Program

BA in American Studies
Minor in American Studies

American Studies is a multidisciplinary major that examines the American experience in all its rich diversity. It includes the study of American history, literature, and arts and the country’s social, economic, political, and philosophical development. As an interdisciplinary major, it crosses the boundaries of several disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, yet depends on the subject matter, insights, and techniques from those disciplines to help students understand the complex social, political, and cultural American experience.

American Studies offers students, in consultation with an adviser, the opportunity to design an individual course of study which is clearly coordinated with their future plans. The major requires 24 units of core courses in American literature, history, and cultural study. The core courses are followed by 12 units, chosen by the student, for in-depth study of themes, areas, or aspects of American culture.

Because of the multidisciplinary character of American Studies, most students easily complete at least one minor in one of the allied disciplines, and many graduate with a double major. For example, previous students have double-majored in history or political science or have minored in English, history, or anthropology. Students also use electives to pick up courses in communications, computer science, and business. Upper-division majors have the opportunity of gaining on-the-job experience by applying for internships in such fields as journalism, radio and television, historical research, and public relations. This flexibility is one of the advantages of American Studies. The goals and career plans of our students are diverse.

Faculty

American studies faculty are chosen from the academic departments participating in the program. These faculty, selected for their understanding of American culture, will help you widen your interdisciplinary perspectives. Because American Studies is an interdepartmental major, you have the opportunity of studying with top scholars from across campus.

Career Outlook

American Studies graduates have a number of advantages in the job market. In addition to having a broadly based liberal education, they read and think critically, synthesize information insightfully, and write fluently. These are qualities that every employer looks for in job applicants.

Moreover, with their broad background, American Studies graduates are also flexible and versatile, so they find jobs everywhere. Our graduates have gone into business and banking, industry, teaching, government, museum work, law, public services, and the media.

Although you may not apply your American Studies course work directly on the job, you will have the advantage of a humanities/social science background and rigorous intellectual training. In every career, knowledge of American society will be of use.

As you think about choice of a major, remember that your college degree should be more than a vocational certificate. In a few years you may well be working in a career that is just being created today. You’ll learn work skills on the job, but you’ll get your intellectual experience here.
THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES

Total Course Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree: 120 units

See "Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree" in The University Catalog for complete details on general degree requirements. A minimum of 48 units, including those required for the major, must be upper division.

A suggested Major Academic Plan (MAP) has been prepared to help students meet all graduation requirements within four years. Please request a plan from your major adviser or view it and other current advising information on the CSU, Chico Web.

General Education Requirements: 48 units

See "General Education Requirements" in The University Catalog and The Class Schedule for the most current information on General Education Requirements and course offerings. The course requirements marked below with an asterisk (*) may also be applied toward General Education.

Cultural Diversity Course Requirements: 6 units

See "Cultural Diversity" in The University Catalog. Most courses taken to satisfy these requirements may also apply to General Education.

American Institutions Requirement: 6 units

See the "American Institutions Requirement" under "Bachelor's Degree Requirements." This requirement is normally fulfilled by completing HIST 130 and POLS 155. Courses used to satisfy this requirement do not apply to General Education.

Literacy Requirement:

See "Mathematics and Writing Requirements" in The University Catalog. For the semester in which you take the course, students who earn a grade of C- or better before you may register for a WP course.

Prerequisites:

ENGL 107 English Composition 3.0 FA
ENGL 130 English Composition 3.0 FA

COURSES REQUIRED OF ALL CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE

Total Course Requirements

American Studies

DEGREE CORE PROGRAM: 24 units

5 courses required:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 150</td>
<td>Intro to American Studies</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>FS *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 264</td>
<td>Amer Ethnic/Regional Writers</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>FA *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 335</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
<td>FS *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>American Lives</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>FA *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 365</td>
<td>American Folklore</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>WP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 440</td>
<td>American Thought and Character</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Inq</td>
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2 courses selected from:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 322</td>
<td>Religion and American Society</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>FS</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMST 435</td>
<td>Historical Geog of North Amer</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>FS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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ELECTIVES: 12 units

4 courses selected from:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 303</td>
<td>Survey of American Film</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>SP</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 451</td>
<td>Modern Poetry</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>FS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 453</td>
<td>Modern Drama</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>FS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 457</td>
<td>The American Novel</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>FS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prerequisites:

ENGL 340, ENGL 358.

ENGL 458 Amer Lit: Beginning to 1850s 3.0 FS
Prerequisites: ENGL 340, ENGL 358.

ENGL 459 Amer Literature: 1850s-1945 3.0 FS
Prerequisites: ENGL 340, ENGL 359.

ENGL 460 Amer Literature: 1945-Present 3.0 FS
Prerequisites: ENGL 340, ENGL 359.

ENGL 462 Study in Major Amer Authors 3.0 FS
Prerequisites: ENGL 340, ENGL 358 or ENGL 359.

ENGL 465 American Literary Topics 3.0 FS

COMMUNICATION/JOURNALISM

CMST 424 Public Opinion and Propaganda 3.0 FS
Prerequisites: CMST 131, CMST 233, CMST 331, and CMST 354, or CMST 255, or CMST 370 with a grade of C- or higher.

This course is also offered as JOUR 424 and POLS 424.

CMST 457 Adv Study of Public Address 3.0 FA
Prerequisites: CMST 131, CMST 233, CMST 331, and CMST 255 or CMST 354 with a grade of C- or higher.

JOUR 310 Entertain/Media/Ammer Culture 3.0 FS *
Prerequisites: ENGL 130.

JOUR 311 Women/Men/Media 3.0 SP *

This course is also offered as WMST 311.

JOUR 322 History of American Journalism 3.0 FA
Prerequisites: JOUR 260.

MULTICULTURAL AND GENDER STUDIES

AIST 325 Worldviews of American Indians 3.0 Inq Eth
This course is also offered as RELS 325.

AFAM 455 Sociology of African Americans 3.0 SP
Prerequisites: AFAM 170 or SOCI 100.

This course is also offered as SOCI 455.

CHST 358 Chicanos Contemporary Society 3.0 FA Eth
This course is also offered as SOCI 358.

MCGS 327 Poltics of Race/Ethnicity in US 3.0 FS Eth
This course is also offered as POLS 327.

FINE ARTS

ARTS 403 American Art History 3.0 FS
Prerequisites: ARTS 101 and ARTS 102 for Art majors.

ARTS 412 American Indian Art 3.0 Inq
Prerequisites: ARTS 101 and ARTS 102 for art majors.

ARTS 416 California Art 3.0 FS
Prerequisites: ARTS 101 and ARTS 102 for art majors.

MUSC 291 American Music 3.0 FS *

MUSC 293 History of Jazz 3.0 SP *

MUSC 296 African American Music 3.0 FS * Eth
This course is also offered as AFAM 296.

HISTORY

HIST 230 The American Indian 3.0 FS * Eth
This course is also offered as AIST 230.

HIST 234 Mexican Heritage to 1848 3.0 FA Eth
This course is also offered as CHST 234.

HIST 332 American Ethnic Origins 3.0 FS * Eth
This course is also offered as MCGS 332.

HIST 335 Women/Gender in Amer History 3.0 Inq *
This course is also offered as WMST 335.

HIST 340 Working in America 3.0 Inq
This course is also offered as AMST 340.

HIST 341 American Environment 3.0 SP * Eth

HIST 342 Education in America 3.0 FS

HIST 343 Technology & Sci in America 3.0 F2

This course is also offered as AMST 343.

HIST 350 America's Vietnam Experience 3.0 FA *

HIST 351 America in the 1960s 3.0 SP

HIST 430 Colonial America 3.0 FA

HIST 431 American Revolution 3.0 SP

HIST 432 Age of Jefferson and Jackson 3.0 FA

HIST 433 Civil War and Reconstruction 3.0 FA

HIST 434 Emergence of Modern America 3.0 FA

HIST 435 The US in Age of the Wild Wars 3.0 FA

HIST 436 Hiroshima to Watergate 3.0 SP

HIST 437 From Watergate to the Present 3.0 SP

HIST 440 American Thought and Character 3.0 Inq

This course is also offered as AMST 440.

HIST 441 American Social History 3.0 FA

HIST 450 U.S. Foreign Rel to 1914 3.0 FA

HIST 451 U.S. Foreign Rel Since 1914 3.0 SP

HIST 442 Westward Movement 3.0 FA

HIST 445 History of California 3.0 FS

HIST 455 Issues Tech, Science, Medicine 3.0 SI
### American Studies

#### American Studies Advisory Faculty
- **Michael J. Gillis**, 1983, MA, CSU Chico, History.
- **Andrea Lerner**, 1991, PhD, U Arizona, English.
- **Dale Steiner**, 1974, PhD, U Virginia, History.

#### American Studies Course Offerings

Please see the section on “Course Description Symbols and Terms” in The University Catalog for an explanation of course description terminology and symbols, the course numbering system, and course credit units. All courses are lecture and discussion and employ letter grading unless otherwise stated. Some prerequisites may be waived with faculty permission. Many syllabi are available on the Chico Web.

**AMST 150 Introduction to American Studies** 3.0 Fa/Spr
Basic course in American Studies. An interdisciplinary study of major aspects of American character and values from the colonial period to the twentieth century focusing on those characteristics and ideas which have helped define us as “American.” This is an approved General Education course. Formerly AMST 050.

**AMST 264 American Ethnic and Regional Writers** 3.0 Fall
An interdisciplinary study of the culture and literature — oral and written — of an American ethnic group or groups, with emphasis on ties to particular regions and traditions. This is an approved General Education course. This is an approved Ethnic course. Formerly AMST 170. This course is also offered as ENGL 265.

**AMST 322 Religion and American Society** 3.0 Fa/Spr
This course surveys the history of labor and work (paid and unpaid) in America from the colonial era to the present. It examines topics and interpretations representing the “old” and the “new” labor history in the context of America’s industrial, economic, political, social, and cultural development. Formerly AMST 138. This course is also offered as HIST 340.

**AMST 335 American Popular Culture** 3.0 Fa/Spr
Interdisciplinary study of American popular culture from an historical/cultural perspective, with particular emphasis on how popular culture is both created and consumed and on how it affects and reflects contemporary American society. This is an approved General Education course. Formerly AMST 135.

**AMST 340 Working in America** 3.0 Inquire
This course surveys the history of labor and work (paid and unpaid) in America from the colonial era to the present. It examines topics and interpretations representing the “old” and the “new” labor history in the context of America’s industrial, economic, political, social, and cultural development. Formerly AMST 138. This course is also offered as HIST 340.

**AMST 343 Technology and Science in America** 3.0 EvnFa
This course explores the origins and significance of technological and scientific ideas, developments, and artifacts in American history from the colonial era to the present, viewing technology and science as social and cultural phenomena. An emphasis is placed on the social, cultural, political, and economic impact of technology and science in American history. Formerly AMST 155. This course is also offered as HIST 343.

**AMST 345 American Lives** 3.0 Fall
An interdisciplinary study of autobiographical literature (personal narratives, diaries, journals, etc.) emphasizing the experience of being/becoming American. Formerly AMST 150.

**AMST 365 American Folklore** 3.0 Fall
An interdisciplinary study of the language, themes, and forms of the American folk, from myths and legends to folktales, foodways, and festivals. This is a writing proficiency, WP, course; a grade of C- or better certifies writing proficiency for majors. Formerly AMST 165.

**AMST 398 Special Topics** 1.0-3.0 Fa/Spr
This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See The Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. Formerly AMST 198.

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### Electives Requirement:
To complete the total units required for the bachelor’s degree, select additional elective courses from the total university offerings. You should consult with an adviser regarding the selection of courses which will provide breadth to your university experience and possibly apply to a supportive second major or minor.

### Grading Requirement:
All courses taken to fulfill major course requirements must be taken for a letter grade except those courses specified by the department as Credit/No Credit grading only.

### Advising Requirement:
Advising is mandatory for all majors in this degree program. Consult your undergraduate adviser for specific information.

### THE MINOR IN AMERICAN STUDIES

#### Course Requirements for the Minor: 21 units
The following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, are required of all candidates for this minor.

##### 1 course required:

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<td>AMST 365</td>
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<td>3.0 FA WP</td>
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Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher.

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##### 3 courses selected from:

The approved list of courses for the major. These courses must be selected in consultation with the American Studies adviser, developing a common problem or theme for study.

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### HUMANITIES

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### SOCIAL SCIENCES

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 365</td>
<td>American Folklore</td>
<td>3.0 FA WP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher.

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### American Studies

- Robert Cottrell, 1984, PhD, U Oklahoma, Norman, History.
- Dale Steiner, 1974, PhD, U Virginia, History.
AMST 399 Special Problems 1.0-3.0 Fa/Spr
Prerequisites: Faculty permission.
This course is an independent study of special problems and is offered for 1.0-3.0 units. A special research project in American culture designed by the student in cooperation with the faculty adviser at the beginning of the semester and concluded within that same semester. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 6.0 units. Credit/no credit grading only. Formerly AMST 199.

AMST 435 Historical Geography of North America 3.0 Fa/Spr
Prerequisites: Faculty permission.
A regional and topical description of North America at selected time periods, including cultural groups, land tenure systems, settlement patterns, agriculture, exploration and mapping, resource use, urbanization, population and migrations, and present-day results. Formerly AMST 235. This course is also offered as GEOG 435.

AMST 440 American Thought and Character 3.0 Inquire
Significant ideas in American history, 1607 to present; the influence of Puritanism, the Enlightenment, Romanticism, and modern science upon American character and society. Formerly AMST 240. This course is also offered as HIST 440.

AMST 498 Special Topics 1.0-3.0 Fa/Spr
This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See The Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. Formerly AMST 298.