

AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR AT UMW

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	Linguistics
Anthropology	Music History and Literature
Art History	Literature
Communication	Political Science
Economics	Religion
English	Sociology
Geography	Spanish
Historic Preservation	Women's and Gender Studies
History	
Interdisciplinary 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	Lawyer
Archivist	Legislative aide
Biographer	Librarian
Congressional aide	Lobbyist
Demographer	Management analyst
Diplomat	Museum curator
Editor	Paralegal
Exhibits specialist	Peace Corps/Vista worker
Foreign service officer	Political scientist
Historic site administrator	Politician
Human resources officer	Program analyst
Information systems analyst	Public policy specialist
Insurance agent/broker	Public relations specialist
Intelligence specialist	Researcher
Investment banker	Teacher
Journalist	

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 • **Melina 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



where great minds get to work

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