Twin Cities Campus

American Studies M.A.

American Studies

College of Liberal Arts

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
Department of American Studies, 104 Scott Hall, 72 Pleasant Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-624-4190; fax: 612-624-3858)
Email: amstdy@umn.edu
Website: http://americanstudies.umn.edu

- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2018
- Length of program in credits: 30 to 31
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Arts

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

Note: The master's degree in American studies is not designed as a terminal degree; therefore, students are not admitted directly to the MA program. Students may apply for graduate study at the PhD level only. A PhD student may elect to pursue the MA. All PhD coursework is applicable. Current graduate students seeking to obtain the MA should review the information in the current graduate handbook on the website at http://americanstudies.umn.edu/grad/handbook.html.

American studies is an interdisciplinary, interdepartmental program. The American studies graduate faculty consists of American studies core faculty members and graduate faculty members drawn from a wide number of departments. Students develop subfields (understood as a more specific focus of research and teaching) and also pursue broad training in analyzing the development of cultural and historical processes that shaped the nation and its diverse cultures, as well as analyzing contemporary practices.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

An undergraduate major in a field related to American studies or other preparation acceptable to the Admissions Committee for American studies is required.

Special Application Requirements:
American studies admits for graduate study at the PhD level only. PhD students may obtain a MA during the course of their studies; however no students are admitted for a terminal MA. Students entering the PhD program must hold at least a bachelor's level degree from a recognized institution of higher education. The deadline for application to the Department of American Studies is December 1 of the year prior to intended entry. Refer to the department website for application procedures and additional information.

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL
  - Internet Based - Total Score: 79
  - Internet Based - Writing Score: 21
  - Internet Based - Reading Score: 19
  - Paper Based - Total Score: 550
- IELTS
  - Total Score: 6.5
- MELAB
  - Final score: 80

Key to test abbreviations(TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Program Requirements

Plan A: Plan A requires 21 major credits, 0 credits outside the major, and 10 thesis credits.The final exam is written and oral.

Plan B: Plan B requires 30 major credits and 0 credits outside the major.The final exam is written and oral.

This program may not be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

Language Requirement: Reading knowledge of one foreign language

A minimum GPA of 3.50 is required for students to remain in good standing.

The master's degree is not designed as a terminal degree; therefore, students are not admitted directly to the MA program. A PhD student may elect to pursue the MA. All PhD coursework is applicable. Current graduate students seeking to obtain the MA should review the information in the current Graduate Handbook on the program website at http://americanstudies.umn.edu/grad/handbook.html.

All courses are selected in consultation with the student's advisor and the director of Graduate Studies.

"Major" courses are defined as any courses that American Studies deems appropriate to the student's area of study, due to the interdisciplinary nature of the program.

Requirements

The following courses are required for all students:
AMST 8201 - Historical Foundations of American Studies (3.0 cr)
AMST 8202 - Theoretical Foundations and Current Practice in American Studies (3.0 cr)

Core Areas

Research Seminars

6 credits (2 courses) worth of research seminars offered by the Department of American Studies or another department related to research area. Requires director of Graduate Studies approval.

Comparative Culture

3 credits (1 course) in a course on comparative cultures, covering international or non-U.S. subjects offered by the Department of American Studies or another department related to research area.

Plans A & B

Students are required to specify a field of concentration. The courses required to fulfill these concentrations are to be selected between the student and the advisor, and approved by the director of Graduate Studies.

Plan A

Field of Concentration

Concentration Area Courses

3 credits (one course) in students field of concentration offered by the Department of American Studies or another department related to research area.

Cultural Pluralism Course

3 credits (one course) in student's field of concentration, focused on cultural pluralism within the United States offered by the Department of American Studies or another department related to research area.

Thesis Credits

Take exactly 10 credit(s) from the following:
•AMST 8777 - Thesis Credits: Master's (1.0 - 18.0 cr)

-OR-

Plan B

This plan requires 3 papers in lieu of an MA thesis.

Concentration Area Courses

12 credits (4 courses) in student's field of concentration offered by the Department of American Studies or another department related to research area.

Cultural Pluralism Course

3 credits (one course) in students field of concentration, focused on cultural pluralism within the United States offered by the Department of American Studies or another department related to research area.

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Information current as of March 29, 2024