TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION

1. THE GROUP MAJOR IN AMERICAN STUDIES
2. GROUP MAJOR OFFICE
3. FACULTY DIRECTORS
4. ADVISORY BOARD
4. AFFILIATED FACULTY
5. FACULTY ADVISORS
6. DECLARING THE MAJOR
7. MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
8. TELE-BEARS ADVISING
9. THE FOUR-YEAR PLAN
10. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION and PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE
11. TO RECEIVE A DIPLOMA
12. COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
13. OTHER OPPORTUNITES IN UGIS
14. OTHER RESOURCES: COLLEGE, CAREER, and GRADUATE SCHOOL
15. AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
16. AMERICAN CULTURES and THE UNIVERSITY AC REQUIREMENT
17. SAMPLE AREAS OF CONCENTRATION
18. AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR FOUR-YEAR PLAN
1. THE GROUP MAJOR IN AMERICAN STUDIES

The goal of the American Studies program at UC Berkeley is to utilize the enormous and varied resources of the institution to teach students how to ask and answer scholarly questions, to formulate and undertake a focused interdisciplinary course of study, and to design and execute a substantial research project. The American Studies program takes as its subject the cultures that have developed in what is now the United States, understanding “American culture” as the interplay of material practices and the realm of ideas. It considers technology, economy, urbanism, and ecology, as well as literature, political history, and the arts; it takes a particular interest in cultural hybridity, cultural layering, and in American culture exported abroad. The axes of investigation, as embodied in the Core courses, are Space and Time.

American Studies is a group major in which each student will have an individualized area of concentration. NOTE: It is, therefore, the student’s responsibility to become aware of the range of Americanist courses on campus and propose an integrated program to a faculty adviser for approval.

2. GROUP MAJOR OFFICE

The major is housed in the Division of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies, 231 Evans, (510) 642-0108.

Please direct any questions about the major to:
Laura Spautz, Student Academic Advisor
265 Evans Hall
amerstd@berkeley.edu
(510) 642-9320

3. FACULTY DIRECTORS

Director: Mark Brilliant (History & American Studies)
mbrill@berkeley.edu

Associate Director: Kathleen Moran (American Studies)
241 Evans
kmoran@berkeley.edu
4. **AMERICAN STUDIES AFFILIATED FACULTY**

Charles Briggs (Anthropology)  
Mark Brilliant (History/American Studies)  
Michael Cohen (African American Studies/American Studies)  
Raul Coronado (Ethnic Studies)  
Margaret Crawford (Architecture)  
Kathleen Donegan (English)  
Chiyuma Elliott (African American Studies)  
Peter Glazer (Theater)  
Marcial Gonzalez (English)  
Paul Groth (Architecture)  
Dorothy Hale (English)  
David Henkin (History)  
Shari Huhndorf (Native American Studies)  
Richard Hutson (English)  
Stephanie Jones-Rogers (History)  
Jake Kosek (Geography)  
Lauren Kroiz (History of Art)  
Margaretta Lovell (History of Art)  
Waldo Martin (History)  
Mary Ann Mason (Social Welfare)  
Joe R. McBride (ESPM/Landscape Architecture)  
Donald A. McQuade (English)  
Kathleen Moran (American Studies)  
Louise Mozingo (Environmental Design)  
Samuel Otter (English)  
Genaro Padilla (English)  
Christine Palmer (American Studies)  
Beth Piatote (Native American Studies)  
Leigh Raiford (African American Studies)

T. Carlis Roberts (Music)  
Juana Maria Rodriguez (Ethnic Studies)  
Christine Rosen (Business)  
Caitlin Rosenthal (History)  
Alex Saragoza (Chicano Studies)  
Scott Saul (English)  
Susan Schweik (English)  
Andrew Shanken (Architecture)  
Katherine Snyder (English)  
Shannon Steen (Theater Studies)  
Elisa Tamarkin (English)  
Bryan Wagner (English)  
Hertha Sweet Wong (English)

VISITING PROFESSORS

Greil Marcus (English/American Studies)  
Jon Winet (History of Art/American Studies)
5. **AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY ADVISORS**

Academic Advisors:

- Kathleen Moran  
  241 Evans  
  kmoran@berkeley.edu

- Christine Palmer  
  253 Evans  
  clpalmer@berkeley.edu

- Michael Cohen  
  241 Evans  
  mmcohen@berkeley.edu

Additional advising available to discuss particular areas of concentration:

- Margaretta Lovell  
  (American Art History and Material Culture)  
  416 Doe Library  
  mmlovell@berkeley.edu

- Christine Rosen  
  (Industrial History)  
  F577 Haas  
  crosen@haas.berkeley.edu

6. **DECLARING THE MAJOR**

Students must have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 before declaring any major in the College of Letters and Science. They are required to declare when 60 units have been completed. If a major has not been declared by the completion of 70 units, registration for classes may be blocked.

Students must complete the American Studies major application packet. Included in the packet is a sheet on which students outline their plan for the Area of Concentration within the major, the L&S Program Planning form, and a student contract. **Also required are unofficial transcripts (i.e., printout from your UC Berkeley CalCentral “My Academics” page and/or copies of transcripts from other colleges attended), showing work for all completed classes listed on the major application form, and current course enrollment. The declaration packet must be submitted to an American Studies faculty advisor for approval.**
In order to declare the major, students must have (1) completed AS10 with a grade of “C” or better; (2) completed two out of three additional lower division requirements; and (3) met with a faculty advisor to plan their programs before their Petition to Declare can be accepted. All lower-division requirements for the major, even those completed after declaring the major, must be completed with a grade of “C” or better. If you complete AS 10 (or equivalent) prior to declaring American Studies and earn less than a grade of “C,” you must retake AS 10 before declaring.

7. MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

A. Lower-Division Requirements

Students are required to take four lower-division courses relevant to the major. One of the four is American Studies 10. The other three may be chosen from among courses that focus on the history, culture, and politics of the United States, although no more than two of those may be from any one department. Students must receive a “C” in each of the four lower-division requirements.

- American Studies 10 (or 10AC when offered): Introduction to American Studies

  This is the one lower-division requirement for which courses taken at other universities cannot be substituted.

  NOTE: Students under 60 units must complete AS10 (with a “C” or better) before they can declare American Studies as their major. Students beyond 60 units must be enrolled in AS 10 and speak with a faculty advisor before being allowed to declare.

- Three Lower-Division Courses

  The lower division prerequisites are meant to introduce students to a variety of scholarly approaches to the study of American culture and society. If you have questions about whether a particular course satisfies the prerequisites, please contact the American Studies major office. Appropriate courses taken at other universities may be substituted with faculty advisor approval.

B. Historical Requirement

For students admitted to American Studies in Fall 2003 or later, one of the courses taken to complete the American Studies major (either upper- or lower-division) must be a course focusing on U.S. history, culture, and/or politics before 1900. Students should check with an American Studies faculty advisor or the American Studies Student Academic Advisor to ensure that the course they take satisfies this requirement.
C. **Upper-Division Major Requirements**

A total of 30-36 upper-division units are required in the major with at least 20 units in the Area of Concentration. All courses taken to satisfy the major requirements must be taken for a letter grade, and students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in the major in order to graduate.

**Core Methods Courses (8 units)**

- Examining U.S. Cultures in Time
- Examining U.S. Cultures in Place

Students are required to take one course each from the two methods series, “Time” and “Place.” It is expected that these courses will be completed during the junior year. See department listings for available courses every semester. Due to the unique interdisciplinary nature of the courses, these requirements must be satisfied at UC Berkeley. Note: “Time” courses include A.S. 101 and A.S. C111 and “Place” courses include A.S. 102 and C112, as well as other courses noted in each semester’s department listings.

**Area of Concentration (20-22 units)**

A minimum of six classes (20-22 units) of upper-division course work, drawn from the College of Letters and Science and the Professional Schools and Colleges, are required in the student's individually articulated area of concentration. The area of concentration must include courses from at least three different departments, but no more than three courses from any one discipline. The area may include courses from up to six different departments.

Areas of concentration may be highly individualized, depending on the student’s intellectual focus, prior preparation, and the availability of courses. Students planning to declare the major should complete a four-year plan (sample at the end of this handbook) and major application form and meet with a faculty advisor in their sophomore year or early in their junior year to plan their upper-division program. Subsequently, this program can be revised only with the approval of the faculty advisor. For further information see the sample areas of concentration in the latter section of this handbook.

**Senior Thesis (4 units)**

Because American Studies at UC Berkeley is an interdisciplinary program based on the major’s own offerings and supplemented by individualized programs of study drawing on the resources of the whole campus, students in this major complete their work in the major with an interdisciplinary senior thesis. The thesis is intended to give students the opportunity to develop an extended analysis of a significant problem, and to craft the essay into a finished piece of scholarly work. It is designed to give students a sense of competence and confidence in framing, exploring, and completing an explicitly interdisciplinary project. NOTE: The senior thesis course may not be taken before students have completed the American Studies core requirements and most of their area of concentration classes.
American Studies 189 is an optional intensive reading and research seminar that will assist students in the development of skills fundamental to advanced research in the humanities, social sciences and cultural studies. The effort entails identification of research topics, cultivation of interdisciplinary methodologies, compilation of annotated bibliographies, and completion of a literature review, which may serve as a portion of the American Studies senior thesis.

The four ways to satisfy the thesis requirement are:

1. **American Studies 191**
   Students in this course will work together and independently to achieve individual interdisciplinary research papers that draw on their preparatory work in American Studies. Students should prepare for this project over the course of their careers at UC Berkeley, and be ready, by the second week of class, to submit a thesis prospectus, including a working title, a one-page description of the problem or issue addressed, and a statement of the method or approach that they plan to utilize.

2. **American Studies 190 (under the direction of an individual faculty member)**
   Students who elect this option must prepare a bibliography and write a brief description of their proposed thesis the semester before they plan to enroll in 190. They must also secure a faculty director from an appropriate field who will agree to direct the thesis. They must then submit their proposal, along with the signature of their faculty director, to an American Studies faculty advisor and visit the American Studies office to obtain a course control number. NOTE: Students who wish to include creative work as part of their thesis requirement may use this option. Students should pick up the blank Thesis Proposal / Faculty Advisor Agreement in 265 Evans Hall.

3. **American Studies H195 – Honors Thesis**
   In order to graduate with Honors in the major, eligible students must enroll in A.S. H195 (Senior Honors Thesis). For admission to A.S. H195, students must have senior standing, an overall grade-point average of 3.51, and a grade-point average of 3.65 for all (upper- and lower-division) courses taken in completion of the major.

4. **Thesis Course Offered by Another Department**
   Students may enroll in an upper-division seminar in a department or field appropriate to their area of concentration for which they must write a substantial research paper. This course must be approved in advance by an American Studies faculty advisor.

D. **Honors Seminars (AS H110)**

Students with a 3.30 GPA and/or advisor approval who are looking for the challenge of individual research, mentorship and graduate-type seminar experience may take an American Studies honors seminar. Special seminars and research opportunities will be available every semester. Interested students should speak with a faculty advisor for more information. Please note that taking these honors seminars is separate from graduating with honors in the major.
E. Graduating with Honors in the Major

In order to graduate with Honors in the major, eligible students must enroll in A.S. H195 (Senior Honors Thesis). For admission to A.S. H195, students must have senior standing, an overall grade-point average of 3.51, and a grade-point average of 3.65 for all (upper- and lower-division) courses taken in completion of the major.

F. Requirements outside the Major

In addition to major requirements, students should inform themselves about the University graduation requirements and the rules and regulations of the College of Letters and Science, including the College breadth requirements. We recommend that students meet with an advisor in the College of Letters and Science as soon as they arrive on the campus and at least once a year after that.

8. ENROLLMENT ADVISING

At the beginning of the CalCentral enrollment period, declared majors must meet with a faculty advisor for approval of the proposed study list and to have their CalCentral advising hold removed. Check the American Studies Major bulletin board outside room 265 Evans (or the web page: http://ls.berkeley.edu/ugis/as) for advising hours. In addition to regular drop-in hours, extra hours are usually scheduled. Appointments outside of posted hours must be made directly with the faculty advisor. Students are expected to have reviewed the schedule of classes and have completed the American Studies Enrollment Advising Record, available on the American Studies bulletin board outside 265 Evans, before meeting with their advisor.

9. THE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

The four-year plan (at the back of this brochure) is included to assist students in their academic planning. It shows the most advantageous formula for completion of the major, allowing room for completion of other college requirements, possible education abroad programs or a minor. Students starting at UC Berkeley as freshmen should take A.S. 10 and the other lower-division requirements during their first or second year, as well as the other lower-division prerequisites. For a student transferring to UC Berkeley as a junior, it is very important to complete all lower-division major requirements as soon as possible. This is in order to be able to declare the major as soon as possible their junior year.

10. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION & PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

We encourage you to contact the CAL CAREER CENTER, 2440 Bancroft Way, http://career.berkeley.edu, to take advantage of their many services for career and graduate school advising, career development and self-assessment, and job seeking. Students are advised to develop a
file of letters of recommendation that can be then sent to graduate school admission offices or employers. Please see this page for the Career Center’s letter of evaluation service: https://career.berkeley.edu/Letter/Letter. Generally, faculty members require at least three weeks’ advance notice to write a letter of recommendation.

11. GRADUATION AND RECEIVING A DIPLOMA

All students are automatically assigned an Expected Graduation Term (EGT) on their Cal Central Academics page. It is the responsibility of the student make sure he or she has an EGT correctly assigned for the the semester in which requirements will be completed in both the major and the College of Letters and Science. If the assigned EGT is different than the one in which the student intends to graduate, he or she must contact the College of Letters of Science to change the EGT. For more information on this process, please see the College of Letters and Science graduation page at: https://ls.berkeley.edu/advising/academic-progress/graduation.

Participating in the commencement ceremony does not confer an official diploma. Diplomas will be mailed to students three to four months of their graduation date. Students should make sure the Registrar have their current address for mailing. For more information, see: https://registart.berkeley.edu/academic-records/transcripts-diplomas.

12. COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The commencement ceremony for American Studies is held once each year during the third or fourth week of May. Students who will have completed their degrees that Spring semester, the previous Fall semester or the following Summer or Fall are eligible to participate. Generally, the American Studies office will send out invitations to participate to all eligible majors by late March via e-mail; however, ultimate responsibility lies with the student to contact the department. If an e-mail containing specifics of the commencement has not been received by the end of March, the student should contact the departmental office no later than mid-April if he or she wishes to participate in the ceremony. A great deal of information may also be found at our commencement web page: http://ugiscommencement.berkeley.edu.

13. OTHER OPPORTUNITES IN UGIS

All current and prospective American Studies students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the wealth of activities taking place in Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies. These include research opportunities such as the URAP (Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program), scholarships, UC Berkeley in Washington, D.C., and Undergraduate Journals (publishing opportunity). Please see: http://research.berkeley.edu/ and http://scholarships.berkeley.edu/.

14. OTHER RESOURCES: COLLEGE, CAREER, and GRADUATE SCHOOL

We recommend that you review the web pages of the following resources as a preliminary step before making personal contact. Be sure to make use of as many of the vast resources on campus as possible!

- College of Letters and Science Advising:
  https://ls.berkeley.edu/ls-office-undergraduate-advising
15. **THE AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

The American Studies Association is the national professional organization for scholars and researchers with interests in American Studies. To get more information about its many resources, please visit: http://www.theasa.net.

16. **AMERICAN CULTURES – THE UNIVERSITY AC REQUIREMENT**

Be sure to check for classes among the comprehensive American Cultures course list available at https://americancultures.berkeley.edu/. Each year there are new lower- and upper-division courses made available that satisfy the American Cultures requirement and that would be appropriate as prerequisites for the AS major or may be appropriate to a specific Area of Concentration. Please note that while a number of American Studies courses have the AC designation not all do, and American Studies courses do not automatically satisfy the University’s American Cultures requirement.

17. **SAMPLE AREAS OF CONCENTRATION**

The Area of Concentration requirement is as follows: Majors will complete an individually articulated area of concentration consisting of a minimum of 20 units of upper-division coursework. The plan for the area of concentration (the application to declare the major) must be approved during the student's sophomore or junior year by an American Studies faculty advisor.

The concentration requirement assures that students have reasonable depth and breadth in their American Studies major. The concentrations must include coursework from two or more departments or fields, and must examine a theme, issue, or problem in American culture. Areas of concentration may be highly individualized, depending on the student's personal interest, prior preparation, and the availability of courses. Listed on the following pages are examples of how areas of concentration could be formulated for specific American Studies majors: