Twin Cities Campus

American Studies B.A.

American Studies

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2018
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 33
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

American Studies is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of American Society. The program provides a broad, interdisciplinary approach to the study of critical issues to American society, with an emphasis on deep historical, cultural, and political understandings. Faculty in the program come from a range of fields and have varied expertise.

Students majoring in American Studies undertake a unique, interdisciplinary study of American society, gaining critical perspectives on past and contemporary issues and topics. They typically pursue their own interests within the very broad range of educational opportunities in the program. Courses offered by the department explore a wide range of topics, including popular culture, politics, migration, religion, history, race, gender, and sexuality, as well as important issues such as America's changing place in the world, foreign policy, the events of 9/11, and economic crises and inequality.

Majoring in American Studies provides an opportunity for students to pursue particular interests while gaining broad training in a variety of topics and interdisciplinary scholarship. The program of study provides opportunities for the development of writing, critical and creative thinking, and research skills, which culminate in the Senior Project. The Senior Seminar is a year-long course of study limited to graduating seniors in American Studies, giving a chance for undergraduates to work closely with the faculty member in developing and undertaking a major research project which serves as the capstone for the undergraduate program. This unique process allows students to use their skills and knowledge to conduct original research or creative work, which reflects their interests and expertise on a particular topic.

In addition, the Department of American Studies cooperates with the Departments of African-American and African Studies, American Indian Studies, Chicano & Latino Studies, and Asian American Studies, which makes it possible for students to concentrate their studies in one of those cultural areas.

American Studies provides a unique preparation for students interested in an interdisciplinary approach to a particular aspect of American society, while preparing them for careers or further graduate training. The program encourages service learning, internships, and partners with the Minnesota Historical Society to place undergraduates into working on and researching public history. Graduates are well prepared for work in the public and private sector, as well as nonprofit and non-governmental organizations. Current alumni work in a range of fields including education, non-profits, research, historical preservation, journalism, mass media, law, and medicine.

Transfer students interested in American Studies should contact the Department of American Studies to discuss previous coursework, transfer credits, and likely course of study at Minnesota. Students wishing to double major or minor should also contact the department about developing a course of study and graduation plan.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

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

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements including writing and liberal education courses. For more information about University-wide requirements, see the liberal education requirements.Required courses for the major or minor in which a student receives a D grade (with or without plus or minus) do not count toward the major or minor (including transfer courses).

Program Requirements

Students are required to take 4 semester(s) of any second language.

CLA BA degrees require 18 upper-division (3xxx-level or higher) credits outside the major designator. These credits must be taken in

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designators different from the major designator and cannot include courses that are cross-listed with the major designator. The major designator for the American Studies BA is AMST.

At least 12 upper-division credits in the major must be taken at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus

Students may earn a BA or a minor in American studies, but not both.

All incoming CLA freshmen must complete the First-Year Experience course sequence.

Preparatory Courses

Any AMST 1xxx, 2xxx or its cross-list may count towards this requirement.
Take 2 or more course(s) totaling 6 or more credit(s) from the following:

- AMST 1012 - Migrants, Refugees, Citizens, and Exiles: The U.S. on an Immigrant Planet [CIV] (3.0 cr)
- AMST 1401 - Comparative Genders and Sexualities [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- AMST 1511 - Americans Abroad: Rethinking Travel, Culture, & Empire [GP, HIS] (3.0 cr)
- AMST 2011 - The United States since September 11 [CIV, HIS] (3.0 cr)
- AMST 2031 - Chasing the American Dream: Economic Opportunity & Inequality in the U.S. [DSJ, HIS] (3.0 cr)
- AMST 1011 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 1011 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)

Electives

Any AAS, AFRO, AMIN, AMST, CHIC 3xxx, 4xxx, or its cross-list may count towards this requirement. At least 4 of the 7 courses must be AMST or cross-listed with AMST. Other courses may be approved by the director of undergraduate studies.
Take exactly 7 course(s) totaling 21 or more credit(s) from the following:

American Studies Electives

Take 4 - 7 course(s) from the following:

- AMST 3113W - Global Minnesota: Diversity in the 21st Century [DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
- AMST 3114 - America in International Perspective [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- AMST 3252W *{Inactive}*[HIS, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- AMST 3253W - American Popular Culture and Politics: 1940 to the Present [HIS, CIV, WI] (4.0 cr)
- AMST 3920 - Topics in American Studies (3.0 cr)
- AMST 3993 - Directed Studies (1.0 - 9.0 cr)
- AMST 4301 - Workers and Consumers in the Global Economy [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- **Subgroup 0**
- AMST 3752 *{Inactive}*[DSJ] (3.0 cr)
  or CHIC 3752 *{Inactive}*[DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- AMIN 3001 - Public History (3.0 cr)
  or AMST 3003 - Public History (3.0 cr)
  or HIST 3001 - Public History (3.0 cr)
- AMST 4101 - Gender, Sexuality, and Politics in America [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
  or GLBT 4101 - Gender, Sexuality, and Politics in America [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- AMIN 5412 - Comparative Indigenous Feminisms [GP] (3.0 cr)
  or AMST 5412 - Comparative Indigenous Feminisms [GP] (3.0 cr)
  or ANTH 5412 - Comparative Indigenous Feminisms [GP] (3.0 cr)
  or CHIC 3412 - Comparative Indigenous Feminisms [GP] (3.0 cr)
  or CHIC 5412 - Comparative Indigenous Feminisms [GP] (3.0 cr)
  or GWSS 3515 - Comparative Indigenous Feminisms [GP] (3.0 cr)

- **Other Electives**

Take 0 - 3 course(s) from the following:

- AAS 3601W - War and Empire: Asian American Perspectives [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- AFRO 3006 - Impact of African Migrations in the Atlantic World (3.0 cr)
- AFRO 3108 - Black Music: A History of Jazz (3.0 cr)
- AFRO 3112 - In the Heart of the Beat: the Poetry of Rap (3.0 cr)
- AFRO 3125W - Black Visions of Liberation: Ella, Martin, Malcolm, and the Radical Transformation of U.S. Democracy [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- AFRO 3301 - The Music of Black Americans [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- AFRO 3426 - African Americans, Social Policy, and the Welfare State (3.0 cr)
- AFRO 3910 - Topics in African American and African Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- AFRO 4112 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- AFRO 4910 *{Inactive}*(1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- AFRO 5910 - Topics in African American and African Studies (3.0 cr)
- AMIN 3304 - Indigenous Filmmakers [AH] (3.0 cr)
- AMIN 3312 - American Indian Environmental Issues and Ecological Perspectives [ENV] (3.0 cr)
- AMIN 3604 - Indigenous Immersion Methods for the Home, Classroom, and Community (3.0 cr)
- AMIN 3701 *{Inactive}*[HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- AMIN 3711 - Dakota Culture and History [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)

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•AMIN 3876 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•AMIN 4511 - Indigenous Political Economies (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 4532 - Vine Deloria, Jr.: A Renaissance Indigenous Figure (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 4990 - Topics in American Indian Studies (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
•AMIN 5202 - Indigenous Peoples and Issues Before the United States Supreme Court (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 5920 - Topics in American Indian Studies (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3213 *{Inactive}*[AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3221 - Chicana/o Cultural Studies: Barrio Culture and the Aesthetics of Everyday Life [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3223 - Chicana/o and Latina/o Representation in Film [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3275 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3352 - Transborder Theory: Global Views/Borderland Spaces (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3375 - Folklore of Greater Mexico [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3452 - Chicanx/LatinX Indigeneity [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3672 - Chicana/o Experience in the Midwest [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3771 - Latino Social Power and Social Movements in the U.S. (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3888 - Immigration and the U.S. Latina/o Experience: Diaspora, Identity, and Community [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3900 - Topics in Chicano Studies (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 4275 - Theory in Action: Community Engagement in a Social Justice Framework [CIV] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 5920 - Topics in Chicana(o) Studies (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 5993 - Directed Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•AAS 3301 - Asian America Through Arts and Culture [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or TH 3311 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•AAS 3341 - Asian American Images [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or COMM 3341 - Asian American Images [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AAS 3351 - Asian Americans and Popular Culture [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or COMM 3351 - Asian Americans and Popular Culture [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AAS 3409W - Asian American Women's Cultural Production [AH, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or GWSS 3409W - Asian American Women's Cultural Production [AH, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AAS 3503 - Asian American Identities, Families, & Communities [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or SOC 3503 - Asian American Identities, Families & Communities [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or SOC 3503H - Honors: Asian American Identities, Families & Communities [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AAS 3877 - Asian American History, 1850 to Present [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3877 - Asian American History, 1850-Present [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AAS 4311 - Asian American Literature and Drama [LITR, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or ENGL 4311 - Asian American Literature and Drama [LITR, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AAS 3211W - Race & Racism in the U.S. [DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or SOC 3211W - Race and Racism in the US [DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AAS 3251W - Sociological Perspectives on Race, Class, and Gender [SOCS, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 3251W - Sociological Perspectives on Race, Class, and Gender [WI] (3.0 cr)
or SOC 3251W - Sociological Perspectives on Race, Class, and Gender [SOCS, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AAS 3486 - Hmong Refugees from the Secret War: Becoming Americans (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3486 - Hmong Refugees from the Secret War: Becoming Americans (3.0 cr)
•AAS 3862 - American Immigration History [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or CHIC 3862 - American Immigration History [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3862 - American Immigration History [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AAS 3875W - Comparative Race and Ethnicity in U.S. History [HIS, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3875W - Comparative Race and Ethnicity in US History [HIS, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AAS 4231 - Color of Public Policy: African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans & Chicanos in the U.S. (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 4231 - Color of Public Policy: African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans & Chicanos in the U.S. (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 4231 - Color of Public Policy: African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans, & Chicanos in the U.S. (3.0 cr)
or CHIC 4231 - Color of Public Policy: African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans & Chicanos in the U.S. (3.0 cr)
•AAS 3866 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or AMES 3866 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•AAS 4232 - American Drama by Writers of Color (3.0 cr)
or ENGL 4232 - American Drama by Writers of Color [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3120 - Social and Intellectual Movements in the African Diaspora [HIS, GP] (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5120 - Social and Intellectual Movements in the African Diaspora (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3456 - Social and Intellectual Movements in the African Diaspora [HIS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3402 - Pleasure, Intimacy and Violence (3.0 cr)
or GWSS 3402 - Pleasure, Intimacy and Violence (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3592W - Introduction to Black Women Writers in the United States [LITR, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or ENGL 3592W - Introduction to Black Women Writers in the United States [LITR, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3593 - The African American Novel (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5593 - The African American Novel (3.0 cr)
or ENGL 3593 - The African American Novel (3.0 cr)
or ENGL 5593 - The African-American Novel (3.0 cr)

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•AFRO 3597W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture I [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
or ENGL 3597W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture I [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
•AFRO 3598W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture II [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
or ENGL 3598W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture II [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
•AFRO 3627 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5627 - Seminar: Harlem Renaissance (3.0 cr)
or ARTH 3627 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3655 *{Inactive}*[AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or ARTH 3655 - African-American Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or ARTH 5655 - African-American Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3864 - African American History: 1619 to 1865 [HIS, CIV] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3864 - African American History: 1619-1865 [HIS, CIV] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3865 - African American History: 1865 to the Present (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3865 - African American History, 1865 to Present (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3866 - The Civil Rights and Black Power Movement, 1954-1984 (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5866 - The Civil Rights and Black Power Movement, 1954-1984 (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3856 - The Civil Rights and Black Power Movement, 1954-1984 (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3868W - Race, War, and Race Wars in American History [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3868W - Race, War, and Race Wars in American History [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 4406 - Black Feminist Thought (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5406 - Black Feminist Thought (3.0 cr)
or GWSS 4406 - Black Feminist Thought in the American and African Diasporas (3.0 cr)
or GWSS 5406 - Black Feminist Thought in the American and African Diasporas (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 5181W - Blacks in American Theatre [WI] (3.0 cr)
or TH 5181W *{Inactive}*[WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 5182W - Contemporary Black Drama and Dramaturgies [WI] (3.0 cr)
or TH 5182W - Contemporary Black Drama and Dramaturgies [WI] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3107 - The Structure of Anishinaabemowin: The Ojibwe Language (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 5107 - The Structure of Anishinaabemowin: The Ojibwe Language (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3141 - American Indian Language Planning (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 5141 - American Indian Language Planning (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3201W - American Indian Literature [LITR, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or ENGL 3201W *{Inactive}*[LITR, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3301 - American Indian Philosophies [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or RELS 3321 - American Indian Philosophies [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3402 - American Indians and the Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 5402 - American Indians and the Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3409 - American Indian Women: Ethnographic and Ethnohistorical Perspectives [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 5409 - American Indian Women: Ethnographic and Ethnohistorical Perspectives [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3501 - Indigenous Tribal Governments and Politics [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or POL 3701 - Indigenous Tribal Governments and Politics [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3602 - Archaeology and Native Americans [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or ANTH 3601 - Archaeology and Native Americans [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or ANTH 5601 - Archaeology and Native Americans [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3871 - American Indian History: Pre-Contact to 1830 [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3871 - American Indian History: Pre-Contact to 1830 [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3872 - American Indian History: 1830 to the Present [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3872 - American Indian History: 1830 to the Present [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 4501 - Law, Sovereignty, and Treaty Rights (3.0 cr)
or POL 4507 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•AMIN 4525W - Federal Indian Policy [WI] (3.0 cr)
or POL 4525W - Federal Indian Policy [WI] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 5890 - Readings in American Indian and Indigenous History (3.0 cr)
or HIST 5890 - Readings in American Indian and Indigenous History (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3212 - Chicana Feminism: La Chicana in Contemporary Society [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or GWSS 3410 *{Inactive}*[AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3216W - Chicana and Chicano Art [AH, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
or ARTH 3216W - Chicana and Chicano Art [AH, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3374 - Migrant Farmworkers in the United States: Families, Work, and Advocacy [CIV] (4.0 cr)
or CHIC 5374 - Migrant Farmworkers in the United States: Families, Work, and Advocacy [CIV] (4.0 cr)
•CHIC 3444 - Chicana and Chicano History I [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or GLOS 3634 *{Inactive}*[HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3444 - Chicana and Chicano History I [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3446 - Chicana and Chicano History II: WWII, El Movimiento, and the New Millennium [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3446 - Chicana and Chicano History II: WWII, El Movimiento, and the New Millennium [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3507W - Introduction to Chicana/o Literature [LITR, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)

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or ENGL 3507W - Introduction to Chicana/o Literature [LITR, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 3852 - Chicana/o Politics [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or POL 3752 - Chicana/o Politics [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 4232 - Chicana/o - Latina/o Gender and Sexuality Studies [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or GLBT 4232 *{Inactive}*[AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•CHIC 4401 - Chicana/Latina Cultural Studies [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or GWSS 4401 - Chicana/Latina Cultural Studies [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)

Capstone: Proseminar Sequence

The Proseminar I and II is a two-semester capstone that furthers understanding of important debates in American Studies and the methodologies that scholars use in their research. Proseminar I will help students conceptualize a research project and develop a means of investigation in a collaborative classroom setting. Students will complete the research and writing of a capstone research project in Proseminar II, which concludes with a public presentation of the capstone.
Students who double major and choose to complete the capstone requirement in their other major are still required to take the American Studies capstone.

Take exactly 2 course(s) totaling exactly 6 credit(s) from the following:
•AMST 4961 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•AMST 4962W - Proseminar in American Studies [WI] (3.0 cr)

Upper Division Writing Intensive within the major

Students are required to take one upper division writing intensive course within the major. If that requirement has not been satisfied within the core major requirements, students must choose one course from the following list. Some of these courses may also fulfill other major requirements. Only AMST courses may count towards this requirement.

Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:
•AMST 3113W - Global Minnesota: Diversity in the 21st Century [DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AMST 3252W *{Inactive}*[HIS, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AMST 3253W - American Popular Culture and Politics: 1940 to the Present [HIS, CIV, WI] (4.0 cr)
•AMST 4962W - Proseminar in American Studies [WI] (3.0 cr)

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