



American Studies

The American studies program at Youngstown State University offers you the opportunity to examine the central themes and events in American life today and in the past. The program emphasizes American diversity, the experiences of ordinary people, and relationships among individuals, communities, the nation, and the world. In American studies, you'll design an individualized program to fit your goals and interests, bringing together courses in history, popular culture, literature, politics, and more. This rich mix allows you to gain a broad understanding of American culture that is good preparation for many different careers.

Employment Opportunities

American studies graduates pursue a wide variety of careers. Students develop strong communication, research, and analysis skills that are transferable to many kinds of work and are highly valued by employers. In today's economy, with its constantly changing workplace and increasing technology, critical thinking and the ability to work independently are essential skills. Because American studies majors design their own programs, take courses from many different departments, and complete independent research projects, they excel in these important skills.

With a degree in American studies, you could

- develop educational programs for an art museum
- write for a magazine
- serve as an aide to a congressional representative
- lead a fund-raising campaign for a non-profit organization
- write grants for a social service agency
- manage a historical site
- work in public relations
- design advertising campaigns
- produce documentary films

- organize public events, such as film festivals, reading series, or information fairs

American studies also provides strong preparation for graduate study. Many of our graduates have succeeded in law school and graduate programs in American studies, literature, history, geography, education, and public service.

Degree Options

American studies offers a flexible major that you can adapt to fit your goals. All students take a common core of four courses, beginning with a sophomore-level course on American identity and continuing through junior- and senior-level courses that explore interdisciplinary approaches to studying American culture.

Majors select from more than 80 approved courses in departments across campus to fulfill area requirements and create an individualized focus area.

Students have developed a pre-law focus by emphasizing courses in political science, criminal justice, and sociology, while others have focused on Latin American studies, local history, and education.

In your senior year, you'll complete a major individual project. Students have examined legal issues, studied political campaigns, and analyzed contemporary films. You also have the option of doing an internship for your senior project.

Throughout the program, you'll work closely with an advisor who can help you make good choices. The nature of the program and its small size ensure that each student receives individual attention and develops close ties with faculty advisors.

Facilities

American studies students regularly use campus computer labs, Internet connections to libraries and research materials worldwide, and multi-media CD-ROMs that

bring historical documents, works of art, and film and video footage to each student's computer.

Maag Library offers extensive holdings of books and journals as well as government documents and a multi-media collection. In addition, Maag Library participates in a state-wide cooperative system that allows YSU students to borrow materials from other university libraries across the state.

Faculty

Youngstown State University maintains a faculty-student ratio of 1:19, among the lowest of the state-affiliated universities in Ohio. American studies students work individually with faculty, getting one-on-one attention in both advising and coursework.

The American studies faculty at YSU represents five colleges and more than a dozen academic departments. Most hold Ph.D.'s, and many have practical experience working in the fields in which they teach. In selecting courses for the American studies program, the Advisory Committee looks for teachers who emphasize active learning, critical thinking, and student-centered teaching. Many have won awards and major grants in recognition of their teaching abilities, and several have been featured speakers for American studies programs overseas.

Outside the Classroom

American studies courses use the rich resources of the Mahoning Valley to give students experiences in the community, with local history, and in the arts, social services, and government.

In recent courses, students have completed projects at the Youngstown Historical Center for Labor and Industry, the Butler Institute of American Art, and various historical sites in the area, and more community-based activities are planned for the future.

The American studies program also sponsors a series of presentations throughout the year, bringing faculty and students together for discussions about recent trends in the field, research by faculty and students, and current events.

Curriculum Overview

Required core courses

- American Identity
- Approaches to American Studies
- American Studies Research Seminar
- Independent Project on American Culture

Literacies (choose one course in each of the following categories):

Textual

- American Material Culture
- Cultures of the New World
- Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century American Art
- Nineteenth Century American Art
- African American Art
- Native North American Art
- Images of Women
- Film Genres
- American Genres
- Themes in American Literature
- Selected Topics in American Literature
- Selected Topics in Film
- Topics in Regional Geography
- American Material Culture
- American Architectural History
- Survey of Jazz

Social

- Work in America
- Class and Culture
- Cultural Anthropology
- Violence in America
- Education and Society
- Urban Geography
- History of American Sports
- History of American Cities
- Human Behavior in Organization
- Political Behavior
- Psychology of Intimate Relationships
- Social Problems
- Women in Society
- The Family
- Urban Sociology
- Social Movements
- Social Stratification and Inequality
- American Social Welfare

Historical

- Turning Points in U.S. History 1, 2
- American Literature in Historical Perspective
- New World Archaeology
- American Journalism
- American Literature in Historical Perspective
- Historical Geography of the United States
- The Atlantic World
- Early America

(see following page)

The Age of Jefferson and Jackson
 The Age of Sectionalism
 Incorporation of America: 1877-1919
 United States in Crises: 1920-1945
 Cold War America: 1945-1990
 The West in American History 1, 2
 History of Organized Crime in the United States
 Selected Problems in American History

Global and Cross-Cultural Perspectives

Cultural Anthropology
 Cross-Cultural Perspectives of Aging
 Women in the Ancient World
 World Civilization to 1500
 World Civilization since 1500
 African Civilizations
 Mexico and the Caribbean
 History of Modern Philosophy
 Ethics of War and Peace
 Comparative Government
 International Relations
 Model United Nations
 European Politics: National, Regional, International
 Latin American Politics
 International Law
 International Organizations
 International Conflict & Conflict Management
 Select Problems of Global Affairs
 Myth, Symbol, and Ritual
 African and Neo-African Religions
 Buddhism
 Liberation Theologies and Revolutionary Change
 Dramatic Texts

Cultural Pluralism

Introduction to Africana Studies 1, 2
 Africana Studies Colloquium 1, 2
 Minority Groups
 African American Art
 Women in Literature
 American Literature and Diversity
 Selected Topics in Multicultural Studies
 The Black Experience in American Literature
 German-Americans
 Amish Culture
 History of Women in the United States

The Black Experience in American History
 Labor in United States History
 Managing Diversity
 African-American Politics
 Psychology of Women
 The Minority Individual
 African-American Religion
 African and Neo-African Religion
 Islam
 Christianity
 Judaism
 Buddhism
 Women in Society
 Minority Groups
 Social Stratification and Inequality
 Aging and Society
 Culture and Literature of Spanish-Speaking Groups in the U.S.
 Topics in Hispanic Literature and Film

Competencies (choose one course in each of the following categories):

Quantitative

Applied Sociology
 Research Methods
 Criminal Justice Research
 Political Behavior
 American Public Opinion
 Applied Sociology
 Social Research

Qualitative

American Literature in Historical Perspective
 American Material Culture
 Archaeology
 Archaeological Techniques
 Method and Theory in Archaeology
 American Literature in Historical Perspective
 Practicum in Historic Preservation
 Documentation and Interpretation of Historical Sites
 Conservation of the Historic Built Environment

For more information about this program, go to

<http://www.as.ysu.edu/~amerst/>



To obtain the Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Application and/or a copy of the current Undergraduate Bulletin, please contact the Office of Admissions at:

Telephone: (877) 468-6978 330-941-2000 TDD: 330-941-1564 Fax: 330-941-3674 E-mail: enroll@ysu.edu

The Office of Admissions is open Monday and Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Office is also open every other Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, except on holiday weekends and during term breaks