

# American Studies

## Fall 2008 Lecture Series

September 11-14

### “American Studies and Imperial Designs: New Scholarship and Perspectives on the United States in the World”

The conference will feature projects that demonstrate bold new ways of thinking about the role and place of American Studies in challenging and describing current moments and acts of imperialism. The conference will bring together scholars and activists committed to the theory and practice of social change and an intellectual project rooted in transformative goals. Please see the American Studies website for more information.



#### Keynote Speaker—Amy Kaplan, University of Pennsylvania

Amy Kaplan’s work has been fundamental in moving forward discussion of empire and imperialism in American Studies. She has produced two books on this subject: *The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture* and co-edited with Donald Pease, *Cultures of United States Imperialism*.

October 17

2:00-4:00 p.m., Stanley Coulter, Room 239



### “The Political Economy of Higher Education”

Harry Targ, Political Science and American Studies

Harry Targ will offer discussion of the role of the educator/theorist/researcher/activist in higher education and examine some of the dominant social science and American Studies paradigms in the Cold War era.

October 31

2:00-4:00 p.m., Stanley Coulter, Room 239

### “American Studies at the University of North Carolina: An Outside Perspective on Teaching American Studies”

John and Joy Kasson, University of North Carolina



The University of North Carolina has a successful undergraduate American Studies program and is looking to build a graduate program. This meeting will give representatives from both programs a chance to share ideas about building an American Studies curriculum. Joy Kasson, Chair of American Studies at UNC, is the author of *Buffalo Bill’s Wild West: Celebrity, Memory, and Popular History* and *Marble Queens and Captives: Women in Nineteenth-Century American Sculpture*. John Kasson is author of *Civilizing the Machine: Technology and Republican Values in America, 1776-1900*; *Amusing the Million*; and *Houdini, Tarzan, and the Perfect Man: The White Male Body and the Challenge of Modernity*.

November 7

2:00-4:00 p.m., Stanley Coulter, Room 239



### “Teaching American Studies on Television: The World, The War, and Texas”

Scott Hoffman earned the Ph.D. in American Studies at Purdue University in 2005; his dissertation is entitled, “Halooed by the Nation: Popular Martyrdom in Contemporary America.” He recently oversaw the research for an award-winning documentary, “The World, The War, and Texas,” based on Texas veterans’ memories of their experience in World War II.