

American Studies

Interdisciplinary

American studies provides a broad framework for the exploration of the people, places, society, and culture of the United States. The field accomplishes this by appropriating ideas and methodologies from one discipline and applying them to another, and by transcending established boundaries among disciplines to create a new structure that combines traditional values and new visions. The program incorporates fieldwork research experiences, collaborative exploration, and public presentation.

American studies is a highly selective major requiring intellectual independence and maturity. If you wish to be considered for admission to the major, you must write a short essay explaining your goals, developing the six-course plan you will follow, and detailing the trajectory of your course of study.

FACULTY

Peter Rutkoff, Director, Robert A. Oden Jr. Professor of American Studies

Sylvie Coulibaly, Assistant Professor of History

Melissa Dabakis, Professor of Art History

Ennis B. Edmonds, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

John M. Elliott, Professor of Political Science

Lewis Hyde, Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing (first semester only)

P. Frederick Kluge, Writer-in-Residence (first semester only)

David H. Lynn, Professor of English

Glenn McNair, Associate Professor of History

Kim McMullen, John Crowe Ransom Professor of English

Sam Pack, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Howard L. Sacks, Professor of Sociology

William B. Scott, Professor of History

Ric S. Sheffield, Associate Provost; Associate Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies

Judy R. Smith, Professor of English

Gregory P. Spaid, Provost; Professor of Studio Art

Thomas P. Stamp, College Historian and Keeper of Kenyoniana

Jonathan E. Tazewell, Associate Professor of Drama

Jan E. Thomas, Associate Professor of Sociology

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The major in American studies consists of 6 units:

- AMST 108 Introduction to American Studies (.5 unit)
- Four diversification courses (2 units)
- Six courses of elective study (3 units)
- The Senior Seminar (.5 unit)

AMST 108 Introduction to American Studies (.5 unit).

This course is normally taken during the first or second year at Kenyon.

Diversification courses (2 units). See the list of courses below. One unit must be from A. History and Politics, and one unit from B. Culture and Society. Some courses may have prerequisites in the home department; others may have limited enrollment. Students majoring in American studies should work closely with their advisors to ensure their acceptance.

A. History and Politics. Two courses (1 unit) from the following:

AMST 310 American Culture and the Environment
 HIST 101D U.S. History, 1492-1865
 HIST 102D U.S. History, 1865 to Present
 HIST 175 Early African-American History
 HIST 176 Contemporary African-American History
 HIST 205/PSCI 309 U.S. Political History
 HIST 208 Women in America
 HIST 388 Public History
 HIST 411 Civil Rights Era
 PSCI 200 Liberal Democracy in America
 PSCI 301 American Presidency
 PSCI 331 American Political Thought

B. Culture and Society. Two courses (1 unit) from the following:

AMST 109 American Art and Culture
 AMST 222 The American West
 AMST 314 American College and University Architecture
 AMST 382 Baseball and American Culture
 ARHS 227 American Art to 1865
 ENGL 270 American Fiction
 ENGL 280 American Modernist Literature
 HIST 189 African-American History through Fiction
 MUSC 302 The History of Jazz
 RLST 230 Religion and Society in America (U.S.)
 RLST 332 African-American Religions
 SOCY 111 American Society
 SOCY 246 American Folk Music

Elective study (3 units). Six courses from a single area, discipline, or set of disciplines that form a coherent program in American studies. Examples of such areas would be: writing and literature, race and ethnicity, history and

society, politics and economics, African-American studies, women's studies, law and society, landscape and the environment, and America in a global context. Many other areas of focus are possible as well. The elective-study program undertaken by the student requires approval of the director of the American Studies Program. At least one unit (2 courses) must be at the 300 or 400 level.

Senior Seminar (.5 unit). A one-semester seminar taken during the spring of the senior year. The Senior Seminar will typically entail individual research and public presentation.

THE SENIOR EXERCISE

The Senior Exercise in American studies may take several forms, but it must draw on the elective-study component of the major, identifying and then developing, through original research, a major theme that the student has identified as central to his or her work in American studies. By the final Friday in September, majors in American studies will present their plans for the Senior Exercise to their advisors and to the program director.

The exercise itself will have two parts: (1) a presentation (visual, oral, electronic) to selected majors and faculty in American studies; and (2) a written analysis or documentation of the work presented. The Senior Exercise will be presented no later than the last Friday in April in the spring semester.

HONORS

The Honors Program in American studies entails a two-semester (1 unit) sequence of independent work integral to the elective-study program in the major, taken during the senior year (AMST 497Y-498Y). The program will result in an honors project that may take a variety of forms but shall include a written component and a public presentation or performance. Honors work will be evaluated by an external examiner. Students with an overall GPA of 3.33 and a GPA of 3.5 in the major become eligible for admission to the Honors Program during the second semester of their third year. To enter the Honors Program, students must be nominated by an American studies faculty member. Following the recommendation, a formal proposal containing a statement of intent, a tentative bibliography, and a project outline must be sent to the project advisor and the director of American studies for approval by April 1. Exceptions to the GPA requirements may occasionally be granted by petition.

THE CONCENTRATION IN AMERICAN STUDIES

The concentration in American studies, encompassing 3 units of work, consists of three components: a one-semester introductory course, AMST 108 (.5 unit); four semester

courses in curricular options (2 units); and a one-semester senior seminar (.5 unit). Students may choose among several pathways that will fulfill the curricular-options requirement. To obtain a list of specific courses that fall under these categories, students should consult the director of the American Studies Program. Courses required for a student's major cannot count toward completion of the American studies course requirements. Coursework undertaken for American studies must be over and above work required by a major department.

Students who are considering the concentration should consult with Peter Rutkoff, director of American studies, before enrolling in classes.

AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES

AMST 101D. United States History, 1492-1865

Credit: .5 unit

This course is a thematic survey of United States history from European conquest through the Civil War. Through lectures, discussions, and readings, students will examine the nation's colonial origin, the impact of European conquest of the native peoples, the struggle for national independence, and the formation of a national government. The second half of the course will focus on the making of a modern nation. Topics will include the expansion of the market economy, chattel slavery, and the factory system. The course will also look at early urbanization, the rise of egalitarianism, religious movements, the first women's movements, and the defeat of the southern secessionist movement. No prerequisites. This course is the same as HIST 101D in the history curriculum.

Instructor: Scott

AMST 102D. United States History, 1865-Present

Credit: .5 unit

This course is a thematic survey of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. Students will examine the transformation of the United States from a rural, largely Protestant society into a powerful and culturally diverse, urban/industrial nation. Topics will include constitutional developments, the formation of a national economy, urbanization, and immigration. The course will also discuss political changes, the secularization of public culture, the formation of the welfare state, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War as well as suburbanization, the civil rights movement, women's and gay rights, and the late twentieth-century conservative-politics movement and religious revival. No prerequisites. This course is the same as HIST 102D, in the history curriculum.

Instructor: Scott

AMST 108. Introduction to American Studies

Credit: .5 unit

This course introduces students to the principles of American studies through the exploration of American history and culture in the 1960s. We will seek to understand the nature of American society in that critical period through the study of the struggle for political reform, the role of women, the civil rights movement, and the counter-culture. Guest lectures, films, and student presentations complement the course, and students will be asked to engage actively in its development. No prerequisites. Enrollment is limited to twenty, with preference to first-year students.

Instructor: Rutkoff

AMST 109. American Art and Culture, 1900-1945

Credit: .5 unit

In this course, we will study visual culture in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century. We will look at art, architecture, and popular media within a broad cultural context in relation to film, literature, history, and politics. We will explore such themes as the search for an American identity, the issue of cultural nationalism, the interaction between European modernism and a native realist tradition, and the relationship among art, politics, and social activism. In so doing, we will employ an American studies interdisciplinary model by focusing on a number of artifacts, such as the Armory Show, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the Gambier Post Office mural. This course is cross-listed in the Department of Art and Art History. No prerequisite.

Instructor: Dabakis

AMST 110. August Wilson and Black Pittsburgh

Credit: .5 unit

The great African American playwright, August Wilson, set his cycle of plays in Pittsburgh's one dynamic neighborhood, the Hill. This seminar will read a series of Wilson's plays, including "Joe Turner's Come and Gone", "The Piano Lesson", and "Fences", and locate them in time and place in African-American history. This course is for first year students with AP or KAP credit in American History or American Studies and a critical aspect of the course will be a three-day field work experience in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

Instructor: Rutkoff

AMST 314. American College and University Architecture

Credit: .5 unit

College and university campuses, from picturesque Gothic and Georgian wonderlands to the starkly modern and utilitarian assemblages of more recent years, have long been a source of fascination for Americans. They play a large role in the romantic ideal of college life, they evoke images of privilege or openness, and they are increasingly seen as a sales tool by marketers. If we look beyond the most superficial aspects of campuses, though, their physical appearances can reveal a great deal about an institutions's

history, its goals and philosophy, even its relative place in the nation's higher-education hierarchy. This course will look at a variety of campuses and campus types—urban, suburban, and rural, public and private, old and new—and end with a class project involving development of an ideal campus. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

Instructor: Stamp

AMST 381. Senior Seminar In American Studies

Credit: .5 unit

The course will provide a setting for guided student advanced work in American studies. The participants will work collaboratively to assist one another in the development of individual research projects that represent the synthesis of the six courses they have crafted for the major in American studies. The course is required of all American studies senior majors and concentrators. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

Instructor: Rutkoff

AMST 382. Baseball and American Culture

Credit: .5 unit

This course will look at the wide range of representations of the national game in American culture. The course will examine literature, poetry, and drama as well as the visual arts as a way of understanding the power of baseball on our cultural imagination. The seminar will focus on group discussion, collaborative presentations, and individual analysis. Students may take the course for credit in American studies or English. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

Instructor: Rutkoff

AMST 497Y. Senior Honors Project

Credit: .5 unit

The Honors Program in American studies entails a two-semester sequence of independent work integral to the elective-study program in the major, taken during the senior year. Prerequisite: permission of the American studies faculty.

Instructor: Rutkoff

AMST 498Y. Senior Honors Project

Credit: .5 unit

See the description for AMST497Y.

Instructor: Rutkoff

SPECIAL TOPICS PREVIOUSLY OFFERED IN AMERICAN STUDIES

American Western Film
American Environmental Thought
American Culture and the Environment

COURSES THAT MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT TOWARD THE MAJOR OR CONCENTRATION IN AMERICAN STUDIES:

ARHS 227 American Art to 1900
DRAM 218 Introduction to Film
ENGL 270 American Fiction
ENGL 271 The Confidence Game in America
ENGL 280 American Modernism
ENGL 283 Introduction to Native American Literature and Culture
ENGL 288 Introduction to African-American Literature
ENGL 372 The Gilded Age
ENGL 382 The Jazz Age
ENGL 385 Contemporary American Poetry
ENGL 388 African-American Literature, 1945-1980: From Ellison to Black Feminism
ENGL 471 Hawthorne and Melville
ENGL 473 Faulkner
ENGL 486 The Little Magazine in America
ENGL 379Y-380Y American Literature
ENVS 112 Introduction to Environmental Studies
HIST 101D United States History, 1492 -1865
HIST 102D United States History, 1865 - Present
HIST 175 Early African American History
HIST 176 Contemporary African-American History
HIST 189 African-American History through Film and Fiction
HIST 205 U.S. Political History: The Great Depression and World War II
HIST 208 U.S. Women's History
HIST 275 World War II
HIST 310 The Civil War
HIST 316 Jazz Age 1900-1930
HIST 356 Vietnam
HIST 408 Native Voices: Self and Society through North American Indian Autobiography
HIST 411 The Civil Rights Era
MUSC 302 The History of Jazz
PSCI 200 Liberal Democracy in America
PSCI 301 The American Presidency
PSCI 309 American Political History
PSCI 310 Public Policy
PSCI 311 American Public Policy: School Reform
PSCI 312 American Constitutional Law
PSCI 332 African-American Political Thought
PSCI 365 International Terrorism
RLST 230 Religion and Society in America
RLST 232 Afro-Caribbean Spirituality
RLST 332 African-American Religions
RLST 411 Trials, Debates and Controversies
SOCY 229 Social Movements
SOCY 232 Sexual Harassment
SOCY 422 Topics in Social Stratification