American Studies

Director: Sibley (HIS)
Advisory Board: Baglione (POL), Bergen (SOC), Fusco (ENG), Hage (ART), Miller (HIS), Oxx (TRS)

The minor in American Studies provides a framework within which students can focus their elective and related courses on the study of American history, literature, art, politics, ideas, and institutions. Students majoring in economics, English, history, fine arts, political science, sociology, and theology are especially encouraged to consider a minor in American Studies. By examining the United States from a variety of intellectual perspectives, American Studies minors will develop both a more nuanced understanding of the development and dynamics of American culture and a more sophisticated, interdisciplinary approach to academic study.

Learning Goals and Objectives for American Studies

Goal 1:
Students minoring in American Studies will gain a stronger knowledge in the disciplines that make up this minor and thus articulate key aspects of United States history, politics, economics, culture (including art, religions, and literatures) and society.

Learning Objective 1.1 Students will be trained to identify, define, or analyze key aspects of U.S. history, politics, economics, culture (including art, religions, and literatures) and society, using a variety of tools, methods, and perspectives, in order to gain knowledge and articulate their understanding in the disciplines that make up this minor.

Goal 2:
Students will produce clear and persuasive analyses of relevant research questions generated by the interdisciplinary approaches offered in the minor of American studies.

Objective 2.1
Students will be able to practice a range of methodological perspectives and practices used to investigate and interpret topics in American Studies, and to present their findings effectively.

Participants must choose a minimum of six courses from those listed below, with at least one from each group (and at least one in each group must be above 100 level):

History Group:
HIS 360 Colonial America (Diversity Overlay)
HIS 361 America in the Age of Revolutions
HIS 362 The Civil War Era (Ethics Overlay)
HIS 364 Ethnic America
HIS 365 Urban America
HIS 366 Progressive Era to New Deal
HIS 367 Postwar America, 1945 to the Present
HIS 368 American Ideas: From the Colonial Era to the Civil War
HIS 369 American Ideas: From the Gilded Age to the Present
HIS 379 African – American History Since the Civil War (Diversity Overlay)
HIS 380 Foundations of American Foreign Policy, 1775-1914
HIS 381 U.S. as a Global Power, 1914 to the Present
HIS 384 The Civil Rights Movement in America
HIS 385 History of Women in America Since 1820
HIS 386 American Environmental History
HIS 387 Popular Culture in the United States
HIS 471 Seminar in American History

English Group:
ENG 201 Major American Writers
ENG 210 The Roaring Twenties
ENG 211 Black Popular Culture
ENG 215 Passing Narratives
ENG 216 Re-reading the Sixties (Diversity Overlay)
ENG 217 Music and American Literature
ENG 321 American Literature
ENG 322 American Romantic and Transcendental Literature
ENG 323 American Realism/Naturalism
ENG 324 Twentieth Century American Literature
ENG 325 Contemporary American Literature
ENG 327 Southern Literature
ENG 328 African American Literature
ENG 329 Black Women’s Literature
ENG 417 Post Soul Black Literature
ENG 420 American Authors
ENG 421 The American Novel, 20th and 21st Centuries
ENG 423 American Poetry
ENG 424 Contemporary American Poetry
ENG 425 American Drama
ENG 426 Nature Writing in America
ENG 427 The Harlem Renaissance
ENG 428 The Beat Rebellion
ENG 429 Reading and Writing the American Civil Rights Movement
ENG 482 Literature and Culture (Diversity Overlay)
General Group:

ART 104  Experience of Architecture
ART 207  American Art and Architecture
ART 257  American Music
ART 269  American Theatre
ECN 435  History of Economic Thought
MTF 291  American Film Comedies
PHL 276  Philosophy of Cornel West
PHL 278  Philosophy of Martin Luther King
PHL 450  American Philosophy
POL 111  Introduction to American Government and Politics (Diversity Overlay)
POL 150  Law, Student Liberties and the Supreme Court
POL 303  American Political Thought
POL 308  Congress and the Legislative Process
POL 309  Advising the President
POL 311  Constitutional Law: Rights and Civil Liberties
POL 313  Public Policy
POL 316  State and Local Government
POL 318  Philadelphia Politics
POL 319  Political Parties, Pressure Groups and Voting Behavior
POL 323  Women, Gender and American Politics (Diversity Overlay)
POL 324  Race and Ethnic Politics in the US
POL 327  Environmental Politics in America
POL 329  Suburban Government and Problems
POL 402  Senior Seminar: Contentious Politics in America
POL 417  Urban Politics
REL 327  Religion and Race in Philadelphia
SOC 225  Introduction to American Social Justice
SOC 330  Urban Society (Diversity Overlay)
PO 353  Poverty, Ethics and Social Polity (Diversity Overlay)
THE 353  American Catholicism
THE 360  American Religious Thought
Religious Vision in Film and Fiction