American Studies (AMR)

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

DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES: Fred Gardaphe, European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Marie Sweatt  OFFICE: Humanities 1055  PHONE: (631) 632-1215  E-MAIL: Fred.Gardaphe@stonybrook.edu

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, English; European Languages, Literatures, and Culture
Themis Chronopoulos, History
Helen Cooper, English; Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Georges Fouron, Africana Studies
Fred Gardaphe, English; European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Eric Haralson, English
Anthony Hurley, Africana Studies
Peniel Joseph, Africana Studies
Ned Landsman, History
Brooke Larson, History, Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Shirley Lim, Africana Studies
Judith Lochhead, Music
Gary Mar, Philosophy
Andrew Newman, English
Donna Rilling, History
Susan Scheckel, English
Christopher Sellers, History
Jane Sugarman, Music
Antonio Vera Leon, Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Kathleen Vernon, Hispanic Languages and Literature
Peter Winkler, Music

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-K 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
Sample Course Sequence for the Major in American Studies

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* If not taken in fall senior year.

**American Peoples**
- 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/EGL 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

**SPN**
- 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
### American Studies

#### Latin America and the Caribbean
- AFS/ANT 380 Race and Ethnicity in Latin America and the Caribbean
- AFS/HIS 277 The Modern Color Line
- HIS 103 American History to 1877
- HIS 104 United States Since 1877
- HIS 213 Colonial Latin America
- 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 326 History of Popular Culture
- HIS 362 Making Peace with the Sixties
- HIS 365 Environmental History of North America
- HIS 369 American Social History to 1860
- HIS 370 U.S. Social History, 1860-1930
- HIS 396 Topics in U.S. History
- HIS 411 to 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 444 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 Topies in History of U.S. Immigration and Ethnicity
- HUI/WST 237 Images of Italian American Women
- HUI 236 The Italian American Scene
- HUI 336 Italian Americans and Ethnic Relations
- JDS/HIS 226 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 330 Gender Issues in the Law
- POL/WST 347 Women and Politics
- SOC/WST 247 Sociology of Gender
- SOC 302 American Society

#### 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.

#### Declaration of the Minor

Students must declare the American Studies minor by 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.

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**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. 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.