

AMERICAN STUDIES

Degree: B.A., General Liberal Arts and Studies

Department of History and American Studies (<https://cas.umw.edu/historyamericanstudies/>)

American Studies is an interdisciplinary major that enables students to explore the complex interactions of peoples, cultures, social structures, and political institutions that have shaped the experiences of peoples living in the United States. In addition to four core courses, students demonstrate the ability to transcend disciplinary boundaries by completing five (5) thematically-assembled courses from affiliated disciplines approved by an American Studies advisor and the Program Director. Example concentrations include, although are not limited to, the following: gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, cultural expression, human rights, politics and society, and space and place.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate a broad, diverse knowledge of American culture and society.
2. Students will incorporate aspects of race/ethnicity and gender/sexuality in the explication of American life.
3. Students will understand the relationship between the present and future with the past.
4. Students will read and assess primary and secondary sources from a variety of genres and mediums.
5. Students will integrate knowledge from several disciplinary perspectives.
6. Students will synthesize independent research findings in a written format.
7. Students will utilize technological resources in research, data analysis, and presentation.
8. Students will communicate evidence and analysis orally.

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
AMST 201	Introduction to American Studies	3
Select one 200-level AMST course from:		3
AMST 202	Sophomore Special Topics Seminar	
AMST 203	American Protest	
AMST 204	American Foodways	
Select one 300-level AMST course from:		3
AMST 303	Junior Special Topics Seminar	
AMST 305	American Gender and Sexuality	
AMST 306	Museums in the US	
AMST 307	Virginia Issues and Controversies	
AMST 308	Civil Rights and American Memory	
AMST 485	Senior Thesis	3

Select 24 credits (eight courses) in related disciplines selected from a pre-approved list of American Studies electives as well as other courses with relevant content approved by the Program Director. ¹

Total Credits 36

¹ Five of the eight elective courses must be assembled thematically; that is, they must be organized around a unifying line of inquiry, which must be approved by an American Studies advisor and the Program Director. Internships are encouraged, but only 3 credits can count toward the major.

The major also has a number of requirements for the eight electives. They are as follows:

- one must deal with the United States prior to 1900.
- another must deal with race and/or gender.
- The race/gender and pre-1900 requirements may be met by a single class.
- Six of the eight electives must be at the 300-level or beyond.
- To ensure breadth, no more than three of the eight elective courses may be from one of the affiliated disciplines.

Major Electives for American Studies

Code	Title	Credits
AMST 350	Topics in American Studies	3
AMST 491	Individual Study	3
AMST 499	Internship	1-12
ANTH 211	Race in Global Perspective	3
ANTH 212	Anthropology of Gender	3
ANTH 341	Practices of Memory	3
ARTH 352A	American Art	3
ARTH 354A	Pop Art to the Present	3
ARTH 355	Modern Architecture	3
ECON 341A	Public Finance	3
ECON 351C	Poverty, Affluence, and Equality	3
ECON 375	American Economic History	3
ENGL 328	New World Writing in the Colonial Period	3
ENGL 329	Literature and Nation-Building in the Americas	3
ENGL 330	Hemispheric Fiction of the Global Age	3
ENGL 352	African American Literature Pre-1900	3
ENGL 353	Asian-American Literature	3
ENGL 354	African American Literature Post-1900	3
ENGL 355	American Romanticism	3
ENGL 356	American Realism	3
ENGL 357	Southern Literature	3
ENGL 358	Modern American Fiction	3
ENGL 371	Contemporary Poetry	3
ENGL 385	Contemporary American Fiction	3
ENGL 386	The Graphic Novel	3
ENGL 455	Studies in American Literature to 1900	3
ENGL 457	Studies in American Literature, 1900–Present	3
ENGL 458	Seminar in American Long Poems	3
GEOG 221A	Environment & Culture in Eastern North America	3
GEOG 222A	Environment & Culture in Western North America	3
GEOG 331	Race and Place in America	3

GEOG 337	The Nature of Cities	3	RELG 251	Native American Religions	3
HISP 100	Introduction to Historic Preservation	3	RELG 277	Religion in America Before the Civil War	3
HISP 105	The American Built Environment	3	RELG 278	Religion in America After the Civil War	3
HISP 206	Introduction to American Folklore	3	RELG 305	Religion and Politics in the United States	3
HISP 207	American Archaeology	3	SOCG 304	Social Stratification	3
HISP 305A	Historic Building Technologies	3	SOCG 313	Urban Sociology	3
HISP 320	Material Culture	3	SOCG 315A	Gender and Society	3
HISP 325	Vernacular Architecture in America	3	SOCG 320	Food Justice	3
HISP 326	Graves & Burial Grounds	3	SOCG 331	The Family	3
HIST 303A	The American South	3	SOCG 332	Introduction to Social Welfare	3
HIST 304	The Civil War	3	SOCG 336	Community Power	3
HIST 305	The American West	3	SOCG 341	American Society	3
HIST 307	Native American History	3	SOCG 411	Popular Culture	3
HIST 308	US Labor History	3	SOCG 421B	Racial and Ethnic Relations	3
HIST 310	US Urban History	3	SOCG 440	Sociology of Education	3
HIST 313	African American History through 1865	3	WGST 101	Introduction to Women's Studies	3
HIST 314	African American History since Slavery	3	WGST 102	Perspectives in Sexuality	3
HIST 315	U.S. Immigration History	3			
HIST 318	The American Revolution	3			
HIST 319	The Early American Republic	3			
HIST 320	The Gilded Age	3			
HIST 321	The Progressive Era	3			
HIST 322	US Environmental History	3			
HIST 323	Colonial America	3			
HIST 325	Technology and Culture	3			
HIST 326	History of Manhood in the US	3			
HIST 329	U.S. History and Film	3			
HIST 330	Introduction to Public History	3			
HIST 380	United States Since 1945	3			
HIST 390A	The United States and Vietnam	3			
HIST 395	U.S. History and Popular Culture	3			
HIST 416	American Legal History	3			
HIST 444	American Slavery	3			
LING 302	Introduction to Sociolinguistics and Anthropological Linguistics	3			
LING 307	Language and Gender	3			
MUHL 156	American Music	3			
MUHL 268	History of Jazz	3			
PSCI 201	American Government	3			
PSCI 202A	American Public Policy	3			
PSCI 306	US Constitutional Reform	3			
PSCI 311A	Congress and the Political Process	3			
PSCI 312A	The American Presidency	3			
PSCI 313	U.S. Federal Judiciary	3			
PSCI 324	U.S. - Latin American Relations	3			
PSCI 334A	Political Parties and Elections in America	3			
PSCI 356	American Foreign Policy	3			
PSCI 363	Mass Media Politics	3			
PSCI 370	Gender and Politics	3			
PSCI 422	American Civil Liberties	3			
PSCI 450	US Political Film	3			
RELG 250	African American Religions	3			

General Education Requirements

The general education requirements for Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science degrees (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/requirements-bachelor-arts-bachelor-science-degrees/>) apply to all students who are seeking to earn an undergraduate B.A., B.S. or B.S.Ed. degree.

Students seeking a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree have a separate set of BLS general education requirements (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/requirements-bachelor-liberal-studies-degrees/>).

Electives

Elective courses are those that are not needed to fulfill a general education requirement or major program requirement but are chosen by the student to complete the 120 credits required for graduation with a B.A./B.S./B.S.Ed. degree or the BLS degree. These courses may be taken graded or pass/fail (or S/U in the case of physical education and 100-level dance). No student in a regular B.A./B.S./B.S.Ed. program may count more than 60 credits in a single discipline toward the 120 credits required for graduation.

Total Credits Required for the Degree: 120 credits

Plan of Study

This suggested plan of study should serve as a guide to assist students when planning their course selections. It is not a substitute for a student's Degree Evaluation or the Program Requirements listed for this major in the catalog. Academic planning is the student's responsibility, and course selections should be finalized only after speaking with an advisor. Students should familiarize themselves with the catalog in effect at the time they matriculated at the University of Mary Washington. Students should also familiarize themselves with general education requirements (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/>) which can be fulfilled through general electives as well as major/minor course requirements. Course requirements and sequencing may vary with AP, IB, CLEP, Cambridge or previous coursework, transfer courses, or other conditions. To be considered full-time, an undergraduate student must be enrolled in 12 or more credits for the semester.

Course	Title	Credits
Freshman		
Fall		
FSEM 100	First-Year Seminar	3
General Education Courses		12
Credits		15
Spring		
General Education Courses		12
AMST Elective		3
Credits		15
Sophomore		
Fall		
AMST 201	Introduction to American Studies	3
AMST Elective		3
General Education Courses		9
Credits		15
Spring		
AMST 202 or AMST 203 or AMST 204	Sophomore Special Topics Seminar or American Protest or American Foodways	3
AMST Elective		3
General Education Courses or Electives		9
Credits		15
Junior		
Fall		
AMST Pre-1900 Elective		3
AMST Race/Gender Elective		3
General Education Courses or Electives		9
Credits		15
Spring		
AMST 303 or AMST 305 or AMST 306 or AMST 307 or AMST 308	Junior Special Topics Seminar or American Gender and Sexuality or Museums in the US or Virginia Issues and Controversies or Civil Rights and American Memory	3
AMST Elective		3
General Education Courses or Electives		9
Credits		15
Senior		
Fall		
AMST 485	Senior Thesis	3
AMST Elective		3
General Electives		9
Credits		15
Spring		
AMST Elective		3
General Electives		12
Credits		15
Total Credits		120

Affiliated Faculty

Antonio Barrenechea, Department of English and Linguistics
 Erin K. Devlin, Department of History and American Studies
 Joseph G. Dreiss, Department of Art and Art History
 Stephen J. Farnsworth, Department of Political Science and International Affairs
 Bradley A. Hansen, Department of Economics
 Christine R. Henry, Department of Historic Preservation
 Janie Lee, Department of English and Linguistics
 Mary Beth Mathews, Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion
 Jeffrey W. McClurken, Department of History and American Studies
 Will B. Mackintosh, Department of History and American Studies
 Krystyn R. Moon, Department of History and American Studies
 Melina A. Patterson, Department of Geography
 Gary N. Richards, Department of English and Linguistics
 Mara N. Scanlon, Department of English and Linguistics
 Jason R. Sellers, Department of History and American Studies
 Gregg Stull, Department of Theatre and Dance
 Clarence W. Tweedy, III, Department of English and Linguistics

NOTE: AMST 201, an AMST 200-level Core Course, an AMST 300-level Core Course, and AMST 485 Senior Thesis are normally offered in both the fall and spring semester. When selecting electives for the American Studies major, 6 of the 8 courses must be at the 300-level or higher, and 5 of the 8 should be connected to a thematic area of focus identified in consultation with the student's major advisor. No more than 3 of the 8 major elective courses may be from one of the affiliated disciplines.

American Studies Program

Erin K. Devlin, Program Coordinator and Career Advisor

Krystyn R. Moon, Career Advisor