American Studies

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American Studies is the graduate home for cutting edge work that crosses the humanities and social sciences. At the turn of the twenty-first century, this field provides a capacious site for the study of gender, religion, race, and related vectors of culture in the Americas, understood broadly and transnationally. Applying cultural and social thought to such matters as citizenship, democracy, community, poverty and prosperity, politics, popular culture, and identity in this region makes American Studies an intellectually sophisticated yet practical course of graduate study, one that can also be combined with community-based work, bringing theory and praxis together.

Assistant Professor. Christopher Mark Driscoll, PHD (Rice University)

M.A. IN AMERICAN STUDIES

A Master of Arts degree in American Studies is offered in the College of Arts and Sciences. Candidates for the master’s degree must complete at least 30 credit hours, 18 of which must be at the 400 level.

AMST 400 Methods Course  3
AMST 490 Master’s Thesis  6
Concentration/Track  12
  Environmental Policy Design (EPD)  4, 5, 6
  Gender & Sexuality (WGSS)  4, 7
  Race & Ethnicity (AAS)  4, 8
  Culture & Ideas  9
  Documentary Film  4, 10
Customized Concentration  Free Electives  11
  3-6

1 Choose one or two methods courses in consultation with advisor/mentor. Individualized option is available but student must propose their track with a rationale that will be approved by their advisor and the director.
2 Graduate certificate available. (http://catalog.lehigh.edu/coursesprogramsandcurricula/interdisciplinarygraduatestudyandresearch/graduatescertificates)
3 EPD offers Graduate Certificates in Urban Environmental Policy and Planning, Sustainable Development, and Environmental Law and Policy. (http://catalog.lehigh.edu/coursesprogramsandcurricula/artsandsciences/environmentalinitiative/graduatescertificates)
4 Sample courses include HIST 448 Land Use, Growth Management, and the Politics of Sprawl; SOC 421 Information Ecology; ANTH 352 Environmental Archaeology; ES 431 U.S. Environmental Law I: Pollution and Risk Abatement.
5 Sample courses include WGSS 458 Readings in Gender History; WGSS 450 Seminar in Feminist Theory; SOC 351 Gender and Social Change; WGSS 441 Women and Health.
6 Sample courses include HIST 332 Slavery and the American South; SOC 465 Inequalities at Work; HIST 367 Rise and Fall of the Old South; SOC 379 Race and Class in America.
7 Sample courses include SOC 402 Sociology of Cyberspace; ANTH 376 Culture and the Individual; HIST 328 American Intellectual History since 1900; POLS 435 Power, Persuasion and the American Presidency.
8 Sample courses include HIST 438 Techniques in Public History; HIST 305 Public History; HIST 337 History and Community Memory; AMST 425 Community Study Through Documentary Film; AMST 433 Documentary Film Production.
9 To fulfill the thesis requirement students will write a long work of scholarship or two shorter papers, or create a documentary film.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DOCUMENTARY FILM

Designed to augment social science and humanities graduate students’ education and training for employment inside and outside of the academy, this certificate program covers 1) the historical development and distinctive attributes of documentary film, including the genre’s impressive capacity for drawing large viewerships and, with that, communicating research-based knowledge to general publics; and 2) the production of documentary text—from conceiving of a topic and "storyboarding" a narrative; to taking interviews; to composing and filming a variety of shots; and to editing visual and audio material into final digital form.

The program broadly defines documentary film to facilitate understanding and production of texts from Youtube-like social media to feature-length theatrically-released films.

Completion of 12 credits, no more than 6 credits at the 300-level.

AMST 425 Community Study Through Documentary Film  3
AMST 433 Documentary Film Production  3

Two courses in consultation with Graduate Certificate Director; possible courses include:

  HIST 438 Techniques in Public History
  HIST 305 Public History
  HIST 336 Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley
  HIST 337 History and Community Memory
  JOUR 325 Seminar in Journalism and Communication Issues

Total Credits  12

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN AFRICANA STUDIES

A Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies is offered in the College of Arts and Sciences. Candidates for the certificate must complete 12 credit hours (4 courses) at the 300-level or above, with no more than 6 credits at the 300-level.
The Graduate Certificate in AAS is designed as a complement to a graduate program (e.g., English, History, Sociology, American Studies, Political Science) or as a standalone post-baccalaureate course of study. The Certificate is a small, flexible program that provides students with breadth and the challenge of working outside their home discipline in concentrated interdisciplinary study of Africana Studies. In recognition of contemporary educational and employment contexts that are increasingly diverse and international, the AAS Program offers the graduate certificate as a means to enrich academic, personal, and employment horizons.

**4 courses from the list below at the 300-level or above**

**COURSES**

Additional courses may be chosen in consultation with the program director.

- AAS/SOC/WGSS 310 Gender, Race and Sexuality: The Social Construction of Differences
- AAS/FREN 312 Modernity in the Maghreb
- AAS/SOC 313 Keep the Change: Social Movements in Society
- AAS/HMS/SOC/GS 314 Infections and Inequalities: HIV, TB and Malaria in the Global South
- AAS/ENGL 318 African-American Literature and Culture
- AAS/ANTH/GS 324 Globalization and Development in Africa
- AAS/HIST 330 Africans and the Atlantic World
- AAS/HIST 331 United States and Africa
- AAS/HIST 332 Slavery and the American South
- AAS/HIST 335 Special Topics in African History and/or Diaspora
- AAS 339 Special Topics in Africana Studies
- AAS/ASIA/HIST 341 Global Africa: Aid, Volunteerism, NGO's and International Studies
- AAS/ASIA/GS/POLS 343 Global Politics of Race: Asia and Africa
- AAS/SOC 345 Colonialism and the Black Radical Tradition
- AAS/COMM 375 Global Media and Culture
- AAS/COMM/WGSS 376 New Media, Race and Gender
- AAS 376/SOC 379 New Media, Race and Gender
- AAS 382 Seminar on a topic in Africana Studies
- AAS 391 Special Topics in Africana Studies
- HIST 367 Rise and Fall of the Old South
- POLS 430 Social Movements From the 1960s to Present
- POLS 443 Global Politics of Race: Asia and Africa
- SOC/WGSS 365/SOC 465/WGSS 465 Inequalities at Work
- SOC 374 Social Stratification: Race, Class, and Gender
- SOC 443 Race, Ethnicity, and Health

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING**

The Certificate is a small, flexible program that provides students with breadth and the challenge of working outside their home discipline in concentrated interdisciplinary study of Africana Studies. In recognition of contemporary educational and employment contexts that are increasingly diverse and international, the AAS Program offers the graduate certificate as a means to enrich academic, personal, and employment horizons. A certificate in WGSS will be especially beneficial to those who wish to incorporate a broader perspective into their teaching (either in secondary or higher education), and qualifies them for positions that require such expertise. Additionally, individuals interested in fields such as social policy, human resources, and business will also gain from understanding how gender operates at individual, organizational, and institutional levels. Students will work closely with outstanding faculty from diverse disciplinary backgrounds.

**WGSS 450 Seminar in Feminist Theory**

Select three additional courses

- Total Credits: 12
- 1. 2 courses outside home department (for matriculating students)
- 2. No more than 6 credits at the 300-level

Refer to Women, Gender and Sexuality catalog entry (http://catalog.lehigh.edu/coursesprogramsandcurricula/artsandsciences/womengenderandsexualitystudies/#courseinventory) for course listing.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**COURSES**

Additional courses selected in consultation with the program adviser may fulfill program requirements. No more than 6 credits can be taken at the 300-level.

- AAS/SOC 404 Socio-cultural Foundations of Environmental Policy Design
- ES/SOC 404 Socio-cultural Foundations of Environmental Policy Design
- ES/POLS 412 Urban Environmental Policy Workshop
- ES/POLS 414 Urban Agriculture Policy, Planning and Practice
- ES/POLS 455 Environmental Justice & The Law
- POLS 348 Land Use, Growth Management, and the Politics of Sprawl
- POLS 416 American Environmental Policy

Total Credits: 12

1. Additional courses selected in consultation with the program adviser may fulfill program requirements. No more than 6 credits can be taken at the 300-level.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN WOMEN, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES**

The Graduate Certificate in WGSS is designed as a complement to a disciplinary graduate program or as a standalone post-baccalaureate course of study. The Certificate is a small, flexible program that provides students with breadth and the challenge of working outside their home discipline in concentrated interdisciplinary study of women and gender. In recognition of contemporary educational and employment contexts that are increasingly diverse and international, the WGSS Program offers the graduate certificate as a means to enrich academic, personal, and employment horizons. A certificate in
Additional courses selected in consultation with the program adviser may fulfill program requirements. No more than 6 credits can be taken at the 300 level.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY**

**Core Course**
- ES 401 Philosophical-Policy and Environmental Legal Design
- or ES 404 Socio-cultural Foundations of Environmental Policy Design

**Elective Courses**
Select any three of the following:
- ES/POLS 411 Environmental Valuation for Policy Design
- ES/POLS 431 U.S. Environmental Law I: Pollution and Risk Abatement
- ES 433/333 International Environmental Law & Policy
- ES 442 International Law and Policy Design
- ES 443 Comparative Environmental Law & Policy
- ES/POLS 455 Environmental Justice & The Law
- ES/POLS 475 Seminar: Green Polity
- POLS 416 American Environmental Policy
- POLS 468 Political Economy

**Total Credits** 12

**Courses**

**AMST 347 (PHIL 347, REL 347) American Religious Thinkers 3-4 Credits**
An examination of the writings of key figures in the history of American religious thought (such as Edwards, Emerson, Bushnell, Peirce, James, Royce, Dewey and the Niebuhrs). Attention will be directed both to the historical reception of these writings and to their contemporary significance.

**AMST 400 American Studies: Theory and Method 3 Credits**
An introduction to the theoretical orientations and methodological strategies of American Studies. Seminar involves extensive reading as well as application of theory and method to students’ research.

**AMST 401 Special Topics in American Studies 1-3 Credits**
Graduate seminar focused on one particular subject area in American Culture.

**AMST 402 Independent Study 3 Credits**
Individually supervised course in the area of American Culture. Consent of the program director required.

**AMST 425 Community Study Through Documentary Film 3 Credits**
This course examines documentary film and its power to interpret and represent our contemporary world and its past. An exploration of the genre’s origins and its development into a powerful medium for public history and protest, this course will focus on documentary filmmaking’s strong social justice tradition. Through assigned readings, film screenings, and postings, we will explore the forms, strategies and conventions of documentary film.

**AMST 433 Documentary Film Production 3 Credits**
An independent study mode of course awarding credit for the production of a 30-minute documentary film that meets two standards: 1) high production value, and 2) scholarly content based on detailed research and driven by critical analysis.

**AMST 471 Special Topics 3 Credits**

**AMST 481 Independent Study 1-3 Credits**

**AMST 482 Independent Study 1-3 Credits**

**AMST 490 Master’s Thesis 1-6 Credits**
Independent work, with a faculty member, on a single master’s thesis or two thesis papers. Topic approved by individual faculty member. Typically taken in the last semester of course work. Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.