

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	(must be taken in first 12 hours of the minor)	3
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Core Courses

Choose at least one of the following: 3

ENGL 3710	American Literature Before 1865	3
ENGL 3720	American Literature After 1865	3

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 2120	Native Peoples of North America	
Art History		
ART HS 1140	Indigenous Arts of the Americas	
ART HS 2270	Art of the United States	

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 2800	History of American Economic Development
English	
ENGL 4610	Selected Major American Writers I
ENGL 4620	Selected Major American Writers II
ENGL 4650	Modern American Fiction
History	
HIST 2005	Becoming Modern America: From the Gilded Age to the Great Depression
HIST 2008	History of St. Louis
HIST 2028	Sex, Drugs, and Rock 'n Roll: The 1960s in Song, Fashion, Dating, and Protest
Gender Studies	
GS 2020	
GS 2380	Politics of Gender in the United States
GS 3031	
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	
MVS 2130	
Music History	
M H L T 1003	History of Rock Music (MOTR MUSC 100RP)
M H L T 1070	Introduction to Jazz (MOTR MUSC 100J)
M H L T 1140	Popular Music in America

M H L T 1190	Musical Journey of the Native North American
M H L T 4280	American Music
Political Science	
POL SCI 2260	Law, Politics and Society
POL SCI 2320	African Americans and the Political System
POL SCI 2330	The American Presidency
POL SCI 2370	The Politics of Identity and Social Justice
POL SCI 2380	The Politics of Gender in the United States
POL SCI 3210	Civil Liberties
POL SCI 3330	Public Opinion and Political Participation
POL SCI 3460	The Politics of Poverty and Welfare
Sociology	
SOC 1040	Social Problems
SOC 2202	Urban Sociology
SOC 2203	The City
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.