

AMERICAN STUDIES

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The American Studies program provides an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to the study of U.S. history and culture. As such, it embodies the liberal arts aim of providing a breadth of knowledge to prepare students to be educated and inquisitive citizens of this dynamic and polysemic entity we call the United States. Course requirements ensure that students will (a) gain a variety of academic perspectives on American culture; (b) place American culture in some global context; (c) examine what 'American Studies' is; and (d) have the opportunity to pursue a specific area of interest, such as African American Studies or Southern Studies, within the larger field.

MAJOR

Twelve courses, as follows:

2 ENGL

2 HIST

2 POLI

1 SOCI/ANTH/PSYC

1 RELI/PHIL

1 non-U.S. culture (advisor approval)

2 other approved courses (including the above disciplines;
see list)

1 AMST 401 Seminar in American Studies

- Two of these courses must be “linked” in fulfillment of the introduction to American Studies Experience requirement (described below).
- At least three of the ten courses should be 200-level, at least three should be 300-level, and at least two should be 400-level—AMST 401 (see below) and another 400-level course (seminar or independent study) from a participating department.

- At least three courses should emphasize pre-1900 content, and at least three should emphasize post-1900 content.
- Students are encouraged to direct course selection and semester projects toward their own interests (such as “the South,” “African American culture,” or “Women in America”) so that their work will truly culminate with the capstone seminar project.
- If a student double-majors in American Studies AND one of the participating areas, the student must fulfill the American Studies requirement from outside the other major. So a History-American Studies double major cannot count History courses toward the American Studies major.
- If a student majors in American Studies and minors in one of the participating American Studies areas, the student must fulfill the American Studies requirements from outside the minor area.

MINOR

Six courses, as follows:

1 ENGL

1 HIST

1 POLI

1 SOCI/ANTH/PSYC/RELI/PHIL

2 other approved courses (including the above disciplines; see list)

- Two of these courses must be “linked” in fulfillment of the Introduction to American Studies Experience requirement (described below).
- At least three of the six courses should be 300- or 400-level courses.
- At least two of the six courses should emphasize pre-1900 content, and at least two should emphasize post-1900 content.
- If an American Studies minor is majoring in one of the participating areas, the student must fulfill the American Studies minor course requirements from outside the major department.

Introduction to American Studies Experience

- Two courses from participating disciplines “linked” together and taken during the same semester. The courses might share some material and texts, though certainly not all. So, as examples, POLI 245 *American Political Thought* might be linked with RELI 145 *History of Religion in America*, and ENGL 275 *American Literature and the Environment* might be linked with SOCI 375 *Environmental Sociology*.

- Periodically, as determined by the responsible faculty, the students will attend a joint class period devoted to readings and discussions of the larger issues: *What is American Studies? What is the subject? What is the methodology? How successfully do these linked courses "do" American Studies?*
- The link should be taken during the sophomore year. This "course" will give students the methodological foundations in the field as they pursue their upper level disciplinary courses, and it will introduce them to the theory and practice of American cultural studies.

Course List

English

ENGL 256 *Major Nineteenth-Century American Authors*
 ENGL 258 *American War Literature*
 ENGL 260 *Southern Literature*
 ENGL 262 *Cultural Conflict and the Modern American Novel*
 ENGL 273 *Studies in American Literature*
 ENGL 275 *American Literature and the Environment*
 ENGL 330 *Modern American Poetry*
 ENGL 331 *Contemporary American Poetry*
 ENGL 335 *Modern American Fiction (1900-1945)*
 ENGL 336 *Contemporary American Fiction (1945-Present)*
 ENGL 342 *Faulkner*
 ENGL 361 *The Black Writer*
 ENGL 465 *Ernest Hemingway*
 ENGL 490 *Topics in American Literature*

Politics

POLI 130 *American State and Local Government*
 POLI 205 *Southern Politics*
 POLI 220 *American Political Parties and Elections*
 POLI 230 *Public Administration*
 POLI 235 *Public Policy*
 POLI 245 *American Political Thought*
 POLI 300 *Feminist Political Thought*
 POLI 305 *Arkansas Politics Seminar*
 POLI 306 *Arkansas Politics Practicum*
 POLI 310 *American Presidency*
 POLI 321 *American Constitutional Law: The Federal System*
 POLI 322 *American Constitutional Law: Individual Rights and Liberties*

POLI 340 *U.S. Congress*
POLI 380 *Gender, Sexuality, and American Politics*
POLI 390 *Race and American Politics*
POLI 420 *Topics in American Politics*

History

HIST 190 *History and Film*
HIST 214 *Poverty and Welfare in America*
HIST 218 *Progressive Era Reform, 1890-1920*
HIST 256 *The American Century, 1945-Present*
HIST 270 *Arkansas History*
HIST 351 *American Revolutionary Era*
HIST 353 *American Civil War and Reconstruction*
HIST 360 *Vietnam and the 60's*
HIST 380 *City and Nation in American History*
HIST 385 *American Social History to 1865*
HIST 390 *African American History to 1865*
HIST 395 *African American History since 1865*
HIST 402 *American Women's History*
HIST 403 *History of Death in America*
HIST 420 *Topics in American History*

Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology

SOCI 240 *Sociology through Film*
SOCI 250 *Gender and Family*
SOCI 270 *Racial and Ethnic Minorities*
SOCI 300 *The Urban Community*
SOCI 310 *Gender and Sexuality*
SOCI 360 *Social Change/Social Movements*
SOCI 361 *Sociology of Death*
SOCI 362 *Images of the City*
SOCI 375 *Environmental Sociology*
SOCI 380 *Medical Sociology*
SOCI 390 *Social Inequality*
ANTH 260 *Indian Pasts*
ANTH 320 *Gender and the Environment*
ANTH 380 *Indian Peoples of the Americas*
PSYC 493 *Topics: Psychology, Music, and American Culture*

Religion and Philosophy

RELI 145 *History of Religion in America*

RELI 210 *Native American Religions*

RELI 336 *John Wesley and Methodism*

PHIL 340 *American Philosophy*

RELI 343 *Religion in Contemporary American Culture*

RELI 360 *African American Religion*

Other Disciplines

EDUC 210 *History of Education*

EDUC 230 *American Sign Language*

EDUC 231 *American Sign Language II*

EDUC 232 *American Sign Language III*

MUSI 230 *History of Jazz*

American Studies Courses

AMST 401 *Seminar in American Studies (W2)*

Students will research a project of their own choosing, but will meet regularly with one another and a faculty member to discuss their progress and methodological issues, to present their work and receive feedback, and to foster their identity as members of a particular academic community as well as their appreciation of the nature of that community. The primary goal for the course is to ensure the students understand, appreciate, and can apply American Studies methodologies. It will also provide an excellent opportunity for students to revisit the question, What is American Studies?