



**Program**  
**BA in American Studies**  
**Minor in American Studies**

**Note: Admission to the BA in American Studies is currently suspended. Please contact the College of Humanities and Fine Arts to learn the current status of the program.**

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 advisor, 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 the 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.



## American Studies

College of Humanities and Fine Arts  
 Dean: Joel Zimbelman

**American Studies Program**  
**Performing Arts Center 109**  
**530-898-5351**

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## The Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

Admissions to the BA in American Studies and the Minor in American Studies is currently suspended. Please contact the College of Humanities and Fine Arts to learn the current status of these programs.

## The Minor in American Studies

Admissions to the BA in American Studies and Minor in American Studies is currently suspended. Please contact the College of Humanities and Fine Arts to learn the current status of the program.

If you wish to see the course requirements for the suspended academic programs, please refer to the 2007-2009 University Catalog or contact the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

### American Studies Advisory Faculty

**Robert Cottrell**, 1984, PhD, U Oklahoma, Norman, History.

**Andrea Lerner**, 1991, PhD, U Arizona, English.

**Dale Steiner**, 1974, PhD, U Virginia, History.

**Aiping Zhang**, 1993, PhD, Harvard U, English.

### 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. (000399)

#### 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 US Diversity course. This course is also offered as ENGL 264. (000408)

#### AMST 322 Religion in America 3.0 Fall

An introduction to the variety of religious expressions in the history of the United States. The course explores the impact of religion on American society and examines how religion has shaped and been shaped by American ideals, values, and institutions. Topics include the interplay of European and indigenous religious traditions, religious freedom, the historical roots of religious trends such as pluralism and fundamentalism, and the contributions of ethnic minorities to the contemporary religious landscape. This course is also offered as RELS 322. (000405)

#### 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. (000402)

#### 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. This course is also offered as HIST 340. (000403)

#### AMST 343 Technology and Science in America 3.0 EvtFa

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. This course is also offered as HIST 343. (000407)

#### 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, with particular attention to ethnic identity, race, gender, and social class. This is an approved General Education course. (000404)

#### AMST 365 American Folklore 3.0 Fall

Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher. 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. (000400)

#### 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. (000410)

#### 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 advisor 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. (000411)

#### 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. This course is also offered as GEOG 435. (000412)

#### AMST 440 American Thought and Character 3.0 Inquire

Significant ideas in American history, 1607 to the present; the influence of Puritanism, the Enlightenment, Romanticism, and modern science upon American character and society. This course is also offered as HIST 440. (000413)

#### 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. (000415)