

American Studies

Program Type

Major

The American Studies curriculum is concentrated in three departmental component areas and one elective component area. The departmental areas are American History, American Literature and American Politics. The majority of the American Studies electives' curriculum is drawn from these areas.

Majors will elect nine-hour concentrations in two of the areas and a six-hour concentration in the remaining area.

The remaining curriculum area consists of two three-hour electives from Art, Journalism, Philosophy, Religion, Rhetoric, and Theatre. An IDS 393 course and an IDS 597 course titled "Special Problems" allow for independent study in more specialized areas. Academic credit for an IDS course is allowed when a proposal for study is accepted by the American Studies director.

Required (Comprehensives)

A written comprehensive examination is required. During the second semester of a student's junior year, the director of the American Studies Program will publish a reading list and suggested guidelines. During the last semester of the final year, students will sit for their comprehensive examination. The comprehensive exam will always be at a time never to compete with final examinations. Exams will be evaluated as Honors, Pass, or Fail. To graduate with American Studies honors, students must achieve an Honors evaluation on their comprehensives. A student who fails the exam will be obliged to re-take the exam to fulfill all graduation requirements.

Required Courses

Course Code	Title	Hours
IDS 300	We the People: An American Journey	3
IDS 575	Senior Thesis	3
	Sub-Total Credits	6

Electives

24 hours of American History, American Literature, and American Politics. Must complete 9 hours in two of the disciplines.

American History (6/9 Hours)

Course Code	Title	Hours
HST 300	Colonial America to 1763	3
HST 301	The Founding of the America Republic	3
HST 302	Jacksonian America	3
HST 303	Sectionalism and the American Civil War	3
HST 304	Gilded Age and Progressive Era America	3
HST 305	The U.S. from the Great War to the Cold War	3
HST 306	Cold War America	3
HST 307	The U.S. Since the Cold War	3
HST 440	History of the American West	3
HST 442	Economic History of the United States	3
HST 455	History of American Religion	3
HST 480	History of the American Identity	3
HST 482	Intellectual History of the United States	3
HST 483	Constitutional History of the United States to 1877	3
HST 484	Constitutional History of the United States Since 1877	3
HST 485	The History of the United States Presidency	3
HST 487	History of American Foreign Policy	3
	Sub-Total Credits	6-9

American Literature (6/9 Hours)

Course Code	Title	Hours
ENG 360	American Literature: Colonial Era to the Civil War	3
ENG 370	American Literature: Civil War to the Present	3
ENG 402	Special Studies in American Literature	3
	Sub-Total Credits	6-9

American Politics (6/9 Hours)

Course Code	Title	Hours
POL 202	American Political Thought	3
POL 220	Introduction to American Foreign Policy	3
POL 301	American Government	3
POL 302	The American Congress	3
POL 303	The American Presidency	3
POL 304	Constitutional Law	3
POL 305	Civil Rights	3
POL 306	Political Parties and Elections	3
POL 307	Administrative Law	3
POL 308	Public Policy	3
POL 401	Statesmanship of Abraham Lincoln	3
POL 403	American Progressivism and Liberalism	3
POL 404	American Conservatism	3
POL 405	Readings in American Politics	3
POL 406	The American Founding	3
POL 407	The Federalist	3
	Sub-Total Credits	6-9

Electives

6 hours in American Art, Journalism, Philosophy, Religion, Rhetoric & Media, and Theatre

Approved Electives (6 Hours)

Course Code	Title	Hours
ART 412	History of American Art	3
ECO 330	U.S. Economic History	3
JRN 306	Major Figures in Journalism	3
JRN 310	The History of Journalism from Gutenberg to the Muckrakers	3
JRN 311	The History of Journalism in the 20th and 21st Centuries	3
REL 319	Eighteenth-Century Theology: Jonathan Edwards and American Puritanism	3
REL 374	American Religious Landscape	3
THE 408	History of American Theatre	3
IDS 597	Special Problems	1-3
PHL 320	American Pragmatism	3
	Sub-Total Credits	6
Total Credits		36