American Studies
Virtual Academic Fair 2020
What is American Studies?

American Studies is an exploration of American culture through the lens of many disciplines. This includes the institutions, beliefs, and values that have shaped the experiences of US residents.

It’s an exciting opportunity to look deeply at the how and the why of why we live the way we do - through a number of different lenses (art, sociology, religion, economics, history, literature, and more).
You might be interested in American Studies if:

- You like **thinking deeply** about the environment in which you live
- You have a **broad array** of academic interests
- You are interested in how things (such as books, media, politics, economic theories, environmental policies, fashion) **are connected** to each other
- You enjoy being **creative** (as an interdisciplinary approach, AMST relies on creative thinkers, novel methods, and innovative archives)
- You are looking for a course of study that gives you the freedom to be **flexible** and **self-driven**
What does American Studies let us do?

Sometimes it's helpful to think of disciplines (or in our case - an inter-discipline) in terms of the projects they let us undertake/the questions they allow us to ask.
Titles of Some American Studies Projects:

- Dreams for Dead Bodies: Blackness, Labor, and the Corpus of American Detective Fiction
- “An Indian in a White Man’s Camp”: Johnny Cash’s Indian Country Music
- Feeding the Jewish Soul in the Delta Diaspora
- Hollow - An Interactive Documentary on rural population decline (link here!)
- Country Queers In central Appalachia - an oral history project
- Sounds of Surveillance: U.S. Spanish-Language Radio Patrols La Migra
- The Bison and the Cow: Food, Empire, Extinction
- Racist Cute: Caricature, Kawaii-Style, and the Asian Thing
- Purple, Black, and White: Querying Prince's Minnesota Roots
- Football Fantasies: Neoliberal Habitus, Racial Governmentality, and National Spectacle
Projects done by AMST seniors at Carleton:

• City of Porches: A Guidebook to Difference and Inclusion on Allentown's Porches (check out this digital project here)
• The Unforeseen Consequences of Chromebooks In Public Education: Rethinking the Digitally Intimate Relationship between Google and Students
• "Indelible In the Hippocampus is the Laughter": Gender, Power, and Language During the 2018 Brett Kavanaugh Confirmation Hearing
What does American Studies Let Us Learn?

Sometimes it's helpful to think of (inter)disciplines in terms of what forms of knowledge they engage with.
# What Does American Studies Let us Learn?

**Fall 2020 courses available as part of the American Studies major**

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AMST 256: Walt Whitman's New York with Professor Peter Balaam

This course provides an interdisciplinary investigation of the burgeoning, brash, alluring Other that the young Walter Whitman found in New York in the 1850s.

"O City / Behold me! Incarnate me as I have incarnated you! I have rejected nothing you have offered me!--whom you adopted, I have adopted; good or bad..."

Meets T/Th 10:20-12:05
Want to find out more?
Visit our [webpage](#), join our email list, or reach out - we would love to hear from you!

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