

## AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Professor Frances Pohl, coordinator

Steering Committee: Jennifer Friedlander, Tomás Summers Sandoval,  
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Sponsored by the five undergraduate Claremont Colleges, American studies is a multidisciplinary major that encourages students to think critically and creatively about the United States. American studies allows students to comprehend the complexity and diversity of the U.S. by drawing on the strengths of the humanities and the social sciences. Majors take courses in a variety of fields such as literature, history, sociology, anthropology, political science, music and the visual arts. In addition, multidisciplinary core courses give majors materials from different disciplines to explore a particular issue about life in the U.S. The interdisciplinary approach to this major affords students many career choices, including law, academia, library science, journalism, education, business and museum curatorship.

### Requirements for the Major in American Studies

Before their junior year, majors consult with a member of the intercollegiate faculty to plan a program of study. Majors are required to complete nine courses approved by their American studies faculty advisor, a senior seminar and a senior thesis. These requirements provide an introduction to the field, a broad knowledge of the United States, in-depth experience in a particular area of study and a capstone senior project.

I. To introduce students to the field of American studies, students take:

- (1) 103 JT, a prerequisite course that is team-taught by members of the intercollegiate faculty in the spring semester to introduce the themes, concerns and methodologies of American studies

II. To provide a broad knowledge and set of skills in the field, students take:

- (2-3) A two-semester survey of U.S. History (HIST 20 and 21 or equivalents)
- (4) A survey-level course in another discipline focusing on the U.S., such as art history, literature, music, sociology
- (5) A course in Africana, Asian American or Chicano/a-Latino/a studies, or one course on the histories and/or cultures of Native Americans

III. To provide depth, as well as breadth, students take:

- (6) 180 JT, the American Studies Seminar, normally taken in the fall of the junior year.
- (7, 8, 9) Three seminar or upper-division courses in a single discipline (e.g. anthropology, art history, English).

IV. For their capstone experience in American studies, students must complete:

- (10, 11) 180, Senior Seminar and 191, Senior Thesis. All students are required to write a senior thesis by enrolling in a two-course, two-credit sequence. Students enroll in American Studies 190, a seminar, in the fall semester. In the spring semester, students enroll in American Studies 191 and complete the thesis under the direction of their thesis advisor and second reader, at least one of whom must be from the student's home campus.

The following courses are a sample of the range of courses offered in American studies at Pomona and the other Claremont Colleges. This is not an exhaustive list; students should consult their advisors or the American studies coordinator for current course offerings.

## Courses

## American Studies (AMST)

*AMST 103JT and 180JT satisfy Area 1 of the Breadth of Study Requirements.*

- 103 JT. Introduction to American Culture.** *Mr. Delmont, Ms. Pohl.* Principal themes in American culture. Interdisciplinary approaches to art, literature, music, politics and social and cultural history. Each spring.
- SC 125. Race in Popular Culture and Media.** *Mr. Delmont.* Introduces the history of popular culture and media, focusing on the socio-historical contexts of racial representations and the production and consumption of media and popular culture by people of color. Examples from minstrel shows, films, advertising, music, radio, television, public amusements and digital media. Fall 2009.
- SC 126. Race in U.S. Urban History.** *Mr. Delmont.* Explores urban social and cultural history in the United States from 1900 to the present, focusing on the experiences of communities of color. Using case studies, covers rural to urban migration, public health, immigration and labor, suburbanization and housing discrimination, multi-ethnic neighborhoods, urban popular culture, urban poverty and gentrification. Spring 2011.
- SC 130. Multiracial People in U.S. History.** *Mr. Delmont.* Explores the conditions and consequences for crossing racial boundaries in the U.S. Examines: relations among Native Americans, whites and Blacks in the colonial era and 19th century; the legal formation of race through miscegenation cases; the regulation and representation of multiracial themes in film; the concept of *mestizaje*; contemporary debates surrounding the Mixed-race/Multiracial Movement; and the racial identity of the 44th President of the U.S., Barack Obama. Spring 2011.
- 180 JT. American Studies Seminar.** *Mr. Delmont.* Interdisciplinary examination of an issue or era in the history, politics and culture of the United States. Each fall.
- 190 JT. Senior Thesis Seminar.** *Ms. Strauss.* Exclusively for American studies majors who are preparing to write a senior thesis. Letter grade only. Each fall.
- 191. Senior Thesis.** *Staff.* Required of all majors in the senior year. The capstone project for majors in which they produce an original work in American Studies. Each spring.
- 99/199. Reading and Research.** *Staff.* Prerequisite: permission of instructor. 99, lower-level; 199, advanced work. Course or half-course. May be repeated. Each semester. (Summer Reading and Research taken as 98/198.)

## Anthropology (ANTH)

- 55. Power, Politics & Culture**  
**128. Prehistory of the Americas**

## Art History (ARHI)

- PZ 137. Tradition/Transformation in Native North American Art**  
**PZ 139. Seminar: Topics Native American**  
**141A AF. (Re)presenting Africa: Art, History and Film**  
**141B AF. Africana Cinema: Through Doc Lens**  
**144B AF. Daughters of Africa: Art, Cinema, Theory, Love**  
**178 AF. Black Aesthetics and the Politics of (Re)presentation**  
**184. Modernism, Antimodernism, Postmodernism**  
**185. History of Photography**  
**186F. Topics in North American Art: Art and Nationalism in 19th Century**  
**186J. Issues/African Diasporic Visual Arts**  
**186L AF. Critical Race Theory, Representation & The Rule of Law**

186W AF. Whiteness: Race, Sex and Representation

186Y. WMDs: Cinema Against War, Imperialism & Corporate Power

Africana Studies (AFRI)

144A AF. Black Women, Feminism(s) and Social Change

Asian American Studies (ASAM)

160 AA. Asian American Women's Experience

187 AA. Art, Activism & Asian American Social Movements

Chicano Studies (CH)

67CH. Contemporary Chicano Art/Antecedents

Dance (DANC)

152A. Hip Hop Dance

Economics (ECON)

116. Race in the U.S. Economy

119. U.S. Economic History

English (ENGL)

51. Modern American Fiction

53. 20th-Century U.S. Women Writers

56. Contemporary Native American Literature

89N. L.A. Stories

94. Pre-Contact to Civil War U.S. Literature

95. From Antebellum to Post-War U.S. Literature

100. Cultures of U.S. Imperialism

102B SC. Survey 1865-Present: American Lit

106. 19th-Century U.S. Women Writers

108. Whitman and Dickinson

110. Women and the Rise of the Novel

111. American Masculinities

113. Step Right Up: Race, Gender and Spectatorship

115. Eating the Other: Race, Gender and Literary Food Studies

125C. Introduction to African-American Literature: Middle Passage to Civil War

125D AF. Literature and Film of the African Diaspora

130 AF. Topics in 20th-Century African Diaspora Literature: Afro-Futurism

140. Literature of Incarceration: Writings from No Man's Land

142. American Poetry

162 SC. Race & Ethnicity in 19th-Century American Literature

170D. The Poet's Letter

170J. Special Topics in American Literature

189B SC. American Film: Welles, Sturges, Lang

189G. American Waters

Environmental Studies (ENVS)

74 SC. California Landscapes

Gender & Feminist Studies (GFS)

PZ 155CH Chicana Feminist Epistemology

Gender & Women's Studies (GWS)

180. Transnational Feminist Theory

Government (GOVT)

- CM 20. Introduction to American Politics
- CM 91. Intro to Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties
- CM 101. The United States Congress
- CM 105. Organization Health Care/Public Policy
- CM 110. American Culture Wars
- CM 113. Inequality, Politics & Public Policy
- CM 115. Politics of Journalism
- CM 117. California Politics
- CM 175. Politics & Law in American Sport
- CM 176. American Constitution
- CM 181. Crime and Public Policy
- CM 182. Religion, Speech, First Amendment

History (HIST)

- 17 CH. Chicano/a History
- 20. The United States from the Colonial Era to the Gilded Age
- 21. The United States Since the Civil War
- 25. All Power to the People! Social Movements for Justice
- CM 80. Forging a New Nation: U.S. to 1865
- CM 81. Modern America: 1865 to present
- 89B CH. The Latina/o Diaspora
- 90. Oral History and Multimedia Technology
- 100C CH. Latina Feminist Histories
- 100K. History/Biography/Autobiography
- 100N CH. The Mexico-U.S. Border
- 100NB CH. U.S. and Latin American Relations
- 100U AF. Pan-Africanism and Black Radical Traditions
- 100W. The American Political Tradition
- 110L. U.S. Labor and Working Class History
- 110R. History of the United States Right
- 111B AF. African Diaspora U.S. Since 1877
- SC 120B. United States History Since 1865
- 121. Culture of Early America
- 122. The Historical Film
- 122 AF. Black Intellectuals & Politics of Race
- CM 123. History of the American West
- 125C. Topics in American History
- 126. Revolutionary America, 1750-1800
- HM 127. 20th Century U.S. History
- 128. U.S. & the World: 1890-Present

- 143 AF. Slavery and Freedom in the New World
- CM 149. America in Depression and War
- CM 153. American Religious History
- PZ 167. Women and Work in the U.S.
- SC 172. History of Women in the U.S.
- HM 179A. Food and American Culture
- HM 179B. The Many Uses of Evolution
- SC 188B. Race and American Capitalism
- SC 196. Women in U.S. Politics 1620-1877

#### Literature (LIT)

- CM 81. Melville
- CM 85. Post-1945 American Fiction
- CM 126. 20th-Century Black Poetics

#### Media Studies (MS)

- 144. Film Authorship

#### Music (MUS)

- 56. Words & Music: History of Song
- 60. History of Jazz
- 61. Musical Theatre in America
- 62. Survey of American Music: African American and Mexican American
- 68. Transitions in American Popular Music
- 121 SC. Music of the Spirits
- 162. Survey of American Music

#### Politics (POLI)

- 3. Introduction to American Politics
- 7. United States Foreign Policy
- 30. The United States Congress
- 35. City of Quartz, City of Angels
- 36. Urban Politics & Public Policy
- 37. Criminal Justice
- 38. Democracy/Freedom/First Amendment
- 42. Gender and Politics
- 43. Blacks in the American Political Process
- 44. Race, Class and Power
- 45. Race & Public Opinion in the U.S.
- 91. American Democracy in Theory and Practice
- 114. The Idea of America
- SC 120. Intro to American Politics
- 130. Campaigns & Elections
- 131. American Political Development
- 132. Democracy/Mass Communication Law
- 133A. Constitutional Law I
- 133B. Constitutional Law II

- 134. American Politics in a Media Age
- 135. Policy Implementation and Evaluation
- 136. Politics of Environmental Justice
- 137. Politics & Social Welfare Policy
- SC 143. Civil Liberties/Fundamental Rights
- 147. Education Politics & Policy
- 183. America's Pacific Century
- SC 187A. Urban Politics: Power in Cities
- SC 187L. Los Angeles: Politics, History, Culture
- 189E. Environmental Law

Political Studies (POST)

- 107 CH. Latino Politics
- PZ 108. California Politics

Psychology (PSYC)

- 84 CH. Psychology of the Chicano
- 151 CH. The Psychology of Multicultural Education
- 153 AA. Asian American Psychology
- 180L AA. Seminar on Individualism and Collectivism
- 180M CH. Seminar in Cultural Psychology

Religious Studies (RLST)

- CM 138. American Religious History
- 142. The Problem of Evil: African-American Engagements With(in) Western Thought
- 155. Religion, Ethics and Social Practice
- CM 174. Religion and the American Presidency

Sociology (SOC)

- 51. Introduction to Sociology
- PZ 93. From the '60s to the Obama Era
- 114. L.A. Communities: Trans/Inequality/Activism
- 116. American Families
- 126 AA. Immigration & Second Generations
- 141 CH. Chicanas and Latinas in the U.S.
- 142 CH. Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
- 150 CH. Chicanos/Latinas and Education

Spanish (SPAN)

- 126B CH. Contemporary Chicana/o Lit
- 127 CH. Literatura Chicana en Espanol

Theatre (THEA)

- 1C. Basic Acting: Chicano Theater
- 113. Contemporary Western Theatre