American Studies Concentration - Interdisciplinary Studies Major

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The Program

The American Studies Concentration (https://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/interdisciplinary/undergrad/interdisciplinary/american) is an interdisciplinary program that allows students to take courses in different academic departments that focus on the concept of American culture. The American Studies approach emphasizes the interrelatedness of history, literature, the arts and popular culture. In their course work students will examine American institutions, ideas and material forms in order to better understand the nation's past and to shape their own futures. The major is designed for those students who may wish to have careers in fields such as law, government service, non-profit organizations, journalism, museum work and teaching, where a broad knowledge of American history and culture is desirable.

A minor is available for those students with another major who want to learn more about American culture. Students have the opportunity to receive units for internships.

Requirements for the Concentration

Students majoring in the American Studies Concentration must complete 45 units with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher in each course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 201</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 491</td>
<td>DIRECTED READINGS IN AMST</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or AMST 497</td>
<td>INTERNSHIP IN AMERICAN STUDIES</td>
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</table>

Lower-Division Electives

Select one course from each area: 9

- Historical Perspectives
  - AFST 201 MAIN THEMES IN AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES
  - HIST 145 HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE CIVIL WAR
  - HIST 146 HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE CIVIL WAR
  - HIST 147 HONORS HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE CIVIL WAR
  - HIST 148 HONORS HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE CIVIL WAR
  - SOCI 241 BLACKS IN AMERICA: MYTHS AND REALITY

- American Literature
  - ENGL 230 MAIN CURRENTS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE
  - ENGL 233 SURVEY OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE
  - ENGL 234 MAJOR WRITERS IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE
  - ENGL 235 ETHNIC-AMERICAN LITERATURE
  - ENGL 236 AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURE, 1772-PRESENT
  - ENGL 238 SURVEY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

- Arts and Culture
  - ANTH 209 ANTHROPOLOGY OF AMERICAN CULTURE
  - ANTH 211 HONORS ANTHROPOLOGY OF AMERICAN CULTURE
  - ARTH 113 MYTHS AND STORIES IN AMERICAN ART
  - DANC 127 INTRODUCTION TO DANCE: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE
  - KNES 251 HISTORY OF SPORT IN AMERICA
  - MUSC 111 INTRO TO MUSIC IN THE US
  - MUSC 123 JAZZ HISTORY FOR NON-MAJORS
  - MUSC 125 HONORS HISTORY OF JAZZ FOR NON-MAJORS
  - POSC 103 AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
  - THEA 103 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN THEATRE
  - WMST 235 AMERICAN WOMEN AND POPULAR CULTURE

Upper-Division Electives

Students must take at least 6 units from each of the following three areas. No more than 9 units may be taken in any one discipline. 30

- American Institutions and Communities
  - ANTH 311 ARCHAEOLOGY OF MARYLAND
  - ANTH 365 NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS
  - ANTH 383 NORTH AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY
  - ANTH 387 NATIVE AMERICAN ARCHAEOASTRONOMY
  - ANTH 393 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL
  - ECON 303 AMERICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
  - ECON 313 MONEY AND BANKING
  - ENGL 477 TOPICS IN BLACK AMERICAN LITERATURE
  - GEOG 420 GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA
  - GEOG 423 GEOGRAPHY OF MARYLAND
  - HIST 306 WOMEN IN 20TH CENTURY U.S. HISTORY
  - HIST 345 THE AMERICAN COLONIES 1492-1763
  - HIST 346 THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD 1763-1800
  - HIST 347 THE EARLY NATIONAL PERIOD
  - HIST 348 JACKSONIAN ERA
  - HIST 349 THE CIVIL WAR
  - HIST 351 THE U.S. 1865-1901: AGE OF ENTERPRISE
  - HIST 352 THE U.S. 1892-1920: AGE OF REFORM
  - HIST 359 THE FDR ERA
  - HIST 360 RECENT AMERICAN HISTORY, 1945-1975
  - HIST 361 GAYS & LESBIANS IN U.S. HISTORY
  - HIST 362 MAKERS, BUYERS, USERS: THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY 1500-PRESENT

- Arts and Culture
  - ANTH 209 ANTHROPOLOGY OF AMERICAN CULTURE
  - ANTH 211 HONORS ANTHROPOLOGY OF AMERICAN CULTURE
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### American Studies Concentration - Interdisciplinary Studies Major

**Classes by Category**

#### HIST 375
**THE CITY IN AMERICAN HISTORY**

**HIST 379**
**NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1900**

**HIST 380**
**NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY SINCE 1900**

**HIST 381**
**AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY TO THE MID-19TH CENTURY**

**HIST 382**
**AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY FROM THE MID-19TH CENTURY**

**HIST 385**
**WORKERS AND WORK IN THE UNITED STATES**

**HIST 389**
**THE CITY IN AMERICAN HISTORY: 1900 TO PRESENT**

**HIST 397**
**HISTORY OF MARYLAND FROM COLONIAL TIMES TO THE PRESENT**

**KNES 441**
**THE AMERICAN WOMEN IN SPORT**

**POSC 305**
**URBAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**POSC 343**
**AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLITICS**

**POSC 381**
**THE PRESIDENCY**

**POSC 383**
**CONGRESS**

**POSC 384**
**JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

**POSC 417**
**AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES**

**POSC 418**
**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND POLITICS**

**POSC 419**
**CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES: THE FIRST AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENTS**

**POSC 420**
**CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS: PERSONAL LIBERTY AND THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED.**

**POSC 421**
**POLITICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**POSC 422**
**THE SUPREME COURT**

**POSC 450**
**INTEREST GROUPS AND PUBLIC POLICY**

**Global Connections**

Courses in this area investigate Americans' experiences with the world and the ways the global cultures have shaped American culture. Topics include migrations, immigration, globalization and transnational cultures.

**ENGL 476**
**TOPICS IN MULTI-ETHNIC AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**HIST 314**
**THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM: 1945-1975**

**HIST 331**
**AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY: 1898-1945**

**HIST 332**
**AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY SINCE 1945**

**HIST 370**
**DIPLOMATIC HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1900**

**HIST 377**
**ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY**

**HIST 378**
**IMMIGRANTS & IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES**

**POSC 355**
**LATIN AMERICAN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES**

**POSC 432**
**UNITED STATES-RUSSIAN RELATIONS**

**POSC 436**
**U.S. FOREIGN POLICY**

**POSC 441**
**CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN RELATIONS**

**POSC 453**
**INTELLIGENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY**

**ARTH 337**
**ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE UNITED STATES I: COLONIAL TO 1900**

**ARTH 338**
**ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE U.S. II: 1900 TO PRESENT**

**ARTH 350**
**HISTORY OF PRINTS IN AMERICA**

**EMF 385**
**RADIO, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY**

**ENGL 331**
**AMERICAN DRAMA**

**ENGL 431**
**LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAN ROMANTIC PERIOD**

**ENGL 432**
**LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAN REALISTIC PERIOD**

**ENGL 433**
**AMERICAN SHORT STORY**

**ENGL 435**
**DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN NOVEL: 19TH CENTURY**

**ENGL 436**
**AMERICAN NOVEL-20TH CENTURY**

**ENGL 437**
**AMERICAN POETRY THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

**ENGL 438**
**MODERN AMERICAN POETRY**

**ENGL 440**
**CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POETRY**

**ENGL 473**
**TOPICS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**HIST 389**
**ROOTS OF ROCK AND ROLL**

**KNES 357**
**SPORT IN FILM**

**MUSC 421**
**MUSIC IN THE U.S.**

**MUSC 426**
**JAZZ HISTORY**

**PHIL 326**
**AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY**

**POSC 430**
**AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

### Global Connections

- Other courses relating to American culture may be substituted with the approval of the program coordinator.

### Suggested Four-Year Plan

Based on course availability and student needs and preferences, the selected sequences will probably vary from those presented below. Students should consult with their adviser to make the most appropriate elective choices.

#### First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Units</th>
<th>Term 2 Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 201 (Core 1)</td>
<td>3 Lower-Division Elective - Arts and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 1 (or Core 2)</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower-Division Elective - Historical Perspectives</td>
<td>3 Core 2 (or Core 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower-Division Elective - American Literature</td>
<td>3 Core 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3 Core 12</td>
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#### Second Year

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<tr>
<td>Upper-Division Elective - American Institutions and Communities</td>
<td>3 Upper-Division Elective - Ideas and the Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper-Division Elective - Global Connections</td>
<td>3 Upper-Division Elective - American Institutions and Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 5</td>
<td>3 Core 4</td>
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### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Units Term 1</th>
<th>Units Term 2</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Upper-Division Elective - Global Connections</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Upper-Division Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper-Division Elective - Ideas and the Arts</td>
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<td>Core 6</td>
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<td>3-4</td>
<td>Core 10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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### Fourth Year

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<th>Units Term 2</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
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<td>AMST 491 or 497</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Upper-Division Elective</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Core 13</td>
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<td>Upper-Division Elective</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Elective</td>
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Total Units 121-122

1. Students possess the ability to integrate knowledge and modes of thinking across two or more disciplines.
2. Students communicate effectively in the presentation of interdisciplinary materials through various modes of transmission.
3. Students conduct, analyze and apply research from two or more disciplines or through interdisciplinary research.