

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in American Studies

Career Opportunities

American Studies graduates are prepared for a broad array of occupations. Recently our graduates have entered jobs in museums, libraries, social policy, government, politics, journalism 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. 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 International Support 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.

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:

Code	Title	Hours
Introduction to American Studies		
Satisfied by the following:		
AMS 100	Introduction to American Studies	3
or AMS 101	Introduction to American Studies, Honors	
American Identities		
Satisfied by the following:		
AMS 110	American Identities	3
or AMS 112	American Identities, Honors	
The United States in Global Context		
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		
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 Empire
HIST 301	The Historian's Craft
POLS 301	Introduction to Political Theory
POLS 306	Political Science Methods of Inquiry
POLS 320	Introduction to Public Policy
WGSS 600	Feminist Contemporary Political Theory
HIST 649/ WGSS 549	History of Feminist Theory
ENGL 508	Contemporary Literary Theory
POLS 409	Topics in Political Theory: _____
PSYC 210	Statistics in Psychological Research
PSYC 200	Research Methods in Psychology
PSYC/WGSS 468	Psychology of Women
SOC 280	Introduction to Social Research
SOC 380	Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis
SOC 480	Sociological Theory

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/>).

- **American Cultural Studies.** Satisfied by 4 courses, 3 of which are at 300+ level (possible key words: American culture).

Code	Title	Hours
AMS 312	American Culture, 1877 to the Present	3
AMS 650	Jazz and American Culture	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
FMS 380	American Popular Culture of: _____	3
HA 370	Art of the United States	3
HA 582	American Art 1860-1900: Gilded Age	3
HIST 312	American Culture, 1877 to the Present	3
HIST 347	Environmental History of North America	3
HIST 353	Indigenous Peoples of North America	3
LAC 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

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

Code	Title	Hours
Race and Ethnicity Group A		
Select one of the following from AAAS, AMS, ENGL, or HIST at the junior/senior level (300+):		3
AAAS 306	The Black Experience in the U.S. Since Emancipation	
AAAS 460	Topics and Problems in African and African-American Studies	
ENGL 336	Jewish American Literature and Culture	
AMS/AAAS 437	Global Ethnic and Racial Relations	
ENGL 337	Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Literature	
ENGL 338	Introduction to African-American Literature	
ENGL 339	Introduction to Caribbean Literature	
HIST 353	Indigenous Peoples of North America	
HIST 574	Slavery in the New World	

Race and Ethnicity Group B

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	
PSYC 465	Stereotyping and Prejudice Across Cultures	
SOC 341	Urban Sociology	
SOC 343	American Racial and Ethnic Relations	
SOC 437	Global Ethnic and Racial Relations	

Race and Ethnicity Required Electives

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).

Code	Title	Hours
AAAS 611	History of the Black Power Movement	3
ANTH 301	Anthropology Through Films	3
HA 370	Art of the United States	3
HA 525	Aegean Archaeology and Art	3
HA 582	American Art 1860-1900: Gilded Age	3
FMS 310	History of the Silent Film	3
FMS 311	History of the American Sound Film	3
FMS 314	History of African-American Images in Film	3
FMS 380	American Popular Culture of: _____	3
THR 327	African-American Theatre and Drama	3
THR 380	Popular Culture: _____	3
THR 528	History of U.S. Theatre and Drama	3

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

Code	Title	Hours
Local and Global Group A		

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

AMS/SOC 437	Global Ethnic and Racial Relations	3
ENGL 339	Introduction to Caribbean Literature	
GEOG 396	East Asia	
GEOG 591	Geography of Latin America	
HIST 300	Modern Africa	
HIST 331	Age of Empires-The Atlantic 1400-1800	
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 430	Cross-Cultural Sociology	

Local and Global Group B

Satisfied by 1 of the following courses from EALC, LAC, 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: _____	
LAC 334	Indigenous Traditions of Latin America	
LAC 505	U.S. Latino and Latin American Film and Literature	
AAAS 302	Contemporary Haiti	
AAAS 320	African Studies In: _____	
AAAS 433	Islamic Literature	
AAAS 349	Islam	

Local and Global Required Electives

Satisfied by 2 electives, at least 1 at the 300+ level, from the following courses related to race and ethnicity: AAAS, AMS, EALC, ENGL, GEOG, HA, HIST, LAC, POLS, SPAN.

- **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).

Code	Title	Hours
AMS 344	Case Study in American Studies: _____	3
ENGL 325	Recent Popular Literature	3
ENGL 506	Science Fiction	3
HIST 312	American Culture, 1877 to the Present	3
FMS 380	American Popular Culture of: _____	3
SOC 363	The Sociology of Culture	3
SOC 364	Society, Popular Culture, and the Media	3
THR 327	African-American Theatre and Drama	3
THR 380	Popular Culture: _____	3

- **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):

Code	Title	Hours
AMS 511	History of American Women--1870 to Present	3
ANTH 359	Anthropology of Sex	3
HIST 531	History of American Women--1870 to Present	3
PHIL 504	Philosophy of Sex and Love	3
PSYC 410	Intimate Relationships	3
REL 374	Religious Perspectives on Selfhood and Sexuality	3
SOC 352	Sociology of Sex Roles	3
SOC 343	American Racial and Ethnic Relations	3
SOC 617	Women and Health Care	3
WGSS 333	The Politics of Physical Appearance	3
WGSS 440	Communication and Gender	3
WGSS 468	Psychology of Women	3
WGSS 562	Gender and Politics	3
WGSS 563	Gender, Sexuality and the Law	3
WGSS 653	Gender, Peace, and Conflict	3

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

Code	Title	Hours
AAAS 300	African Traditional Religion and Thought	3
AMS 290	Religion in American Society	3
ANTH 484	Magic, Science, and Religion	3
HIST 373	The Supreme Court and Religious Issues in the United States	3
PHIL 350	Philosophical Issues in Religion	3
REL 330	Native American Religions	3
REL 339	History of Religion in America	3
REL 671	American Communes	3

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 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. Download a sample 4-year plan (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/american-studies/ba-bgs/ba-american-studies/>) 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 (<https://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 be found here: American Studies (<https://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 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 course requirements includes a major GPA of 3.5.