The Curriculum

The major in American Studies requires twelve courses. Four of these are lower-level courses in two introductory sequences: American Culture and American History. To satisfy the sequence in American Culture, students must take one course from each of the following lists:

- Introduction to American Culture I (AMS 201 cross-listed as ENG 211)
- Introduction to American Literature I (AMS 209 cross-listed as ENG 209)
- Introduction to African-American Lit I (AMS 213 cross-listed as ENG 213 and BLS 213)

AND

- Introduction to American Culture II (AMS 202 cross-listed as ENG 212)
- Introduction to American Literature II (AMS 210 cross-listed as ENG 210)
- Introduction to African-American Lit II (AMS 214 cross-listed as ENG 214 and BLS 214)

To satisfy the sequence in American History, students must take both of the following courses:

- Introduction to U.S. History I and II (HIS 201 and 202)

Beyond this foundation, the major consists of eight upper-level courses. Two of these are required:

- American Studies Colloquium (AMS 300), usually offered in the fall
- Senior Capstone Experience Seminar (AMS SCE), usually offered in the spring

The remaining six required upper-level courses are electives. There is a formal list of American Studies electives (see below), but students are encouraged to develop an individualized course of study reflecting their interests and goals. This individualized course of study may include additional courses (both special topics and regular offerings), as well as internships, study-abroad experiences, experiential learning, and other programs. The Program Director and other American Studies faculty will work closely with students to assist in designing their course of study and preparing them for the Capstone.

Because of the program's interdisciplinary nature, there is no minor in American Studies.

Senior Capstone Experience

The American Studies Senior Capstone is an intensive research project guided by a faculty advisor on a topic of the student's choice. Students complete the Capstone while enrolled in the 4-credit Senior Capstone Experience (SCE) course in the spring of their

senior year. The Capstone receives a mark of Pass, Fail, or Honors. Double majors are encouraged to develop Capstones that integrate their majors. Since this requires consultation and cooperation between departments and faculty advisors, double majors should discuss the possibility of an integrated capstone in their junior year.

American Studies Electives In The Humanities

- ART 322. The Arts in America
- DRA 306. Theater and Drama: American Musical Theater
- DRA 308. After Angels: American Theater since 1992
- DRA 494-90. SpTp: American Women Playwrights
- ENG 213/214. Introduction to African American Literature I and II
- ENG 310. Poe and the Literature of the British Colonies of North America and of the Early United States
- ENG 311. Literary Romanticism in the United States
- ENG 312. James and Post-Romantic Literature in the United States
- ENG 313. Faulkner and Modernism in the United States
- ENG 314. American Poetry Since 1945
- ENG 315. American Fiction Since 1945
- ENG 327. The Harlem Renaissance
- ENG 409, 410. Special Topics in American Literature
- MUS 303. American Music
- MUS 305. Jazz

American Studies Electives In The Social Sciences

- ANT 137. Cultures and Environments of the Chesapeake
- ANT 208. Doing Anthropology
- ANT 296. Archaeological Field School
- ANT 474. Historic Preservation and Cultural Resource Management
- ECN 312. Public Finance: Theory and Policy
- EDU 301. Principles of Education
- EDU 354. Literature for Children, K-8
- HIS 313. Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century America
- HIS 315. The Early Republic
- HIS 319. African-American History to 1865
- HIS 320. African-American History from 1865
- HIS 334. American Civil War
- HIS 335. Reconstruction and the Gilded Age
- HIS 336. Progressivism and the Twenties
- HIS 337. The New Deal and World War II
- HIS 338. The United States Since 1945

- HIS 340. American Intellectual History
- HIS 342. Victorian America
- HIS 343. History of American Women
- HIS 344. Hollywood Films in the Depression and World War II
- HIS 492. Selected Topics in American History
- POL 311. The Legislative Process
- POL 312. The American Presidency
- POL 321. Women and Politics
- POL 332. American Political Thought
- POL 391. State and Local Politics
- POL 401. Elections and the Political Process
- POL 407. Law and Society
- POL 420. Constitutional Powers and Judicial Process
- POL 422. Civil Liberties
- POL 442. American Foreign Policy
- SOC 250. City and Suburb
- SOC 351. Religion in the United States

American Studies Electives In The Natural Sciences

- ENV 394. SpTp: Introduction to GIS
- ENV 490. GIS Internship

Other courses, including special topics and regular catalog offerings, may also be used as electives. Students should consult with the program Director to plan their course of study.