

AMERICAN STUDIES

Courses offered by American Studies Program are listed under the subject code AMSTUD on the Stanford Bulletin's ExploreCourses web site.

Mission of the Undergraduate Program in American Studies

The mission of the undergraduate program in American Studies is to provide students with a broad understanding of American culture and society. Building on a foundation of courses in history and institutions, literature and the arts, and race and ethnicity, students learn to analyze and interpret America's past and present, forging fresh and creative syntheses along the way. The program is an interdisciplinary major and, beyond the core requirements of the major, students may define and pursue their own interests from fields such as history, literature, art, communication, theater, African American studies, feminist, gender & sexuality studies, economics, anthropology, religious studies, Chicana/o-Latina/o studies, law, sociology, education, Native American studies, music, and film. The program is designed to provide students majoring in American Studies with excellent preparation for further study in graduate or professional schools as well as careers in government, business, journalism, entertainment, public service, the arts, and other fields.

Learning Outcomes (Undergraduate)

The program expects undergraduate majors to be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes. These learning outcomes are used in evaluating students and the undergraduate program. Students are expected to demonstrate:

1. ability to think about American culture and society in sophisticated, interdisciplinary, historically-informed ways, drawing on coursework in: history and institutions; literature, art, and culture; comparative race and ethnicity; and each student's individualized thematic focus
2. ability to identify and critically to assess different disciplinary, methodological, and interpretive approaches to the study of Americans and their past
3. ability to produce their own persuasive, nuanced, fact-based interpretations reflecting a close critical reading and analysis of relevant primary or secondary sources
4. ability to express their interpretive and analytical arguments in clear, effective prose.
5. ability to listen actively and to contribute to productive intellectual discussion in class

Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

The core requirements illustrate how different disciplines approach the study and interpretation of American life and include three courses in each of two main areas: history and institutions; and literature, culture, and the arts. One additional course in comparative race and ethnicity is also required. The required gateway seminar, AMSTUD 160 Perspectives on American Identity, explores the tensions between commonality and difference from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Beyond the core requirements of the major, American Studies expects students to define and pursue their own interests in interpreting dimensions of American life. Accordingly, each student designs a thematic concentration of at least five courses drawn from fields such as history, literature, art, communication, theater, political science, African American studies, feminist, gender, & sexuality studies, economics,

anthropology, religious studies, Chicana/o-Latina/o studies, law, sociology, education, Native American studies, music, and film. At least one of the five courses in a student's thematic concentration should be an approved advanced seminar. With program approval, students may conclude the major with an honors research project during their senior year.

Whether defined broadly or narrowly, the thematic focus or concentration should examine its subject from the vantage of multiple disciplines. Examples of concentrations include: race and the law in America; gender in American culture and society; technology in American life and thought; health policy in America; art and culture in 19th-century America; education in America; nature and the environment in American culture; politics and the media; religion in American life; borders and boundaries in American culture; the artist in American society; and civil rights in America.

Completion of the major thus normally requires 13 courses (totaling at least 60 units), all of which must be taken for a letter grade. Not all courses are offered each year; students should consult ExploreCourses (<http://explorecourses.stanford.edu>) for scheduling information for the current academic year. To be approved as a major, students must meet with the Director or a program coordinator to review their study plan prior to declaring in Axess.

Degree Requirements

1. Gateway Seminar

| | | Units |
|------------|---|-------|
| AMSTUD 160 | Perspectives on American Identity (WIM course for American Studies) | 5 |

2. History and Institutions

Majors are required to complete three courses in American History and Institutions. Specific requirements are:

| | | Units |
|---------------------|--|-------|
| AMSTUD/HISTORY 150A | Colonial and Revolutionary America | 5 |
| AMSTUD/HISTORY 150B | Nineteenth Century America | 5 |
| | Select one of the following: | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 41Q | Madwomen and Madmen: Gender and the History of Mental Illness in the U.S. | 3 |
| AMSTUD 91 | Exploring American Religious History | 4 |
| AMSTUD 104 | AMERICA AT PLAY: A HISTORY OF LEISURE IN THE UNITED STATES | 5 |
| AMSTUD 107 | Introduction to Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | 5 |
| AMSTUD 116 | American Economic History | 5 |
| AMSTUD 117N | The Fourth "R": Religion and American Schools | 3 |
| AMSTUD 121Z | Political Power in American Cities | 5 |
| AMSTUD 123X | Politics and Public Policy | 4-5 |
| AMSTUD 124A | The American West | 5 |
| AMSTUD 125 | Perspectives on American Journalism | 4-5 |
| AMSTUD 130A | In Sickness and In Health: Medicine and Society in the United States: 1800-Present | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 135 | Deliberative Democracy and its Critics | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 137 | The Dialogue of Democracy | 4-5 |
| AMSTUD/HISTORY 150C | The United States in the Twentieth Century | 5 |
| AMSTUD 155 | American Constitutional History from the Civil War to the War on Poverty | 5 |

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|----------------------------|--|-----|-------------|--|-----|
| AMSTUD 156H | Women and Medicine in US History: Women as Patients, Healers and Doctors | 5 | AMSTUD 134C | The Western: Imagining the West in Fiction and Film | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 157 | The Constitution: A Brief History | 5 | AMSTUD 139B | American Women Writers, 1850-1920 | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 164C | From Freedom to Freedom Now: African American History, 1865-1965 | 5 | AMSTUD 143A | American Architecture | 4 |
| AMSTUD 179/ POLISCI 122 | Introduction to American Law | 3-5 | AMSTUD 143M | American Indian Mythology, Legend, and Lore | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 201 | History of Education in the United States | 3-5 | AMSTUD 143X | Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination | 5 |
| AMSTUD 216 | Education, Race, and Inequality in African American History, 1880-1990 | 3-5 | AMSTUD 145D | Jewish American Literature | 5 |
| AMSTUD 251 | Topics in Constitutional History | 5 | AMSTUD 146A | Steinbeck | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 255D | Racial Identity in the American Imagination | 4-5 | AMSTUD 150J | Queer Poetry in America | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 275B | History of Modern Mexico | 4-5 | AMSTUD 151 | Migration and Diaspora in American Art, 1800-Present | 4 |
| AMSTUD 279X | American Jewish History: Learning to be Jewish in America | 2-4 | AMSTUD 151F | Angelheaded Hipsters: Beat Writers of San Francisco and New York | 5 |
| AMSTUD 293 | Church, State, & Schools: Issues in Education & Religion | 4 | AMSTUD 152C | The JFK Era and American Literature | 5 |

3. Literature, Culture, and the Arts

Majors are required to take a minimum of three courses in literature, culture, and the arts, broadly understood. Specific requirements are:

| | | Units | | | Units |
|--|--|-------|---|--|-------|
| At least one course focusing on the period before the Civil War, normally: | | | | | |
| AMSTUD 150/ ENGLISH 11B | Introduction to English II: American Literature and Culture to 1855 | 5 | AMSTUD 163 | Queer America | 4 |
| Select two of the following: ¹ | | 6-10 | AMSTUD 183 | Re- Imagining American Borders | 5 |
| AMSTUD 1B | Media, Culture, and Society | 5 | AMSTUD 220B | Being John Wayne | 5 |
| AMSTUD 48N | The American Songbook and Love Poetry | 3 | AMSTUD 226X/ EDUC 226 | Curating Experience: Representation in and beyond Museums | 4 |
| AMSTUD 53N | African American Autobiography | 3 | AMSTUD 250J | Baldwin and Hansberry: The Myriad Meanings of Love | 4 |
| AMSTUD 57Q | 10 American Photographs | 3 | AMSTUD 262C | African American Literature and the Retreat of Jim Crow | 5 |
| AMSTUD/ENGLISH 68N | Mark Twain and American Culture | 4 | THINK 31 | Race in American Memory | 4 |
| AMSTUD 75N | American Short Stories | 3 | 4. Comparative Race and Ethnicity | | |
| AMSTUD 101 | Black & White Race Relations in American Fiction & Film | 3-5 | Majors are required to take one course that focuses on the comparative study of race and ethnicity rather than a single racial or ethnic group. | | |
| AMSTUD 102 | Art and Social Criticism | 5 | | | |
| AMSTUD 103S | Introduction to American Art | 3 | Choose one from the following list: | | |
| AMSTUD 105Q | Law and Popular Culture | 3 | AMSTUD 12A | Introduction to English III: Introduction to African American Literature | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 115 | Asian American Film and Popular Culture | 5 | AMSTUD 51Q | Comparative Fictions of Ethnicity | 4 |
| AMSTUD 117 | Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Contemporary American Film | 3-5 | AMSTUD 53N | African American Autobiography | 3 |
| AMSTUD 119 | Science Fiction: Cyborgs & Human Simulacra in the Cinema | 4 | AMSTUD 58Q | American Landscapes of Segregation | 3-4 |
| AMSTUD 120/ COMM 120W | Digital Media in Society | 5 | AMSTUD 101 | Black & White Race Relations in American Fiction & Film | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 12A | Introduction to English III: Introduction to African American Literature | 5 | AMSTUD 115 | Asian American Film and Popular Culture | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 123D | American Literature, 1855 to World War I | 5 | AMSTUD 117 | Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Contemporary American Film | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 124A | The American West | 5 | AMSTUD 135X | Islam in America | 4 |
| AMSTUD 125 | Perspectives on American Journalism | 4-5 | AMSTUD 143M | American Indian Mythology, Legend, and Lore | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 125C | The Lost Generation: American literature between the World Wars | 5 | AMSTUD 152K | Mixed-Race Politics and Culture | 5 |
| AMSTUD 127 | American Style and the Rhetoric of Fashion | 5 | AMSTUD 157P | Solidarity and Racial Justice | 4-5 |
| AMSTUD 128 | Representing Fashion | 4 | AMSTUD 157X | Language as Political Tool: Feminist and LGBTQ Movements and Impacts | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 129 | Animation and the Animated Film | 4 | AMSTUD 178 | Ethnicity and Dissent in United States Art and Literature | 4 |
| AMSTUD 132 | American Art and Culture, 1528-1910 | 4 | AMSTUD/CSRE 183 | Re- Imagining American Borders | 5 |
| AMSTUD 133 | Technology and American Visual Culture | 4 | AMSTUD 246 | Constructing Race and Religion in America | 4-5 |
| | | | AMSTUD 255D | Racial Identity in the American Imagination | 4-5 |

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| AMSTUD 216 | Education, Race, and Inequality in African American History, 1880-1990 | 3-5 |
| AMSTUD 226 | Race and Racism in American Politics | 5 |
| AMSTUD 262C | African American Literature and the Retreat of Jim Crow | 5 |
| SOC 149 | The Urban Underclass | 4 |
| THINK 31 | Race in American Memory | 4 |

5. Concentration and Capstone Seminar

Students must design a thematic concentration of at least five courses, with the help of faculty advisors. The courses, taken together, must give the student in-depth knowledge and understanding of a coherent topic in American cultures, history, and institutions. Thematic concentrations should be approved by the end of the registration period of the Autumn Quarter of the junior year, if at all possible. Sample thematic concentrations and courses that allow a student to explore them are available in the American Studies Office in Building 460.

At least one of the courses in the concentration must be an advanced seminar (approved by the advisor) designated as the capstone seminar and must require a substantial research paper. This paper must be filed with the program office prior to degree conferral. An honors project, or an independent study course with a faculty member culminating in a research paper, may also fulfill this requirement with the Director's approval.

Students may choose, but are not limited to, selections for their thematic concentrations from the following list of suggested courses:

| | | Units |
|---------------|---|-------|
| AFRICAAM 105 | Introduction to African and African American Studies | 5 |
| ANTHRO 82 | Medical Anthropology | 5 |
| ARTHIST 176 | Feminism and Contemporary Art | 4 |
| CHILATST 14N | Growing Up Bilingual | 3 |
| CHILATST 125S | Chicano/Latino Politics | 5 |
| CHILATST 201B | Making Meaning: Art, Culture & Social Change | 3 |
| COMM 116 | Journalism Law | 5 |
| COMM 125 | Perspectives on American Journalism | 5 |
| COMM 162 | Campaigns, Voting, Media, and Elections | 5 |
| CSRE 45Q | Understanding Race and Ethnicity in American Society | 4 |
| CSRE 103B | Race, Ethnicity, and Linguistic Diversity in Classrooms: Sociocultural Theory and Practices | 3-5 |
| CSRE 245 | Understanding Racial and Ethnic Identity Development | 3-5 |
| ECON 155 | Environmental Economics and Policy | 5 |
| ECON 157 | Imperfect Competition | 5 |
| EDUC 102 | Examining Social Structures, Power, and Educational Access | 2-4 |
| EDUC 216 | Education, Race, and Inequality in African American History, 1880-1990 | 3-5 |
| EDUC 277 | Education of Immigrant Students: Psychological Perspectives | 4 |
| HISTORY 60N | Revolutionaries and Founders | 3 |
| HISTORY 64 | Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Modern America | 5 |
| HISTORY 166B | Immigration Debates in America, Past and Present | 3-5 |
| HISTORY 260 | | 4-5 |

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| HUMBIO 120 | Health Care in America: An Introduction to U.S. Health Policy | 4 |
| HUMBIO 120A | American Health Policy | 3 |
| HUMBIO 121E | Ethnicity and Medicine | 1-3 |
| HUMBIO 122S | Social Class, Race, Ethnicity, and Health | 4 |
| HUMBIO 123 | Obesity in America: Clinical and Public Health Implications | 3-4 |
| HUMBIO 125 | Current Topics and Controversies in Women's Health | 2-3 |
| HUMBIO 166 | Food and Society: Exploring Eating Behaviors in Social, Environmental, and Policy Context | 4 |
| INTNLREL 140C | The U.S., U.N. Peacekeeping, and Humanitarian War | 5 |
| MUSIC 8A | Rock, Sex, and Rebellion | 3 |
| MUSIC 18A | Jazz History: Ragtime to Bebop, 1900-1940 | 3 |
| MUSIC 18B | Jazz History: Bebop to Present, 1940-Present | 3 |
| MUSIC 34N | Performing America: The Broadway Musical | 3 |
| MUSIC 147K | Studies in Music, Media, and Popular Culture: Music and Urban Film | 3-4 |
| NATIVEAM 103S | Gender in Native American Societies | 5 |
| NATIVEAM 115 | Introduction to Native American History | 5 |
| NATIVEAM 240 | Psychology and American Indian/Alaska Native Mental Health | 3-5 |
| POLISCI 110X | America and the World Economy | 5 |
| POLISCI 118P | U.S. Relations with Iran | 5 |
| POLISCI 120B | Campaigns, Voting, Media, and Elections | 5 |
| POLISCI 120C | American Political Institutions in Uncertain Times | 5 |
| POLISCI 121 | Political Power in American Cities | 5 |
| POLISCI 213S | | 5 |
| POLISCI 225C | Fixing US Politics: Political Reform in Principle and Practice | 5 |
| PUBLPOL 101 | Politics and Public Policy | 5 |
| PUBLPOL 132 | The Politics of Policy Making | 3 |
| PUBLPOL 135 | Regional Politics and Decision Making in Silicon Valley and the Greater Bay Area | 4 |
| PUBLPOL 154 | Politics and Policy in California | 5 |
| PUBLPOL 156 | Health Care Policy and Reform | 5 |
| SOC 135 | Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy in the United States | 3-4 |
| SOC 118 | Social Movements and Collective Action | 4 |
| SOC 142 | Sociology of Gender | 3 |
| URBANST 161 | U.S. Urban History since 1920 | 5 |

¹ Including at least one course outside of literature that emphasizes art, drama, film, music, translation studies, or culture from a different disciplinary or interpretive perspective.

Honors Program

To graduate with honors, American Studies majors must complete a senior thesis and have an overall grade point average of at least 3.5 in the major, or demonstrated academic competence. Students applying must secure a thesis adviser, a Stanford faculty member who is willing and available to direct the thesis project through the ensuing year. Having a confirmed thesis adviser is required for final approval to pursue an honors project. Students also need to secure a second reader for the honors thesis no later than the start of Winter Quarter of senior year. Along with the application form signed by the thesis adviser, a 3-5 page proposal

describing the thesis project and including a preliminary bibliography is due to the program office by June 1 of Spring Quarter of the student's junior year. The program may approve the application and proposal or request that the student resubmit with revisions. Students pursuing honors must enroll in AMSTUD 199A, AMSTUD 199B, and AMSTUD 199C American Studies Honors Seminar during the Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarters of their senior year, respectively. They must also enroll in AMSTUD 250 Senior Research with their thesis adviser during the senior year. The total units between AMSTUD 199A/B/C and AMSTUD 250 should equal 10-15. These units are in addition to the 60 units required for the major and must be taken for a letter grade. The finished essay is due in mid-May (typically May 15) of the senior year. The senior honors experience culminates in Honors Thesis Presentations in May of senior year.

Honors info sessions are offered during Winter and Spring quarters of junior year. Students interested in honors are encouraged to attend. More information about American Studies honors is available from the program office.

Minor in American Studies

To earn a minor in American Studies, students must complete at least 28 units of course work in the program. Because students may not count courses for both a major and a minor, the specific courses that are used for an American Studies minor depend on the courses that are used to satisfy the major requirement.

A student must take the following:

| | Units |
|---|--------------|
| AMSTUD 160 Perspectives on American Identity (The gateway seminar) | 5 |
| at least 2 courses from category 2 (History and Institutions) | 6-10 |
| at least 2 courses from category 3 (Literature, Culture and the Arts) | 6-10 |
| at least 1 course from category 4 (Comparative Race and Ethnicity) | 3-5 |

If the units for these requirements do not total 28, the student must take additional coursework, appropriate to American Studies and approved by the Director or one of the Program Coordinators, to meet the minimum unit requirement. Courses used to satisfy all units taken for the minor must be taken for a letter grade.

Director: Shelley Fisher Fishkin

Program Coordinators: Elizabeth Kessler, Judith Richardson

Committee in Charge: Shelley Fisher Fishkin (English, Chair), Jennifer DeVere Brody (Drama), Scott Bukatman (Art and Art History), Bruce Cain (Political Science), James T. Campbell (History), Gordon H. Chang (History), Michele B. Elam (English), James Fishkin (Communication, and by courtesy, Political Science), Estelle Freedman (History), Leah Gordon (Education), William Gow (American Studies), Allyson Hobbs (History), Ari Kelman (Education), Gavin Jones (English), Elizabeth Kessler (American Studies), Charles Kronengold (Music), Marci Kwon (Art and Art History), Kathryn Gin Lum (Religious Studies), Doug McAdam (Sociology), Richard Meyer (Art and Art History), Ana Minian (History), Paula Moya (English), Clayton Nall (Political Science), Alexander Nemerov (Art and Art History), Jack Rakove (History, Political Science), Vaughn Rasberry (English), Judith Richardson (English), Ramón Saldivar (English, Comparative Literature), Fred Turner (Communication), Sam Wineburg (Education), Caroline Winterer (History), Gavin Wright (Economics), Amy Beth Zegart (Hoover Senior Fellow)