School of Interdisciplinary Studies

American Studies (BA)

The program in American Studies focuses on the study of the cultures, institutions, legal system, political structure, and social processes of the United States. It emphasizes an interdisciplinary perspective. Students choose two broad areas or options to study. American Studies graduates work in business, culture industries, government, legal fields, media, non-profit organizations, and sports industries. The BA in American Studies is also an excellent preparation for law school or graduate school. Each student designs his or her own program within specific guidelines and in consultation with an academic advisor. The courses that a student takes as part of the American Studies program may be given in any school within the University but will include American Studies courses and appropriate Interdisciplinary Studies courses. A list of courses which apply to the American Studies degree may be obtained from the academic advisors in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Double majors including American Studies are encouraged.

Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)

Faculty

Professors: George W. Fair, Karen J. Prager, Lawrence J. Redlinger, Erin A. Smith
Senior Lecturers: Kathleen Byrnes, Jillian Duquaine-Watson, Patricia A. Leek, Angela McNulty, Larissa Werhnyak, Elizabeth Winstead, Tonja Wissinger

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication
RHET 1302 Rhetoric

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours

Choose one course from the following:
MATH 1306 College Algebra for the Non-Scientist
MATH 1314 College Algebra

Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours

Select any 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences core courses

Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours

Choose one course from the following:
AMS 2300 American Popular Culture
AMS 2341 American Studies for the Twenty-First Century
HUMA 1301 Exploration of the Humanities

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Language, Philosophy and Culture core courses

Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours
Choose one course from the following:
  ARTS 1301 Exploration of the Arts
  FILM 2332 Understanding Film

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Creative Arts core courses

American History: 6 semester credit hours
Choose two courses from the following:
  HIST 1301 U.S. History Survey to Civil War
  HIST 1302 U.S. History Survey from Civil War
  HIST 2301 History of Texas

Government / Political Science: 6 semester credit hours
  GOVT 2305 American National Government
  GOVT 2306 State and Local Government

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours
Choose one course from the following:
  GST 2300 Introduction to Gender Studies
  PSY 2301 Introduction to Psychology
  SOC 1301 Introduction to Sociology

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Social and Behavioral Sciences core courses. Students are strongly encouraged to take a core course that is closely related to their options and career goals.

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours
Students are strongly encouraged to take two Component Area Option courses that are closely related to their options and career goals.

II. Major Requirements: 48 semester credit hours

Major Core Courses: 12 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum
AMS 3302  American Cultures
  or  AMS 2341  American Studies for the Twenty-First Century

BIS 3320  The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry

MATH 1306  College Algebra for the Non-Scientist
  or  MATH 1314  College Algebra

Choose two courses from the following:

HIST 3369  United States Foreign Relations

PSCI 3325  American Public Policy

PSCI 3327  American Foreign Policy

Or other courses on American history or American government approved by the academic advisor.

Major Related Courses: Two Options 36 semester credit hours

In addition to the major core courses, students will take 18 semester credit hours of coursework in two of the following subject options, for a total of 36 semester credit hours:

  African American Culture
  American Body Politic
  American Economic System
  American Legal System
  America: Past and Present
  America and the World Community
  American Business and Technology
  American Literature and Arts
  Gender Studies
  Issues in Media and Communication
  Latino/Latina Culture
  Popular Culture

III. Elective Requirements: 30 semester credit hours

Required for all freshmen: 1 semester credit hour

UNIV 1010  Freshman Seminar

BIS 1100  Interdisciplinary Studies Freshman Seminar

Free Electives: 29 semester credit hours
Students must complete 51 semester credit hours of upper-division coursework to graduate. They must complete a minimum of 45 semester credit hours at UT Dallas. In the final semester, all the coursework should be taken at UT Dallas.

Honors in American Studies

Grade Point Average (GPA): 3.900 cumulative GPA, 3.900 GPA in courses described below, and a total of 27 or 30 upper-division UT Dallas semester credit hours as described below. (The variation is determined by whether or not AMS 3302 or AMS 2341 is chosen). The total semester credit hours must be 30.

Required courses: 24 semester credit hours

AMS 3302 American Cultures (3 semester credit hours)

or AMS 2341 American Studies for the Twenty-First (3 semester credit hours)³

BIS 3320 The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry (3 semester credit hours)

Two of HIST 3369, PSCI 3325, PSCI 3327 or other courses on American history or American government approved by the academic advisor (6 semester credit hours)

Core Course of first chosen option area (3 semester credit hours)

Core Course of second chosen option area (3 semester credit hours)

One approved AMS course from option area 1 (3 semester credit hours)

One approved course from option area 2 (3 semester credit hours)

Prescribed courses: 6 semester credit hours

6 semester credit hours of Internship

or 3 semester credit hours of Internship and one approved three semester credit hour course from option area 1 or 2

Notation on Transcript: Honors in Major

1. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 and the corresponding school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.

2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.

3. A required major course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Semester credit hours are counted in the Core Curriculum.

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