

****New Course****



American Gun Culture

AMS344

Spring 2019 TTH 1:00-2:15

Professor: Margaret Kelley

[**\(mkelley@ku.edu\)**](mailto:mkelley@ku.edu)

Firearms have occupied a central place in American life and culture since our nation's founding. Although its precise meaning remains highly contested, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution enshrines "the right to keep and bear arms" as a fundamental right of American citizens. It is well-established that Americans own more guns and experience more gun-related violence than the citizens of any other country.

This course explores the complicated role guns play in the US from sociological and cultural perspectives, using a scholarly approach. In doing so, we will investigate the prevalence and distribution of guns, lawful possession and use of firearms, gun crime and injuries, and take a special look at women's place in gun culture. Through discussion, oral presentations, and writing assignments, we will tackle some difficult material about "the gun problem" that continues to devastate American communities and families. Importantly, we will also learn more about the average law-abiding gun owner and broader American culture.

