American Studies Minor

American Studies involves an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the history, cultures, politics, and economy of the United States, its colonial antecedents, and its indigenous peoples. At UMSL, the minor enables students also to study the city and region of St. Louis, a quintessentially American city.

Students interested in this minor should contact the coordinator of American Studies for advice and information.

There are 18 hours required in the minor, and in completing these hours candidates must take courses from at least three disciplines. Candidates must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better in the minor. Three hours of the minor may be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis, and a maximum of nine hours will be accepted in transfer. Candidates wishing to take American Studies courses in the Honors College do not need to be members of the Honors College but must register for the courses via the Honors College.

Requirements for the Minor
Completion of the American Studies Minor requires at least 18 credit hours (6 courses) including an interdisciplinary introductory course. Of the remaining 15 hours, at least six hours must be taken from a small group of core courses designed to give students a foundation for further study and at least six hours from a larger group of elective courses which will broaden students’ experience or enable them to specialize in specific areas. At least six hours must be taken from advanced level (3000 and 4000) undergraduate courses. Students are recommended to include in this advanced work an American Studies "capstone", an option that may be fulfilled in several ways, which are described below.

Introductory Course
HIST 2160 Introduction to American Studies (must be taken in first 12 hours of the minor) 3

Core Courses
Choose at least one of the following: 3
ENGL 2710
ENGL 2720
Choose at least one of the following: 3
HIST 1001 American Civilization to 1865 (MOTR HIST 101)
HIST 1002 American Civilization 1865 to Present (MOTR HIST 102)
POL SCI 1100 Introduction to American Politics (MOTR POSC 101)
HONORS 1230 American Traditions: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Elective Courses
Choose at least two courses from the following American Studies electives 6
Anthropology
ANTHRO 1710
ANTHRO 2120 Native Peoples of North America
ANTHRO 2121
ANTHRO 2139

Art History
ART HS 1104 American Art to 1876
ART HS 2270
ART HS 2272
ART HS 2279

Criminology
CRIMIN 1100 Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice
CRIMIN 1120 Criminal Law
CRIMIN 1150 Violence in America
CRIMIN 4300 Communities and Crime
CRIMIN 4325 Gender, Crime, and Justice
CRIMIN 4340 Race, Crime, and Justice

Economics
ECON 2200
ECON 2800 History of American Economic Development

English
ENGL 4610 Selected Major American Writers I
ENGL 4620 Selected Major American Writers II
ENGL 4640
ENGL 4650 Modern American Fiction

History
HIST 1004
HIST 2005 Becoming Modern America: From the Gilded Age to the Great Depression
HIST 2008 History of St. Louis
HIST 2015
HIST 2028 Sex, Drugs, and Rock 'n Roll: The 1960s in Song, Fashion, Dating, and Protest

Gender Studies
GS 2020 Women and Social Movements in U.S. History
GS 2380 Politics of Gender in the United States
GS 3031 History of Women in The United States
GS 3700 Diversity and Social Justice
GS 4335 Gender and Body Image in Media and Culture

Honors
HONORS 2010 Inquiries in The Humanities (topic must be approved by American Studies coordinator)
HONORS 2030 Inquiries in the Social and Behavioral Sciences (topic must be approved by American Studies coordinator)
HONORS 3010 Advanced Honors Seminar in the Humanities (topic must be approved by American Studies coordinator)
HONORS 3030 Advanced Honors Seminar in the Social and Behavioral Sciences (topic must be approved by American Studies coordinator)

Military and Veterans Studies

MVS 2100 Veterans in American Society
MVS 2130 Gender and the Military

Music History

MHLT 1003 History of Rock Music (MOTR MUSC 100RP)
MHLT 1060 Introduction to Jazz (MOTR MUSC 100J)
MHLT 1120
MHLT 1140 Popular Music in America
MHLT 1190 Musical Journey of the Native North American
MHLT 4280 American Music

Political Science

POLSCI 2260 Law, Politics and Society
POLSCI 2320 African Americans and the Political System
POLSCI 2370 The Politics of Identity and Social Justice
POLSCI 2380 The Politics of Gender in the United States
POLSCI 2650
POLSCI 3210 Civil Liberties
POLSCI 3300 The American Presidency
POLSCI 3330 Public Opinion and Political Participation
POLSCI 3460 The Politics of Poverty and Welfare

Sociology

SOC 1040 Social Problems
SOC 1999 The City
SOC 2170 Aging in America: Concepts & Controversies
SOC 2202 Urban Sociology
SOC 2316
SOC 4100 Introduction to Feminist and Gender Theory
SOC 4312 Sociology of Wealth and Poverty

Student considering other elective choices must work with the American Studies faculty coordinator to obtain approval to apply these courses to the minor.

Capstone options:

Students are encouraged to complete a capstone for the American Studies minor. A capstone course can satisfy three credit hours of the 18 hour minor. Experiences that could serve as a capstone include appropriate departmental capstone courses, independent studies, research projects, and internships. Interested students should work with the coordinator of American Studies to have a capstone course approved.