



B.A./B.S. in American Studies

Degree Guide 2023-2024 catalog

American Studies: Program Overview

The mission of the American Studies major at OSU-Cascades is to prepare students to spark new thinking and practices in a broad range of fields including business, teaching, fine arts, arts administration, law, medicine, public service, and graduate programs in the humanities or social sciences. We do this by teaching students to read closely, write precisely, and reflect deeply on issues of equity, environment, and cultural diversity. We teach them to think critically, globally, and democratically, conduct research, and navigate a complex and ever-evolving information society. Our emphasis on reading, writing, reflecting, thinking critically, conducting research, and cultivating information literacy aligns with the mission of the School of Writing, Literature, and Film. In American studies, we inculcate the values of critical thinking, search out and create new knowledge, while at the same time connecting the present and the future to the past, a past which informs our present and helps us think about the future.

To complete a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in American Studies students must complete the following degree requirements:

1. OSU Graduation Requirements
2. Baccalaureate Core
3. College of Liberal Arts Core
4. BA or BS Requirements
5. American Studies Core
6. Specialty Option (Pre-Law Studies, American Culture and Identities, Culture and Environment, or General AMS)

OSU Graduation Requirements:

Students pursuing a degree at OSU must meet the following requirements in addition to program and college requirements. catalog.oregonstate.edu/regulations/#text

- 180 minimum credits required to graduate.
- 60 minimum upper division credits required.
- 45 of last 75 credits must be OSU credits.
- Max 135 credits transferred to OSU.
- Max 18 classes - W grades (withdraw)
- Max 11 - credits PAC

**All catalog and course selection information is subject to change depending on catalog declaration and course forecast.*

Baccalaureate Core Requirements (Bacc Core)

Complete all Bacc Core using the OSU-Cascades Bacc Core course guide.

Students who have an AAOT have all Skills and Perspectives completed. Students still need to complete Synthesis requirements.

See below for major courses that count in the Bacc Core or CLA Core sections. A course cannot count in all 3 sections (Bacc Core, CLA Core, Major).

| Requirement | Course | Term/Grade |
|--|--|--------------------|
| Skills | | |
| Fitness Lecture (2cr) | HHS 231 | |
| Fitness PAC (1 cr) | | |
| Math (3-4cr) | | |
| Writing I (4cr) | WR 121Z | |
| Writing II (4cr) | | |
| Speech (4cr) | | |
| Perspectives | **No more than two courses from any one department** | |
| Cultural Diversity (3-4cr) | | |
| Literature & Arts (3-4cr) | | |
| Social Process & Inst. (3-4cr) | | |
| Western Culture (3-4cr) | | |
| Physical Science (4-5cr) | | |
| Bio Science (4-5cr) | | |
| 1 additional Bio or Phys. Sci. (4-5cr) | | |
| Difference Power & Discrimination- DPD (3-4cr) | | |
| Synthesis | **Synthesis course must be from 2 different departments** | |
| Contemporary Global Issues- CGI (3-4 cr) | AMS 350 | Fulfilled by Major |
| Science Tech and Society- STS (3-4cr) | | |

College of Liberal Arts Core (CLA Core)

| CLA Core Requirement | Course options | Term/Grade |
|------------------------------|--|------------|
| Fine Arts (3-4 cr) | ART 101, ART 115, ART 131, ART 121, ART 263, ART 222 (others may be approved) | |
| Humanities (3-4 cr) | Completed in major | |
| Non-Western Culture (3-4 cr) | ANTH 315, ART 208, ENG 212, ENG 360 | |
| Social Science (3-4 cr) | ANTH 210, ANTH 251, COMM 318, COMM 316, COMM 322, COMM 321, ECON 201, ECON 202, PS 201, PS 206, PS 331, PS 322, PSY 201, PSY 202, SOC 204, SOC 205 | |
| Additional CLA Core (3-4cr) | An additional class from any category above | |

BA or BS Requirements

| B.A. Requirements | Notes | Course/Grade |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Second year proficiency in a second language at the college level with C- grade or better. | sample SPAN 111-213 | |
| B.S. Requirements Courses used to satisfy the B.S. cannot double count to satisfy baccalaureate core requirements. | | |
| Any computer science (CS) course approved by the student's advisor | ART 121, CS 391, or CS 101 online | |
| Any course from the College of Science except math or statistics (3-4 credits) | samples: BB 332, MB 330, Z 349 | |
| Two Courses: Math or Statistics 200-Level or higher | Popular courses: ST 243z, ST 202 | |

American Studies Core (36 credits)

| Course | Title | Term offered* | Grade |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------|
| AMS 450 (4cr) | Pragmatism & American Culture | Fall 2024, 2026 | |
| AMS 350 (4cr) | American Culture and the Vietnam Experience | Fall 2023, 2025 | |
| ART/ENG 386 (4cr) | Cultural History of American Art and Literature | Fall 2023 | |
| ART/ENG 387 (4cr) | Cultural History of American Art and Literature | Winter 2025 | |
| ART/ENG 388 (4cr) | Cultural History of American Art and Literature | Spring 2025 | |
| ENG 253 (4) or ENG 254 (4) | Survey of American Literature | Winter or Spring | |
| ENG 445 (4) or ENG 485 (4) | Studies in Non-Fiction - WIC or Studies in American Literature - WIC | Fall or Winter 2024 | |
| AMS 406 (2cr) | Capstone/Portfolio | Grad Term | |
| Select 2 courses below: | | | |
| HST 201 (4) | History of the United States | Fall | |
| HST 202 (4) | History of the United States | Winter | |
| HST 203 (4) | History of the United States | Spring | |

Specialty Options (21-23 Credits) *Option selection is required*

American Studies major select at least one specialty option to complete their major requirements. See below for courses that can double count in the Bacc Core or CLA Core sections. One course cannot count in all 3 sections.

Pre-Law Studies (21cr)

American Studies is an excellent pathway to legal studies. This option provides a key knowledgebase for students who wish to apply to law school. This option teaches student to demonstrate ability to identify specific cultural tensions arising around freedoms protected by the first, second, and fourteenth amendments to the constitution. Students will articulate key concepts and events in American cultural history and their global impact.

| Course | Title | BC/CLA Core: | Term Planned* | Grade |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|------------------|-------|
| COMM 114 (3cr) | Argumentation and Critical Discourse | BC: Speech | Spring | |
| COMM 320 (3cr) | Intro to Rhetorical Thought | | Winter 2025 | |
| ENG 416 (4cr) | Power and Representation | | Spring | |
| PS 382 or PS 383 (4cr) | Constitutional Law: Civil Rights or Constitutional Law: Civil Rights Liberties | BC: DPD | Spring | |
| PS 362 (4cr) | American Political Thought | BC: Soc Sci | Fall 2024 | |
| PS 475 or SSCI 301 | Environmental Politics and Policy or Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Science | | Spring Winter | |

American Culture and Identities (23cr)

The American Cultures and Identities Option brings the skills and methodologies taught in the American Studies core to bear especially on how identities are embedded in American publics, languages, communities, and literatures. This option investigates the role of key elements such as race, class, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, and social justice in the formation and understanding of American Culture and identities

| Course/Credits | Title | BC/CLA Core | Term Planned* | Grade |
|---|---|-------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| ANTH 350 (4cr) | Language, Culture and Society | CLA: Soc Sci | Winter 2024, 2026 | |
| COMM 326 (3cr) or COMM 427 (3cr) | Intercultural Communication or Cultural Codes in Communication | | Fall 2024 Fall 2023 | |
| ENG 362 (4cr) or ENG 497 (4cr) | American Women Writers or International Women Voices | BC: Lit/Arts BC: CGI | Fall Summer | |
| Select 2 from below: ENG 212 (4cr) ENG 221 (4cr) ENG 360 (4cr) | Literature of the World – Meso/S. America, Caribbean African-American Literature Native American Literature | CLA: Non-W. Culture | Winter or Spring | |
| ENG 416 (4cr) | Power and Representation | | Spring | |

Culture and Natural Environments (22cr)

In this option, students focus on the role of the built and natural environments in American culture. Both cultural and natural environments play a crucial part in the creation, continuity, and success or failure of American communities. This option studies the role of American cultures in their relation to the physical environment and the consequences of that relationship on local, national, and global scales. The intersections of social justice and environmental justice are key elements of investigation.










| Course | Title | BC/CLA Core: | Term Planned* | Grade |
|---------------|--|--------------|---------------|-------|
| ENG 240 (4cr) | Introduction to Environmental Literature | | | |
| ENG 482 (4cr) | American Literature, Culture and the Environment | | Winter 2024 | |
| GEO 309 (3cr) | Environmental Justice | BC: DPD | Spring | |
| PS 475 (4cr) | Environmental Politics and Policy | | Spring | |
| SUS 420 (3cr) | Social Dimensions of Sustainability | | Winter | |
| WR 462 (4cr) | Environmental Writing | | Spring 2024 | |










General American Studies (21cr)

American Studies electives selected with your advisor to reach 21 credits, from the following disciplines: AMS, ANTH, COMM, ENG, ES, HST, PS, WR.

| Course | Title | BC/CLA Core: | Term Planned | Grade |
|--------|-------|--------------|--------------|-------|
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**All catalog and course selection information is subject to change pending course forecast and catalog declaration*

| Professional Skills | | COURSE | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
| Career & Self Development |  | Complete 3 Career Development Actions | Complete 3 Career Development Actions | Complete 3 Career Development Actions | Complete 3 Career Development Actions |
| Communication |  | COMM 218, COMM 218z, COMM 111z, COMM 111, COMM 114 | WR 222, WR 323, WR 327, WR 227z, WR 240, WR 224 | COMM 320 or COMM 326 | ENG 445 |
| Critical Thinking/ Problem Solving |  | ENG 386 or ART 386 | ENG 387 or ART 387 | AMS 350 | AMS 450 |
| Teamwork/ Collaboration |  | ENG 253 or ENG 254 | HST 202 | ENG 360 | AMS 450 |
| Professionalism/ Productivity |  | ENG 386 or ART 386 | ENG 387 or ART 387 | ENG 388 or ART 388 | AMS 406 |
| Leadership |  | COMM 114 | Select a course or complete an activity | Select a course or complete an activity | AMS 450 |
| Equity and Inclusion |  | HST 201, HST 202 or HST 203 | ENG 212 or ENG 213 | ENG221 | ENG 360 |
| Technology |  | Select a course or complete an activity | Select a course or complete an activity | Select a course or complete an activity | Select a course or complete an activity |
| Financial Literacy |  | Select a course or complete an activity | Select a course or complete an activity | Select a course or complete an activity | Select a course or complete an activity |

| Professional Skills* | | Definition* |
|---|---|---|
| Career & Self Development |  | Exhibit an awareness of one's own strengths and areas for development. Pursue and apply feedback for continual growth. There is a strong commitment to work toward goals, embrace new opportunities, and show curiosity and a commitment to learn. |
| Communication |  | Express oneself confidently in all forms – written, verbal, and through body-language. Organize complex ideas in a clear fashion and show respect for various learning styles, communication abilities, and cultural differences. Active listening and persuasive skills are exhibited, combined with an ability to ask relevant questions to learn specific information. |
| Critical Thinking/ Problem Solving |  | Make sound decisions using solid reasoning and judgment. Assemble and evaluate information from a multitude of reliable sources while proactively assessing and prioritizing the necessary action steps. Adept at summarizing and interpreting data with an awareness of one's own personal biases. |
| Teamwork/ Collaboration |  | Actively listen to others while asking appropriate questions without interrupting. Manage conflict, work with diverse personalities, and stay resilient in the face of uncertainty. A focus on collaboration is maintained while using one's personal strengths and knowledge to complement the work of others as a means to fulfill a common goal. |
| Professionalism/ Productivity |  | Exhibit the ability to act with integrity and accountability for self, others, and the greater organization. Show a willingness to focus on and complete the necessary tasks to accomplish organizational goals. Dependable, present, and prepared while continually meeting or exceeding expectations. Strong attention to detail and a desire to excel in their job |
| Leadership |  | Show an ability to inspire self and others under a collective vision that creates mutual trust for those involved. Enlist the help of various resources and feedback from others to go beyond the status quo. Employ a confident and positive approach. Plan, initiate, manage, complete, and evaluate projects in all stages. |
| Equity and Inclusion |  | Possess a willingness to seek out diverse cultural perspectives with the aim to help historically marginalized communities. Advocate for inclusion, justice, and empowerment for all. Focus on experiences and interactions across cultures that help the broader community better understand the diversity of different demographic groups. |
| Technology |  | Proficient in sorting through and navigating the ever-changing technological landscape. Use technology to improve efficiency in work and show an ability to identify the correct piece of technology for a range of tasks. Incorporate technology into sound decision-making processes to achieve strategic goals. |
| Financial Literacy |  | Able to establish control over one's finances by understanding financial concepts and making informed decisions. Budget, navigate student loans, and manage daily expenses. Spending is monitored, and there is an emphasis on managing debt. Appropriate plans are made for financial goals such as education, retirement, investing, and operating a business. |