AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR, B.A.

The B.A. major in American studies provides students with a broad foundation in ways of studying and researching American culture and the opportunity to explore specific eras, genres, regions, and groups in depth.

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

Requirements

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 major in American studies consists of nine courses, with at least four courses numbered 200 or higher.

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirements		
AMST 101	This Place Called "America"	3
One of the following options:		3
AMST 102	Myth and History in American Memory	
AMST/HIST 110	Introduction to the Cultures and Histories of Native North America	
AMST 210	This Place Called "The South"	
AMST 255	Difference and Power in American Culture(s)	
AMST 277	America's Role in the Global Environment	
FOLK 202	Everyday Cultures: Folklore in America	
Seven additional elective courses selected from the following lists:		21
AMST courses numbered 102 or higher [1]		
FOLK courses numbered 200 or higher [2]		
CHER courses numbered 101 or higher		
Up to three (3) Americanist courses offered outside the department, numbered 200 or higher [3]		
Additional Requirements		
Of the nine (9) total courses in the major, at least four (4) must be numbered 200 or higher		
Total Hours		**27**

[1] Not including AMST 396, AMST 493, AMST 691H, AMST 692H.
[2] Not including FOLK 496, FOLK 691H, FOLK 692H.
[3] As approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

American studies (AMST), Folklore (FOLK), and Cherokee (CHER) course descriptions (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/american-studies/#coursestext).

FOLK 490, and FOLK 690 may fall under various categories, depending on the focus of these courses in a given semester; the course instructor and director of undergraduate studies will decide which category they fulfill.

Special Opportunities in American Studies

Honors in American Studies

The American studies major offers a two-course honors program: AMST 691H in the fall semester and AMST 692H in the spring semester. Students must propose their thesis and contract with a faculty advisor during the semester prior to the beginning of their senior year. For each semester of honors work, thesis students must submit a signed learning contract to the Department of American Studies during the registration period. During the two semesters devoted to honors work, students conduct individual research and prepare an honors thesis under the supervision of a faculty member. Students also will attend a weekly seminar at the discretion of the advisor. 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. (p. 1)
- American Studies Major, B.A.–American Indian and Indigenous Studies Concentration (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/american-studies-major-baamerican-indian-indigenous-studies-concentration/)

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

Department of American Studies
Visit Program Website (http://americanstudies.unc.edu)
204 Greenlaw Hall, CB# 3520
(919) 962-5481

Chair
Patricia Sawin
sawin@unc.edu

Director of Undergraduate Studies
Tim Marr
amstdus@unc.edu