Why Carleton Students Major in American Studies:

“I chose American Studies because I wanted the **freedom and flexibility** to study what I wanted to study but still have some structure to my major.”

“American Studies allows me to learn from individual people’s stories. **Complex investigation of who people are and where they come from** fosters a personal investment in my academic work.”

“I believe you should major in American Studies if you’re serious about being interdisciplinary in your analysis of the world. **The economy is not absent of society, men are not absent of women, unity is not absent of tension.**”

“[American Studies majors are] people with a wide range of interests, people who are **passionate about social justice and social change**, people who want to be challenged to **rethink what they’ve been taught about America.**”

“American Studies is a **conversation that does not end in the classroom, but marches forward on the streets**, waxes eloquent in homes and houses of worship, and everywhere else Americans demand to be treated justly and with dignity.”

More Questions? We would love to hear from you!

Student Departmental Advisors:
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http://apps.carleton.edu/curricular/amst/
Founded in the 1950s, the American Studies Program is one of the pioneers of interdisciplinary studies at Carleton. The program’s courses, taught by faculty in Arts and Literature, Humanities, and the Social Sciences, examine the cultural, social, and political life of America in the past and present. Rather than focusing specifically on history, politics, or art, the program challenges students to think broadly about the shaping of American society and to learn to synthesize knowledge from multiple disciplines.

**THE MAJOR**

*For complete details, please see course catalog*

** REQUIRED **

** Intro **

AMST115: Introduction to American Studies or AMST 287 California Art and Visual Culture

** 1-Term Survey **

Examples:

- ECON 232: American Economic History
- MUSC 126: America’s Music
- POSC 122: Politics in America

** 2-Term Survey **

Examples:

- HIST 120 + 121: Rethinking the American Experience
- HIST 122 + 123: U.S. Women’s History
- HIST 125 + 126: African American History I and II
- POSC 271 + 272: Constitutional Law I and II

** Thematic Streams **

Each student must take twenty-four credits that deal with elements of the American experience from one of the thematic streams below

- Race, Ethnicity and Indigeneity
- Democracy, Activism, and Class
- Space and Place
- Production and Consumption of Culture
- America in the World

(see Catalog for course list...)

** A SAMPLE AMST MAJOR’S REQUIREMENTS **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st YEAR</th>
<th>2nd YEAR</th>
<th>3rd YEAR</th>
<th>4th YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 120: American Social History I</td>
<td>HIST 121: American Social History II</td>
<td>AMST 345: Theory and Practice of American Studies</td>
<td>AMST 396: Junior Seminar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>RELG 289: Global Religion in Minnesota</td>
<td>AMST 396: Junior Seminar</td>
<td>ARTH 341: Art and Democracy</td>
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<td>AMST 230: The American Sublime</td>
<td>AMST 399: Senior Seminar</td>
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<td>AMST 400: Comps</td>
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** THEORY **

AMST 345: Theory and Practice of American Studies

** JUNIOR TOPICAL SEMINAR **

AMST 396: Rotating single topic course

Examples: The Sublime in America, Race and Beauty, Suburbanization of America, and American Empire

** SENIOR SEMINAR **

AMST 399: Senior Seminar in American Studies

** COMPS **

AMST 400: Comprehensive Exercise

** OUR ALUMNI WORK IN... **

K-12 Education Technology
Social Services Art/Media/Entertainment
Non-Profit Organizations Financial Services
College/University Education Law

2020 Comps Projects

Creating A Third Space and Culture: Chinese American Adoptees’ Search for their Racial Identity and Belonging
“A Church Without Walls”: Glide Memorial (Methodist) Church and Postsecular Potential in Urban Religion
“Yes, it’s their money. But it’s Newark’s kids”: How Mark Zuckerberg’s $100,000,000 “gift” to the Newark Public Schools influenced conceptions of “public” education
Hyde Park, Uniontown, and Flint: Three Communities Finding Hope for the Future in the face of Slow Violence
City of Porches: A Guidebook to Difference and Inclusion on Allentown’s Porches
We See Convenience (Not its Origin) a Film: Experiences of Custodial Staff at Carleton College
The Basel Effect: Global Art World Impacts on Local Neighborhood Culture in Wynwood, Miami
Speaking Truth to Power: Narrative Tactics of Violence Legitimization and Marginalization
The Cycle of White Violence
Dehumanization and the Justifications of Violence
Visibility, Sensationalism, and the Perpetuation of Violence in America
The Use of Power and Myths to Create Social Exclusion

** Research Paper **

10,000 word scholarly investigation

** Creative Project **

can take many forms, but it must be accompanied by a reflection essay

** Colloquium **

A group option in which participants discuss, analyze, and write about a set of American Studies texts (broadly defined). The thematically-structured core list is initially created by American Studies faculty; however, students (as a colloquium group) will suggest additional texts in their fall term comps proposal

** CHOOSE YOUR OWN COMPS **