultural perception and use of space. The course explores how memory, experience, and nostalgia connect individual and collective identity to place. It also offers some comparative perspectives on the sense of place in other American regions. Cr 3.

ANE 622 Food: History, Culture, Politics

This course will explore the history, culture, and politics of food in America with a special emphasis on New England and regional differences. The course will examine colonial food ways including diet, food theft, trade patterns, and regional diversity; 19th-century health, sanitation, and temperance reforms; the rise of cooking schools, food writing, and regional cuisine; and contemporary issues such as fast and slow food, terminator seeds, organic farming, and the diet industry. Cr 3.

ANE 625 The West and the American Imagination

A prominent historian has observed that for the last 100 years the “West has been America’s most strongly imagined region.” This course will examine the 19th- and 20th-century West as an historic place and as an imagined region. It will explore the historical, cultural, geographic, political, and economic patterns that define the West as a distinctive region and look at the West in relation to other regions, particularly New England. Students will also analyze the place of the West in the American imagination, focusing on how popular culture, in varied forms, has shaped our understanding of this region. Cr 3.

ANE 628 New England and the Sea

This course will examine the role of the sea in shaping New England society, culture, and thought. The course will focus on the “new maritime history”; literary and artistic responses to the sea; the economic importance of the sea for recreation and for the fishing industry; and efforts to preserve and interpret the region’s maritime heritage. Cr 3.

ANE 629 Ethnicity in New England and America

This course explores the historic role of ethnicity in the formation of New England social life and cultural identity. Using a variety of texts and approaches, students will examine immigrant community life (including foodways, housing, leisure, and work), constructions of “race” and “whiteness,” and the relationship between ethnicity and regional identity. Cr 3.

ANE 630 The Culture of Consumption

Focusing on New England and the emergence of industrial society, this course will explore popular forms of leisure, pleasure, and consumer culture in 19th- and 20th-century society. We will explore both popular writers such as P.T. Barnum and Edward Bellamy, as well as theorists as diverse as Thorstein Veblen and C. Wright Mills. Topics include: Victorian identity and consumption; the spa and the health club; rural peddlers; minstrelsy, burlesque, vaudeville, and melodrama; the rise of the department store; working-class style and the culture of wanting; advertising; the New England woman and the Newport belle; the tourist and the commodification of New England. Cr 3.

ANE 633 The Mapping of New England

A study of the history of construction and use of cartographic representations of New England and Maine, to the end of the nineteenth century. The basic theme running through the course is that of cartographic literacy and commercialism: who used the maps and for what purposes? The course is structured around those cartographic modes (specific combinations of geographic knowledge, technological practices, social institutions, and cultural expectations) which have been relevant for New England. The scope of the course will expand to address,

when necessary, more general issues in European and North American cartographic history. Cr 3.

ANE 635 Art and New England Culture

This course will examine painting, prints, and photography from the 17th through the 19th centuries; it will focus on New England art and its place in American art history. Students will study style and subject matter and their relation to literature, thought, and social history. Central to this course is the consideration of how region is “imagined” in the visual arts and how these images shape regional and national culture. Topics include: “reading” colonial portraits; landscape painting and the commodification of nature; race, ethnicity, and regional types; Winslow Homer and the masculinization of region; and imaging the New England woman at the turn of the century. Cr 3.

ANE 638 Reading the Cultural Landscape

This course will examine the New England and American human landscapes as texts which can be read to reveal cultural attitudes, values, priorities, and experiences. Emphasis will be on the analysis of ordinary landscapes of the sort which surround us every day. The course will focus on typical landscape “settings” or “compositions,” not necessarily on individual components within those landscapes: that is, domestic or residential landscapes, commercial landscapes, industrial landscapes, civic landscapes, historic landscapes, and so on. Cr 3.

ANE 641 Environment and Culture

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the ways in which occupants of the North American continent, from the pre-contact period to the present, have conceived of and interacted with the natural environment. The history of human use of and attitudes toward the environment will be examined within a cultural context. Course materials will be drawn both from New England and from other regions of the country. Cr 3.

ANE 644 Twentieth-Century New England Politics

This course examines the politics of New England since 1900, with emphasis on conflicts among the distinct subcultures (White Anglo Saxon Protestant, European-American, and African-American) which have given the region’s politics its particular flavor. Special attention will be given to two dramatic political events—the Sacco-Vanzetti case and the Boston busing controversy—in which these conflicts played a significant role. Cr 3.

ANE 648 Domestic Architecture and American Culture

This course will examine the physical form as well as the idea and image of “home” from the 17th through the 20th centuries. House designs and styles and their historic changes and diversity across class and geographic boundaries will be examined. Students will also analyze the idea of home in visu-

al culture (paintings, prints, photography, popular illustrations, film) and written texts (prose, architectural pattern books, advice books, magazines). Cr 3.

ANE 650 Topics in American and New England Studies

An in-depth study of a significant aspect of New England or American culture from an interdisciplinary perspective. Topics will vary from year to year. Recent topics have included: Native People of North America, Landmarks in American Nature Writing, and Women's Captivity Narrative: Traditions and Transformations. Cr 3.

ANE 655 Historical Archaeology of New England

An examination of the role of historical archaeology in interpreting the past. Several important topics in regional contemporary historical archaeology will be examined including: exploration and settlement during the contact period, landscape research and reconstruction, ethnicity and social inequality, subsistence and food-ways, material culture studies, and the relationship between culture and consumption. Cr 3.

ANE 657 Language and Print Culture in America

This course will examine what various groups of Americans have been publishing and reading over time for purposes of education, edification, and entertainment, as well as the larger linguistic context in which those books have been produced. We will focus on questions of both the history of American English and the history of the book in America, while also examining the specific nature of print as a medium of communication. Cr 3.

ANE 658 Visual Culture of 20th-Century America

This course will look at the production and explosion of visual images in 20th-century America. Students will examine varied image types (advertising, film, painting, prints, photography, public art, television, and video) and how these images shape knowledge, experience, and culture. Topics include: the spectacle of city; images that sell; the meanings of abstract art; and documentary photography and surveillance. Cr 3.

ANE 660 New England Autobiography

This course examines 19th- and 20th-century New England autobiography; it focuses on works that illuminate aspects of regional experience. The readings represent diverse forms of autobiographical expression as well as essays that introduce contemporary approaches to the study of autobiography. The course emphasizes a historical-cultural reading of autobiography, relating issues of style, self-representation, the life cycle, gender, class, ethnicity, and place to particular historical contexts and cultural needs. Cr 3.

ANE 665 Sex in New England

This course will explore changes in the meaning and

place of sexuality in American life and in the shaping of New England's identity and culture. Exploring primary and secondary sources, we will look at Puritan family life (and not so "puritanical" sexual behaviors), the sexual politics of witchcraft, divorce in colonial society, Utopian free love campaigns, same-sex intimacy and the conjoined emergence of homosexuality and heterosexuality, gay urban culture, the Boston marriage and the female world of love and ritual, commercialized sex and antiprostitution activity, rural vice campaigns, youth culture, literary sexuality, the sexual revolution, and contemporary sexual politics. Cr 3.

ANE 668 Writers of Northern New England

This course focuses on literature about the subregion that Robert Frost referred to as "north of Boston." The course will examine writers who root their work in the landscape, culture, and history of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Considerable attention will be devoted to contemporary writing. Cr 3.

ANE 670 Museums and Public Culture

This course will examine the role of museums, preservationists, and collectors in shaping cultural identities and public memories in 19th- and 20th-century America. Topics will include: ethnographic collections and displays, fine arts museums and patrons, traditions of human display (such as 19th-century "freak shows"), history, anthropological and natural history museums, festivals, living history sites, and the narrative role of collections, artifacts, and museum design. Cr 3.

ANE 675 Workshop in Research and Writing

This course explores various modes of critical writing as they relate to contemporary practices and debates in American studies. It is run as a collaborative workshop; students will read and comment on drafts of each other's papers as a central element of the process of revision. By semester's end, students will have produced an extensive research paper or a thesis chapter. This course is required for students writing a thesis or project, but is also open to all students who have completed at least 15 hours of coursework. Prerequisite: 15 credits completed in the ANES program, including ANE 600 and ANE 610. Cr 3.

ANE 685 Reading and Research

Open to advanced students with exceptional records in the program, this course offers opportunities for reading and research under the direction of a faculty member. The approval of the ANES Curriculum Committee is required. This course may be taken only once. Cr 3.

ANE 687 Internship

Open to qualified students with exceptional records in the program; required for students in the Public Culture and History track. Internships are by application to the ANES Curriculum Committee. Participating organizations include, but are not lim-

ited to, the Portland Museum of Art, Old York Historical Society, Pejepscot Historical Society, and Maine Historical Society. Pass/fail. Cr 3-6.

ANE 690 Project

Completion of a two-semester project that may be an independent project or that may combine independent study and work in a historical society, a museum, a cultural organization, or other public or

private institution. In consultation with an advisor, the student defines and develops the project in relation to his or her particular interest in American and New England Studies. Cr 6.

ANE 695 Thesis

The product of original research, the thesis should embody an interdisciplinary combination of approaches and/or materials. Cr 6.