Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in American Studies

Career Opportunities
Graduates have prepared for occupations in federal, state, and local government, law, medicine, politics, journalism, business, and education. Many have entered graduate work in American studies or disciplines in their concentrations. See an advisor for a list of American studies courses that may meet teacher licensure requirements in history and social sciences.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU
All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (http://admissions.ku.edu) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (http://www.iss.ku.edu) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu) website.

Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major

American Studies Core Knowledge and Skills
Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:

Introduction to American Studies (3)
Satisfied by the following:
AMS 100 Introduction to American Studies 3
or AMS 101 Introduction to American Studies, Honors

American Identities (3)
Satisfied by the following:
AMS 110 American Identities 3
or AMS 112 American Identities, Honors

The United States in Global Context (3)
Satisfied by the following:
AMS 332 The United States in Global Context 3

or SOC 332 The United States in Global Context

Theory and Method (18-19)
Satisfied by the following:
AMS 360 Theory and Method 3
Select one additional course that explores methodological and theoretical approaches used in American studies. See your advisor for appropriate options or select from the following:
AAAS/WGSS 560 Race, Gender, and Post-Colonial Discourses
ANTH 361 The Third World: Anthropological Approaches
ANTH 460 Theory in Anthropology
HIST 301 The Historian's Craft 3
POLS 301 Introduction to Political Theory
POLS 306 Political Science Methods of Inquiry
POLS 320 Introduction to Public Policy
POLS/WGSS 600 Contemporary Feminist Political Theory

HIST 649/ WGSS 549 History of Feminist Theory
ENGL 508 Contemporary Literary Theory
POLS 609 Topics in Political Theory: ______
PSYC 210 Statistics in Psychological Research 3
PSYC 200 Research Methods in Psychology 3
SOC 310 Introduction to Social Research
SOC 500 Sociological Theory
SOC 510 Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis
SOC 601 Introduction to Feminist Social Theory
PSYC/WGSS 468 Psychology of Women 3

American Studies Required Electives/Emphases
Majors must select 1 of 7 special emphases or design their own. Self-designed emphases must be approved in their entirety by an American studies advisor and the undergraduate studies director before implementation. Meet with your academic advisor to determine course options that best meet your interests in this option. Prepare for this advising session by completing a key word search in the Schedule of Classes (https://classes.ku.edu/Classes/ExternalDisplay.action).

- American Cultural Studies. Satisfied by 4 courses, 3 of which are at 300+ level (possible key words: American culture).
  AMS 310 American Culture, 1600-1876 3
  AMS 312 American Culture, 1877 to the Present 3
  AMS 576 Cultural Geography of the United States 3
  AMS 650 Jazz and American Culture 3
  AMS 652 Jazz, Roots to 1955 3
  AMS 653 Jazz II, 1955-Present 3
  AMS 680 Jazz Autobiography 3
  AMS 682 Jazz Narratives in Novels and Films 3
  AMS 690 Black Cultural Studies 3
  ENGL 316 Introduction to Major American Writers 3
  ENGL 320 American Literature I 3
  ENGL 322 American Literature II 3
  ENGL 336 Jewish American Literature and Culture 3
  ENGL 337 Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Literature 3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 338</td>
<td>Introduction to African-American Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 339</td>
<td>Introduction to Caribbean Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 380</td>
<td>American Popular Culture: _____</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 621</td>
<td>American Film Criticism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HA 370</td>
<td>American Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HA 582</td>
<td>American Art 1860-1900: Gilded Age</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 310</td>
<td>American Culture, 1600-1876</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 312</td>
<td>American Culture, 1877 to the Present</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 313</td>
<td>Conspiracies and Paranoia in American History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 347</td>
<td>Environmental History of North America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 353</td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples of North America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 360</td>
<td>Science and Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 631</td>
<td>The Contemporary Afro-American Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA 505</td>
<td>U.S. Latino and Latin American Film and Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 339</td>
<td>History of Religion in America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THR 327</td>
<td>African-American Theatre and Drama</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THR 380</td>
<td>Popular Culture: _____</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Race Ethnicity.** Majors must complete the following (possible key words: race, ethnicity, stereotyping, cultural diversity, slavery, ethnic relations, black experience):

**Race and Ethnicity Group A (3)**
Select one of the following from AAAS, AMS, ENGL, or HIST at the junior/senior level (300+):

- AAAS 306 The Black Experience in the U.S. Since Emancipation
- AAAS 440 The Afro-American Family: A Psychological Approach
- AAAS 460 Topics and Problems in African and African-American Studies
- AMS 522 American Racial and Ethnic Relations
- AMS 534 Global Ethnic and Racial Relations
- ENGL 336 Jewish American Literature and Culture
- ENGL 337 Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Literature
- ENGL 338 Introduction to African-American Literature
- ENGL 339 Introduction to Caribbean Literature
- ENGL 571 American Indian Literature: _____
- HIST 353 Indigenous Peoples of North America
- HIST 574 Slavery in the New World
- HIST 631 The Contemporary Afro-American Experience

**Race and Ethnicity Group B (3)**
Select one of the following from ANTH, PSYC, or SOC at the junior/senior level (300+):

- ANTH 308 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- ANTH 360 The Varieties of Human Experience
- ANTH 563 Cultural Diversity in the United States
- PSYC 465 Stereotyping and Prejudice Across Cultures
- SOC 341 Urban Sociology
- SOC 522 American Racial and Ethnic Relations
- SOC 534 Global Ethnic and Racial Relations
- SOC 536 Ethnicity in the United States: _____

**Race and Ethnicity Required Electives (0)**

- **Visual Culture.** Satisfied by 4 courses from at least 2 departments, 3 of which are at the 300+ level (possible key words: American documentary, American art, American theater, American film).

- AMS 580 American Art
- AAAS 585 Race and the American Theatre
- AAAS 611 History of the Black Power Movement
- ANTH 301 Anthropology Through Films
- HA 370 American Art
- HA 525 Aegean Archaeology and Art
- HA 581 American Art to 1860: Inventing a Nation
- HA 582 American Art 1860-1900: Gilded Age
- FMS 310 History of the Silent Film
- FMS 311 History of the American Sound Film
- FMS 314 History of African-American Images in Film
- FMS 317 Race and the American Documentary
- FMS 380 American Popular Culture of: _____
- FMS 414 Kansas Art, History, and Popular Culture
- MUSC 303 The Film Musical
- THR 327 African-American Theatre and Drama
- THR 380 Popular Culture: _____
- THR 528 History of U.S. Theatre and Drama

- **Local and Global.** Majors must complete the following:

**Local and Global Group A (3)**

Satisfied by 1 of the following courses from AMS, ENGL, HIST, GEOG, SOC at the junior/senior level (300+):

- AMS 534 Global Ethnic and Racial Relations
- ENGL 339 Introduction to Caribbean Literature
- ENGL 536 Readings in the Holocaust
- GEOG 350 Physical Geography of Africa
- GEOG 396 East Asia
- GEOG 591 Geography of Latin America
- GEOG 593 Central American Peoples and Lands
- HIST 300 Modern Africa
- HIST 331 Atlantic Societies, 1450-1800: A Comparative History of European Colonization
- HIST 343 The Holocaust in History
- HIST 350 The Korean War, 1950-1953
- HIST 365 Invention of the Tropics
- HIST 371 Tequila, Tango, Carnival, City
- HIST 397 From Mao to Now: China’s Red Revolution
- HIST 398 Introduction to History of Japan: Anime to Zen
- HIST 574 Slavery in the New World
- SOC 536 Ethnicity in the United States: _____
- SOC 621 Cross-Cultural Sociology

**Local and Global Group B (3)**

Satisfied by 1 of the following courses from EALC, LAA, AAAS at the junior/senior level (300+):

- EALC 332 Asian Literature in Translation: _____
- **Jazz Studies.** Satisfied by 4 courses from at least 2 departments, 3 of which are at the 300+ level (possible key words: jazz, music, American poetry, American pop culture):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMS 650</td>
<td>Jazz and American Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 652</td>
<td>Jazz I, Roots to 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 653</td>
<td>Jazz II, 1955-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 680</td>
<td>Jazz Autobiography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 682</td>
<td>Jazz Narratives in Novels and Films</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 298</td>
<td>Introduction to Jazz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 299</td>
<td>American Popular Song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 300</td>
<td>Jazz Styles, 1920-1980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Gender and Sexuality.** Satisfied by 4 courses from at least 2 departments, 3 of which are at the 300+ level (possible key words: gender, sexuality, body image, sex roles, intimate relationships):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMS 511</td>
<td>History of American Women–1870 to Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 359</td>
<td>Anthropology of Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 531</td>
<td>History of American Women–1870 to Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 504</td>
<td>Philosophy of Sex and Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 410</td>
<td>Intimate Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 374</td>
<td>Religious Perspectives on Selfhood and Sexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 522</td>
<td>American Racial and Ethnic Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 352</td>
<td>Sociology of Sex Roles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 617</td>
<td>Women and Health Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 333</td>
<td>The Politics of Physical Appearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 440</td>
<td>Communication and Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 468</td>
<td>Psychology of Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 562</td>
<td>Women and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 563</td>
<td>Gender, Sexuality and the Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 653</td>
<td>Gender, War, and Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 660</td>
<td>Human Reproduction: Culture, Power, and Politics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Religion.** Satisfied by 4 courses from at least 2 departments, 3 of which are at the 300+ level (possible key words: American religion):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 300</td>
<td>African Traditional Religion and Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 522</td>
<td>African and African-American Religion: _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 290</td>
<td>Religion in American Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 484</td>
<td>Magic, Science, and Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 666</td>
<td>Anthropology of Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 360</td>
<td>Science and Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 373</td>
<td>The Supreme Court and Religious Issues in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 350</td>
<td>Philosophical Issues in Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 581</td>
<td>Psychology of Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 330</td>
<td>Native American Religions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 339</td>
<td>History of Religion in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 671</td>
<td>American Communes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 626</td>
<td>Religion and Society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students considering graduate study should take at least 2 courses beyond major requirements. These should be selected in consultation with a faculty advisor.

**Capstone experience**

Majors must complete 1 of the following:

- **By application, advanced students may pursue a focused project of research or service under the supervision of a faculty member.** Satisfied by AMS 551, AMS 552, or AMS 553.

**American Studies Major Hours & Major GPA**

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:
Major Hours
Satisfied by 30 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence
Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours
Satisfied by a minimum of 18 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Graduation GPA
Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the field of study including F’s and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa).

Major Junior/Senior Major Attempts
Summary includes American Studies junior/senior (300+) hours attempted, including F’s and incompletes.

Graduation Plan
With careful planning and commitment to a full-time course load, you can graduate in 4 years (http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad). Download a sample 4-year plan (http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/advising/plans) for American studies.

Double Majors
American studies majors are encouraged to take a second major in a related field, such as history, English, political science, sociology, anthropology, religious studies, African and African-American studies, economics, or art history. Because the major is interdisciplinary, a second major is relatively easy to achieve during the usual 4 years of undergraduate study.

Opportunities for Original Projects
By application, advanced students may pursue a focused project of research or service under the supervision of a faculty member. AMS 551, AMS 552, and AMS 553 function as independent research and service project electives.

A sample 4-year plan for the BA degree in American Studies can be found here: American Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/american-studies/ba-bgs/ba-american-studies), or by using the left-side navigation.

A sample 4-year plan for the BGS degree in American Studies can by found by using the left-side navigation.

Departmental Honors
An honors program allows seniors with overall grade-point averages of 3.25 to do independent work under faculty direction toward completion of an honors thesis. Enrollment in AMS 553 is required. By special arrangement, students may design independent study programs to meet concentration requirements. Graduation with honors is awarded to students who meet College honors requirements, which, in addition to the above overall KU GPA and course requirements includes a major GPA of 3.5.