

# 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 (<http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/american-studies/#graduatetext>) page.

## Office Location & Contact Information

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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:

Freshman Year	Credits
AMST 101D - Introduction to American Studies	3
NASX 105D - Introduction to Native American Studies or AMST 202RA - The Arts in America	3

1 Year Foreign Language Courses or multi-ethnic, global studies, or WGSS coursework 6

History Option- History Concentration Students must take all 3

HSTA 101IH - American History I 4  
 or HSTA 102IH - American History II  
 or HSTA 160D - Introduction to the American West

CORE Elective College Writing (W) and Quantitative Reasoning (Q) 6

Advisor Approved Electives Natural Sciences (IN or RN) and University Seminar (US) 9

Year Total: 31

### Sophomore Year Credits

LIT 214D - Regional Literature 3

PSCI 210IS - Introduction to American Government 3

AMST 201IH - American Identity, American Dreams 3

Arts Option- Art Concentration Students must take both

AMST 202RA - The Arts in America 3

or MUSI 203IA - American Popular Music

CORE Elective Contemporary Issues in Science (CS) and Diversity (D) 6

Advisor Approved Elective Social Sciences (IS or RS) and Humanities (IH or RH) 12

Year Total: 30

### Junior Year Credits

Literature Option - Literature Concentration Students must take 3

LIT 308 - Multicultural Literature 3

or LIT 310 - American Literature to 1900

or LIT 311 - American Literature after 1900

or LIT 335 - Women and Literature

or LIT 431RH - Studies in Major Author/s

Upper Division AMST Elective 3

CORE Elective Research & Creative Experience (RA, RH,RN,or RS) 6

Advisor Approved Elective 18-24

Year Total: 30

### Senior Year Credits

AMST 401R - Seminar in American Studies 4

CORE Elective 3

Advisor Approved Elective 22

Year Total: 29

**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 measurable 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
ANTY 351	Archaeology of North America	3
ARTH 342	Modern Art	3
ARTH 430	19th Century Art	3
ARTH 441	Art Now	3
ARTH 451	Contemporary Art	3
ECNS 372	Economic History of US	3
GPHY 325	Cultural Geography	3
HSTA 311	Early America	3
HSTA 315	The Age of Jefferson and Jackson: The Early American Republic	3
HSTA 316	American Civil War Era	3
HSTA 322	Am History: WWII to Present	3
HSTA 320	Birth of Modern US: 1865-1945	3
HSTA 402	Sex and Sexuality in America	3
HSTA 406	McCarthy, Populism and Fear in US Politics	3
HSTA 407	Gender in US & Canadian West	3
HSTA 408	Gender in America	3
HSTA 409	Food in America	3
HSTA 412IH	American Thought and Culture	3
HSTA 416	Race and Class in America	3
HSTA 450	History of American Indians	3
HSTA 460	Montana and the West	3
HSTA 464	History of the American West	3
HSTA 468	History of Yellowstone	3
HSTA 470	American Environmental History	3
HSTA 482	Technology and the Fate of Humanity	3
HSTR 372	The World at War	3
LIT 308	Multicultural Literature	3
LIT 310	American Literature to 1900	3
LIT 311	American Literature after 1900	3
LIT 335	Women and Literature	3
LIT 431RH	Studies in Major Author/s	3
MUSI 130IA	History of Jazz	3
NASX 304	Native American Beliefs and Philosophy	3
NASX 310	Native Cultures of North America	3
NASX 340IH	Native American Literature	3
NASX 360IH	Native Americans and Cinema	3
NASX 430	American Indian Education	3
NASX 476	American Indian Policy and Law	3
PHL 328	Philosophy and Film	3
PHL 351	Philosophy and Feminism	3
PHL 354	Philosophy of Race	3
PHOT 401	Contemporary Issues in Photography	3
PSCI 302	Media and Politics	3
PSCI 347	The U.S. Congress and the Legislative Process	3
PSCI 323	Modern Political Thought	3
PSCI 341	Political Parties and Elections	3
PSCI 346	American Presidency	3
PSCI 446	Congressional Campaign	3
PSCI 451	State and Local Government Policy Making	3
PSCI 454	Cinema and Political Theory	3
PSCI 471	American Constitutional Law	3

PSYX 335	Psychology of Gender	3
PSYX 462	Psychology of Prejudice	3
SOCI 308	Becoming an Adult in America	3
SOCI 320	Sociology of Religion	3
SOCI 325	Social Stratification	3
SOCI 326	Sociology of Gender	3
SOCI 333	Sociology of Education	3
SOCI 340	Social Movements	3
SOCI 344	Sociology of Race & Ethnicity	3
SOCI 345	Sociology of Organizations	3
SOCI 359	Crime, Justice and Media	3
SOCI 425	Victims and Society	3
SOCI 435	Law and Society	3
SOCI 436	Law and Inequality	3
SOCI 470	Environmental Sociology	3
SOCI 485	Political Sociology	3
WGSS 378	LGBTQ Studies	3
WGSS 454	The Study of Men & Masculinity	3

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 and associated 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.

Freshman Year	Credits
AMST 101D - Introduction to American Studies	3
NASX 105D - Introduction to Native American Studies or AMST 202RA - The Arts in America	3
1 year Foreign Language, Multi-Ethnic, Global Studies, or WGSS coursework	6
History Option - American History Focus Area (all 3 courses are required)	
HSTA 101IH - American History I or HSTA 102IH - American History II or HSTA 160D - Introduction to the American West	4
CORE Elective - College Writing (W) and Quantitative Reasoning (Q)	6
Advisor Approved Electives - Natural Sciences (IN or RN) and University Seminar (US)	12
Year Total:	34
Sophomore Year	Credits
LIT 214D - Regional Literature	3
PSCI 210IS - Introduction to American Government	3
AMST 201IH - American Identity, American Dreams	3

Arts Option - American Arts Focus Area (Both courses are required)	
AMST 202RA - The Arts in America or MUSI 203IA - American Popular Music	3
CORE Elective - Contemporary Issues in Science (CS) and Diversity (D)	9
Advisor Approved Elective - Social Science (IS or RS) and Humanities (IH or RH)	18 - 20
Year Total:	39-41
<b>Junior Year</b>	<b>Credits</b>
AMST 401R - Seminar in American Studies	4
Literature Option - American Literature Focus Area (3 courses are required)	
LIT 308 - Multicultural Literature or LIT 310 - American Literature to 1900 or LIT 311 - American Literature after 1900 or LIT 335 - Women and Literature or LIT 431RH - Studies in Major Author/s	3
CORE Elective - Research & Creative Experience (RA,RH,RN,or RS)	12
Advisor Approved Upper Division Elective	20-21
Year Total:	39-40
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Credits</b>
AMST 501 - Methods in American Studies	3
AMST 502 - Research in American Studies	3
400 Level Elective	3
Elective	6
Independent Study or Internship	5
Year Total:	20
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Credits</b>
AMST 590 - Master's Thesis	1-10
Elective	3
Independent Study or Internship	2
Year Total:	6-15
<b>Total Program Credits:</b>	<b>138-150</b>