American Studies (AMR)

Interdisciplinary Major and Minor in American Studies
College of Arts and Sciences

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Marie Sweatt
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Minors or second majors of particular interest to students majoring in American Studies: Art (ARH/ARS), Biology (BIO), English (EGL), History (HIS), Linguistics (LIN), Media Arts (MDA), Political Science (POL), Psychology (PSY), Sociology (SOC), South Asian Studies (SOA), Spanish (SPN)

Affiliated Faculty
Mary Jo Bona, Women’s Studies
Helen Cooper, English, Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Roman de la Campa, Hispanic Languages and Literature
Fred Gardaphe, European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Anthony Hurley, Africana Studies
Ned Landsman, History
Brooke Larson, History, Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Gary Mar, Philosophy
Donna Rilling, History
Christopher Sellers, History
Jane Sugarman, Music
Antonio Vera Leon, Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Kathleen Vernon, Hispanic Languages and Literature

With the increase in migration and economic globalization and their impact on the culture of the United States and the Americas as a whole, scholars in many disciplines are examining, from interdisciplinary perspectives, the impact of the making of the Americas on world culture. The program in American Studies redefines traditional disciplinary approaches, integrating and connecting new approaches to American studies that include a multicultural as well as a transnational understanding of the Americas. New methods of cultural analysis are introduced that challenge the power of comparative transnational histories to diversify political narratives of citizenship, homeland, and popular sovereignty. They also challenge how we understand others.

The interdisciplinary major in American Studies introduces students to the rich variety of cultures, languages, and societies of the Americas. Students develop an in-depth knowledge of American culture beginning with core courses introducing interdisciplinary methods, through elective courses in a particular concentration, and synthesized by a capstone seminar.

Graduates with a major in American Studies can expect to work in education, business, journalism, government, and politics. Combined with a science major, the major provides a good background for the health professions. Majors will also be prepared to move on to graduate study in business, education, the humanities, law, and social sciences.

Courses Offered in American Studies
See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.
AMR 101-F Local and Global: National Boundaries and World-Systems
AMR 102-G Making American Identities
AMR 301-K Ethnicity and Race in American History
AMR 390-G Humanities Topics in American Studies
AMR 392-F Social and Behavioral Sciences Topics in American Studies
AMR 395-J Special Topics in American Studies
AMR 397-K Special Topics in American Studies
AMR 401 Senior Seminar in American Studies
AMR 447 Directed Readings in American Studies
AMR 475, 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I, II
AMR 487 Independent Research in American Studies
AMR 488 Internship in American Studies
AMR 495 Senior Honors Project in American Studies

Requirements for the Major in American Studies (AMR)
The major in American Studies leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Except where noted, all courses offered for the major must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. Eighteen credits for the major must be earned in courses numbered 300 or higher.
Completion of the major requires 39 credits.

A. Core Courses
1. AMR 101 Local and Global: National Boundaries and World-Systems
2. AMR 102 Making American Identities
3. AMR 301 Ethnicity and Race in American History
4. AMR 401 Senior Seminar in American Studies

B. Study of Another Language
Six credits (or the equivalent of two semesters) of an intermediate-level language other than English appropriate to the student’s intended concentration, to be chosen in consultation with the undergraduate director. All coursework taken to satisfy this requirement must be passed with a letter grade of C- or higher.

C. Concentration Requirement
Students must take five courses from one of the following groups, and two additional courses from any other of the groups. At least 12 credits must be at the 300 or 400 level.

Arts in Societies
AFH 206 Great Books of the Black Experience
AFH/HUF 385 French Caribbean Literature
AFH/HUF 386 Caribbean and American Connection in Literature
AFH/EGL 249 African American Literature and Music in the 19th and 20th Centuries
AFH 329, 300 Pan-African Literature I, II
AFH 339/ARH 329 Arts of the African Diaspora
AFS 463, 464 The Media and Black America I, II
CLT 235 American Pluralism in Film and Literature
CLT 320 Multicultural Experience in American Literature
EGL 217, 218 American Literature I, II
EGL 226 Contemporary American Literature: 1945 to the Present
EGL 320 Literature of the 20th Century
EGL 367 Contemporary African American Literature
EGL 369 Topics in Ethnic Studies in Literature
EGL 378 Contemporary Native American Fiction
EGL 379 Native American Texts and Contexts
HIS 361 American History/American Film
HUI 333 The Italian American Experience in Literature
HUI 338 Images of Italian Americans in Film
HUS 371 United States Latino Literature
HUS 390 Latin American Cinema
MUS 320 U.S. Popular Music
MUS 304 Contemporary Traditions in American Music: 1900 to the Present
MUS 308 History of Jazz
MUS 310 Music and Culture of the 1960s

American Peoples
AFS 239 Introduction to the Caribbean Experience
AFS 240 Issues in Caribbean Society
AFS/HIS 388 Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean
AFS/ANT 395 Religions of the Caribbean
ANT 201 Peoples of South America
ANT 353 Archaeological Analysis and Interpretation
ANT 362 Long Island Archaeology
ANT 385 Prehistoric Peoples of the Americas
HIS 389 Modern Mexico

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in American Studies

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* If not taken in fall senior year.

HIS 421, 422 Colloquia in Latin American History
HIS 254 Latin America Today
HIS 361 Latin American Literature
LAC 200 Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies
LIN 200 Language in the United States
LIN 307 Sociolinguistics
POL 214 Modern Latin America
POL 382 Politics and Political Change in Latin America
SOC 364 Sociology of Latin America
SPN 392 The Culture and Civilization of Spanish America
SPN 395, 396 Introduction to Spanish American Literature I, II
SPN 405 Issues in Hispanic Cultural Studies
SPN 415 Hispanic Cultures in Contact
SPN 420 Topics in Spanish and Latin American Cinema
SPN 435 Topics in Latin American Literature from the Colonial Period to the Present

History and Politics
AFS/HIS 325 The Civil Rights Movement
AFS 372 African-American Political Thought
AFS 375 Slavery
HIS 103 American History to 1877
HIS 104 United States Since 1877
HIS 213 Colonial Latin America

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HIS/POL 214 Modern Latin America
HIS/POL 216 History of U.S.-Latin American Relations
HIS 250 The Second World War, 1939-1945
HIS 262 American Colonial Society
HIS 266 History of Popular Culture
HIS 262 Making Peace with the Sixties
HIS 265 Environmental History of North America
HIS 269 American Social History to 1860
HIS 270 U.S. Social History, 1860-1930
HIS 296 Topics in U.S. History
HIS 411-414 Colloquia in American History

POL 102 Introduction to American Government
POL 320 Constitutional Law and Politics: United States
POL 324 American Politics Parties and Pressure Groups
POL 325 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
POL 326 Politics of New York State
POL 327 Urban Politics
POL 328 Criminal Law
POL 344 American Political Ideology and Public Opinion
POL 367 Mass Media in American Politics

Ethnicity, Race, Gender, and Philosophy
AFH/PHI 379 Philosophy of Race
AFS 101, 102 Themes in the Black Experience I, II
AFS/HIS 277 The Modern Color Line
AFS 300 Blacks in the City
AFS 310 American Attitudes Toward Race
AFS 319 The Politics of Race
AFS 360 African American Social Commentary
AFS 370 The African American Family
ANT 356 Urban Anthropology
AFS/ANT 380 Race and Ethnicity in Latin America and the Caribbean
HIS/WST 333 Women in U.S. History
HIS/WST 374 Historical Perspectives on Gender Orientation
HIS/WST 387 Women, Development, and Revolution in Latin America
HIS 397 Topics in History of U.S. Immigration and Ethnicity
HU1/WST 237 Images of Italian American Women
HU1 236 The Italian American Scene
HU1 336 Italian Americans and Ethnic Relations
JDS/HIS 220 The Shaping of Modern Judaism
PHI 310 American Philosophy
PHI 378 Philosophical Topics in Asian-American History
PHI/WST 383 Philosophical Issues of Race and Gender
POL/WST 230 Gender Issues in the Law
POL/WST 347 Women and Politics
SOC/WST 247 Sociology of Gender
SOC 302 American Society
SOC 310 Ethnic and Race Relations

D. Upper-Division Writing Requirement
All students are required to write a term paper for AMR 301, which is evaluated by the instructor for its evidence of upper-division writing ability. Students whose writing is judged satisfactory will have fulfilled the upper-division writing requirement. Students who do not fulfill the requirement in AMR 301 must submit to the major advisor, no later than the first semester of the senior year, a portfolio of papers written for subsequent upper-division courses taken for the major and must achieve an evaluation of satisfaction on the portfolio.

Notes:
1. Only three credits of AMR 447 Directed Readings, AMR 487 Independent Research, or AMR 488 Internship may be used to satisfy major requirements.
2. Students should consider the prerequisites to upper-division courses for the major when choosing elective and D.E.C. courses.
3. Other relevant courses, including special topics courses offered by other departments, may be substituted for major requirements with permission of the undergraduate director.

The Minor in American Studies
Interdisciplinary in nature, the minor in American Studies is designed especially for students who wish to add a variety of American perspectives and an overview of American culture to the development of their majors in the arts and sciences. Students are encouraged to approach American Studies from the perspective of their major. Beyond the four required courses, the minor is organized around the student’s interest in a particular area of American Studies. At least 12 of the 21 credits required for the minor must be taken at Stony Brook. The specific distribution of credits should be determined in consultation with the undergraduate director.

Requirements for the Minor in American Studies (AMR)
All courses offered for the minor must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. Students should consider the prerequisites to upper-division courses for the minor when choosing elective and D.E.C. courses.

Completion of the minor in American Studies requires 21 credits.
1. AMR 101 Local and Global: National Boundaries and World-Systems
2. AMR 102 Making American Identities
3. AMR 301 Ethnicity and Race in American History
4. AMR 401 Senior Seminar in American Studies
5. Three additional courses selected from the approved list of courses (available from the undergraduate director) at the 300 or 400 level, chosen in consultation with the program advisor.

Declaration of the Minor
Students must declare the American Studies minor no later than the middle of their junior year, at which time they must consult with the program advisor and plan their course of study for fulfillment of the requirements.