The American Studies major prepares students to be engaged citizens through the interdisciplinary analysis of the complex interactions of peoples, cultures, social structures, and political institutions that shape and have shaped our country. This major also helps students acquire the analytical tools needed to explore how Americans have described, housed, educated, and packaged themselves through architecture, books, movies, political speeches, civic celebrations, movies, historic sites, museums, and other venues. Finally, by exploring the relationship of the United States to the rest of the world, students acquire a comparative perspective on national narratives while developing the critical, interpretative, writing and speaking skills needed to unravel, engage, and explain the United States’ complex character.

The American Studies major is thirty-six (36) credits. The interdisciplinary nature of the program makes it easy to double major.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR:**

1. **Methods Course:**
   
   AMST 201: Introduction to American Studies

2. **Interdisciplinary Seminars (both required):**
   
   One 200-Level Seminar (besides AMST 201)
   
   One 300-Level Seminar

3. **Electives:**
   
   In addition to the four core courses, you will take eight electives to complete the major. To demonstrate the ability to transcend disciplinary boundaries, you will complete five thematically unified courses from affiliated disciplines approved by an American Studies advisor and the Program Director. To ensure breadth, no more than three of the eight elective courses may be from a single affiliated discipline. One of the electives must also deal with the United States prior to 1900; another must explore conceptualizations of race and/or gender.

   **Disciplines Offering Electives:**
   
   American Studies
   
   Anthropology
   
   Art History
   
   Communication
   
   Economics
   
   English
   
   Geography
   
   Historic Preservation
   
   History
   
   Interdisciplinary Studies
   
   Linguistics
   
   Music History and Literature
   
   Political Science
   
   Religion
   
   Sociology
   
   Spanish
   
   Women’s and Gender Studies

4. **Senior Thesis:**

   AMST 485: Senior Thesis: An independent, semester-long project pursued under the supervision of an affiliated faculty member. Thesis research may be presented as a traditional paper, or in other formats, like a documentary film or website.

**POSSIBLE CAREERS FOR THE AMERICAN STUDIES MAJORS:**

- Analyst
- Archivist
- Biographer
- Congressional aide
- Demographer
- Diplomat
- Editor
- Exhibits specialist
- Foreign service officer
- Historic site administrator
- Human resources officer
- Information systems analyst
- Insurance agent/broker
- Intelligence specialist
- Investment banker
- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Legislative aide
- Librarian
- Lobbyist
- Management analyst
- Museum curator
- Paralegal
- Peace Corps/Vista worker
- Political scientist
- Politician
- Program analyst
- Public policy specialist
- Public relations specialist
- Researcher
- Teacher

**AMERICAN STUDIES AFFILIATED FACULTY**

- **Erin Devlin (director)** – Department of History and American Studies
- **Antonio Barrenechea** – Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication
- **Joe Dreiss** – Department of Art and Art History
- **Stephen J. Farnsworth** – Department of Political Science and International Affairs
- **Brad Hansen** – Department of Economics
- **Christine Henry** – Department of Historic Preservation
- **Janie Lee** – Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication
- **Mary Beth Mathews** – Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion
- **Will B. Mackintosh** – Department of History and American Studies
- **Jeffrey McClurken** – Department of History and American Studies
- **Krystyn R. Moon** – Department of History and American Studies
- **Mary Patterson** – Department of Geography
- **Gary N. Richards** – Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication
- **Mara Scanlon** – Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication
- **Jason R. Sellers** – Department of History and American Studies
- **Gregg Stull** – Department of Theatre and Dance
- **Danny Tweedy** – Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication

For more information, contact Erin Krutko Devlin, director, at edevlin@umw.edu.