

AMERICAN STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

The Major

American Studies provides an excellent, broad education in the liberal arts. American Studies majors create an emphasis devoted to the close study of social and cultural issues crucial to the practice of American Studies. Advanced work in at least two other departments or programs allows each student to study areas tailored to their own individual education goals. Sample emphases include Youth Education, Social Justice and Social Movements; Popular Culture; Comparative Racial and Ethnic Studies; Nature, Culture and the Environment; Militarism and Incarceration; Queer and Trans Studies; Disability, Health, and Illness; and Food and Culture. Students have the option of writing a senior thesis or completing a creative capstone project, are encouraged to study abroad or participate in other forms of global education, and are encouraged to explore new career possibilities through internships—all of which can count toward the major units with permission of the advisor.

Career Alternatives

As an interdisciplinary major, American Studies offers students the choice of a variety of subject matter and approaches. This flexibility means that graduates are prepared to move into a broad range of career settings. Our alumni have become lawyers, teachers, social workers, urban planners, software engineers, filmmakers, professors, professional writers and comedians, marketing and communications professionals, librarians, museum curators, community organizers, and non-profit staff and leaders.

Global Education & Study Abroad

Majors are encouraged to study abroad or engage in domestic opportunities off-campus; such as the UC Washington Program (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/additional-education-opportunities/uc-washington-program-ucdc/>), internships, and many other opportunities. Major requirements can be fulfilled with up to eight units from study abroad or other domestic off-campus opportunities with the permission of the undergraduate advisor.

Faculty Advisor

G. Wang (<https://ams.sf.ucdavis.edu/faculty/grace-wang/>)

Major Advisor

American Studies Advising (<https://americanstudies.ucdavis.edu/ams-advising/>); ams-advising@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-6429.

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the American Studies Bachelor of Arts is 64.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
AMS 010	Introduction to American Studies	4
One additional lower division American Studies course. (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/ams/)		4

Choose one:		4
AAS 010	African-American Culture & Society	
ASA 001	Historical Experience of Asian Americans	
CHI 010	Introduction to Chicana/o Studies	
or CHI 010V	Introduction to Chicana/o Studies	
NAS 001	Introduction to Native American Studies	
Or an equivalent course in racial and ethnic diversity.		
Choose one:		4-5
ANT 002	Cultural Anthropology	
GSW 050	Introduction to Critical Gender Studies	
or GSW 050V	Introduction to Critical Gender Studies	
SOC 002	Self & Society	
or SOC 002V	Self & Society	
Or an equivalent course in social science approaches to culture.		
Choose one:		4
HIS 017A	History of the United States	
HIS 017B	History of the United States	
HIS 072A	Women & Gender in America, to 1865	
HIS 072B	Women & Gender in America, 1865-Present	
Choose one:		4
CDM 001	Introduction to Film Studies	
ENL 003	Introduction to Literature	
or ENL 003V	Introduction to Literature	
ENL 010A	Literatures in English I: To 1700	
ENL 010B	Literatures in English II: 1700-1900	
ENL 010C	Literatures in English III: 1900 to Present	
Or an equivalent course introducing critical approaches to literary and visual texts in the humanities.		
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		24-25
Depth Subject Matter		
AMS 100	Methods in American Studies	4
AMS 160	Undergraduate Seminar in American Studies	4
<i>American Studies Elective</i>		
Three additional upper division American Studies courses.		12
<i>Emphasis</i>		
In consultation with the American Studies Undergraduate Advisor, the student designs a program of 20 units (typically five courses) of upper division course work around a unifying theme, period, or subject matter in American cultures. The courses should come from two or more departments or programs and may include up to 8 units of American Studies courses. Only 4 units of AMS 192 (internship) can be included in the emphasis. Students may choose the senior thesis option (AMS 190A & AMS 190B) for 8 units of the emphasis and take the remaining 12 units outside the department.		20
<i>Recommended</i>		
College requirement in English composition. ¹		
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		40
Total Units		64-65

1

Completion of the college requirement in English composition before enrollment in AMS 190A.