California Studies

College of Liberal & Creative Arts
Dean: Andrew Harris

California Studies Program
Humanities Building, Room 410
Phone: (415) 338–1830
Coordinator: Peter Richardson

Program Scope
California Studies is a multi-disciplinary program whose purpose is to study the consensus and conflict, unity and diversity, and continuity and change that characterize the many cultures, social structures, and artistic and creative expressions, as well as the earth and geosciences, of past and present California.

Students pursuing this minor may draw upon the strengths of many departments offering courses on the various dimensions of California; in particular, Africana Studies, American Indian Studies, American Studies, Anthropology, Asian American Studies, Biology, Earth and Climate Sciences, Economics, English, Environmental Studies, Geography, History, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Humanities, Political Science, Latina/Latino Studies, and Recreation, Parks, and Tourism. Certain core courses are required to obtain the minor, with additional elective courses to be chosen by the student.

Each student should emerge from the minor with a grasp of California history and political processes, knowledge and appreciation of the rich diversity of California cultures, creative arts, and literatures, an informed view of California's environmental richness and ecological relationships, and a continuing interest in the dynamic California landscape.

Affiliated Programs at SF State
Liberal Studies
The Liberal Studies major offers a pattern of courses that emphasize California studies. For details, see the Liberal Studies (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/liberal-studies) section of this Bulletin.

American Studies
The American Studies major offers the possibility of pursuing a California-focused elective program. For details, see the Bachelor of Arts in American Studies (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/american-studies) section of this Bulletin.

Career Outlook
The Minor in California Studies prepares students for regional and local application of their major fields of study to the immediate world in which they live, the state of California. A foundation in California studies is beneficial to those pursuing teaching credentials and careers in business, public policy, public administration, state government, and public history. The minor is also excellent preparation for those pursuing advanced degrees in the social sciences, humanities, earth sciences, or arts.

California Studies Minor — 21–23 units

California Artistic and Cultural Landscapes (3 units)
Select one of the following:
- A U 302 Bay Area Culture
- HTM 421 Food, Wine, and Culture in California
- HUM 376 San Francisco
- HUM 375 Biography of a City (topic course)
- HUM 450/AMST 410 California Culture

California Social and Ethnic Landscapes (3–4 units)
Select one of the following:
- A U 302 Bay Area Culture
- AA S 510 Asian Americans in California
- AFRS 312 Kalifa: The Black Heritage of California
- AIS 410 Perspectives of Native California Indians
- ANTH 356 Archaeology of California
- LTNS 315 Latina/os in California
- LTNS 660 Latina/o Politics
- PLSI 473 California Politics and Government
- PLSI 475/USP 485 San Francisco Political Issues

California Environmental Landscapes (3–4 units)
Select one of the following:
- A U/GEOG 301 Bay Area Environments
- BIOL 300 Nature Study
- ERTH 320 Geology of California
- ERTH 325 Geology of the National Parks
- ERTH 360 California Weather Events
- GEOG 552 Geography of California
- GEOG/USP 651 San Francisco Bay Area Environmental Issues

Electives (9 units)
Select from at least two of the above categories.