American Studies

AMERICAN STUDIES

College of Liberal & Creative Arts

Dean: Andrew Harris

American Studies Program

Humanities Building, Room 409
Phone: (415) 338-1099
Fax: (415) 338-7030
Website: humanitiesliberalstudies.sfsu.edu
Coordinator: Cristina Ruotolo
Advisor: Peter Richardson

Program Scope

American Studies is a cross-disciplinary program that offers students an opportunity to create an individualized major. The purpose of the major is to study the unity and diversity, the consensus and conflict, the continuity and change that characterize the many cultures and social structures of past and present United States. Each student takes core courses in History, Arts and Culture, Geography, and California Studies and, with help from the Program Advisor, creates an individualized set of elective courses drawn from across the University to pursue a particular set of questions about U.S. history, culture, and society.

Career Outlook

The American Studies major is appropriate for students who want a strong liberal arts experience that focuses on the United States, for those preparing for teaching careers, or a wide-ranging background as preparation for later study of the law, public administration, city planning, library, and museum work, and specialized graduate study.

Coordinator

Cristina Ruotolo

Undergraduate Advisor

Peter Richardson

Other Participating Faculty

Chris Sterba
Steve Savage

Major

• Bachelor of Arts in American Studies (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/american-studies/ba-american-studies)

Minor

• Minor in American Studies (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/american-studies/minor-american-studies)

AMST 300GW Junior Seminar in American Studies - GWAR (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing; ENG 214 with a grade of C- or better; or consent of instructor.

Examination of selected topics in U.S. culture and society through the interdisciplinary lens of American Studies; writing intensive seminar. (ABC/NC grading only)
Course Attributes:

• Graduation Writing Assessment

AMST 310 The Arts and American Culture (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Figures in visual, literary, and performing arts who have reflected American culture through mastery of their arts; relationships between arts in periods of American cultural development. (This course is offered as HUM 485 and AMST 310. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)
Course Attributes:

• UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
• Am. Ethnic & Racial Minorities

AMST 410 California Culture (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Dynamics of California society and culture in recent times; world oasis, flawed paradise, lifestyle crucible, and creative milieu; function in American culture and Pacific relations. (This course is offered as HUM 450 and AMST 410. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)
Course Attributes:

• UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities