American Studies

Chair
- Horace Porter

Undergraduate majors: American studies (B.A.); sport studies (B.A.)
Undergraduate minors: American studies; sport studies
Graduate degrees: M.A. in American studies; Ph.D. in American studies (optional sport studies subprogram)
Faculty: http://clas.uiowa.edu/american-studies/people/faculty
Web site: http://clas.uiowa.edu/american-studies/

The Department of American Studies provides an interdisciplinary introduction to American culture, past and present. It helps students acquire a broad familiarity with the dynamics of cultural experience and explore aspects of life in the United States, such as sport, popular and fine arts, institutions, values, gender and ethnic relations, artifacts, and the everyday life of a diverse citizenry.

The department offers undergraduate programs of study in American studies and in sport studies as well as graduate programs of study in American studies, with a sport studies subprogram available in the Ph.D.

The department also is the administrative home of the American Indian and Native Studies Program, which offers an undergraduate certificate and minor and a graduate certificate; see American Indian and Native Studies in the Catalog.

Undergraduate Programs of Study
- Major in American studies (Bachelor of Arts)
- Major in sport studies (Bachelor of Arts)
- Minor in American studies
- Minor in sport studies

Bachelor of Arts: American Studies
The Bachelor of Arts with a major in American Studies requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 36 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program. At least 24 s.h. for the major must be earned at the University of Iowa.

The major in American studies stresses broad training in cultural analysis and communication. The program provides preparation for careers in business, education, government, journalism, or social service; for advanced study in the humanities, the social sciences, theology, or business; or for professional study in law or medicine. American studies students may arrange internships through the University's Pomerantz Career Center.

A distinctive feature of the American Studies major is the opportunity to develop broad training in cultural analysis as well as emphasis of particular interests within the study of American culture. With the help of their American studies advisors, students may elect to pursue one of five focus areas within American studies, or they may:

create an individual plan of study. Each focus area allows students to group courses in American studies and other departments around a specific interdisciplinary theme, topic, or set of social issues, see "American Studies Focus Areas" below.

Shortly after declaring the major, a student should meet with his or her faculty advisor to explore the range of course work available and to begin shaping an individual plan of study. By the student's second term in the major, the student and advisor should have agreed upon a plan of study and focus area for completing the requirements for the major.

The major in American studies usually requires the following 12 courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST:1010</td>
<td>Understanding American Cultures</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:2000</td>
<td>Approaches to American Studies</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:2025</td>
<td>Diversity and American Identities</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:3090</td>
<td>Seminar in American Cultural Studies</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two additional American studies courses numbered 2000 or above</td>
<td>6 s.h.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two additional American studies courses (any level)</td>
<td>6 s.h.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special interest focus area: four courses in American studies and/or other departments</td>
<td>12 s.h.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

American Studies Focus Areas

Students should consult regularly with the Department of American Studies about courses offered by American studies and other departments that count toward each focus area. A maximum of two courses from a single department outside American studies may be counted toward a single focus area.

ETHNIC STUDIES, DIVERSITY, AND DIFFERENCES

Students choose this focus to develop interdisciplinary understanding of an individual ethnic and/or racial group (e.g., Latino/a studies, Jewish-American studies) or to examine broadly gender, race, sexuality, social class, region, national origins, and age in the United States. Emphasis is on the historic emergence of categories of social difference, especially as revealed in cultural practices and artifacts, geography and cityscapes, leisure, and popular expression.

AMERICAN ARTS, LITERATURE, AND POPULAR CULTURE

Students who choose this focus examine artistic creations to discover how they are shaped by cultural preconceptions, norms, and standards, and how in turn these expressive forms affect ongoing developments in cultural life. Emphasis is on skills in the formal analysis of artistic artifacts, historical inquiry, and cultural contextualization.

AMERICAN SOCIETY, POLITICS, AND EVERYDAY LIFE

Students who choose this focus consider the dynamics of social change, the emergence and fate of political movements, and the forms and practice of everyday life in America. The area encompasses the tradition of revolution in America, the effects of technological and
economic change, and the roles of the family, workplace, and community from the colonial era to the digital age.

THE POLITICS OF NATURE: ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY, AND LANDSCAPE
Students who choose this focus explore how Americans from pre-Columbian times to the present have shaped and regarded the natural environment. Topics might include the perception of wilderness in early America; the relationship of Native American peoples to the land; the impact of industrialization and urban growth on the environment; the emergence of a cult of nature; the treatment and representation of animals; the mass production, distribution, and consumption of food; and the growing movement for sustainability in agriculture, architecture, urban planning, and individual lifestyles.

SPORT AND POPULAR AMUSEMENTS
Students who choose this focus examine the various sports, recreational activities, and popular amusements enjoyed in the United States from colonial and early America to the present. They examine the relationship between work and play, the role of technology and the media, the commercialization of sport, and the politics of gender, race, class, sexuality, and disability.

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED FOCUS AREAS
Individually designed focus areas may concentrate on an interdisciplinary topic, theme, group of people, or time period. Students who wish to design their own interdisciplinary focus area should consult with their American studies advisor for appropriate courses.

Bachelor of Arts: Sport Studies
The Bachelor of Arts with a major in sport studies requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 45 s.h. of work for the major (30 s.h. in sport studies and 15 s.h. in an outside specialization area or a minor). Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program. At least 24 s.h. of credit for the major must be earned at the University of Iowa.

The sports studies major examines sport in its historical and contemporary cultural contexts. Course work provides students with the critical skills necessary to understand the cultural significance of sport as it relates to the media, the economy, the political system, and the educational system. A focus on the race, class, and gender differences in the sport experience is central to the major.

Many students use their experience in the program to prepare for graduate school. For others, the required second concentration area or minor serves as an introduction to careers in a number of fields, such as sport journalism, sport management, or coaching.

The major in sport studies requires the following course work.

SPORT STUDIES FOUNDATION
Students should complete the foundation courses as early as possible.
Both of these:
AMST:1010 Understanding American Cultures 3 s.h.
SPST:1074 Inequality in American Sport 3 s.h.

SPORT STUDIES CORE
Students must complete one course from each of the following four content areas (total of 12 s.h.).
Diversity in sport—one of these:
SPST:2078 Women, Sport, and Culture 3 s.h.
SPST:2079 Race and Ethnicity in Sport 3 s.h.
International dimensions—one of these:
SPST:3176 Sport and Nationalism 3 s.h.
SPST:3177 Sport in the Western World 3 s.h.
Contemporary sport in America—one of these:
SPST:3175 Sport and the Media 3 s.h.
SPST:3179 American Sport Since 1900 3 s.h.
History of sport and leisure in America—one of these:
SPST:2050 The American Vacation 3 s.h.
SPST:3178 American Sport to 1900 3 s.h.

ELECTIVES
Students must complete at least 12 s.h. of approved elective courses; the department suggests courses from the following list. Students also may include courses from the sport studies core (above) that they have not already taken.
AMST:1065 Disney in America 3 s.h.
AMST:2000 Approaches to American Studies 3 s.h.
AMST:2052 Fairs and Amusement Parks 3 s.h.
CLSA:1875 Ancient Sports and Leisure 3 s.h.
ECON:3690 Sports Economics 3 s.h.
ENTR:4450 Professional Sports Management 3 s.h.
HHP:2500 Psychological Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity 3 s.h.
JMC:1200 Media History and Culture 3 s.h.
JMC:3125 Media and Consumers 3 s.h.
JMC:3160 Images and Society 3 s.h.
SOC:2810 Social Inequality 3 s.h.
SPST:2081 Theory and Ethics of Coaching 3 s.h.
SPST:2084/AMST:2084 Sport and Film 3 s.h.
SPST:3171 Baseball in America 3 s.h.
SPST:3172 Football in America 3 s.h.
SPST:3180 Classics of Sports Journalism: From Jack London to Grantland 3 s.h.
SPST:3181 The Business of Sport Communication 3 s.h.
SPST:3193 Independent Study arr.
SPST:3198 New Media and the Future of Sport 3 s.h.
SPST:4900 Topics in Sport Studies 1-3 s.h.
SPST:4999 Honors Project 1-3 s.h.

OUTSIDE CONCENTRATION AREA OR MINOR
All sport studies students must complete 15 s.h. of course work in an allied field of concentration outside the major (e.g., American studies; journalism and mass communication; business; gender, women’s, and sexuality studies). Work for the concentration must include 6 s.h. earned in courses numbered 3000 or above or in courses that are designated advanced by the department or program that offers them. Concentration area courses may not be taken pass/nonpass.
Students select their allied field of concentration in consultation with their advisor, and they must have their advisor's written approval for the area.

Students also may satisfy the concentration requirement by earning a second major or a minor in another discipline. Students who satisfy the requirement in this way are held responsible for ensuring that they have fulfilled the requirements for the second major or the minor.

**B.A. with Coaching Authorization or Endorsement**

Students may prepare for coaching by completing additional course work that also qualifies them for a coaching authorization from the State of Iowa. The following courses are recommended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATEP:2030</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHP:1100</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHP:3300</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:2081</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who successfully complete the requirements for the coaching authorization must submit an application to the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. For more information, visit Coaching Authorization FAQs on the board's web site.

**Four-Year Graduation Plan**

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. (Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.)

**B.A.: American Studies**

**Before the fifth semester begins:** declaration of the major and discussion of a plan of study with an American studies advisor

**Before the seventh semester begins:** at least six courses from the plan of study and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

**Before the eighth semester begins:** at least nine courses from the plan of study

**During the eighth semester:** enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

**B.A.: Sport Studies**

**Before the fifth semester begins:** declaration of the major

**Before the sixth semester begins:** area of specialization determined

**Before the seventh semester begins:** at least six sport studies courses and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

**Before the eighth semester begins:** at least eight sport studies courses

**During the eighth semester:** enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

**Honors in the Major**

Students majoring in American studies or sport studies have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major and to pursue special interests through individual, in-depth research.

Honors students carry out a research project. Working under the guidance of an undergraduate advisor, each student defines a research project and then makes a project proposal, ideally by the end of the junior year. The student completes the project under the guidance of a supervising faculty member. American studies honors students register for up to 6 s.h. in AMST:4999 Honors Project. Sport studies honors students register for up to 3 s.h. in SPST:4999 Honors Project.

Contact the American studies honors advisor for more information about honors in either major.

Honors students in either major must be members of the University's honors program, which requires students to maintain a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and to fulfill other requirements; visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University of Iowa Honors Program.

**Minor: American Studies**

The minor in American studies requires a minimum of 15 s.h. in American studies courses, including 12 s.h. in courses considered advanced for the minor taken at the University of Iowa (courses numbered above AMST:1010 are considered advanced for the minor). Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the minor and in all UI courses for the minor. Course work in the minor may not be taken pass/nonpass. Students interested in earning the American studies minor should consult with one of the department's faculty members.

**Minor: Sport Studies**

The minor in sport studies requires a minimum of 15 s.h. in University of Iowa sport studies courses (prefix SPST), including at least 6 s.h. in courses numbered 3000 or above. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the minor and in all UI courses for the minor. Course work in the minor may not be taken pass/nonpass. Students select courses for the minor according to their interests and the recommendation of the undergraduate coordinator.

**Certificate in American Indian and Native Studies**

The Department of American Studies administers the American Indian and Native Studies Program, which offers a certificate for undergraduate and graduate students and a minor for undergraduates; see American Indian and Native Studies in the Catalog.

**Graduate Programs of Study**

- Master of Arts in American studies
- Doctor of Philosophy in American studies (optional sport studies subprogram)
Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College.

**Master of Arts**

The Master of Arts program in American studies requires a minimum of 36 s.h. of graduate credit. The degree generally is offered without thesis; students must petition the director of graduate studies for permission to pursue the thesis option.

Each M.A. student designs an interdisciplinary field of concentration in consultation with his or her American studies advisor.

The M.A. in American studies requires the following work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST:5000 Interdisciplinary Research in American Studies (taken twice in consecutive years)</td>
<td>6 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two graduate seminars in American studies</td>
<td>6 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five courses in the interdisciplinary field of concentration</td>
<td>15 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>9 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.A. portfolio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each student must complete an M.A. portfolio, which includes a research paper, faculty evaluations for all courses taken during the student’s first full year of graduate study, and a self-evaluation essay.

The research paper is a graduate seminar paper that demonstrates the student’s skills as a research scholar and writer and represents his or her strongest work. The paper should be 25-30 pages, including a bibliography.

The self-evaluation essay summarizes the American studies methods and materials that have shaped the student’s interdisciplinary work in the field and states how the master’s degree work in American studies has contributed to, challenged, or complicated the student’s goals and ambitions beyond the degree.

Students assemble the M.A. portfolio under the guidance of their advisors and should submit it no later than December 1 of their third semester in residency. The portfolio is evaluated on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) basis by a three-person American studies faculty committee. Students whose portfolio receives a U may resubmit the portfolio during their fourth semester of residency.

For students who wish to continue their education with doctoral study, the M.A. portfolio serves as the application for admission to the Ph.D. program in American studies. The department informs applicants whether they have been accepted into the Ph.D. program by the end of the fall semester in which they submit their M.A. portfolio; admission is contingent upon successful completion of the M.A. during the student’s fourth semester of residency.

**Doctor of Philosophy**

The Doctor of Philosophy program in American studies requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Students may focus in American studies or choose the sport studies subprogram.

Each student works with his or her faculty advisor to map out a coherent plan of study that reflects the student’s particular interests. Students are permitted considerable flexibility in constructing their study plan, but they must meet certain basic requirements, which include foundation courses, area foundation courses, two interdisciplinary fields of concentration, a research skills course, elective course work, and a dissertation.

The two fields of concentration may be defined to correspond with the student’s strongest intellectual interests, but they must be interdisciplinary in concept and multidisciplinary in scope. Each must include course work from more than one of the University’s departments and programs. The two concentration areas may, and usually should, have an intellectual relationship with each other.

Students are expected to address the cultural diversity of American life in their course work and reading.

The Doctor of Philosophy requires the following work.

Some course requirements are different for American studies and sports studies.

**COURSE WORK**

**Required Foundation Courses**

All students complete the required foundation courses and should take them as early as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST:5000 Interdisciplinary Research in American Studies (taken twice in consecutive years)</td>
<td>6 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Area Foundation Courses**

American studies students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two American studies graduate seminars</td>
<td>6 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport studies students:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:5002 Critical Theories for Sport</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPST:6074 Seminar in Sport History</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**First Field of Concentration**

American studies students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses in an interdisciplinary field with a historical concentration, designed with the advisor and approved by the department's Plan of Study Committee</td>
<td>18 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sport studies students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses on sport in cultural and historical contexts selected with the advisor and approved by the department's Plan of Study Committee</td>
<td>18 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second Field of Concentration**

American studies students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses in an interdisciplinary field designed with the advisor and approved by the department's Plan of Study Committee</td>
<td>18 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sport studies students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses in an interdisciplinary field designed with the advisor and approved by the department's Plan of Study Committee; may be a second field in sport studies or a field outside sport studies</td>
<td>18 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Skills**

American studies students:
Courses

American Studies, Lower-Level Undergraduate

AMST:1010 Understanding American Cultures 3 s.h.
The United States in historical, contemporary, and transnational perspective; social and cultural diversity and conflict in American life; debates on concepts of America, the American Dream, national culture, citizenship. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity.

AMST:1030 Introduction to African American Culture 3 s.h.
Interdisciplinary look at Black culture in the United States through significant contributions of the humanities (music, art, literature, drama, philosophy) to development of Black culture. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as AFAM:1020.

AMST:1049 Introduction to American Indian and Native Studies 3 s.h.
Themes and methodologies in the study of American Indians and other indigenous peoples; approaches from anthropology, history, law, literature, other disciplines. Offered fall semesters. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as AINS:1049.

AMST:1050 American Issues 3 s.h.
Representative issues: radio and American culture; cultural history of the Civil War era; American history, literature, culture.

AMST:1060 Sex and Popular Culture in the Postwar U.S. 3 s.h.
Critical and historical introduction to representation of human sexuality in American popular culture from World War II to the present. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as GWSS:1060, ENGL:1410.

AMST:1065 Disney in America 3 s.h.
How Walt Disney Corporation has influenced American cultural values, ideals, and experiences through its evolution from an animation company in the 1920s, to a theme park company and television producer in the 1950s, to a media conglomerate today; the corporation's national importance, Hollywood's contributions to the Depression and World War II, postwar urban and community planning, America's changing leisure behavior, advertising and childhood, modern business history, and exportation of American culture. Same as CINE:1632.

AMST:7085 Dissertation Writing Workshop (taken three times) 3 s.h.

Sport studies students:

SPST:7070 Sport Studies Workshop (may be repeated) 1 s.h.

Additional Requirements

American studies and sport studies students:

Dissertation work (AMST:7090 Ph.D. Thesis) and electives 21 s.h.

ADMISSION TO PH.D. CANDIDACY

Admission to Ph.D. candidacy signifies that the department judges the doctoral student qualified to take the comprehensive examination. Doctoral students advance to Ph.D. candidacy based on a review conducted during their second year in the Ph.D. program (typically during fall semester); the review assesses a student's readiness to complete his or her studies through the comprehensive examination and the dissertation, which is an original work of scholarship. In addition to judging a student's readiness for Ph.D. candidacy, the review provides a progress report on the student's work and a tentative prognosis for future prospects in the field.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The comprehensive examination comprises three written exams and one oral exam.

The first exam is taken under the supervision of an American studies faculty member, who also chairs the comprehensive examination. The candidate takes a timed, take-home written exam of no less than four hours and no longer than two days; the exam details the candidate's approach to American studies (methods and models), including his or her position and critical engagement with models of American studies scholarship.

The remaining two written exams explore the candidate's major fields; these are at least four hours long and may be given on a take-home basis at the examiner's discretion.

The oral exam covers material from the written exams.

DISSERTATION

The final requirement for the Ph.D. in American studies is the dissertation, a substantive book-length manuscript that involves interdisciplinary research and analysis and that represents an original contribution to knowledge. All Ph.D. dissertations must be approved by a committee of five faculty members, including at least two from the Department of American Studies.

Internships

Qualified graduate students in American studies can arrange internships with a number of local agencies, including the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Division of Historic Preservation, the University of Iowa Museum of Art, the Iowa Humanities Board, Brucemore, the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, and the Putnam Museum. With special permission, candidates conducting research during such on-the-job training may receive academic credit through AMST:7994 Independent Study. Other internships with social agencies, government, or business also may be arranged.

Undergraduate

Courses

American Studies, Lower-Level Undergraduate

AMST:1010 Understanding American Cultures 3 s.h.
The United States in historical, contemporary, and transnational perspective; social and cultural diversity and conflict in American life; debates on concepts of America, the American Dream, national culture, citizenship. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity.

AMST:1030 Introduction to African American Culture 3 s.h.
Interdisciplinary look at Black culture in the United States through significant contributions of the humanities (music, art, literature, drama, philosophy) to development of Black culture. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as AFAM:1020.

AMST:1049 Introduction to American Indian and Native Studies 3 s.h.
Themes and methodologies in the study of American Indians and other indigenous peoples; approaches from anthropology, history, law, literature, other disciplines. Offered fall semesters. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as AINS:1049.

AMST:1050 American Issues 3 s.h.
Representative issues: radio and American culture; cultural history of the Civil War era; American history, literature, culture.

AMST:1060 Sex and Popular Culture in the Postwar U.S. 3 s.h.
Critical and historical introduction to representation of human sexuality in American popular culture from World War II to the present. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as GWSS:1060, ENGL:1410.

AMST:1065 Disney in America 3 s.h.
How Walt Disney Corporation has influenced American cultural values, ideals, and experiences through its evolution from an animation company in the 1920s, to a theme park company and television producer in the 1950s, to a media conglomerate today; the corporation's national importance, Hollywood's contributions to the Depression and World War II, postwar urban and community planning, America's changing leisure behavior, advertising and childhood, modern business history, and exportation of American culture. Same as CINE:1632.

AMST:7085 Dissertation Writing Workshop (taken three times) 3 s.h.

Sport studies students:

SPST:7070 Sport Studies Workshop (may be repeated) 1 s.h.

Additional Requirements

American studies and sport studies students:

Dissertation work (AMST:7090 Ph.D. Thesis) and electives 21 s.h.

ADMISSION TO PH.D. CANDIDACY

Admission to Ph.D. candidacy signifies that the department judges the doctoral student qualified to take the comprehensive examination. Doctoral students advance to Ph.D. candidacy based on a review conducted during their second year in the Ph.D. program (typically during fall semester); the review assesses a student's readiness to complete his or her studies through the comprehensive examination and the dissertation, which is an original work of scholarship. In addition to judging a student's readiness for Ph.D. candidacy, the review provides a progress report on the student's work and a tentative prognosis for future prospects in the field.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The comprehensive examination comprises three written exams and one oral exam.

The first exam is taken under the supervision of an American studies faculty member, who also chairs the comprehensive examination. The candidate takes a timed, take-home written exam of no less than four hours and no longer than two days; the exam details the candidate's approach to American studies (methods and models), including his or her position and critical engagement with models of American studies scholarship.

The remaining two written exams explore the candidate's major fields; these are at least four hours long and may be given on a take-home basis at the examiner's discretion.

The oral exam covers material from the written exams.

DISSERTATION

The final requirement for the Ph.D. in American studies is the dissertation, a substantive book-length manuscript that involves interdisciplinary research and analysis and that represents an original contribution to knowledge. All Ph.D. dissertations must be approved by a committee of five faculty members, including at least two from the Department of American Studies.

Internships

Qualified graduate students in American studies can arrange internships with a number of local agencies, including the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Division of Historic Preservation, the University of Iowa Museum of Art, the Iowa Humanities Board, Brucemore, the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, and the Putnam Museum. With special permission, candidates conducting research during such on-the-job training may receive academic credit through AMST:7994 Independent Study. Other internships with social agencies, government, or business also may be arranged.
AMST:1074 Inequality in American Sport 3 s.h.
Cultural meanings of sport in contemporary U.S. culture; American dream as promoted, challenged in sport; sport experiences, inclusion, and exclusion as affected by gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, social class, age, physical ability/disability, and nationalism. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as SPST:1074, GWSS:1074.

AMST:1075 American Popular Music 3 s.h.

AMST:1080 American Political Humor 3 s.h.
How political humor reflects and influences American attitudes regarding government institutions, elected officials, the democratic process; how humor works; examples from Revolutionary War present and from varied media, including cartoons, fiction, film, television, the Internet.

AMST:1154 Food in America 3 s.h.
Cultural significance of production, distribution, and consumption of food in the United States. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity.

AMST:1400 Introduction to American Popular Culture 3 s.h.
Introduction to popular culture studies; variety of cultural expressions including cyberspace, radio, humor, television, music, sport, and material culture; discussion of these popular genres and topics within larger context of gender, race, sexualities, class, consumerism, nation state and global capitalism; what popular culture is; difference between folk, high, mass, and popular culture; how to critically read and interpret popular cultural expressions; role(s) consumers of popular culture play in marketplace economy; new information technologies to enhance learning experience.

AMST:1500 American Celebrity Culture 3 s.h.
Cultural history of meanings and implications of fame and celebrity in America; shift from 18th-century culture of "fame" (something bestowed posthumously on great statesmen) to 19th-century culture of "celebrity" that conferred instant stardom on actors, sportsmen, musicians, writers, and others; role of mass media and impresarios (e.g., Barnum and "Buffalo Bill") in promoting culture of celebrity; refinement of star system by Hollywood, television, and Internet; implications for political culture, consumer culture, and attitudes towards race, gender, class, and sexuality.

AMST:1630 U.S. History Through Objects 3 s.h.
Interpretation of U.S. history through stories embedded in material artifacts ranging from guns, farming tools, and religious relics to mechanical toys, office gadgets, and vehicles; invention, manufacture, and marketing of tools and objects; their use and adaptation by various groups of Americans (women, African Americans, immigrants); meanings and memories invested in them; preservation of objects in museums, attics, and time capsules.

AMST:1847 Hawkeye Nation: On Iowa and Sport 3 s.h.
Identity, community, and place explored within local frameworks: the University of Iowa, Iowa City, State of Iowa; how sport, literature, film, other cultural institutions forge connections to community and shape Iowa's image in the public imagination; identity and community as complex and contested issues; local rituals, sites of memorialization, acts of erasure, management and use of public and private space such as UI athletic complex, Field of Dreams, Iowa Writers' Workshop, Iowa Avenue Literary Walk, Blackhawk Park; interdisciplinary approaches grounded in American studies, sport studies, American Indian and native studies, literature, history. Same as SPST:1847.

AMST:2000 Approaches to American Studies 3 s.h.
Variety of historic and contemporary sources, such as literature, law, photography, painting, film, TV, music, fashions, environments, events of everyday life.

AMST:2025 Diversity and American Identities 3 s.h.
History and variety of American identities, examined through citizenship, culture, social stratification; conflict and commonalities among groups according to race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality; how art, literature, music, film, photography, and other cultural artifacts represent diversity of identities.

AMST:2050 The American Vacation 3 s.h.
Development of the idea of vacation from upper-class origins to acceptance as part of middle- and working-class life; Niagara Falls, Saratoga Springs, the Catskills, Atlantic City, Idlewild, Coney Island, national parks of the American West, Chicago World's Fair, Gettysburg, Disneyland; how vacation experiences and meanings are shaped by social class, race, gender, age; growth of leisure time, labor legislation, proper use of leisure time, tourism, vacations as social rituals, golden age of family vacations. Same as SPST:2050.

AMST:2052 Fairs and Amusement Parks 3 s.h.
Nineteenth- and twentieth-century international expositions, amusement parks, and theme parks as cultural events of U.S. self-definition.

AMST:2084 Sport and Film 3 s.h.
Sport films as means of exploring contemporary ideas about sport in the U.S.; focus on narrative structure, characterization, historical, and political contexts; formal aspects of film analysis (e.g., editing, lighting, cinematography). Same as SPST:2084.

AMST:2085 Native American Material Culture 3 s.h.
Overview of American collectors and collections of Indian objects, prehistoric to contemporary. Same as AINS:2085.

AMST:2165 Native Peoples of North America 3 s.h.

AMST:2290 Food and Culture in Indian Country 3 s.h.
Native Americans as original farmers of 46% of the world's table vegetables; examination of food as a cultural artifact (e.g., chocolate, tobacco); food as a primary way in which human beings express their identities; environmental, material, and linguistic differences that shape unique food cultures among Native peoples across the Western Hemisphere; close analysis of indigenous foods, rituals, and gender roles associated with them; how colonization transformed Native American, European, and African American cultures. Same as AINS:2290, HIST:2290.

**AMST:2300 Native Americans in Film** 3 s.h.
Representations of Native Americans in film from the western to science fiction and animation. Same as AINS:2300.

**AMST:2500 U.S. Cinema and Culture** 3 s.h.
Representation of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality in Hollywood movies. Same as CINE:2654.

**American Studies, Upper-Level Undergraduate and Graduate**

**AMST:3045 Immigration and American Culture** 3 s.h.
Immigrants and immigrant communities.

**AMST:3047 American Disasters** 3 s.h.
Fault lines of American society and culture as exposed during catastrophe; history of American disaster investigated through methods from cultural history, visual theory, sociology, and media studies; varied disasters 1800 to present, including those involving cities (Chicago fire, San Francisco earthquake, Chicago heat wave), transportation (Titanic, Challenger, Columbia), and environment (Union Carbide and Bhopal, Exxon Valdez); causes of catastrophes; how Americans react and are drawn to catastrophe (e.g., disaster films, jokes); related topics, including technology, urbanism, race, class, apocalyptic religion, journalism, popular culture.

**AMST:3050 Topics in American Cultural Studies** 3 s.h.
Special topics in American history, literature, culture.

**AMST:3051 The Office: Business Life in America** 3 s.h.
History of business life in America from birth of Wall Street to rise of Silicon Valley; modes of managing and regulating office workers; changing designs of office buildings, furniture, gadgets; corporate response to rise of class inequalities and growing gender and racial diversity in workforce; portrayal of businessperson in novels, movies, television, art, photography.

**AMST:3053 The Civil Rights Movement** 3 s.h.
History of the American civil rights movement. Same as AFAM:3053.

**AMST:3060 Metropolis: Cities in American Culture** 3 s.h.
Impact of American cities (skyscrapers, entertainments, crowds, ethnic neighborhoods) on American culture; depiction of American urban environments by artists, writers, musicians, filmmakers; treatment of city life in popular culture (superhero comics and movies, sitcoms, hip-hop, and more); debates about post-industrial decline of cities; focus on New York, Chicago, Los Angeles.

**AMST:3063 American Ruins** 3 s.h.
Emergence and development of American fascination with ruins, from indigenous to urban-industrial remains; actual ruins and depiction of imagined ruins in art, literature, cinema.

**AMST:3067 Reading and Writing the History of the Environment** 3 s.h.
Culture and society bind human communities to the natural world that supports them; local landforms and waterways in Iowa have shapen, and been shaped by, human uses and meanings; the past inheres in present-day struggles over land and water use, see local landscapes historically; deploy skills of environmental history to understand the historical and cultural roots of present-day conflicts over land use and appreciate how beliefs, rituals, recreational practices, and technologies attach human beings to places in which they live.

**AMST:3090 Seminar in American Cultural Studies** 3 s.h.
Interdisciplinary perspectives on a single theme or period.

**AMST:3130 Black American Cinema** 3 s.h.
Major historical and cultural movements in Black cinema; independent and early Hollywood films, animation, Blaxploitation, the Black Renaissance, Black auteurs (e.g., Spike Lee, Julie Dash), hip-hop cinema, womanist films, 21st-century developments in film (e.g., theatre to film adaptions of Tyler Perry), new media's effect on film and cinema; particular attention given to gender, sexualities, region, ethnicity, and class. Same as AFAM:3130.

**AMST:3135 The Social Construction of Whiteness** 3 s.h.
Whiteness as a socially constructed racial category with material effects in everyday life; race as a category with salience in determining public policy, forming identities, and shaping people's actions; interdisciplinary approach using social history, philosophy, science, law, literature, autobiography, film, and the expressive arts.

**AMST:3148 American Monuments** 3 s.h.
How Americans enshrine certain memories in form of public monuments; why Americans began building large-scale monuments in 19th century (Bunker Hill, Washington Monument); subsequent monuments to wars, Indian massacres, the Confederacy, the civil rights movements; recent trends, including counter-monuments (9/11 memorial), spontaneous and temporary monuments, and online memorials; roles monuments play in American society, why they attract so much controversy, how some become sites for popular protests or for depositing artifacts, and how they compare with those in other countries (Holocaust memorials in Germany).
AMST:3171 Baseball in America
Forces that influenced political, economic, and social development of professional baseball in the United States; rise of major league baseball, its relationship to the minor leagues, and development of organized baseball industry. Same as SPST:3171.

AMST:3178 American Sport to 1900
Growth and institutionalization of sport from colonial times to 1900. Same as SPST:3178.

AMST:3179 American Sport Since 1900
Historic development of sport in the United States since 1900; economic forces, professionalization, growth of media. Same as SPST:3179.

AMST:3195 American Cultures and American Photography
Introduction to visual, cultural, and historical frameworks to view and interpret photographs as material artifacts.

AMST:3198 New Media and the Future of Sport
Emergence and significance of Internet blogs, social media, convergence journalism, video games, and fantasy sports; economic, regulatory, and cultural forces that shape new media sport journalism and entertainment. Same as SPST:3198, JMC:3135.

AMST:3400 Black Popular Music
History and expressive culture of people of African descent living in America through popular music forms; historical time span between the 17th and 21st centuries; poetry, music, cultural analysis, film, and art as sources for the study of Black music; genres covered include spirituals and gospel, blues, jazz, rock, rhythm and blues, Afropunk, alternative and neo soul, and hip-hop. Recommendations: AFAM:1020 and AMST:1030 . Same as AFAM:3400.

AMST:3480 American Literature and History
Examination of fictional histories (novels about history), their relationship to historical interpretation. English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: American Literature and Culture. PERIOD: 18th/19th-Century Literature, or 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3480.

AMST:3994 Independent Study
Intensive reading on American cultural analysis topics; may include screenings, field trips, guest speakers, special events.

AMST:4401 American Women Playwrights: 1776-Present
How women in the United States have expressed themselves in theatre since 1776; diversity of voices in works by African American, Asian American, Latina, Native American, European American, lesbian playwrights; female-authored drama and production in relation to concurrent male-authored traditions and socioeconomic, political, cultural phenomena. Same as THTR:4401.

AMST:4999 Honors Project
Independent interdisciplinary research, writing.

American Studies, Graduate

AMST:5000 Interdisciplinary Research in American Studies
Research, theories, and methods in American studies; origins, evolution, and future of discipline; key figures, texts, and debates.

AMST:5002 Critical Theories for Sport
Exploration and application of critical theories to contemporary sport; feminism, Marxism, critical race theory, whiteness studies, queer theory, postcolonial theory, postmodernism, and poststructuralism. Same as SPST:5002.

AMST:6030 Seminar: Performing Arts in American Culture
American theater, dance, music, and performance.

AMST:6050 Seminar: Topics in American Studies
American cultural history; urbanization, mass media, pluralism, assimilation.

AMST:6058 Seminar: Technology and American Culture

AMST:6070 Seminar: Topics in Sport Studies
Special topics on sport in historical or contemporary contexts. Same as SPST:6070.

AMST:6078 Seminar: Women in Sport
Women's sport involvement in historical and/or contemporary contexts; focus on social class, religion, race, ethnicity, sexuality, medical opinion, economic considerations, political events, and educational philosophies that have influenced women's participation. Same as GWSS:6710, SPST:6078.

AMST:6099 American Studies Proseminar
Intensive reading on American cultural analysis topics; may include screenings, field trips, guest speakers, special events.
AMST:6276 Sport in U.S. Culture 3 s.h.
Sport as a significant cultural form in the United States; focus on role of sport in cultural reproduction; institutional relationships between sport and politics, economy, education, and media. Same as SPST:6276.

AMST:7077 Sport Studies Workshop 1 s.h.
Development of individual research projects for group discussion. Requirements: graduate standing in American studies or sport studies. Same as SPST:7070.

AMST:7080 M.A. Thesis 0-6 s.h.
AMST:7085 Dissertation Writing Workshop 1 s.h.
Dissertation preparatory work with peer and faculty critiques, including preparation of a prospectus, research activities, and chapter writing. Requirements: American studies graduate standing with postcomprehensive examination status.

AMST:7994 Independent Study arr.

Sport Studies, Lower-Level Undergraduate

SPST:1000 First-Year Seminar 1-2 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

SPST:1074 Inequality in American Sport 3 s.h.
Cultural meanings of sport in contemporary U.S. culture; American dream as promoted, challenged in sport; sport experiences, inclusion, and exclusion as affected by gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, social class, age, physical ability/disability, and nationalism. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as AMST:1074, GWSS:1074.

SPST:1847 Hawkeye Nation: On Iowa and Sport 3 s.h.
Identity, community, and place explored within local frameworks: the University of Iowa, Iowa City, State of Iowa; how sport, literature, film, other cultural institutions forge connections to community and shape Iowa's image in the public imagination; identity and community as complex and contested issues; local rituals, sites of memorialization, acts of erasure, management and use of public and private space such as UI athletic complex, Field of Dreams, Iowa Writers' Workshop, Iowa Avenue Literary Walk, Blackhawk Park; interdisciplinary approaches grounded in American studies, sport studies, American Indian and native studies, literature, history. Same as AMST:1847.

SPST:2050 The American Vacation 3 s.h.
Development of the idea of vacation from upper-class origins to acceptance as part of middle- and working-class life; Niagara Falls, Saratoga Springs, the Catskills, Atlantic City, Idlewild, Coney Island, national parks of the American West, Chicago World's Fair, Gettysburg, Disneyland; how vacation experiences and meanings are shaped by social class, race, gender, age; growth of leisure time, labor legislation, proper use of leisure time, tourism, vacations as social rituals, golden age of family vacations. Same as AMST:2050.

SPST:2077 Sport and Religion in America 3 s.h.
Sport as a religion; religiosity in sports; examination of religion and sport as connected in important ways in American society. Same as RELS:2877.

SPST:2078 Women, Sport, and Culture 3 s.h.
Feminist analysis of girls' and women's sports experiences, including reproduction of gender through sport, recent changes in women's intercollegiate athletics, media representations of women's sport, feminist critiques, alternatives to sport. Same as GWSS:2078.

SPST:2079 Race and Ethnicity in Sport 3 s.h.
Structural and ideological barriers to racial and ethnic equality in sport, with focus on African American sport experiences; historical and contemporary issues, media representations. Same as AFAM:2079.

SPST:2081 Theory and Ethics of Coaching 3 s.h.
Philosophical bases, ethical issues; theoretical, practical applications.

SPST:2084 Sport and Film 3 s.h.
Sport films as means of exploring contemporary ideas about sport in the U.S.; focus on narrative structure, characterization, historical, and political contexts; formal aspects of film analysis (e.g., editing, lighting, cinematography). Same as AMST:2084.

Sport Studies, Upper-Level Undergraduate and Graduate

SPST:3171 Baseball in America 3 s.h.
Forces that influenced political, economic, and social development of professional baseball in the United States; rise of major league baseball, its relationship to the minor leagues, and development of organized baseball industry. Same as AMST:3171.

SPST:3172 Football in America 3 s.h.
Forces that influenced political, economic, and cultural development of college and professional football in the United States; rise of the National Football League and its relationship to college football and commercial media interests.

SPST:3175 Sport and the Media 3 s.h.
Examination of sport and media's intimate relationship; aesthetic, cultural, political, economic, and industrial factors that shape it. Same as JMC:3183.
SPST:3176 Sport and Nationalism 3 s.h.
Role of sport in the phenomenon of nationalism; selected theories; case studies on Ireland, Australia, British West Indies, Cold War U.S., fascist Europe.

SPST:3177 Sport in the Western World 3 s.h.
Development of Western sport; relation to social, political, economic, intellectual factors.

SPST:3178 American Sport to 1900 3 s.h.
Growth and institutionalization of sport from colonial times to 1900. Same as AMST:3178.

SPST:3179 American Sport Since 1900 3 s.h.
Historic development of sport in the United States since 1900: economic forces, professionalization, growth of media. Same as AMST:3179.

SPST:3180 Classics of Sports Journalism: From Jack London to Grantland 3 s.h.
Historical examples of celebrated works of sports journalism; focus on long-form texts. Same as JMC:3190.

SPST:3181 The Business of Sport Communication 3 s.h.
Critical and practical approach to understanding contemporary sports media and business practices that mark it; focus on sports media industries and institutions; branding, marketing, demographic, public relations, and promotional factors that shape content. Same as JMC:3181.

SPST:3182 Sport, Scandal, and Strategic Communication in Media Culture 3 s.h.
Use of sport scandal to consider relationship between sport and media in American and global popular culture; broad range of case studies used to consider what constitutes a sport scandal, how this definition shifts in different circumstances; crucial roles media play in creating, communicating, and diffusing these crises; how phenomenon of sports scandal has intensified along with emergence of cable television, the Internet, and social media. Same as JMC:3182.

SPST:3193 Independent Study arr.
Problem in a specific area.

SPST:3198 New Media and the Future of Sport 3 s.h.
Emergence and significance of Internet blogs, social media, convergence journalism, video games, and fantasy sports; economic, regulatory, and cultural forces that shape new media sport journalism and entertainment. Same as AMST:3198, JMC:3135.

SPST:3911 Sport in the Shadow of 9/11 3 s.h.
Profound impact of events of September 11, 2001 in the United States and abroad; how sport has often played a role in constructing understandings of the United States and what it means to be a U.S. citizen; use of sport to interrogate U.S. nationalism and what it means to be a U.S. citizen in post-9/11 era; investigation of stories about the United States after 9/11 using responses from MLB and NFL, 2002 Olympics, and others; the future; how more critically nuanced understandings of sport's role in the United States might lead us to become more reflective and active citizens.

SPST:4900 Topics in Sport Studies 1-3 s.h.
Special topics on sport in historical or contemporary contexts.

SPST:4950 Sport Studies Internship 3 s.h.
Application of classroom concepts in practical settings; individualized experience arranged by student in consultation with advisor. Requirements: completion of 85 s.h. and minimum g.p.a. of 2.50.

SPST:4999 Honors Project 1-3 s.h.

Sport Studies, Graduate

SPST:5002 Critical Theories for Sport 3 s.h.
Exploration and application of critical theories to contemporary sport; feminism, Marxism, critical race theory, whiteness studies, queer theory, postcolonial theory, postmodernism, and poststructuralism. Same as AMST:5002.

SPST:6010 Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I 3 s.h.

SPST:6020 Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness II 3 s.h.

SPST:6070 Seminar: Topics in Sport Studies 1-3 s.h.
Special topics on sport in historical or contemporary contexts. Same as AMST:6070.

SPST:6072 Seminar in Cultural Studies of Sport 3 s.h.
Current theoretical debates in sport studies; applications of critical cultural studies theories to critical analysis of sport.
SPST:6074 Seminar in Sport History 3 s.h.
Topics in sport history; theoretical and methodological issues.

SPST:6078 Seminar: Women in Sport 3 s.h.
Women's sport involvement in historical and/or contemporary contexts; focus on social class, religion, race, ethnicity, sexuality, medical opinion, economic considerations, political events, and educational philosophies that have influenced women's participation. Same as GWSS:6710, AMST:6078.

SPST:6276 Sport in U.S. Culture 3 s.h.
Sport as a significant cultural form in the United States; focus on role of sport in cultural reproduction; institutional relationships between sport and politics, economy, education, and media. Same as AMST:6276.

SPST:7070 Sport Studies Workshop 1 s.h.
Development of individual research projects for group discussion. Requirements: graduate standing in American studies or sport studies. Same as AMST:7077.

SPST:7080 Thesis: M.A. 1-6 s.h.


SPST:7940 Independent Study arr.