

American Studies Minor

American Studies focuses on the power and the mythology connected with the symbol of “America.” When people use the term “America” or “American,” they are often talking about something much more than the people, institutions, geography, culture, or history of the United States. They are talking (positively or negatively) about a symbol that may represent divine intervention in human affairs, or colonialist, imperialist, commercial oppression of others.

American Studies is an examination of the construction of what citizens of the United States and of the world think or mean when they speak of “America” or “American.” It takes as its focus an investigation of the meaning of “America” from the perspective of the peoples who consider themselves (or are considered by others to be) central, peripheral, or excluded by that term. Inclusive of but more than an area study, American Studies is by definition inter- and cross-disciplinary, and minors are required to take courses offered by a variety of departments.

The American Studies minor consists of five courses:

UNIV 229	Introduction to American Studies (or approved replacement)	1
Select four of the following: ¹		4
ANTH 256	Anthropology of Native North America	
ECON 319	Economic History of Women in the United States	
EDUC 350	Higher Education in the United States	
ENGL 205	Early American Colonial Literature	
ENGL 206	Early American National Literature	
ENGL 207	American Romanticism 1800-1865	
ENGL 208	American Realism and Naturalism	
ENGL 209	Modern American Literature 1900-1950	
ENGL 212	Contemporary American Literature	
ENGL 213	Special Topics in American Literature	
ENGL 216	Studies in American Literary Genres	
ENGL 219	Studies in Selected American Authors	
ENGL 221	African-American Literature	
ENGL 301	Seminar in American Literature Topics	
ENGL 302	Seminar in Selected American Writers	
ENGL 305	Seminar in Early American Literature	
ENGL 307	Seminar in 19th-century American Literature	
ENGL 310	Seminar in Modern American Literature	
ENGL 311	Seminar in Contemporary American Literature	
ENGL 321	Seminar in African-American Literature	
ENST 207	American Environmental History	
HIST 111	Introduction to U.S. History I	
HIST 112	Introduction to U.S. History II	
HIST 113	Introduction to U.S. History III	
HIST 121	Introduction to African-American History I	
HIST 122	Introduction to African-American History II	
HIST 211	Frontiers and Borderlands	
HIST 214	Topics in American History	
HIST 217	American Colonial History	
HIST 218	African-Americans and the American Revolution	
HIST 219	Antebellum America	
HIST 220	American Civil War and Reconstruction	
HIST 221	U.S. History: 1880s to 1930s	
HIST 222	U.S. History from the 1940s to the Present	
HIST 223	Twentieth-century African-American History: Eyes on the Prize	
HIST 225	Topics in American Political and Economic History	
HIST 227	American Intellectual History I	
HIST 228	American Intellectual History II	

HIST 229	Topics in American Intellectual History
HIST 261	Twentieth-century Afro-Caribbean and African-American Thought
HIST 270	Science and Technology in US
HIST 271	Medicine in the US
HIST 310	U.S. History to 1865
HIST 311	U.S. History since 1865
HIST 312	American Social History
HIST 313	The American West
HIST 319	African-American History
HIST 320	American Labor History
HIST 321	American Immigrants
HIST 322	American Industrialization and Political Development
POLS 140	American Politics
POLS 240	The American Congress
POLS 243	The American Presidency
POLS 244	American Judicial Politics
POLS 246	Race Ethnicity and American Politics
POLS 261	Twentieth-century American Legal Thought
POLS 263	Race and Ethnicity in American Legal Thought
POLS 271	American Foreign Policy
POLS 272	U.S. National Security Policy
POLS 287	United States and the Middle East
POLS 370	Seminar in American Politics
RELI 180	Introduction to Religion in America
RELI 280	Religion and Constitutional Law
RELI 281	Religion and American Politics
RELI 315	Topics in American Religion
SOCI 140	American Culture and Society
SOCI 241	Marriages and Families in the 21st Century
SOCI 245	Remaking America: Latin American Immigration
SOCI 280	Twentieth-century Afro-Caribbean and African-American Thought
SOCI/WMST 328	Mating and Marrying in America
THEA 261	Inner Journey: Sam Shepard and American Theatre

Total Credits

5

¹ Or appropriate substitution approved by the program co-coordinator.

Minors may not take more than two courses in any one department, and may take no more than two at the 100 level.

Any changes or substitutions must be approved by one of the program's coordinators.

Faculty

Coordinator: John P. Enyeart