American Studies

Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW

The department of American studies at Saint Louis University is committed to excellence and originality in research, teaching and service. Faculty and graduate students work toward these goals by building strong mentoring relationships, by establishing dynamic and innovative classroom experiences, and by disseminating research through conferences, workshops, exhibits and publications.

M.A.:
The Master of Arts in American studies requires 30 credit hours and has two options for completing the degree: portfolio and thesis. The portfolio option is primarily intended for students interested in pursuing additional degrees, such as a second professional master's or a doctorate. The thesis option is primarily intended for students interested in terminating their graduate work at the master's level. Requirements include:
• ASTD 5000: Perspectives in American Studies
• Successful completion of first-year exam and one portfolio paper
• Thesis option only: successful completion of a thesis based in substantial original research and an oral defense
• Successful completion of an oral examination

Ph.D.:
The Doctor of Philosophy is the terminal research degree in American studies. A total of 54 credit hours of coursework beyond the B.A. degree, plus 12 credit hours of dissertation writing, is required. Students with M.A. degrees may be able to count much of their previous coursework toward the required 54 credit hours. Requirements include:
• ASTD 5000: Perspectives in American Studies
• ASTD 5900: The Practice of American Studies
• ASTD 6100: Dissertation Colloquium
• 4000-level course in foreign language translation, literature or translation examination
• Successful completion of first-year exam
• Successful completion of two portfolio papers (one of which is a literature review) and an oral examination
• Successful completion of a dissertation and a public oral defense

Career Paths:
Past graduates have gone on to careers in university teaching, law, educational administration, libraries, museum administration and public humanities.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

There are no prerequisite degree requirements for entry into the program.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Application form and fee
• Transcript(s)
• Three letters of recommendation
• GRE G scores
• Résumé
• Goal statement
• Writing sample
• Interview (strongly recommended)

DEGREES OFFERED

• Master of Arts (M.A.) in American Studies
• Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in American Studies

COURSES AVAILABLE

DAYS ☑ NIGHTS ☑ WEEKENDS ☐ ONLINE ☐

APPLICATION DEADLINE

FALL | Dec. 15
SPRING | N/A
SUMMER | N/A

Deadlines for assistantships are listed online.

CONTACT INFORMATION

American Studies Department

EMAIL | amstdies@slu.edu
PHONE | 314-977-2911
WEB | slu.edu/x24801.xml

ADMISSION CRITERIA

There are no prerequisite degree requirements for entry into the program.

August 2015
American Studies

Our distinguished faculty are trained specifically in the discipline. Most have earned their Ph.D.s in American studies and all have worked extensively in the field as scholars, teachers, curators or creative artists. Our time and effort as teaching faculty are focused on American studies students. At the same time, we enjoy productive and cordial relations with our colleagues in other departments who teach and conduct research in related fields. Students may take carefully selected courses in those departments, as students in other departments do in American studies.

We do not claim to study and teach everything in our huge field. The faculty is especially strong in several areas, including transnational American studies, visual culture and material culture studies, African-American literature, Southern history and culture, intellectual history, environmental history, museum studies, urban studies and postwar American culture. These specialties do not exhaust the range of faculty competence, but they give an idea of the unique character of this interdisciplinary field as practiced at Saint Louis University.

Heidi Ardizzone, Ph.D., American studies, University of Michigan
Racial identity and constructions of race and ethnicities, African-American history and culture, activism and protest movements, women's and gender history

Benjamin Looker, Ph.D., American studies, Yale University
Urban studies and history; jazz and other American musical forms; 20th century U.S. cultural, social and political history

Emily Lutenski, Ph.D., English, University of Michigan
20th century American literature (comparative ethnic literatures and cultures), gender and feminist studies, modernism, issues of space and place

Matthew Mancini, Ph.D., American studies, Emory University
American intellectual history, transatlantic political thought, American studies methods, the American South

Katherine Moran, Ph.D., History, Johns Hopkins University
Transnational American studies, intellectual history, religion

Cindy Ott, Ph.D., American civilization, University of Pennsylvania
Material culture studies, environmental history, food studies, American Indian studies, public history

All accepted applicants are considered for scholarships and assistantships.