

AMERICAN STUDIES (BA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/americanstudies/>)

NYSED: 35418 HEGIS: 0313.00 CIP: 05.0102

Program Description

American Studies at NYU is one of the country's top-ranked programs in this dynamic field. An interdisciplinary program housed in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, it studies United States society in national, hemispheric, and global frameworks. It draws on faculty strength in a wide range of fields, including history, area studies, literature and film, gender studies, critical ethnic studies, political economy, and urban and environmental studies. The program interprets "American" in a broad sense to include assessments of the historical role of the United States in the Americas and, more generally, in world affairs. Students are exposed to a range of methodologies in the social sciences and humanities, including ethnography, textual analysis, archival research, and cultural studies.

Honors Program

Majors who have completed 48 credits of graded work in CAS and have a 3.65 GPA or higher (overall and in the major) are encouraged to register for SCA-UA 92 Senior Honors Seminar in the fall semester of their senior year. Upon successful completion of the seminar requirement, students will be eligible to register for SCA-UA 93 Senior Honors Thesis in the spring.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see [How to Apply](https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html) (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

The American Studies major requires nine 4-credit courses (36 credits) completed with a grade of C or better (courses graded Pass/Fail do not count) as outlined below. Students who take a Cultures and Contexts course as the second introductory course for the major may also count it toward the CORE-UA 5xx graduation requirement.

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Expressive Culture		4
Major Requirements		
<i>Introductory Courses (Two)</i>		
SCA-UA 101	Social and Cultural Analysis 101	4
Select one of the following:		4

CORE-UA 529	Cultures & Contexts: Contemporary Latino Cultures	
CORE-UA 534	Cultures & Contexts: The Black Atlantic	
CORE-UA 539	Cultures & Contexts: Asian / Pacific / American Cultures	
SCA-UA 230	Intersect: Race, Gender, & Sexuality in U.S. Hist	
SCA-UA 747	Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies: The Politics of Indigeneity	
URBS-UA 102	The City ²	
<i>Major Elective Courses</i>		
Select six designated American studies electives ³		24
<i>Research Course</i>		
SCA-UA 90	Advanced Research Seminar	4
<i>Electives</i>		
Other Elective Credits		44
Total Credits		128

¹ The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit. For a complete list of Intermediate language courses that fulfill this requirement, click here (<https://cas.nyu.edu/academic-programs/bulletin/departments-and-programs/the-college-core-curriculum/program-of-study-cas-bulletin.html>).

² Formerly SCA-UA 601 Approaches to Metropolitan Studies.

³ Four of the six courses must be taught by SCA faculty.

Language and Linguistic Competency

The department strongly encourages its students to develop advanced skills in language and linguistics by any of the following means: taking elective courses in sociolinguistics; studying a language other than English beyond the minimum level required by the College of Arts and Science; studying languages especially germane to the department's fields of study; pursuing community-based internship fieldwork necessitating the development and use of specific language skills; or undertaking study or research away in contexts entailing the exercise of key language or linguistic capabilities.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
Select one of the following (see footnote below): ¹		4
Foreign Language I		4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Credits		
		16
2nd Semester/Term		
SCA-UA 101	Social and Cultural Analysis 101	4
Foreign Language II		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Credits		
		16
3rd Semester/Term		
Major Elective (#1 of 6) ²		4
Foreign Language III		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		
		16

4th Semester/Term		16
Major Elective (#2 of 6) ²	4	
Foreign Language IV	4	
Expressive Culture	4	
Other Elective Credits	4	
5th Semester/Term		16
Major Elective (#3 of 6) ²	4	
Physical Science	4	
Other Elective Credits	4	
Other Elective Credits	4	
6th Semester/Term		16
Major Elective (#4 of 6) ²	4	
Major Elective (#5 of 6) ²	4	
Life Science	4	
Other Elective Credits	4	
7th Semester/Term		16
Major Elective (#6 of 6) ²	4	
Other Elective Credits	4	
Other Elective Credits	4	
Other Elective Credits	4	
8th Semester/Term		16
SCA-UA 90	Advanced Research Seminar	
Other Elective Credits		
Other Elective Credits		
Other Elective Credits		
Total Credits		128

¹ Select one of the following: CORE-UA 529 Cultures & Contexts:
Contemporary Latino Cultures OR CORE-UA 534 Cultures & Contexts:
The Black Atlantic OR CORE-UA 539 Cultures & Contexts: Asian /
Pacific / American Cultures OR SCA-UA 230 Intersect: Race, Gender, &
Sexuality in U.S. Hist OR SCA-UA 747 Introduction to Native American
and Indigenous Studies: The Politics of Indigeneity OR URBS-UA 102
The City (Formerly SCA-UA 601 Approaches to Metropolitan Studies).
² Chosen from designated American Studies Electives. Of the six Major
Elective courses, four must be taught by SCA faculty.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have developed:

1. Critical thinking tools for the analysis of social, cultural, and political formations.
2. Familiarity with theories for the study of race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, space, and nation.
3. Proficiency in written and oral communication.
4. The ability to produce original research on topics relevant to the major using textual/literary, archival, ethnographic, and/or quantitative research methods.
5. Engagement and familiarity with primary texts in American Studies.

Policies

Program Policies

Policy on Double Counting of Courses

Major

Majors may share (double count) two courses with a second major, with permission from the other department/program.

Minor

Minors may share (double count) one course with a major or a second minor, with permission from the other department/program.

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).