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 (6-7)
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 3

ANTH 361 The Third World: Anthropological Approaches 3

ANTH 460 Theory in Anthropology 3

HIST 301 The Historian's Craft 3

POLS 301 Introduction to Political Theory 3

POLS 306 Political Science Methods of Inquiry 3

POLS 320 Introduction to Public Policy 3

POLS/WGSS 600 Contemporary Feminist Political Theory 3

HIST 649/ WGSS 549 History of Feminist Theory 3

ENGL 508 Contemporary Literary Theory 3

POLS 609 Topics in Political Theory: _____ 3

PSYC 210 Statistics in Psychological Research 3

PSYC 200 Research Methods in Psychology 3

SOC 310 Introduction to Social Research 3

SOC 500 Sociological Theory 3

SOC 510 Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis 3

SOC 601 Introduction to Feminist Social Theory 3

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
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
ENGL 338 Introduction to African-American Literature 3
ENGL 339 Introduction to Caribbean Literature 3
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 Ethnicity.** Majors must complete the following (possible key words: race, ethnicity, stereotyping, cultural diversity, slavery, ethnic relations, black 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** Fundamentals of 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)**

Satisfied by 2 electives, at least 1 at the 300+ level, from the following related to race and ethnicity: AAAS, AMS, ANTH, ENGL, HIST, POLS, SOC, WS.

• **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: ______
- **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 396** East Asia
- **GEOG 591** Geography of Latin America
- **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: ______
- **EALC 563** Cultural History of Korea
- **EALC 590** Topics in East Asian Languages and Cultures: ______
### Popular Culture
Satisfied by 4 courses from at least 2 departments, 3 of which are at the 300+ level (possible key words: popular culture, American culture, popular literature, sport, conspiracies).

- AMS 344: Case Study in American Studies: _____
- EALC 365: Japanese People through Films
- EALC 565: Popular Images in Japanese Culture, Literatures, and Films
- ENGL 325: Recent Popular Literature
- ENGL 506: Science Fiction
- HIST 310: American Culture, 1600-1876
- HIST 312: American Culture, 1877 to the Present
- HIST 313: Conspiracies and Paranoia in American History
- FMS 380: American Popular Culture of: _____
- MUSC 299: American Popular Song
- MUSC 303: The Film Musical
- SOC 364: Society, Popular Culture, and the Media
- SOC 365: Society, Popular Culture, and the Media, Honors
- SOC 629: Sociology of Sport
- SOC 634: The Sociology of Culture
- THR 327: African-American Theatre and Drama
- THR 380: Popular Culture: _____
- WGSS 513: Modern American Women in Film and Literature

### 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
- 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:

2. 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 of junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>ANTH 359</td>
<td>Anthropology of Sex</td>
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**Major Junior/Senior (300+) Graduation GPA**
Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses 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 here: American Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/american-studies/ba-bgs/BGS-in-American-Studies), or 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.