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

J. DeCristo (https://americanstudies.ucdavis.edu/ams-advising/)

Major Advisor

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

Code | Title | Units
--- | --- | ---
AMS 010 | Introduction to American Studies | 4

One additional lower division American Studies course. (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/ams/)

Choose one:

- AAS 010  | African-American Culture & Society | 4
- ASA 001  | Historical Experience of Asian Americans | 4
- CHI 010  | Introduction to Chicana/o Studies | 4
- NAS 001  | Introduction to Native American Studies | 4

Or an equivalent course in racial and ethnic diversity.

Choose one:

- ANT 002  | Cultural Anthropology | 4-5
- GSW 050  | Introduction to Critical Gender Studies | 4
- SOC 002  | Self & Society | 4

Or an equivalent course in social science approaches to culture.

Choose one:

- HIS 017A | History of the United States | 4
- HIS 017B | History of the United States | 4
- HIS 072A | Women & Gender in America, to 1865 | 4
- HIS 072B | Women & Gender in America, 1865-Present | 4

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

American Studies Elective

Three additional upper division American Studies courses. | 12

Emphasis

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.

Recommended

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.