

AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR, B.A.—AMERICAN INDIAN AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES CONCENTRATION

The American Indian and indigenous studies concentration provides a meaningful grounding in the histories, cultures, and contemporary experiences of peoples indigenous to North America, as well as their encounters with settler states. The curriculum increasingly provides opportunities for students to gain a hemispheric perspective that includes the histories, cultures, and contemporary experiences of the indigenous peoples of the Americas. Students may petition the director of undergraduate studies to have courses not listed approved to fulfill major or minor requirements; such courses will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the American studies program, students should be able to:


- Apply critical skills of analysis to a variety of primary historical sources and/or cultural expressions
- Exercise advanced writing skills that demonstrate clear articulation of ideas and effective expression of understanding
- Assess the value of interdisciplinary learning by engaging with a variety of disciplinary perspectives on the study of America within their major elective courses
- Interpret national traditions and ideals from different local, regional, transnational, and/or global situations and from diverse ideological and/or ethnic perspectives
- Report satisfaction with the American studies major and its value for their postgraduate academic and professional careers

In addition to the program requirements, students must

- earn a minimum final cumulative GPA of 2.000
- complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
- take at least half of their major core requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the major core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for major or specific courses.

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/>).

The concentration in American Indian and indigenous studies consists of nine courses.




Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirements		
AMST/HIST 110	 Introduction to the Cultures and Histories of Native North America	3

Select eight additional courses from the list below, with at least four numbered 200 or higher. 24

Total Hours 27

Electives

Code	Title	Hours
AMST FYS	First-Year Seminar ¹	3
AMST/ANTH 203	 Approaches to American Indian Studies	3
AMST/HIST 231	 Native American History: The East	3
AMST/HIST 233	Native American History: The West	3
AMST/ANTH/HIST 234	 Native American Tribal Studies ^H	3
AMST/HIST 235	 Native America in the 20th Century	3
AMST 246	Indigenous Storytelling: Oral, Written, and Visual Literatures of Native America	3
AMST 336	Native Americans in Film	3
AMST 337	 American Indian Activism since 1887: Beyond Red Power	3
AMST 338	 American Indian Novel	3
AMST 339	 The Long 1960s in Native America	3
AMST 340	American Indian Art and Material Culture through Interdisciplinary Perspectives	3
AMST 341	 Digital Native America	3
AMST 345	Issues in the Indigenous World	3
AMST 439	Meaning and Makers: Indigenous Artists and the Marketplace	3
AMST 510	 Federal Indian Law and Policy	3
AMST 511	 American Indians and American Law	3
ANTH 121	 Ancient Cities of the Americas	3
ANTH 206	American Indian Societies	3
ANTH 231	 The Inca and Their Ancestors: The Archaeology of Andean South America	3
ANTH 232	 Ancestral Maya Civilizations ^H	3
ANTH 250	 Archaeology of North America ^H	3
ANTH 252	 Archaeology of Food	3
ANTH 406	 Native Writers	3
ANTH 451	 Field School in North American Archaeology ^H	6
ANTH 550	 Archaeology of the American South	3
ARTH 160	 Introduction to the Art and Architecture of Pre-Hispanic Mesoamerica ^H	3
CHER 101	Elementary Cherokee Language I	3
CHER 102	Elementary Cherokee Language II	3
CHER 203	 Intermediate Cherokee Language I	3
CHER 204	Intermediate Cherokee Language II	3
HIST 142	 Latin America under Colonial Rule	3
HIST 145	 Latin American Indigenous Peoples	3
HIST 240	 Introduction to Mexico: A Nation in Four Revolutions	3

HIST 315	 Nation-Building in Latin America ^H	3
HIST 526	History of the Andes	3
HIST/WGST 576	The Ethnohistory of Native American Women	3
LING 558	 Ancient Mayan Hieroglyphs	3
LING 560	Mesoamerican Languages and Linguistics	3
LING 561	Native Languages of the Americas	3
MAYA 401	Introduction to Yucatec Maya	3
RELI 448	 Native and Christian: Indigenous Engagements with Christianity	3
SPAN 344	Latin@ American Cultural Topics	3
SPAN 374	Mesoamerica through Its Native Literatures	3
SPAN 625	Indigenous Literatures and Cultures of the Américas	3
SPAN 683	Guaraní Linguistics	3

^H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

¹ With permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, one AMST First-Year Seminar course with relevant American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS) content can count as an elective for the major.

Special Opportunities in American Studies

Honors in American Studies

The American Studies major offers students the opportunity to pursue research projects under the direction of outstanding faculty and to engage in a small, specially designated seminar with peers who are also writing theses. Students propose their thesis and contract with a faculty advisor during the semester prior to the beginning of their senior year. During their senior year, majors register for a thesis research seminar (AMST 691H) in the fall and enroll in an AMST 692H independent study seminar course with their faculty advisor in the spring. For each semester of honors work, thesis students must submit a signed learning contract to the Department of American Studies during the registration period. Students must maintain a 3.3 cumulative grade point average to be eligible. With the approval of the associate or the assistant dean for honors, students with a slightly lower average who have a reasonable expectation of meeting the requirement within one more semester may embark upon the honors thesis, understanding that if they do not attain the 3.3 standard they may continue the research project as independent study but are not eligible to graduate with honors or highest honors.

Experiential Education

The Department of American Studies offers a seminar on Service Learning in America (AMST 398) and offers credits for approved internship projects (AMST 493). Students have learned about American studies by serving the community in museums, schools, social agencies, and other cultural institutions. Many courses in the folklore program also offer experiential education credit through ethnographic training and fieldwork opportunities.

Study Abroad

The Department of American Studies encourages students to consider a semester or more of study abroad and has developed close relations with several American studies programs in different countries. Studying

American experience in international contexts is an integral part of understanding the place and influence of the United States in the world. Student learning is enhanced by the perspectives gained by examining how American subjects are taught in universities around the globe as well as by encountering the international students who enroll in American studies courses in Chapel Hill. Students can receive American studies major credit for selected study abroad programs and are encouraged to make study abroad part of their academic plans. Students interested in this experience should consult with the director of undergraduate studies or with the Study Abroad Office about international exchange programs sponsored by UNC–Chapel Hill. Furthermore, American studies majors and minors may apply for the Julia Preston Brumley Travel Scholarship, which is only available to American studies students, to help fund their study abroad.

Undergraduate Awards

The department awards Julia Preston Brumley Travel Scholarships to help fund international travel and study abroad. The Peter C. Baxter Memorial Prize is awarded annually to the outstanding senior majoring in American studies. The Jenny Tone-Pah-Hote Prize is awarded annually for the outstanding senior honors thesis.

Undergraduate Research

The department offers credit for AMST 396 and FOLK 495. Majors can develop a two-semester honors thesis project (AMST 691H and AMST 692H) in consultation with an advisor. Students have received summer undergraduate research fellowships, earned research support and travel awards, and presented their work at the Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research each spring.

Department Programs

Majors

- American Studies Major, B.A. (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/american-studies-major-ba/>)
- American Studies Major, B.A.—American Indian and Indigenous Studies Concentration (p. 1)

Minors

- American Studies Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/american-studies-minor/>)
- American Indian and Indigenous Studies Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/american-indian-indigenous-studies-minor/>)

Graduate Programs

- Ph.D. in American Studies (<https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/american-studies/>)
- M.A. in Folklore (<https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/american-studies/>)
- Graduate Minor in American Studies (<https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/american-studies/#programstext>)
- Graduate Minor in Folklore (<https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/american-studies/#programstext>)

Contact Information

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Chair

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