

# 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)<sup>1</sup>

### Faculty

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**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<sup>2</sup>

**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<sup>3</sup>

[MATH 1314](#) College Algebra<sup>3</sup>

**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<sup>3</sup>

[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<sup>3</sup>

[BIS 3320](#) The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry

[MATH 1306](#) College Algebra for the Non-Scientist<sup>3</sup>

or [MATH 1314](#) College Algebra<sup>3</sup>

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)<sup>3</sup>

[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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