

Learning Goals / Outcomes for majors – An American Studies graduate should:		Where we teach it	Assessment means
1. Understand and practice the interdisciplinarity of American	a. Recognize significant interdisciplinary questions	396, 399, comps	Comps
	b. Isolate questions, assumptions & methods of scholars working on American materials in multiple disciplines	115; 345; mid-level AmSt courses; 396 ; 399	345
	c. use appropriate methods from multiple disciplines as tools to answer questions	345, 396, comps	Comps
	d. analyze & use as evidence a variety of texts (primary & secondary; literary, historical, sociological, etc.) and other objects of study (art, films, maps, social phenomena, data, etc.)	115; 345; mid-level AmSt courses; 396; 399	Comps
	e. synthesize materials across disciplines in understanding and solving problems	115; 345; mid-level AmSt courses; 396; 399; comps	Comps
2. Conduct research & demonstrate information literacy: find primary & secondary sources and make proper citations in style of <i>American Quarterly</i> (Chicago Style) (and other styles in appropriate disciplines)		115, 345, 396 399 Comps essays	396, comps
3. Understand the historical dimension of the American experience and/or the history of American Studies		Survey courses; 345, 399	Comps Exam
4. Understand & think critically about diversity of background and experience of people in the U.S.		115; 345; most mid-level courses	Comps Exam
5. Write persuasively in multiple disciplinary modes; formulate and sustain thesis-driven argument in clear written prose		115; mid-level courses, 345 396, comps	396, comps
6. Speak effectively in a formal presentation		115, 345, 396, 399 Comps presentations	396 and/or 399

American Studies Assessment Timetable

Data collection to be done annually:

- Rubrics for assessing outcomes on Comps essays, projects & exams, *refined 12/11*
- Rubrics for oral and written work, as appropriate, in 396 & 399 (*piloted 2011, done for 396 & 399 in 2012 and 2013*).
- Exit interviews –*questions refined 12/2011 and put into Survey Monkey format spring 2012.*
- Student “Requirements Forms” submitted when they declare major (sophomore spring) might be used for assessment – *renamed “Plan of Study” for 2013; explore ways to enhance usefulness of form in advising and reflection; consider comparing w/ final transcript for Assessment purposes. Discuss at winter break workshop 2012.*

Assessment analysis & discussion - *to occur at annual meeting in May when assessment data is available for the year. Then in the annual December break workshop we will have more extended discussion of what to do with what we’ve learned from assessment.*

- Writing effectively in multiple disciplines – Dec. 2010 and May/June 2011
- Oral presentation – May/June 2012
- Interdisciplinary methods & materials– 2014
- Information literacy (research & citation) – 2015
- Ability to think critically about diversity in U.S. society – 2016
- Understanding of American culture across a range of disciplines – 2017
- Understanding of historical dimension of American experience – 2018