

Department of American Studies
B.A. Major
Program of Study

Students who major in American Studies are those that are interested in learning about how systems of race, gender, sexuality, colonialism, imperialism, disability, and more impact the histories, experiences, and structures of American life. We feature award-winning faculty, individualized learning, and opportunities for students to create and design their own program of study and research projects. The major requires a minimum of 36 semester hours, which includes a three-credit hour introductory course and two other seminars that introduces students to main currents in the field of American Studies and prepares them to conduct original research that culminates in a Senior Thesis.

Program of Study (36 total credits)

1. One American Studies introductory level course selected from the following options (3 credits):

AMST 1110/182: Introduction to Environmental and Social Justice
AMST 1120/183: Introduction to Gender Studies
AMST 1130/184: Introduction to American Popular Culture
AMST 1140/185: Introduction to Race, Class, and Ethnicity
AMST 1150/186: Introduction to Southwest Studies

2. Interdepartmental Studies in Culture, Community and Social Justice (9 credits):

In consultation with an American Studies advisor, choose 9 credit hours from at least two of the following programs or departments. At least 6 credit hours of this coursework must be 300-level and above; no more than 6 credits in any one area: Africana Studies, Chicana and Chicano Studies, International Studies, Latin American Studies, Native American Studies, Peace Studies, Religious Studies, and/or Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

3. American Studies 385: The Problem of America: Theories & Methods in American Studies (Fall semester; 3 credits)

4. Individualized Focus Area in American Studies (18 credits):

In consultation with an American Studies advisor, choose courses from the American Studies Department that reflect your scholarly interests. At least 12 credits must be 300-level or above.

5. American Studies 485: Senior Seminar in the Culture of American Studies (Spring semester; 3 credits)