

American Studies (AMST)

Courses required for the first year: None
Courses recommended for the first year: AMST-101: Introduction to American Studies
Contact: Jane Simonsen (janesimonsen@augustana.edu)

The Major in American Studies

28 Credits, including AMST-101 (4 credits) and AMST-401 (2 credits); one course from each of the three Foundations areas: History, Politics, Arts & Culture (12 credits); at least 10 additional credits from Elective courses. At least 16 credits from 300-level courses; no more than 8 credits from any course code other than AMST.

Required Courses

Required AMST Courses	Foundations Area 1: American History	Foundations Area 2: Politics and American Communities	Foundations Area 3: American Arts and Culture	Electives
AMST-101 AMST-401	HIST-130 HIST-131 HIST-133 HIST-220 HIST-345 SCAN-350	COMM-110 COMM-210A COMM-230 COMM-240 COMM-330 COMM-380 ECON-345 ECON-404 GEOG-123 POLS-101 POLS-107 POLS-203 POLS-260	ART-343 ARHI-368 ENGL-125S ENGL-265 ENGL-270 ENGL-275 ENGL-278 ENGL-370 ENGL-375 ENGL-385 ENGL-390 HIST-232 HIST-235	AMST-360 AMST-380A CSD-215 CLAS-250 CLAS-258 EDUC-217 GEOG-339 HIST-333 HIST-338 LING-201 POLS-334 RELG-372 SOAN-326

		POLS-320 POLS-325 POLS-330 POLS-335 POLS-338 POLS-352 POLS-361 POLS-362 POLS-385 PUBH-180 SOAN-101 SOAN-221 SOAN-321 SOAN-329 SOAN-335 SOAN-341 WGSS-250 WGSS-370	HIST-335 HIST-336 KINS-320 MJMC-345 MUSC-132 MUSC-315 MUSC-316 MUSC-317 RELG-205 RELG-313 SOAN-222 THEA-343 THEA-344 WGSS-235 WGSS-335	SOAN-342
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The Minor in American Studies

18 Credits, including AMST-101 (4 credits); one course from each of the three Foundations areas: History, Politics, Arts & Culture (12 credits); at least 2 additional credits from Foundations or Elective courses. At least 6 credits from 300-level courses; no more than 8 credits from any course code other than AMST.

Required Courses

Required AMST Courses	Foundations Area 1: American History	Foundations Area 2: Politics and American Communities	Foundations Area 3: American Arts and Culture	Electives
AMST-101 AMST-401	HIST-130 HIST-131 HIST-133 HIST-220 HIST-345 SCAN-350	COMM-110 COMM-210A COMM-230 COMM-240 COMM-330 COMM-380 ECON-345 ECON-404 GEOG-123	ART-343 ARHI-368 ENGL-125S ENGL-265 ENGL-270 ENGL-275 ENGL-278 ENGL-370 ENGL-375	AMST-360 AMST-380A CSD-215 CLAS-250 CLAS-258 EDUC-217 GEOG-339 HIST-333 HIST-338

		POLS-101 POLS-107 POLS-203 POLS-260 POLS-320 POLS-325 POLS-330 POLS-335 POLS-338 POLS-352 POLS-361 POLS-362 POLS-385 PUBH-180 SOAN-101 SOAN-221 SOAN-321 SOAN-329 SOAN-335 SOAN-341 WGSS-250 WGSS-370	ENGL-385 ENGL-390 HIST-232 HIST-235 HIST-335 HIST-336 KINS-320 MJMC-345 MUSC-132 MUSC-315 MUSC-316 MUSC-317 RELG-205 RELG-313 SOAN-222 THEA-343 THEA-344 WGSS-235 WGSS-335	LING-201 POLS-334 RELG-372 SOAN-326 SOAN-342
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Major Overview

If you're looking for a job called "American Studies Practitioner," you're unlikely to find one. Instead, this major offers the flexibility that our rapidly changing employment landscape demands, as well as the creative, interdisciplinary thinking necessary to solve the problems facing our nation and world today.

The topics and methods of inquiry of American studies allow you to explore multiple academic fields, encouraging both critical and creative thinking, and introducing you to multiple methods of problem-solving. Through courses in history, culture, art, communication and politics, you will develop a broad base of knowledge and draw connections among subjects as diverse as literary theory, social scientific research and popular culture. Exploring the relationships between identity, place and power, American studies prepares students for careers in fields such as education, communication, media, law, politics, social service, community and labor organizing, and business.

Whether you're interested in the life of Malcolm X, religion in early America, or teenage rom-coms, American studies is a flexible major that will allow you to explore that interest and connect it to deep questions about what defines (and who gets to define) "America." In the words of scholar George Lipsitz, "Confronting [America's] cruel contradictions and painful paradoxes has made American studies into a never completed work of living sculpture, a place where strangers can meet, where ideas are aired, where problems are diagnosed and where solutions are imagined, envisioned and enacted" (["What is American Studies? An ASA White Paper," 2015](#)).

Updated April 2025