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.

Undergraduate Admission
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction to American Studies (3)</th>
<th>Satisfied by the following:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMS 100 Introduction to American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or AMS 101 Introduction to American Studies, Honors</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Identities (3)</th>
<th>Satisfied by the following:</th>
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<tr>
<td>AMS 110 American Identities</td>
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<td>or AMS 112 American Identities, Honors</td>
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<tr>
<th>The United States in Global Context (3)</th>
<th>Satisfied by the following:</th>
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<tr>
<td>AMS 332 The United States in Global Context</td>
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<tr>
<th>Theory and Method (18-19)</th>
<th>Satisfied by the following:</th>
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<tr>
<td>AMS 360 Theory and Method</td>
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<td>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:</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS/WGSS 560 Race, Gender, and Post-Colonial Discourses</td>
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<td>ANTH 361 The Third World: Anthropological Approaches</td>
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<td>ANTH 460 Theory in Anthropology</td>
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<td>HIST 301 The Historian's Craft</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 301 Introduction to Political Theory</td>
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<td>POLS 306 Political Science Methods of Inquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 320 Introduction to Public Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS/WGSS 600 Contemporary Feminist Political Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 649/ WGSS 549 History of Feminist Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 508 Contemporary Literary Theory</td>
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<td>POLS 609 Topics in Political Theory: _____</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 210 Statistics in Psychological Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 200 Research Methods in Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 310 Introduction to Social Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 500 Sociological Theory</td>
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<td>SOC 510 Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 601 Introduction to Feminist Social Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC/WGSS 468 Psychology of Women</td>
<td>3</td>
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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 |
Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in American Studies

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+):

- **ENGL 338** Introduction to African-American Literature 3
- **ENGL 339** Introduction to Caribbean Literature 3
- **FMS 380** American Popular Culture of: _____ 3
- **FMS 621** American Film Criticism 3
- **HA 370** American Art 3
- **HA 582** American Art 1860-1900: Gilded Age 3
- **HIST 310** American Culture, 1600-1876 3
- **HIST 312** American Culture, 1877 to the Present 3
- **HIST 313** Conspiracies and Paranoia in American History 3
- **HIST 347** Environmental History of North America 3
- **HIST 353** Indigenous Peoples of North America 3
- **HIST 360** Science and Religion 3
- **HIST 631** The Contemporary Afro-American Experience 3
- **LAA 505** U.S. Latino and Latin American Film and Literature 3
- **REL 339** History of Religion in America 3
- **THR 327** African-American Theatre and Drama 3
- **THR 380** Popular Culture: _____ 3

- 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 3
- **ENGL 339** Introduction to Caribbean Literature 3
- **ENGL 536** Readings in the Holocaust 3
- **GEOG 350** Physical Geography of Africa 3
- **GEOG 396** East Asia 3
- **GEOG 591** Geography of Latin America 3
- **GEOG 593** Central American Peoples and Lands 3
- **HIST 300** Modern Africa 3
- **HIST 331** Atlantic Societies, 1450-1800: A Comparative History of European Colonization 3
- **HIST 343** The Holocaust in History 3
- **HIST 350** The Korean War, 1950-1953 3
- **HIST 365** Invention of the Tropics 3
- **HIST 371** Tequila, Tango, Carnival, City 3
- **HIST 397** From Mao to Now: China’s Red Revolution 3
- **HIST 398** Introduction to History of Japan: Anime to Zen 3
- **HIST 574** Slavery in the New World 3
- **SOC 536** Ethnicity in the United States: _____ 3
- **SOC 621** Cross-Cultural Sociology 3

**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: _____ 3
• **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 popular culture):  
AMS 650 Jazz and American Culture  
AMS 652 Jazz I, Roots to 1955  
AMS 653 Jazz II, 1955-Present  
AMS 680 Jazz Autobiography  
AMS 682 Jazz Narratives in Novels and Films  
MUSC 298 Introduction to Jazz  
MUSC 299 American Popular Song  
MUSC 300 Jazz Styles, 1920-1980  

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

• **Religion.** Satisfied by 4 courses from at least 2 departments, 3 of which are at the 300+ level (possible key words: American religion):  
AAAS 300 African Traditional Religion and Thought  
AAAS 522 African and African-American Religion:  
AMS 290 Religion in American Society  
ANTH 484 Magic, Science, and Religion  
ANTH 666 Anthropology of Religion  
HIST 360 Science and Religion  
HIST 373 The Supreme Court and Religious Issues in the United States  
PHIL 350 Philosophical Issues in Religion  
PSYC 581 Psychology of Religion  
REL 330 Native American Religions  
REL 339 History of Religion in America  
REL 671 American Communes  
SOC 626 Religion and Society  

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:

• **Research Seminar in:**. Satisfied by AMS 550.
• 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.