

American Studies BA

Overview

The **Bachelor of Arts in American Studies**, offered by the American Studies Program, is a broad-based interdisciplinary program that explores the rich complexity of American culture and American lives. Courses in the major focus on national myths and everyday realities, race and ethnicity, work, technology, media and popular culture, architecture and city planning, and the production and consumption of art forms like photography, film, dance, and music. In American Studies, though, we do not treat these topics as discrete categories, but instead explore their relationships to each other. For instance, we look at ideas about race and class embedded in national symbols and ideas. Through a variety of courses and in a mix of different categories, American Studies provides students with a deep understanding of the many forces and ideas shaping America over a long sweep of time in any number of places, the East, the West, in the heartland, and at the borders.

The program also offers student internship opportunities and other hands-on kinds of learning at a variety of cultural institutions in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley. American Studies courses are challenging and thought-provoking and many of them are cross-listed with the Temple University Honors Program. The major program stresses development of reading, writing and analytical skills that are necessary for successful careers in a range of professional fields.

American Studies majors go on to graduate school in the humanities and social sciences, law school, and medical school. They also may take jobs in schools, non-profit organizations, museums, libraries, business, social services, public relations, and the media.

Campus Location: Main

Program Code: LA-AMST-BA

Distinction in Major

American Studies majors may graduate with distinction in the major if they have a GPA of at least 3.5 in the major and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

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Learn more about the Bachelor of Arts in American Studies.

These requirements are for students who matriculated in academic year 2023-2024. Students who matriculated prior to fall 2023 should refer to the Archives to view the requirements for their Bulletin year.

Summary of Degree Requirements

University Requirements

- MATH 0701 (4 s.h.) and/or ENG 0701 (4 s.h.), if required by placement testing.
- All Temple students must take a minimum of two writing-intensive courses as part of the major. The specific courses required for this major are: AMST 2098, and AMST 4097 (or AMST 4098 with permission).
- Students must complete requirements of the General Education (GenEd) Program. See the General Education section of the *Undergraduate Bulletin* for more details.

College of Liberal Arts Requirements

- Completion of a minimum of 123 credits, including:
 - 90 credits in CLA/CST courses;
 - 45 credits of which must be at the upper level (numbered 2000-4999).
 - For **Social Science majors**, 6 upper level credits (numbered 2000-4999) must be taken in Humanities Subject Areas: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek (Ancient), Greek and Roman Classics, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Philosophy, Religion,

Russian, and Spanish in the College of Liberal Arts, Art History in the Tyler School of Art and Architecture, or any department in the College of Science and Technology.

- A minimum GPA of 2.0, cumulatively, in CLA/CST coursework, and in the major.
- Only courses in which a student receives a grade of at least C- can satisfy GenEd, major, minor, or CLA Foreign Language and Global Studies requirements.
- **Professional Development Requirement**
 - All students in the College of Liberal Arts are required to take a 1 credit seminar in professional development. CLA 1002 Professional Development for Liberal Arts Majors is the appropriate course option for this major. Other courses that fulfill this requirement may be found on the CLA College Requirements page. Only one course in this category may count towards graduation.
- **Foreign Language/Global Studies Requirements:**
 - All students must complete or test out of the first and second levels of a foreign language - these courses are numbered 1001 and 1002;
 - All students must complete at least one course from the GenEd Global/World Society category; and
 - All Bachelor of Arts students must complete one of the following options:
 - Third semester of a foreign language;
 - Demonstrated proficiency beyond the third semester in a foreign language (placement exam or certification from the language department);
 - Take one Global Studies course from the list on the CLA College Requirements page;
 - Study Abroad at an approved program; or
 - Take a second General Education Global/World Society course.
- **Notes on Foreign Language Study**
 - The third level of language is numbered 1003 in French, Spanish, and Portuguese and numbered 2001 in all other foreign language subjects.
 - Students are strongly encouraged to take the third level of a foreign language as it is the minimum required for election to the prestigious honor society *Phi Beta Kappa*. (Taking the course does not guarantee admission but not taking it guarantees exclusion.)
 - See the College of Liberal Arts Policies section of this *Bulletin* for more information on the Foreign Language Placement, Regression in Coursework, and guidelines for students' other experiences with language.

General Electives are typically one-third of a student's program of study and can be focused on a second major, a minor, or towards some other personal enrichment or professional goals. See an academic advisor for assistance in developing an academic plan for these courses.

Major Requirements (39 credits)

| Code | Title | Credit Hours |
|--|---|--------------|
| Core Courses | | |
| Must complete five courses, one from each group below: | | |
| American Biography and Work | | 3 |
| AMST 1042 | Work in America | |
| American Culture | | 3 |
| AMST 2011 | The Arts in America | |
| AMST 2012 | American Things: Introduction to Material Culture | |
| AMST 2022 | Museums and American Culture | |
| AMST 2120/2900 | Topics in American Culture ¹ | |
| AMST 3011 | Photography in America | |
| AMST 3012 | Film and American Society | |
| Place in American Life | | 3 |
| AMST 2001 | Tourism in America | |
| AMST 2021 | Philadelphia Neighborhoods | |
| AMST 2051/2951 | American Places: Home, City, Region | |
| AMST 2120/2900 | Topics in American Culture ¹ | |
| AMST 3022 | Architecture, Urban Design, and American Culture | |
| AMST 3051 | American Frontiers | |
| AMST 3061 | Media and American Popular Culture | |
| Diversity in America | | 3 |
| Select one course in consultation with your advisor. | | |
| Change in America | | 3 |

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|---|---|-----------|
| AMST 2031 | Radicalism in the United States | |
| AMST 2041 | Technology and American Culture | |
| AMST 2065 | Global America | |
| AMST 2120/2900 | Topics in American Culture ¹ | |
| AMST 3031/3931 | Political Protest and Culture in the '60s | |
| AMST 3032 | Literature and Political Change | |
| AMST 3033 | Courtroom in American Society | |
| AMST 3041 | Contemporary Trends in the American Workplace | |
| AMST 3075 | Literature of American Slavery | |
| Additional Courses | | |
| Select three American Studies 2000-4999 Electives ² | | 9 |
| Three American-Focused Electives from Related Disciplines, numbered 1000+. ³ | | 9 |
| Writing Intensive Courses | | |
| AMST 2098 | Reading Culture | 3 |
| AMST 4097 | Senior Seminar in American Studies ⁴ | 3 |
| or AMST 4098 | Senior Independent Study | |
| Total Credit Hours | | 39 |

1

Specific subjects change each semester. See class schedule for information on a particular offering. AMST 2120 may meet one or more of the above requirements with permission of the director.

2

These can include choices from the American Studies core courses as well as choices from all other American Studies courses.

3

Students must take at least three courses outside of the major selected in consultation with the American Studies director and congruent with an American Studies focus. We recommend that at least 6 of these credits be in American history or literature.

4

Students must take the Senior Seminar in their final year of study (usually offered in Fall semester). Only in rare circumstances and with special permission can students satisfy the capstone by taking AMST 4098.

Suggested Academic Plan

Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

Suggested Plan for New Students Starting in the 2023-2024 Academic Year

| Year 1 | | Credit Hours |
|--|--|--------------|
| Fall | | |
| ENG 0802 | Analytical Reading and Writing | 4 |
| or ENG 0812 | or Analytical Reading and Writing: ESL | |
| or ENG 0902 | or Honors Writing About Literature | |
| GenEd Quantitative Literacy Course ^{GQ} | | 4 |
| Foreign Language 1001 - first level | | 4 |
| GenEd Breadth Course | | 3 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Spring | | |
| IH 0851 | Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life | 3 |
| or IH 0951 | or Honors Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life | |
| Foreign Language 1002 - second level | | 4 |
| GenEd Breadth Course | | 3 |
| GenEd Breadth Course | | 3 |
| AMST 1042 | Work in America | 3 |
| Credit Hours | | 16 |

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|---|--|-----------|
| Year 2 | | |
| Fall | | |
| IH 0852 or IH 0952 | Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good or Honors Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good | 3 |
| GenEd Breadth Course | | 3 |
| AMST 2098 | Reading Culture | 3 |
| American Studies 2000+ American Culture Course from approved list | | 3 |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| Foreign Language - third level | | |
| GenEd Global/World Society course | | |
| Internationally Focused Course from approved list | | |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Spring | | |
| GenEd Breadth Course | | 3-4 |
| GenEd Breadth Course | | 3 |
| GenEd Breadth Course | | 3 |
| American Studies 2000+ Diversity in America - Consult Advisor for options | | 3 |
| American Studies 2000+ Place in American Life Course from approved list | | 3 |
| CLA 1002 | Professional Development for Liberal Arts Majors | 1 |
| Credit Hours | | 16 |
| Year 3 | | |
| Fall | | |
| CLA/CST 2000+ Humanities/CST Course | | 3 |
| American Studies 2000+ Change in America Course from approved list | | 3 |
| American Studies 2000-4999 American Studies Elective | | 3 |
| American-Focused Elective 1000+ from Related Discipline ¹ | | 3 |
| CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective | | 3 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Spring | | |
| CLA/CST 2000+ Humanities/CST Course | | 3 |
| American Studies 2000-4999 Elective | | 3 |
| American Studies 2000-4999 Elective | | 3 |
| CLA/CST 2000+ Course | | 3 |
| CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective | | 2 |
| One 0800-4999 Elective in Any School or College | | 2 |
| Credit Hours | | 16 |
| Year 4 | | |
| Fall | | |
| American-Focused Elective 1000+ from Related Discipline ¹ | | 3 |
| AMST 4097 or AMST 4098 | Senior Seminar in American Studies ² or Senior Independent Study | 3 |
| CLA/CST 2000+ Course | | 3 |
| CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective | | 3 |
| CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective | | 3 |
| Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Spring | | |
| American-Focused Elective 1000+ from Related Discipline ¹ | | 3 |
| CLA/CST 2000+ Course | | 3 |
| CLA/CST 2000+ Course | | 3 |
| CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective | | 3 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| One 0800-4999 Elective in Any School or College | 3 |
| Credit Hours | 15 |
| Total Credit Hours | 123 |

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Choose this course with the American Studies Director.

2

Students must take AMST 4097 (usually offered in fall semester) in their final year of study. Only in rare circumstances and with special permission can students satisfy the capstone by taking AMST 4098.