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Interdisciplinary Program in AMERICAN STUDIES
University of California, Berkeley
as.ugis.berkeley.edu

Student Handbook, 2022-2023

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1. THE MAJOR and MINOR IN AMERICAN STUDIES

The goal of the American Studies program at UC Berkeley is to use 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 capstone 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 Place and Time.

Students in American Studies may pursue one of two paths of study, the major and the minor. All students take a minimum of three courses from the American Studies program. In the major, each student will have an individualized Concentration. Major students should explore the range of Americanist courses on campus and propose an integrated program to a faculty advisor for approval. Additionally, students pursuing the major will complete their studies with a thesis project that builds out of their Concentration. In the American Studies minor, each student takes an additional two classes in the American Studies program. Minor students then complete a capstone project that reflects on some aspect of their studies in the program.

2. MAJOR and MINOR OFFICE

The major and minor are housed in the Division of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies, 231 Evans, (510) 664-7862

Please direct any questions about the major or minor to:
Laura Spautz, Student Academic Advisor
265 Evans Hall
amerstd@berkeley.edu

3. FACULTY DIRECTORS

Director:	Andrew Shanken (Architecture & American Studies) 486 Wurster, 253 Evans ashanken@berkeley.edu
Associate Director:	Christine Palmer (American Studies) 253 Evans clpalmer@berkeley.edu

4. AMERICAN STUDIES AFFILIATED FACULTY

Sima Belmar	(Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies)
Charles L. Briggs	(Anthropology)
Mark Brilliant	(History & American Studies)
Michael M. Cohen	(African American Studies/American Studies)
Raul Coronado	(Ethnic Studies)
Alexander Craghead	(American Studies)
Margaret Crawford	(Architecture)
Kathleen Donegan	(English)
Chiyuma Elliott	(African American Studies)
Peter Glazer	(Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies)
Sarah Gold McBride	(American Studies)
Dorothy J. Hale	(English)
David Henkin	(History)
Shari Huhndorf	(Native American Studies)
Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers	(History)
Jake Kosek	(Geography)
Lauren Kroiz	(History of Art)
Steven Lee	(English)
Margaretta Lovell	(History of Art)
Waldo E. Martin	(History)
David H. Miller	(Music)
Louise Mazingo	(Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning)
Samuel Otter	(English)
Christian Paiz	(Ethnic Studies)
Christine Palmer	(American Studies)
Beth Piatote	(Comparative Literature and English)
Leigh Raiford	(African American Studies)
Juana Maria Rodriguez	(Ethnic Studies)
Christine M. Rosen	(Business)
Caitlin C. Rosenthal	(History)
Scott Saul	(English)
Susan Schweik	(English)
Andrew Shanken	(Architecture & American Studies)
Katherine Snyder	(English)
Shannon Steen	(Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies & American Studies)
Brandi T. Summers	(Geography)
Elisa Tamarkin	(English)
Bryan Wagner	(English)
Laurie Wilkie	(Anthropology)

Emerita/Emeritus:

Marcial Gonzalez	(English)
Richard Hutson	(English)
Joe R. McBride	(ESPM/Landscape Architecture)
Donald McQuade	(English)
Kathleen Moran	(American Studies)
Genaro Padilla	(English)
Alex Saragoza	(Ethnic Studies)
Hertha D. Sweet Wong	(English)

5. AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY ADVISORS

Faculty Advisors:

Christine Palmer

253 Evans
cpalmer@berkeley.edu

Michael Cohen

253 Evans
mmcohen@berkeley.edu

Sarah Gold McBride

241 Evans
sarahgoldmcbride@berkeley.edu

Alexander Craghead

241 Evans
alexander.craghead@berkeley.edu

Additional advising available to discuss particular concentrations:

Mark Brilliant

(History of the Education, Public Policy, and the American West,)
2311 Dwinelle Hall
mbrill@berkeley.edu

Margaretta Lovell

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

Christine Rosen
(History of American Business)
F577 Haas
croser@haas.berkeley.edu

Andrew Shanken
(Architecture and Urbanism)
486 Wurster, 253 Evans
ashanken@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 declaration form on which students outline their plan for the Concentration within the major. Also required are unofficial transcripts (i.e., printout from the 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 AMERSTD 10 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 AMERSTD 10 (or equivalent) prior to declaring American Studies and earn less than a grade of “C,” you must retake AMERSTD 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 AMERSTD 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.

AMERSTD 10 (or 10AC when offered): Introduction to American Studies. This is the one lower-division requirement for which courses taken at other colleges and universities cannot be substituted.

NOTE: *Students under 60 units must complete AMERSTD 10 (with a “C” or better) before they can declare American Studies as their major. Students beyond 60 units must be enrolled in AMERSTD 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.

Several prerequisite courses are pre-approved for use on the application. See Appendix 1.

B. Pre-1900 U.S. Historical Requirement. 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. Official descriptions and syllabi for American Studies courses, when applicable, will include a statement that they meet this requirement. Students seeking to use a course from another program or department 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. In general, a course qualifying for this requirement must have at least 75% of its content focused on a time period prior to 1900.

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 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.” These courses should 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 AMERSTD 101, AMERSTD C111E, and AMERSTD C139AC; and “Place” courses include AMERSTD 102, AMERSTD C112, and AMERSTD C171 as well as other courses noted in each semester’s department listings.*

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

Concentrations 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 declaration 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 Concentrations in Appendix 2 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:** Students are strongly encouraged to take their senior thesis course during their final semester at UC Berkeley prior to their anticipated graduation. The senior thesis course may not be taken before students have completed the American Studies core requirements and most of their concentration classes.*

The four ways to satisfy the thesis requirement are:

1. American Studies 191: Senior Thesis Seminar

Students in this course will work together and independently to design, research, and write individual interdisciplinary research papers of 30–35 pages that draw on their preparatory work in American Studies. Students should prepare for this project over the course of their studies at UC Berkeley.

2. American Studies H195: Honors Thesis Seminar

Students in the honors thesis course will design, research, and write individual interdisciplinary research papers of approximately 50 pages that draw on their preparatory work in American Studies. In addition to their H195 instructor, students will seek mentorship from a second reader (either another American Studies faculty member or faculty outside of the program).

NOTE: For admission to AMERSTD 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.

3. Thesis Course Offered by Another Department

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

4. American Studies 190: Independent Study

In rare circumstances, a student may embark on an independent study path for their senior thesis outside of the standard senior thesis seminar.

Students who elect this option—which is completed independently under the direction of an individual faculty member—must prepare a bibliography and write a brief description of their proposed thesis the semester before they plan to complete their thesis. They must also secure a thesis mentor 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 contact the American Studies office to obtain a course control number. Note that students who wish to include creative work as part of their thesis requirement may use this option.

D. 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: as.ugis.berkeley.edu) 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 as a digital form distributed each semester by email to each major and minor in the program, before meeting with a faculty advisor.

E. Graduating with Honors in the Major. In order to graduate with Honors in the major, eligible students must enroll in AMERSTD H-195 (Senior Honors Thesis). For admission to AMERSTD H-195, 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. PLANNING THE MAJOR

The Four-Year Program Plan. In addition to the required major declaration form, the optional four-year program plan (at the back of this handbook) 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 AMERSTD 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, some community college coursework may be used to fulfill lower-division requirements. Students are advised to review their transcripts and then consult with a Faculty Advisor to determine which course(s) may fulfill these requirements. Note that 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 in their junior year.

9. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES for MAJORS in UGIS

All current and prospective American Studies majors 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):

research.berkeley.edu
scholarships.berkeley.edu

Additionally, majors in the program are eligible for the Adam Z. Rice Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship. This fellowship is limited to American Studies majors, and provides financial support for summer research opportunities.

give.berkeley.edu/fund/FW8138000

10. DIPLOMAS and COMMENCEMENT in the AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR

Graduation and Receiving a Diploma. All students are automatically assigned an Expected Graduation Term (EGT) on their Cal Central Academics page. Students are responsible for making sure they have a correct EGT assigned for 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 from the one in which the student intends to graduate, the student 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:

lsadvising.berkeley.edu/progress-planning/preparing-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 has their current address for mailing. See:

registrar.berkeley.edu/academic-records/transcripts-diplomas

Commencement Ceremonies. 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 email; however, ultimate responsibility lies with the student to contact the American Studies program. If an email 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 they wish to participate in the ceremony. A great deal of information may also be found at our commencement web page:

sites.google.com/berkeley.edu/ugis-commencement

11. DECLARING THE MINOR

Students in the American Studies minor will have hands-on guidance and advice from AS faculty to ensure that undergrads find an effective balance between breadth and depth as they organize their programs of study. Students in AS minor will acquire skills as interdisciplinary thinkers. A minor in American Studies will culminate with a “capstone” research/writing project to be completed in a course (usually a small seminar) taught by AS affiliated faculty.

Students must complete the American Studies minor declaration on which students outline their plan for their progress on the minor. Also required are unofficial transcripts (*i.e.*, printout from the 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 minor, students must have (1) completed AMERSTD 10 with a grade of “C” or better; and (2) met with a faculty advisor to plan their programs before their Petition to Declare can be accepted. If you complete AMERSTD 10 (or equivalent) prior to declaring the minor in American Studies and earn less than a grade of “C,” you must retake AMERSTD 10 before declaring.

12. MINOR REQUIREMENTS

A. Lower-Division Requirements. Students are required to take one lower-division course relevant to the major, AMERSTD 10, Introduction to America Studies. Students must receive a “C” in this course

B. Upper-Division Major Requirements. A total of 16 upper-division units are required in the major, all located within the American Studies program. All courses taken to satisfy the minor requirements must be taken for a letter grade, and students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in the minor in order to graduate.

Core Methods Courses (16 units)

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

Students are required to take two courses each from the two methods series, “Time” and “Place.”

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 AMERSTD 101, AMERSTD C111E, and AMERSTD C139AC, and “Place” courses include AMERSTD 102, AMERSTD C112, and AMERSTD C171 as well as other courses noted in each semester’s department listings.

Minor Capstone (0-4 units). Because American Studies at UC Berkeley is an interdisciplinary program based on the minor’s own offerings and supplemented by individualized programs of study drawing on the resources of the whole campus, students complete their work in the minor with an interdisciplinary minor capstone. The capstone is intended to give students the opportunity to develop an analysis of a significant problem, with a focus on narrative nonfiction and scholarly essay writing. It is designed to give students a sense of competence and confidence in framing, exploring, and completing an explicitly interdisciplinary project. Students will therefore design, research, and write an interdisciplinary research paper of 20-25 pages that draws on their preparatory work in American Studies, this work being known as the capstone.

NOTE: Students are strongly encouraged to write their capstone after completing all other components of the minor.

There are four ways to satisfy the capstone requirement. Each requires approval in advance by an American Studies faculty advisor, as well as the instructor of the course that the student hopes to complete the thesis within. These course options are:

1. American Studies 191: Senior Thesis Seminar

Students will complete a capstone through enrolling in the senior thesis seminar.

2. American Studies H195: Honors Thesis Seminar

Students will complete a capstone through enrolling in the senior honors thesis seminar. Completing a capstone with an honors seminar is separate from graduating with Honors in the major. There is no opportunity to graduate with honors in the minor.

3. Upper-Division Course Offered by American Studies

Students may seek to complete their minor capstone in an American Studies upper division course being taken for the purpose of completing the upper division requirements of the minor. Capstone work must be completed in addition to the work requirements of that upper division course, as described in the syllabus of that course.

4. American Studies 190: Independent Study

In rare circumstances, a student may embark on an independent study path for their capstone outside of the senior thesis seminar. Students who elect this option—which is completed independently under the direction of an individual faculty member—must prepare a bibliography and write a brief description of their proposed capstone the semester before they plan to complete their capstone. They must also secure a capstone mentor affiliated with the American Studies program who will agree to direct the capstone. As with the first three options, students must secure approval of their plans in advance by an American Studies faculty advisor, as well as the instructor who the student hopes will serve as capstone mentor. Upon approval, they will need to contact the American Studies office to obtain a course control number.

C. Requirements Outside the Minor. 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.

13. HONORS SEMINARS (AMERSTD H110)

Students with a 3.30 GPA and/or faculty advisor approval who are looking for the challenge of individual research, mentorship and graduate-type seminar experience are welcome to 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.

NOTE: *Taking these honors seminars is separate from graduating with Honors in the major. There is no opportunity to graduate with honors in the minor.*

14. AMERICAN CULTURES – THE UNIVERSITY AC REQUIREMENT

Be sure to check for classes among the comprehensive American Cultures course list available at:

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 American Studies major or may be appropriate to a specific Concentration.

NOTE: *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.*

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:

theasa.net

16. 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: lsadvising.berkeley.edu
- Cal Career Center: career.berkeley.edu
- UC Berkeley Library: lib.berkeley.edu
- Undergraduate Research at Berkeley: research.berkeley.edu

APPENDIX 1: PRE-APPROVED MAJOR PREREQUISITES

The following prerequisite courses are pre-approved for use on the major declaration form. These are as listed in the following table:

African American Studies 5A	African American Life & Culture in the U.S.
African American Studies 5B	African American Life & Culture in the U.S.
African American Studies 27AC	Lives of Struggle: Minorities in a Majority Culture
African American Studies 28AC	Globalization and Minority American Communities
American Studies 39	Freshman/Sophomore Seminar – topics vary
Anthropology 2AC	Introduction to Archaeology
Anthropology 3AC	Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology
Anthropology 12AC	Fire: Past, Present and Future Interactions with the People and Ecosystems of California
Art 23AC	Digital Media: Foundations
Art History 87AC	Visual Cultures of California
Asian American Studies 20A	Intro to the History of Asians in U.S.
Asian American Studies 20B	Intro to Contemporary Issues in Asian American Community
Asian American Studies 20C	Cultural Politics and Practices in Asian American Communities
Chicano Studies 20	Introduction to Chicano Culture
Chicano Studies 40	Introduction to Chicano Literature in English
Chicano Studies 50	Introduction to Chicano History
Chicano Studies 70	Latino Politics
Comparative Literature 60AC	Topics in the Literature of American Cultures
Education 40AC	Experiencing Education: Political Economy, White Supremacy, and Educational Desire
Education 52AC	Understanding Language in Society
Education 75AC	American Sports, Culture, and Education
English 31AC	Literature of American Cultures
English 33	African American Literature and Culture
English 37	Chicana/o Literature and Culture
Environmental Design 1	Introduction to Environmental Design
Environmental Design 4A	Design and Activism
Environmental Economics and Policy 1	Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy
Environmental Science Policy and Management 10	Environmental Issues
Environmental Science Policy and Management 11	Americans and the Global Forest
Environmental Science Policy and Management 50AC	Introduction to Culture & Natural Resource Conservation
Environmental Science Policy and Management 60	Environmental Policy, Administration, and Law
Ethnic Studies 10AC	A History of Race and Ethnicity in Western N. America
Ethnic Studies 21AC	Third World Experiences in U.S.
Ethnic Studies 41AC	Comparative Survey of Protest Movements Since the 60's
Film 25A	The History of Film
Film 25B	The History of Film

Gender and Women's Studies 10	Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies
Gender and Women's Studies 14	Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Global Political Issues
Gender and Women's Studies 20	Introduction to Feminist Theory
Gender and Women's Studies 50AC	Gender in American Culture
Geography 10AC	Worlding: Regions, Peoples and States
Geography 20	Global Restructuring
Geography 50AC	California
Geography 70AC	The Urban Experience
History 7A	History of U.S. to Civil War
History 30	Science and Society
ISF 60	Technology & Values
ISF 61	Moral Reasoning & Human Action: Quest for Judgment
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies 20AC	Alternative Sexual Identities and Communities in Contemporary American Society
Letters and Science 40C	Hollywood: The Place, the Industry, the Fantasy
Linguistics 40	The Language of Advertising
Media Studies 10	Introduction to Media Studies
Music 26AC	Music in American Culture
Native American Studies 20A	Introduction to Native American Studies
Native American Studies 20B	Introduction to Native American Studies II: Cultural Practice, Art, and Identity
Native American Studies 71	Native Americans in North America to 1900
Native American Studies 72	Native Americans in North America 1900 - Present
Native American Studies 90	Freshman Seminar - Myth, Memory, and History
Political Science 1 and 1AC	Intro to American Politics
Political Science 20AC	Race, Culture, and Politics in the Golden State
Psychology 5	Technology vs. Psychology: The Internet Revolution and the Rise of the Virtual Self
Psychology 14	Psychology of Gender
Public Health 14	Healthy People: Introduction to Health Promotion
Sociology 3AC	Principles of Sociology
Sociology 5	Evaluation of Evidence
Theater 25AC	The Drama of American Cultures
Theater 26	Introduction to Performance Studies
Theater 52AC	Dance in American Cultures
UGBA 10	Principles of Business
UGBA 39AC	Philanthropy: A Cross-Cultural Perspective

APPENDIX 2: SAMPLE CONCENTRATIONS

The Concentration requirement is as follows:

Majors will complete an individually articulated Concentration consisting of a minimum of 20 units of upper-division coursework. The plan for the 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 three departments or fields, and must examine a theme, issue, or problem in American culture. Concentrations 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 Concentrations could be formulated for specific American Studies majors.

Students are not limited to the Concentrations listed in this Handbook or on our website – these are just examples to illustrate how the major works. Students may choose one of the Concentrations from the following list, or they can design their own Concentrations in collaboration with a [Faculty Advisor](#). If you have any questions about how to design a Concentration, please [speak with a Faculty Advisor](#).

American Architecture and Urbanism. This concentration explores the American urban experience.

Concentration Courses:

City and Regional Planning 110	Introduction to City Planning
City and Regional Planning 118AC	The Urban Community
Geography 125	The American City
American Studies C112	American Landscapes
History 134A/B	The Age of the City
Sociology 136	Urban Sociology

Alternate Courses:

American Studies 102	When topic is “New Orleans”
American Studies 102	When topic is “Los Angeles”
American Studies 102/History 100D	When topic is “Staging the American City: A Cultural History of Broadway”
Architecture 170A/B	An Historical Survey of Architecture & Urbanism
City and Regional Planning 113B	Community Economic Development
Environmental Design 100	The City: Theories & Methods in Urban Studies
Environmental Design 170	The Social Art of Architecture

The American Family. This concentration focuses on the history, changing structure and meaning of the family in American society.

Concentration Courses:

African American Studies 122	African American Families in American Society
Asian American Studies 150	Gender and Generation in Asian American Families
History 100D	When topic is “Family Plots: Writing about Kinship in U.S. History”
Legal Studies 155	Government and the Family
Public Policy C164	Impact of Government Policies on Poor Children and Families
Sociology 111AC	Sociology of the Family

Alternate Courses:

Gender and Women’s Studies 120	The History of American Women
History 131B	Social History of the United States
History 136	Gender Matters in 20 th Century America
Psychology 131	Developmental Psychopathology
Public Health 181	Poverty and Population
Social Welfare 105	Introduction to Child Welfare in California and the U.S.
Sociology 111P	Families, Inequality, and Social Policy
Sociology C184	Family and Household in Comparative Perspective

American Folklore and Folklife. The concentration allows the student interested in the study of folklore and folklife to examine and analyze traditional expressive culture (e.g., ethnic, regional, occupational, gender, and other traditional identities) in all its forms. Examining the historical, cultural, social, and psychological dimensions of such expressive forms as myth, legend, folktale, music, dance, art, belief, foodways, ritual and ceremony, the student investigates how tradition expresses the dynamics of human behavior.

Concentration Courses:

Anthropology 162	When topic is “American Folklore”
English 178	British and American Folklore
Music C138	Art and Activism
Native American Studies 120	Topics in Native American Arts
Nutritional Science 104	Human Food Practices
Theater 121	Performance and Culture

Alternate Courses:

American Studies 110	When topic is “Folklore and American Culture”
Anthropology 121AC	American Material Culture
Anthropology 122A/B/F/G	Archaeology of the Americas

Anthropology 136B	Public Anthropology: Museum Methods
Anthropology 160AC	Forms of Folklore
Art History 192AC	Folk Art in America
English 133T	When topic is “Orality and Black Literature”
English 166AC	When topic is “Race and Revision in Early America”
Linguistics 151	Language and Gender
Native American Studies 149	Gender in Native American Society
Psychology 106	Psychology of Dreams
Rhetoric 116	Rhetoric, Culture and Society
Sociology 112	Sociology of Religion

American Foodways. This concentration examines both historic and contemporary social, economic, cultural, and psychological factors that shape food consumption practices. Exploring food systems from production through consumption, the student traces agricultural concerns, examines environmental, ethical, and economic factors in food production and distribution, and investigates the various beliefs, rituals, and behaviors surrounding food in the United States.

Concentration Courses:

Anthropology 121AC	American Material Culture
ENVECON 141	Agricultural and Environmental Policy
ESPM C159	Human Diet
Nutritional Science 104	Food, Culture, and the Environment
Nutritional Science 135	Food Systems Organization and Management
Sociology 169F	Cultural Perspectives of Food

Alternate Courses:

American Studies 110	When topic is “Advertising in America” or “California Foodways”
English 143N	When topic is “Food Writing”
Geography 130	Food and the Environment
History 103D	When topic is “Food and Eating Practices in the U.S. and Europe since the 19 th Century”
Nutritional Science 108	Introduction and Application of Food Science
Nutritional Science 166	Nutrition in the Community

American Media and Popular Culture. This concentration examines the creation, production, reception, and consumption of popular/commercial culture in the U.S.

Concentration Courses:

African American Studies 142AC	Race and American Film
English 176	Literature and Popular Culture
Film and Media 108	Film Genre
Gender and Women's Studies 125	Women and Film
Native American Studies 158	Native Americans and the Cinema
Sociology 163	Popular Culture

Alternate Courses:

African American Studies 139L	When topic is "The Black Panther Party and American Popular Culture"
American Studies 101	When topic is "The Atomic Age"
American Studies 101	When topic is "The Art of Advertising"
American Studies 101	When topic is "The Teen Age"
Asian American Studies 138	Topics in Asian Popular Culture
English 173	The Language and Literature of Films
History 100D	When topic is "Staging the American City: A Cultural History of Broadway"
History 124A/B	The Recent United States
Music 128R	History of Jazz in America
Music 128T	The American Musical

American Public Policy. This concentration investigates the way that social problems are defined and analyzed in the United States, and focuses on the political and historical dimensions of public policy.

Concentration Courses:

African American Studies 107	Race and Public Policy
Legal Studies 138	The Supreme Court and Public Policy
Political Science 181	Public Organization and Administration
Public Health 150D	Introduction to Health Policy and Management
Public Policy 101	Introduction to Public Policy Analysis
Sociology 148	Social Policy

Alternate Courses:

Asian American Studies 145	Politics, Public Policy, and Asian American Communities
Economics 157	Cities and Public Policy
Political Science 186	Public Problems
Public Policy 103	Wealth and Poverty

Public Policy 117AC
Public Policy 156
Social Welfare 112
Sociology 111P

Race, Ethnicity, and Public Policy
Program and Policy Design
Social Welfare Policy
Families, Inequality, and Social Policy

Disability Studies. The concentration directs its focus toward how society creates “disability” by constructing identities and barriers.

Concentration Courses:

Anthropology 115
English 135AC

English 175
Sociology C115
UGIS 110
UGIS 112

Introduction to Medical Anthropology
Race, Class, and Disability in American Cultures:
American Foundlings
Literature and Disability
Sociology of Health and Medicine
Introduction to Disability Studies
Women and Disability

Alternate Courses:

Anthropology 119
Anthropology 189
Chicano Studies 176
City and Regional Planning 120

Economics 157
Gender and Women’s Studies 129
Landscape Architecture 140

UGIS 113

Special Topics in Medical Anthropology
When topic is “Disability, Ethnography, and Design”
Chicanos and Health Care
Community Planning and Public Policy for
Disability
Health Economics
Bodies and Boundaries
Social and Psychological Factors in Open Space
Design
Disability Studies in Practice

Education in America. This concentration explores the history, policy implications, and practices of education in the United States.

Concentration Courses:

African American Studies C133A
Asian American Studies 146
Chicano Studies 172
Education N140
Education 189
Sociology 113

Race, Identity, and Culture in Urban Schools
Asian Americans and Education
Chicanos and the Educational System
Literacy: Individual and Societal Development
Democracy and Education
Sociology of Education

Alternate Courses:

American Studies 110	When topic is “Schooling in America”
Education 150	Higher Education: Access, Equity, Outcomes, and Competition
Education 186AC	The Southern Border
Education 190	Critical Studies in Education
Education 191B	Gender Issues in Education
Sociology 110	Organizations and Social Institutions
UGBA 192T	When topic is “Edible Education”

America in the Global Community. This concentration explores the role of the United States outside of its national borders, focusing on both U.S. foreign policy and the flow of American peoples, ideas, and goods throughout the world.

Concentration Courses:

ENVECON 131	Globalization and the Natural Environment
History 128AC	California, the West, and the World
History 130	American Foreign Policy
Peace and Conflict Studies 149	Global Change and World Order
Political Science 126A	International Political Economy
Political Science 138G	National Success and Failure in the Age of a Global Economy

Alternate Courses:

Chicano Studies 165	Cuba, the United States and Cuban Americans
Ethnic Studies 173AC	Indigenous Peoples in Global Inequality
Global Studies 100S	Global Societies and Cultures
Military Affairs 145A	National Security Forces in Contemporary American Society
Peace and Conflict Studies 125AC	War, Culture, and Society
Peace and Conflict Studies 127	Human Rights and Global Politics
Political Economy 150	Advanced Study in Political Economy of Industrial Society
UGBA 178	Introduction to International Business

Healthcare in American Culture since 1945. This concentration explores American attitudes about healthcare and the development of institutions for healthcare. N.B. For entry into some of these courses, the student may need to take preparatory lower-division coursework.

Concentration Courses:

Anthropology 115	Introduction to Medical Anthropology
Chicano Studies 176	Chicanos and Health Care
City and Regional Planning 117AC	Urban and Community Health
Economics 157	Health Economics
Public Health 126	Health Economics and Public Policy
Sociology C115	Sociology of Health and Medicine

Alternate Courses:

Anthropology 114	History of Anthropological Thought
Nutritional Science 166	Nutrition in the Community
Public Health 130	Advanced Health Policy
Sociology 110	Organizations and Social Institutions
Sociology 150	Social Psychology

Labor and Working People. This concentration explores the nature, meaning, organization, and function of labor in the United States. Exploring the socialization and representation of workers, alongside employment relations and organized labor, students can investigate labor as market, labor as process, and labor as people.

Concentration Courses:

American Studies C172	History of American Business
African American Studies 116	Slavery and African American Life Before 1865
Education 162A	Teachers' Work
Gender and Women Studies 139	Women, Gender, and Work
History 133A	The History of American Capitalism
Sociology 116	Sociology of Work

Alternate Courses:

American Studies 102	When topic is "The Workplace"
Economics 151	Labor Economics
Economics 152	Wage Theory and Policy
Film and Media 108	When the topic is <i>Mad Men</i>
Public Policy C103	Wealth and Poverty
Social Welfare 110	Social Work as a Profession

Nature in America. "Nature in America" explores the historical, social, ideological, scientific, economic, and geographic dimensions of the natural environment in the United States. The

student choosing this concentration studies the interaction of natural systems and social contexts over time.

Concentration Courses:

Anthropology 148

Art History C189

Art History 185A

English 130B

ESPM 161

History 120AC

Anthropology of the Environment

The American Forest: Its Ecology, History, and Representation

American Art (1800-present)

American Literature: 1800-1865

Environmental Philosophy and Ethics

American Environmental and Cultural History

Alternate Courses:

ENVECON C102

ENVECON 131

ENVECON 162

ENVECON C180

ESPM 102C

ESPM 102D

ESPM 116B

ESPM 117

Geography C155

History 128AC

Landscape Architecture 110

Natural Resource Economics

Globalization and the Natural Environment

Economics of Water Resources

Ecological Economics in Historical Context

Resource Management

Climate and Energy Policy

Rangeland Ecology

Urban Garden Ecosystems

Race, Space, and Inequality

California, the West, and the World

Ecological Analysis

Activism, Protest, and Social Justice. This concentration examines the interplay between social groups and power, inequality, and social justice in the United States.

Concentration Courses:

African American Studies 121	Black Political Life in the United States
Anthropology 156B	Culture and Power
Peace and Conflict Studies 128AC	Human Rights and American Cultures
Philosophy 113AC	Philosophical Perspectives on Race and Culture
Political Science 111AC	The Politics of Displacement
Political Science 138F	Immigrants, Citizenship, and the State

Alternate Courses:

African American Studies W124	The Philosophy of Martin Luther King
African American Studies 125	History of the Civil Rights Movement
African American Studies 138	Black Nationalism
Asian American Studies 125	Contemporary Issues of Southeast Asian Refugees in the U.S.
Asian American Studies 126	Southeast Asian Migration and Community Formation
Asian American Studies 141	Law in the Asian American Community
Chicano Studies 110	Latina/o Philosophy and Religious Thought
Legal Studies 160	Punishment, Culture, and Society
Native American Studies 100	Native American Law
Native American Studies 101	Native American Tribal Governments
Peace and Conflict Studies 154	Multicultural Conflict Resolution
Political Science 167AC	Racial and Ethnic Politics in the New American Century

Race, Ethnicity, and Nation. Focusing on the history of encounters between the various peoples who comprise the American nation, this concentration explores the migrations, settlements, contacts, contests, and exchanges that have shaped the cultural, political, social, and economic construction of the United States.

Concentration Courses:

African American Studies 116	Slavery and American Life Before 1865
Anthropology 122B	Culture Contact in North America
Demography 145AC	The American Immigrant Experience
Geography 159AC	The Southern Border
Linguistics 155AC	Native American Meets the Europeans
Political Science 118AC	Three American Cultures

Alternate Courses:

African American Studies 109	Black and Male in American Life
African American Studies 111	Race, Class, and Gender in the United States
African American Studies 117	African Americans in the Industrial Age, 1865-1970
American Studies 101	When topic is "The American Southwest"
Anthropology 124AC	Hawaiian Ethnohistory
Asian American Studies 121	Chinese American History
Asian American Studies 122	Japanese American History
Asian American Studies 123	Korean American History
Asian American Studies 124	Filipino American History
Chicano Studies 150B	History of the Southwest: Mexican-United States
	War to Present
Chicano Studies 159	Mexican Immigration
Ethnic Studies 135	Contemporary U.S. Immigration
Ethnic Studies 136	Immigrant Women
Ethnic Studies 147	Women of Color in the United States
Ethnic Studies 150	People of Mixed Racial Descent
History 122AC	Antebellum America: The Advent of Mass Society
History 123	Civil War and Reconstruction
History 125	History of African Americans and Race Relations in the United States
	The Repeopling of America
History 137AC	History of Native Americans in California
Native American Studies 175	Race and Order in the New Republic
Rhetoric 152AC	

STEM, Communication, and Society. This concentration explores the relationships between ideas, things, places, processes, and the people who create them. Drawing on a range of courses from across campus, students who pursue this area will focus on the variety of forms and expressions of creativity in the US, including issues of aesthetics, technologies, racial politics, and cultural geographies.

Concentration Courses:

History 134B	The Age of the City
Sociology 121	Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Industrial Engineering 190G	Intro to Silicon Valley
Industrial Engineering 191	Technology Entrepreneurship
Letters & Science 126	Energy and Civilization
Art Practice 100	Collaborative Innovation

Alternate Courses:

African American Studies 159	Art and Social Justice in the New Negro Era
American Studies H110	When topic is “What Is This?!”
American Studies 102	When topic is “New Orleans”
American Studies 101	When topic is “Bay Area in the 1970s”
Computer Science 195	Social Implications of Computer Technology
Design Innovation 190	When topic is “Finding Meaning in the Technology We Build”
History 182A	Topics in the History of Technology: Technology and Society
History of Art 190G	The Transatlantic Gilded Age and Its Discontents
Landscape Architecture 103	Energy, Fantasy, and Form
Legal Studies 149	Law Technology, and Entrepreneurship
Music 128	When topic is “Music and Technology in the Twentieth Century and Beyond”
Music C138	Art and Activism

Visual, Literary and Performance Cultures. This concentration explores American culture in relation to literature, performance, and visual forms of expression.

Concentration Courses:

African American Studies 144	Black Visual Culture
English C143V	Visual Autobiography
GWS C146B	Queer Visual Culture
Rhetoric 139	Rhetoric of Visual Witnessing
Theater 119	Performance Theory
Theater 121	Performance and Culture

Alternate Courses:

African American Studies C143A	Performance: An African American Perspective
African American Studies 150B	African American Literature 1920 to Present
Asian American Studies 171	Asian Americans in Film and Video
Asian American Studies 172	Asian American Literature
GWS C146A	Queer Literary Culture
Music 130B	African American Music
Native American Studies C152	Native American Literature
Native American Studies N158	Native Americans and the Cinema
Native American Studies 163	Native American Ceremonies

Other areas of concentration might include:

American Consumer Society
American Landscape, Natural and Altered
American Class Structures
American People and Places
Citizenship and Society
Consumerism and the Built Environment
Creativity, Innovation, and Technology
Critical Media Studies
Digital Media and Communication
Ecology, Climate, and Culture
Education, Pedagogy, and the Psychology of Learning
Health, Healthcare, and the American Public
Housing, Community, and Development in the U.S.
Immigration, Exchange, and the Americas
Law, Policy, and American Society
Leadership and American Business
Media and Popular Culture
Organizations, Institutions, and Political Systems
Race, Gender, and the Body
Race, Sexuality, and Change in the American City
Religion and Spiritual Practices
Sports in American Society