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

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
CRIM 1100 Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice
CRIM 1120 Criminal Law
CRIM 1150 Violence in America
CRIM 4300 Communities and Crime
CRIM 4325 Gender, Crime, and Justice
CRIM 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 HL T 1003 History of Rock Music (MOTR MUSC 100RP)
M HL T 1070 Introduction to Jazz (MOTR MUSC 100J)
M HL T 1140 Popular Music in America
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.