

## Statement of Mutual Expectations between AMST and its Ph.D. Students

Graduate students in the American Studies doctoral program are expected to develop an interdisciplinary plan of study pertaining to one or both of the department's broad areas of expertise: Cultural Constructions of Identity and Difference, and The Cultures of Everyday Life. In addition to developing their interdisciplinary research expertise, students should gain mastery of the history, formative and current theories, and interdisciplinary content of American Studies literature and demonstrate an understanding of multiple dimensions of diversity. It is expected that students will work on these goals from arrival to graduation.

In particular, full-time doctoral students who arrive with a baccalaureate degree will:

- Identify a program advisor within the department by the end of their 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Submit requested materials for the annual review of graduate student progress
- Work out a plan and a timeline for taking their comprehensive exams by the end of their third semester (the plan can be revised)
- Become engaged in interdisciplinary research no later than during their 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- Identify a thesis advisor/mentor by the beginning of their 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- Present their research at an academic or professional conference, symposium, or colloquium by their 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the program
- Identify a thesis topic by the beginning of their 4<sup>th</sup> year
- Complete requirements for securing admission to candidacy within 4 years
- Submit two conference papers and/or at least one paper for publication prior to graduation
- Complete all requirements and graduate within 6-7 years

Full-time doctoral students who arrive with a master's degree will, under normal circumstances:

- Identify a program advisor within the department by the end of their 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Submit requested materials for the annual review of graduate student progress
- Become engaged in interdisciplinary research no later than during their 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and sometimes in their 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Work out a plan and a timeline for taking their comprehensive exams by the end of their third semester (the plan can be revised)
- Identify a thesis advisor/mentor by the beginning of their 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- Present their research at an academic or professional conference, symposium, or colloquium by their 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the program, if not before
- Identify a thesis topic by the end of their 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- Complete requirements for securing admission to candidacy within 3-4 years
- Submit two conference papers and/or one paper for publication prior to graduation

- Complete all requirements and graduate within 5-6 years

Graduate students in the AMST doctoral program may expect, under normal circumstances:

- A wide selection of courses from AMST and its affiliated departments
- Advice and mentoring by the Director of Graduate Studies or another AMST department faculty member prior to the selection of a program advisor
- Opportunities to participate in a range of sponsored or co-sponsored intellectual programs, events, and working groups pertinent to students in American Studies
- Opportunities to participate in a range of sponsored or co-sponsored professionalization sessions or workshops over the course of their time in the program
- Feedback from their program advisors about faculty assessment of their progress during the annual review of graduate student progress
- Access to the Director of Graduate Studies to discuss bureaucratic or academic issues or problems pertaining to their programs
- Opportunity to offer courses during Summer and Winter terms

From their thesis advisor/mentor and other faculty, students may expect, under normal circumstances:

- Timely replies, return of materials, and submission of grades
- Regular access and advice during the prospectus preparation, research, and thesis writing process
- Training in the preparation of oral scholarly presentations
- Advice and support for the writing of at least one paper for publication
- Assistance and advice with job searches
- Letters of recommendation when appropriate