

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE: Bachelor of Arts | Minor

Explore multiple dimensions of the American experience with a diverse community of scholars.

The American Studies Program seeks to prepare graduates with the knowledge and skills to bring critical insights to the study of the American experience in all its diversity, past and present. Faculty members aim to stimulate critical and creative thinking through interdisciplinary and comparative study with attention to transnational issues and current theoretical frameworks.

As an American Studies major, you'll immerse yourself in all aspects of America, including: literature and film, politics and social movements, history and popular culture, race and ethnicity, sports, philosophy and religion. The list goes on and on, and features even more specific topics like jazz, hip-hop and performance art, baseball and boxing, the American Revolution, Apocalypse Now, museums and mega churches and Moby Dick.

Become part of a community of inquiry that will encourage you to not only pursue your interests, but also discover new ones.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Advanced critical thinking skills
- How to situate America, Americans, and the American experience within global and transnational contexts
- How to work with the wide range of sources, methods and theoretical frameworks that are characteristic of American studies scholarship and theoretical frameworks that equip students to engage challenging issues creatively and constructively
- How to design and conduct original interdisciplinary research
- Written, oral, visual, and digital humanities presentation methods

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Recently, American Studies majors have incorporated these experiences into their formal plans of study:

- Summer undergraduate research on missionaries in Hawaii, Midwestern intentional communities, representations of American agriculture at four state fairs, expressions of American identity in online gaming communities, changes in political rhetoric on voter ID laws and the history of racial quotas in higher education
- Intensive graduate-level writing seminars to develop research projects into published articles
- Presenting American Studies research and scholarship at regional and national conferences
- Participation in the highly selective Gilder Lehrman American History Scholars Program in New York
- Independent study on American sports writing culminating in a continuing sports blog
- Collections internship and public presentation of original archival research in Omaha history at the Douglas County Historical Museum;
- Coursework in and development of innovative digital humanities projects;
- Social media internship for an internationally-recognized peace and conflict studies journal

CAREER OUTLOOK

Studies conducted by the American Studies Association indicate that the greatest value of the American Studies major is diverse thinking. In no other curriculum is the student offered such a wide exposure to thinking and scholarship in so many areas: political, intellectual, social and economic history, literature, religion, music, art, folklore and material culture are all studies in American Studies programs.

As such, the American Studies major (and approach) provides a demanding challenge for the motivated, independent thinkers who are seeking a well-rounded preparation for life...and for careers in a variety of fields: from teaching (at the high-school or college level), to law, journalism, social work, medicine, government, business, museum work and city planning, to name a few.

At Creighton, this program will prepare you particularly well for life after college through opportunities for research and internships.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Semester-long study abroad programs in American literature, history, and culture in Hungary, Spain, and Ireland
- Fieldwork and direct service at human service and social justice organizations
- Internships with Congressional offices of Nebraska and students' home-state delegations
- Summer jobs with the Omaha Public Schools "Making Invisible History Visible" program mentoring 8th grade students in researching and building websites on local Omaha history

For more details on the full curriculum, visit:

<http://catalog.creighton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/american-studies/#text>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

AMS 307 Introduction to American Studies	3
AMS 308 Theories and Methods in American Studies	3
AMS 491 Senior Seminar	3

Two courses from at least three of the following disciplinary clusters and one additional course from any cluster:

Cluster One: American Fine and Performing Arts

Cluster Two: American History

Cluster Three: American Literatures

Cluster Four: American Philosophy

Cluster Five: American Politics

Cluster Six: American Society

Cluster Seven: Inquiries in American Studies (Independent Readings, Research, or Internship)

Total Credits

30

CAREER OUTCOMES

Employment Opportunities

American Studies alumni are employed in a diverse field where they can use their degree to make an impact

- Vice President of Talent, Opendorse Marketing & Advertising
- Americorps VISTA Vermont Works for Women
- Attorney, Gallagher & Kennedy, Phoenix
- Language and Culture Assistant Program, Ministry of Education, Spain
- Teach for America (multiple locations)
- Communications Assistant, City of Omaha
- Project Coordinator, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program
- Social Studies Teacher, St. Cecelia's Catholic School
- Food Programs Coordinator, Oakland Catholic Worker
- Legislative Aide, United States Congress

Graduate Studies

Many of our students have gone on to prestigious graduate programs and schools, such as:

- Purdue University
- University of Kansas
- University of Chicago
- Creighton University
- University of Nebraska Lincoln
- Creighton University School of Law