American Studies

The American Studies program is designed to meet the needs of students, including non-traditional majors and lifelong learners, who want to pursue a flexible, multi-disciplinary curriculum in American Studies. Students explore the experiences and values of the people of the United States as embodied in their history, literature, art, and other forms of cultural expression.

Program Focus Areas

All undergraduate students are required to choose one of three program focus areas:

• American Arts - Students explore the creative role of music, film, and popular culture in shaping American values, desires, tastes, and behavior. They are invited to examine the ways in which the visual arts have shaped, and are a product of, the social, economic, and political developments that have defined the American experience.

• American History - Students acquire a broad understanding of the interplay of culture, society, and political change in America’s past, present, and future. This focus explores how present day problems are contingent on past actions and belief systems.

• American Literature - Students will read poetry and prose, fiction and dramatic works of representative American writers. They will acquire an understanding of critical approaches to the study of literature and of the relationship between culture and literary studies.

Five-year BA/MA Degree Option

The American Studies program offers the unique opportunity for qualified undergraduate students to enter the American Studies Master of Arts program after completing three years of undergraduate coursework. Students seeking to pursue this option should begin planning their coursework during their freshman year. To learn more about this program, please visit the American Studies Undergraduate Graduate program page.

Office Location & Contact Information

Program Director: Dr. Susan Kollin
2-179 Wilson Hall
P.O. Box 170595
Bozeman, MT 59717
Phone: 406-994-5327
Email: amerstudies@montana.edu
Visit the American Studies Website (https://www.montana.edu/americanstudies/)

Foreign Language Requirements

All students are required to take 6 credits of multi-ethnic and/or global studies coursework or at least one year of a foreign language.

All students, regardless of program focus area, must complete the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman Year</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 101D - Introduction to American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASX 105D - Introduction to Native American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or AMST 202RA - The Arts in America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Year Foreign Language Courses or multi-ethnic, global studies, or WGSS coursework

1 Year Foreign Language Courses or multi-ethnic, global studies, or WGSS coursework

History Option - History Concentration Students must take all 3

HSTA 101IH - American History I
or HSTA 102IH - American History II
or HSTA 160D - Introduction to the American West

CORE Elective - College Writing (W) and Quantitative Reasoning (Q)

Advisor Approved Electives - Natural Sciences (IN or RN) and University Seminar (US)

Year Total: 31

Sophomore Year Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literature Option - Literature Concentration Students must take all 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIT 214D - Regional Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCL 210IS - Introduction to American Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 201IH - American Identity, American Dreams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts Option - Art Concentration Students must take both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 202RA - The Arts in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MUSI 203IA - American Popular Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE Elective - Contemporary Issues in Science (CS) and Diversity (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor Approved Elective - Social Sciences (IS or RS) and Humanities (IH or RH)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year Total: 30

Junior Year Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literature Option - Literature Concentration Students must take all 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIT 308 - Multicultural Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or LIT 310 - American Literature to 1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or LIT 311 - American Literature after 1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Division AMST Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE Elective - Research &amp; Creative Experience (RA, RH, RN, or RS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor Approved Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Total:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Senior Year Credits

| AMST 401R - Seminar in American Studies | 4 |
| CORE Elective | 3-6 |
| Advisor Approved Elective | 22 |
| Year Total: | 29-32 |

Total Program Credits: 120

Capstone Experience

All students in the major take a common 4-credit capstone course in their final year (AMST 401R Seminar in American Studies). Students will work together in small groups to design solutions to contemporary issues in American society. Each small-group project will result in a scholarly product (typically a paper or presentation) that will serve as a measureable indication of the extent to which students have mastered the critical thinking, reading, writing, and oral communication skills that are the principal learning objectives of the program.

American Studies Electives

This is not an exhaustive list. For more up to date classes please view the Schedule of Classes for the current semester.

| AMST 301 Reproduction in America | 3 |
| AMST 490 Undergraduate Research | 1-6 |
| AMST 492 Independent Study | 1-6 |
| AMST 498 Internship | 1-12 |
| ANTY 332 Native North America | 3 |
American Studies

American Studies offers the following degrees:

- Master of Arts in American Studies
- Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies

Montana State University offers the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in a unique Rocky Mountain setting that provides students with research opportunities at such sites as the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman and Yellowstone National Park. With a special focus on the American West, the program draws on a distinguished cohort of full-time faculty with research and teaching expertise in the disciplines of Anthropology, Architectural History, Art History, English, History, Film and Photography, Native American Studies, Political Science, and Sociology.

American Studies offers the following degrees:

- Ph.D. in American Studies (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/letters-science/american-studies/phd-philosophy-american-studies/)
- M.A. in American Studies (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/letters-science/american-studies/ma-arts-american-studies/)

The Five-Year BA/MA Option

The chart below outlines a generic plan of study for a student seeking to earn both their Bachelors and Masters in American Studies within a 5-year timeline. Students will need to complete a total of 150 credits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 101D - Introduction to American Studies</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASX 105D - Introduction to Native American Studies or AMST 202RA - The Arts in America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year Foreign Language, Multi-Ethnic, Global Studies, or WGSS coursework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Option - American History Focus Area (all 3 courses are required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTA 101H - American History I or HSTA 102IH - American History II or HSTA 160D - Introduction to the American West</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE Elective - College Writing (W) and Quantitative Reasoning (Q)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor Approved Electives - Natural Sciences (IN or RN) and University Seminar (US)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Total:</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sophomore Year</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIT 214D - Regional Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 210IS - Introduction to American Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 201IH - American Identity, American Dreams</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts Option - American Arts Focus Area (Both courses are required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 202RA - The Arts in America or MUSI 203IA - American Popular Music</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE Elective - Contemporary Issues in Science (CS) and Diversity (D)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor Approved Elective - Social Science (IS or RS) and Humanities (IH or RH)</td>
<td>18 - 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Total:</td>
<td>39-41</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Junior Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 401R - Seminar in American Studies</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Option - American Literature Focus Area (All 3 courses are required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIT 308 - Multicultural Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or LIT 310 - American Literature to 1900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or LIT 311 - American Literature after 1900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE Elective - Research &amp; Creative Experience (RA,RH,RN,or RS)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor Approved Upper Division Elective</td>
<td>20-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Total:</td>
<td>39-40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 501 - Methods in American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMST 594 - Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 502 - Research in American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 Level Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Study or Internship</td>
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</table>

### Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 590 - Master’s Thesis</td>
<td>1-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Study or Internship</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Total:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Total Program Credits: 138-150