American Studies

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Offered at the graduate level, American Studies is the interdisciplinary study of American thought, literature, and culture—both past and present. Born in the early years of the Cold War and with an implied commitment to American exceptionalism, American Studies has since transformed itself into a multifaceted critical examination of United States society. Comparative frameworks along with close attention to applying cultural and literary theory to such matters as violence, citizenship, democracy, community, poverty and prosperity, politics, race, and gender in the United States make American Studies an intellectually sophisticated yet practical course of graduate study.

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 American Studies: Theory and Method 3
Methods Course 1
AMST 490 Master’s Thesis 6
Concentration/Track 3
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 11
Free Electives 11 3-6

1 Choose 1 or 2 methods courses in consultation with advisor/mentor and permission of course instructor needed. Possible courses include SOC 410 Statistics for Sociological Inquiry; SOC 411 Advanced Quantitative Research Methods; SOC 412 Advanced Qualitative Research Methods; POLS 402 Methods Of Policy Analysis; POLS 403 Creativity, Ideas, and Methods in Political Science; POLS 421 Research Methods; PSYC 421 Statistical Analysis of Psychological Data I; HIST 401 Historical Research HIST 438 Techniques in Public History; ENGL 481 Theory and Criticism; ENGL 483 Creative Writing and Literary Studies; EDUC 403 Research; EDUC 405 Qualitative Research Methods; EDUC 408 Introduction to Statistics

2 Traditional thesis is available but students may also fulfill this requirement through other final project forms such as: documentary film, journal article, internship/Community Fellows (https://community_fellows.cas2.lehigh.edu) placement, exhibit/installation, archive, report. There will be a written and presentation component to all thesis/other final projects.

3 Choose one 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.

4 Graduate certificate available. (http://catalog.lehigh.edu/coursesprogramsandcurricula/interdisciplinarygraduatestudyandresearch/graduatemetrics)

5 EPD offers Graduate Certificates in Urban Environmental Policy and Planning, Sustainable Development, and Environmental Law and Policy. (http://catalog.lehigh.edu/coursesprogramsandcurricula/artsandsciences/environmentalinitiative/#graduatetext)

6 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.

7 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.

8 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.

9 Sample courses include SOC 402 Sociology of Cyberspace; ANTH 376 Culture and the Individual; HIST 328 American Intellectual History since 1790; POLS 435 Power, Persuasion and the American Presidency.

10 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.

11 Free electives chosen in consultation with advisor from American Studies approved classes.

1 Humanities include those offered in the departments of English, Art and Architecture, and Religion Studies. Social Studies courses include those offered in the departments of History, Political Science, Sociology, and Anthropology, and Journalism and Communications.

2 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; 6 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 AFRICAN 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
with no more than 6 credits at the 300-level

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: Social Movements
- AAS/HMS/SOC/GS 314: 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 339: Special Topics in Africana Studies
- AAS/GS/HIST 341: Colonialism and the Black Radical Tradition
- AAS/ASIA/GS/POLS 343: Global Politics of Race: Asia and Africa
- AAS/SOC 345: New Media, Race and Gender
- AAS/COMM 375: New Media, Race and Gender
- AAS 376/SOC 379: Special Topics
- AAS 381: Seminar on a topic in Africana Studies
- HIST 367: Rise and Fall of the Old South
- POLS 430: Social Movements & Legacies of the 1960s
- POLS 443: Global Politics of Race: Asia and Africa
- SOC/WGSS 365: Inequalities at Work
- SOC 374: Social Stratification: Race, Class, Gender
- SOC 443: Race, Ethnicity, and Health
- SOC/WGSS 465: Inequalities at Work

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 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

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.
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**
A film production course concentrating on lighting, sound, shooting interviews (among other types of shots), and Final Cut Pro editing; matched with producing a team-made thirty-minute documentary film on a local historical or contemporary topic of critical interest.

**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.