

American Studies

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

Group Major Office: Division of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies, 231 Evans Hall, (510) 642-9320

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Group Major Website: American Studies (<http://ls.berkeley.edu/ugis/as>)

Group Major in American Studies

American Studies is an individualized interdisciplinary major that offers undergraduates a unique opportunity to take advantage of the depth and breadth of Americanist scholarship and research on the campus in order to explore and understand the United States and its place in the globalizing world. American Studies courses integrate a variety of subjects, methods, and materials from many academic disciplines, including the traditional blend of history and literature, as well as the social sciences, material culture, the built environment, law, technology, urbanism, ecology, economy, and the arts.

Prerequisites to the Major: In order to declare the major, students with less than 60 units must complete American Studies 10 and one other Lower Division Requirement. Students beyond 60 units must be enrolled in AS 10 and speak with a faculty advisor before being allowed to declare.

Lower Division Requirements: Students are required to take four lower-division courses relevant to the major. One of the four is American Studies 10, Introduction to American Studies (4 units). The other three may be chosen from among courses that focus on the culture and history of the United States, with no more than two courses from any one department. A minimum grade of "C" is required in all lower division courses taken for the major. For further information about particular courses that satisfy the lower division requirements, please contact the American Studies student academic advisor.

Upper Division Requirements: 30-36 units distributed among the following:

1. *Core Methods Courses.* (6-8 units) Students are required to take one course each from the two methods series, "Examining US Cultures in Time" and "Examining US Cultures in Place." See department listings for available courses every semester.
2. *Area of Concentration.* At least 20 units of upper division coursework drawn from the College of Letters and Science and the professional schools and colleges, in the student's individually articulated area of concentration. Areas of concentration may be highly individualized, depending on the student's intellectual focus, prior preparation, and the availability of courses. Therefore, students planning to declare the major should meet with a faculty advisor early in their junior year, at the latest, to plan their upper division program. Subsequently, this program can be revised only with the approval of the faculty advisor.
3. *Thesis Requirement.* All majors are required to enroll in an American Studies senior thesis seminar (4 units) in which they write a substantial research paper.

4. *Historical Requirement.* One of the courses taken to complete the American Studies major (either upper or lower division) must focus on US history, culture, and/or politics before 1900. Students should check with an American Studies student academic advisor to ensure that the course they take meets this requirement.

Honors Program

Students who wish to be eligible to graduate with honors must enroll in the honors thesis seminar, American Studies H195. For admission to H195, students must have senior standing, an overall GPA of 3.51, and a GPA of 3.65 in the major.

For further information, please contact the student academic advisor at 231 Evans Hall, (510) 642-9320, or amerstd@berkeley.edu.

AMERSTD 10 Introduction to American Studies 4 Units**Department:** American Studies**Course level:** Undergraduate**Terms course may be offered:** Fall, spring and summer**Grading:** Letter grade.**Hours and format:** 3 to 4 hours of lecture and zero to 1 hour of discussion per week.

American culture and cultural change, with attention to the multicultural basis of American society and emphasis on the need for multiple methods of analysis. The course will consistently draw on the arts, material culture, and various fields affecting cultural production and meaning. Those areas include literature, film, history, architecture, history of art, religion, music, engineering, environmental studies, anthropology, politics, economics, law, and medicine. This course may include discussion sections depending on available funding. Some versions of this course need four in-class contact hours because of the extensive use of media. Students will receive no credit for American Studies 10 after completing American Studies 10AC. A deficient grade in American Studies 10 may be removed by taking American Studies 10AC. Formerly known as Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Studies 10.

AMERSTD 10AC Introduction to American Studies 4 Units**Department:** American Studies**Course level:** Undergraduate**Terms course may be offered:** Fall and spring**Grading:** Letter grade.**Hours and format:** 3 hours of Lecture and 1 hour of Discussion per week for 15 weeks.

American culture and cultural change, with attention to the multicultural basis of American society and emphasis on the need for multiple methods of analysis. The course will consistently draw on the arts, material culture, and various fields affecting cultural production and meaning. Those areas include literature, film, history, architecture, history of art, religion, music, engineering, environmental studies, anthropology, politics, economics, law, and medicine.

Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

Students will receive no credit for 10AC after taking 10 or Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies 10. A deficient grade in American Studies 10 or Interdisciplinary Studies 10 may be removed by taking American Studies 10AC.

AMERSTD C10/L & S C40T Introduction to American Studies:**Hollywood: the Place, the Industry, the Fantasy 4 Units****Department:** American Studies; Letters and Science**Course level:** Undergraduate**Terms course may be offered:** Fall and spring**Grading:** Letter grade.**Hours and format:** 3 hours of Lecture and 1 hour of Discussion per week for 15 weeks.

This course will introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of American Studies, taking the "Hollywood Dream Factory" as the central theme. Focusing on both parts of that phrase, the course will proceed along a double path. We will examine the historical and geographical development of the motion picture industry from the rise of the studio system to the "new" entertainment economy of the 1980's and we will examine ways Hollywood is represented in literature and film.

Instructor: Moran

AMERSTD 24 Freshman Seminar 1 Unit**Department:** American Studies**Course level:** Undergraduate**Terms course may be offered:** Fall and spring**Grading:** Letter grade.**Hours and format:** 1 hour of Seminar per week for 15 weeks.

The Freshman Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty