American Studies

Matthew J. Mancini, Ph.D., Chair
http://www.slu.edu/x24804.xml

Faculty:
Heidi Ardizzone, Ph.D.
Benjamin J. Looker, Ph.D.
Emily Lutenski, Ph.D.
Katherine D. Moran, Ph.D.
Cynthia Ott, Ph.D.

The Department of American Studies balances rigorous training in the core theories of American Studies and systematic interdisciplinary study of the cultures of the United States with a flexible range of coursework and experiences tailored to individual students’ interests. The department offers programs of study leading to the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. In accordance with Arts and Sciences graduation requirements, students who pursue either a major or minor in American Studies must earn an overall 2.00 grade point average in all major and minor courses that are approved for completion of their degree program.

American Studies Major

Required American Studies Courses
ASTD 1000  Investigating America  3
Experiential Learning  3
Capstone Course  3

Experiential Learning
ASTD 4910  Internship  3
Or an American Studies course with a Service Learning designation.

Capstone Course
ASTD 4100  Senior Seminar  3

An additional 21 credits of American Studies coursework, or courses in other departments as approved by the student’s faculty mentor, are required. At least 12 of these credits must be fulfilled by courses in the Department of American Studies. These courses should cohere around a thematic or disciplinary emphasis. Thematic emphases may be organized around such topics as American identities, visual culture, religion, the American metropolis, political thought, or social movements. The disciplinary emphasis is organized around a field, such as history, international studies, literature, sociology, political science, theology, studio arts, or women’s studies.

Portfolio
Students majoring in American Studies build a portfolio that includes select research papers, exams, essays, creative work, internship and service reports, notices of awards and citations, evaluations, and the capstone project. Students build the portfolio over the course of the major in close consultation with their faculty mentor.

Capstone Project
This required project enables students to put forth their best scholarly and creative work as a capstone to the major. Students spend one semester planning, developing, completing, and presenting a senior thesis project in close consultation with the Senior Seminar instructor.

American Studies Minor

Students who complete the following courses may obtain a minor in American Studies.

Required Courses
ASTD 1000  Investigating America  3

And an additional 15 credits of American Studies coursework, or courses in other departments as approved by the student’s faculty mentor, are required.

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program (ABM)

The Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program (ABM) offers the opportunity for outstanding American Studies undergraduate majors to begin an M.A. program in their senior year, completing the M.A. with a full time fifth year of graduate study after their successful completion of both the first year requirements and their undergraduate degree and major. The American Studies major, like most humanities majors, requires thirty credits of coursework, and the M.A. a further thirty. By double-counting two courses, or six credits, for both degrees, and requiring at least one graduate course from American Studies or a closely related field in the summer, students earn the requisite thirty credits in only twelve to fourteen months after receiving their Bachelor's degree.