

American Studies

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Program Administrator

Teresa A. Toulouse, English (Director)

Affiliated faculty come from the following schools and departments:

Anthropology

Architecture

Art

Communication

English

History

Latin American Studies

Philosophy

Political Science

MAJOR

An interdisciplinary and interdepartmental major designed to provide an analysis of American thought, culture, and society, past and present. The required and elective courses balance flexibility and coherence as students select areas of concentration from the categories of American arts, American thought and experience, and American institutions and social practices. Students are also encouraged to address specifically local, regional, and comparativist dimensions of these categories both through their course work and through internships at local institutions and museums.

A student majoring in American studies must take the seven required courses listed below in addition to seven elective courses selected from a list of appropriate courses grouped in three major categories and offered by participating departments.

Normally, the elective courses are selected from above the 100 level and at least three of the seven courses must be above the 300 level. With the exception of American Studies 301 and 501, all of the required courses should normally be completed by the junior year.

Students interested in American studies should consult with the director as soon as possible so they can arrange their program with an eye to the American studies requirements. The director also maintains an up-to-date list of acceptable electives. Full descriptions of the courses are provided by the participating departments.

AMST 456, 457 Internship Studies (1-3, 1-3)

Staff. Prerequisites: approval of instructor and Program Director. An experiential learning process coupled with pertinent academic course work. Open only to juniors and seniors in good standing. Registration is completed in the academic department sponsoring the internship on TUTOR. (Note: A maximum of six credits may be earned in one or two courses.)

AMST 491, 492 Independent Studies (3, 3)

Staff. Open to qualified juniors and seniors only.

AMST H499-H500 Honors Thesis (3, 4)

Staff. Only one of these courses will count towards requirements for the major.

REQUIRED COURSES

American Studies

AMST 201 Issues of American Identity (3)

Staff. An exploration of one of the central themes of American studies, the American identity, through the study of selected issues arising out of the American moral, cultural, political, and religious experience.

AMST 301 Special Topics in American Studies (3)

Staff. Seminar primarily for American studies majors, generally taken in the junior year, comprising a detailed exploration of some one topic or theme relevant to the American scene.

AMST 311 New Orleans as a Cultural System (3)

Staff. Analyzing the City as a cultural system, the course explores the nature of the intersections among diverse cultural phenomena such as space, ritual, food, and music.

AMST 501 Seminar in American Studies (3)

Staff. Seminar primarily for American studies majors, generally taken in the senior year, involving an in-depth study of a major motif, movement, or problem in American intellectual or religious thought. The production of an acceptable research paper demonstrates competence in American studies.

History

HISU 141-142 The United States from Colonization to 1865, and The United States from 1865 to the Present (3, 3)

or six credits of American history approved by the American studies director.

English

ENLS 375-376 American Life in American Literature, 1620-1864 and 1865-1940 (3, 3)
or six credits of American literature approved by the American studies director.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students should consult with the director for additional or alternative courses.

American Arts

Art

360 Art in America, 1492 to the Civil War

361 American Art from the Civil War to World War II

Music

331 History of Music in the United States

332 Musical Theatre in America

334 History of Jazz

335 Music in Contemporary Society

American Thought and Experience

English

ENLS 373 Introduction to African-American Literature

ENLS 431 American Literature to 1820

ENLS 436 American Renaissance

ENLS 437 19th-Century American Literature

ENLS 440 Modern American Literature

ENLS 441 Contemporary American Literature

ENLS 442 Southern Literature

History

HISU 342 Urban America

HISU 340 Women and Gender in U.S. History to 1830

HISU 341 Women and Gender in U.S. History, 1830 to the Present

HISU 343 History of American Religion

HISU 344 African American Religious History

HISU 355 American Political Traditions: Foundations, 1776-1860

HISU 358 Slavery and Freedom in the Antebellum South

HISU 361 U.S. Identity Politics, 1945-Present

HISU 370 Introduction to African-American History: Emancipation to Present

HISU 381 Southern Folk Culture

HISU 382 Mythic South in Film and Television

HISU 452 Rise and Fall of the Plantation South

HISU 652 Ideas and Thinkers in American History, 1607-1865

HISU 661 The Old South

HISU 662 The New South, 1865-Present

Philosophy

PHIL 313 Classic American Thought

PHIL 314 Recent American Philosophy

American Institutions and Social Processes

Anthropology

ANTH 413 North American Prehistory

ANTH 605 North American Indians

ANTH 613 Southeastern United States Prehistory

Political Science

POLA 315 Elections in America

POLA 322 The American Presidency

POLA 324 Public Policy

POLT 486 American Political Thought

Sociology

SOCI 103 Sociology of the Family

SOCI 106 Urban Sociology

SOCI 109 Social Problems

SOCI 602 Political Sociology

SOCI 611 Sociology of Work and Leisure

Although not included in the program's requirements, American studies students are strongly encouraged to take one or more of the following courses as early in their career as possible.

Anthropology

ANTH 102 Cultural Anthropology

Communication

COMM 215 Film Analysis

COMM 326 Critical Analysis of the Media

Political Science

POLS 101 Introduction to Politics

Sociology

SOCI 201 Foundations of Sociology