

INTRODUCTION

The major in American Studies enables a student to pursue her liberal arts education by focusing on American society and culture in the past and present. Instead of specializing in one of the traditional disciplines, she combines several disciplines (e.g., history, art history, literature, economics) in the sequence of courses she takes to fulfill her major requirements. This Handbook is designed to assist present and prospective majors, as well as faculty advisers, in interpreting those requirements and in getting a sense of how the major relates to the broader liberal arts curriculum. Based on the Smith College Catalogue, it lists the requirements for the major plus a list of the courses most commonly taken for credit toward the major.

The following faculty members are advisers in American Studies. Students are encouraged to discuss the major with any of them.

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For additional copies of this Handbook and other information relating to the American Studies Program, contact Jennifer Roberts in the American Studies Office, Wright Hall 12, x 3582 or by e-mail: jroberts@smith.edu or visit our Website: www.smith.edu/ams.

Smith College Smithsonian Program- Rosetta Marantz Cohen, Professor of Education and Child Study, directs the Smith College Smithsonian Program. She has an office in Morgan Hall. She can be reached at extension 3266, or by email at rcohen@smith.edu.

I. Requirements for the Major

Because of the wide-ranging interests and methods included within the interdisciplinary American Studies Program, careful consultation between a student and her adviser is crucial to the planning of the major.

In order to structure their studies of American society and culture, majors will select a focus--such as an era (e.g. antebellum America, the twentieth century) or a topical concentration (e.g. ethnicity and race, urban life, social policy, material culture, the

family, industrialization, the arts, the media, popular culture, comparative American cultures)--which they will explore in at least four courses. It is expected that several courses in the major will explore issues outside the theme.

Requirements: 12 semester courses totaling 48 credits, as follows (see check list at end of Handbook:

1. AMS 201 and 202.
2. Eight courses in the American field. At least four must be related in a coherent manner. At least two courses must be in the Humanities and two in the Social Sciences. At least two must be devoted primarily to the years before the twentieth century. At least one must be a seminar, ideally in the theme selected. Students who write honors theses do not have to take a seminar.
3. One course that will enable the student to make explicit comparisons between the United States and another society, culture, or region. The purpose of this requirement is to encourage students to take at least one course in their major that enables them to think about what they have learned of the U.S. in comparative perspective. There are relatively few courses in the Smith curriculum that do this explicitly. Therefore, students can fulfill this requirement by making such comparisons on their own but through their engagement with materials and ideas in a course whose focus is largely outside the U.S. -- courses, for example, in Anthropology or in non-U.S. history, literature, or art.
4. AMS 340/341.

Double Majors: Students who double major in American Studies and another field normally can count toward the American Studies requirements up to four courses used to fulfill the requirements of another major.

Senior Certification Form: When indicating on the Senior Certification Form which 64 courses they have taken outside the major, an American Studies student can list American subject courses that she does not need to fulfill the Program's requirements, but not American Studies courses themselves.

Teaching Certification: American Studies majors can become licensed, as undergraduates, to teach in public schools throughout the country. Licensure is available on the elementary, middle, or secondary levels. Gaining undergraduate licensure, however, requires careful planning. Students who are interested in doing this should decide fairly early in their undergraduate careers, usually by the end of sophomore year.

Students who are considering obtaining a teaching license should contact Rosetta Cohen, or any other member of the Department of Education and Child Study.

Study Abroad: Many American Studies majors have studied abroad either for a year or a semester. Some thought must be given, of course, to meeting the major requirements. For American Studies Programs in the United Kingdom, students should consult our

American Studies web site.

II. **Select List of Courses Recommended for American Studies Credit** This list contains most, but not all, of the courses that can count toward American Studies. In addition, students should explore the relevant offerings in the Five Colleges. The list of courses is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather to indicate the range of possibilities within the major. We encourage majors and prospective majors to discuss other possibilities with their advisers, or with the Director of the American Studies Program—**Rick Millington, 138 Elm St., #6, ext. 3319**. H means the course counts toward the Humanities requirement; SS, the Social Sciences; pre-1900, the pre-20th century. Students are especially encouraged to consider courses in Afro-American Studies (www.smith.edu/aas/), Latin American and Latino/a Studies (www.smith.edu/las/), and courses listed in the American Ethnicities section of the Catalogue.

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES:

- AAS 111 Introduction to Black Culture, H, SS
- AAS 112 Methods of Inquiry, SS
- AAS 113 Survey of Afro-American Literature: 1746 to 1900, pre-1900, H
- AAS 117 History of Afro-American People to 1960, ½ pre-1900, SS
- AAS 202 Topics in Black Studies:
 Topic: *Introduction to Black Feminist Theories*, SS
 Topic: *Race, Place and Identity*, SS
 Topic: *Black Music and Literature*, SS
- AAS 209 Feminism, Race and Resistance: History of Black Women in America, SS
- AAS 212 Culture and Class in the Afro-American Family, SS
- AAS 237 Twentieth Century Afro-American Literature, H
- AAS 243 Afro-American Autobiography, H
- AAS 245 The Harlem Renaissance, H
- AAS 278 The '60s: A History of Afro-Americans in the United States from 1954 to 1970, SS
- AAS 335 Seminar: Free Blacks in the U.S. Before 1865, SS
- AAS 366 Seminar: Contemporary Topics in Afro-American Studies.
 Topics: *Classic Black Texts*, H

Black Women, Work and Family, SS
Ida B. Wells and the Struggle Against Racial Violence, SS

AMERICAN ETHNICITIES

All listed courses count toward the major.

AMERICAN STUDIES

All courses count toward the major, except AMS 100 and AMS 102.

- AMS 201 Introduction to the Study of American Society and Culture
- AMS 202 Methods in American Studies
- AMS 221 Colloquium:
 Topic: *New England Material Culture, 1860-1940, SS*
- AMS 235 American Popular Culture, SS
- AMS 302 Seminar: The Material Culture of New England, 1630-1860, H, pre-1900
- PRS 307 Asian Americans and the Law, SS
- AMS 340 Symposium in American Studies
 Topics: *Americans Performing Race, H*
- AMS 341 Symposium in American Studies
 Topic: *Why Did/Do Americans Feel That Way?, SS*
- AMS 351 Seminar: Writing About American Society
- AMS 410 Tutorial on Research Methods at the Smithsonian
- AMS 411 Seminar: American Culture: Conventions and Contexts
- AMS 412 Research Project at the Smithsonian Institution

ANTHROPOLOGY

Some courses in Anthropology may count toward the major, depending on the student's

focus. Anthropology courses provide an excellent way to fulfill the “explicit comparison” requirement.

ART

- ARH 204 Ancient America: Art, Architecture and Archaeology, H
- ARH 264 Colonial American Art & Architecture, pre-1900, H
- ARH 265 Arts in the United States after the Civil War, H
- ARH 297 Topics in Contemporary Art, H
- ARH 360 Studies in American Art:
Mannequins and Monuments: American Sculpture, 1800-1945, H
- ARH 374 Studies in 20th- Century Art
Performance, Video, New Media, H

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

- BIO 101 Modern Biology for the Concerned Citizen

CHEMISTRY

- CHM 108 Environmental Chemistry

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

- CLT 253 Literary Ecology, H
- CLT 268 Latina and Latin American Women Writers, H

DANCE

- DAN 171 Dance in the 20th Century, H

ECONOMICS

- ECO 123 Cheaper by the Dozen: Twelve Economic Issues for Our Times, SS
- ECO 221 Labor Economics and Human Capital, SS

- ECO 230 Urban Economics, SS
- ECO 231 The Sports Economy, SS
- ECO 233 Free Market Economics, SS
- ECO 265 Economics of Corporate Finance, SS
- ECO 275 Money and Banking, SS
- ECO 314 Seminar: Industrial Organization and Antitrust Policy, SS
- ECO 331 Seminar: The Economics of College Sports and Title IX, SS
- ECO 333 Seminar: Free Market Economics, SS
- ECO 341 Economics of Health Care, SS
- ECO 342 Seminar: Economic Issues in the Presidential Election, SS
- ECO 351 Seminar: The Economics of Education, SS
- ECO 363 Seminar: Inequality, SS

EDUCATION AND CHILD STUDY

- EDC 110 Introduction to American Education, SS
- EDC 200 Education in the City, SS
- EDC 210 Literacy in Cross-Cultural Perspective, SS
- EDC 232 The American Middle School and High School, SS
- EDC 235 Child and Adolescent Growth and Development, SS
- EDC 238 Educational Psychology, SS
- EDC 336 Seminar in American Education:
 Topic: *Youth Development and Social Entrepreneurship*, SS
 Topic: *John Dewey and his World*, SS
- EDC 342 Growing Up American: Adolescents and Their Educational Institutions, SS
- EDC 343 Multicultural Education, SS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

- ENG 120 Colloquia in Literature, H
(Will count when course focuses on U.S. material)
- ENG 231 American Literature before 1865, pre-1900, H
- ENG 233 American Literature from 1865 to 1914, pre-1900, H
- ENG 237 Recent American Writing, H
- ENG 278 Asian American Women Writers, H
- ENG 279 American Women Poets, H
- ENG 282 Colloquium: The Harlem Renaissance, H
- ENG 312 Seminar: Converts, Criminals and Fugitives: Print Culture of the African Diaspora, 1760-1860, H
- ENG 382 Readings in American Literature
Topic: *Hemingway and His Heirs*, H
- ENG 387 Asian American Autobiography, H

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND POLICY

- EVS 205 Environmental Policy: Economic Perspectives, SS
- EVS 300 Seminar in Environmental Science and Policy, SS

EXERCISE AND SPORTS STUDIES

- ESS 200 Sport: In Search of the American Dream, SS
- ESS 225 Education Through the Physical: Youth Sports, SS
- ESS 230 Body Images and Sport Media, SS

FILM STUDIES

- FLS 200 Introduction to Film Studies, H

FLS 241 Genre/Period
 Topic: *Screwball Comedy*, H

FIRST YEAR SEMINARS:

First Year Seminars will count when the course focuses on United States material.

GOVERNMENT

- GOV 190 Empirical Methods in Political Science, SS
- GOV 200 American Government, SS
- GOV 201 American Constitutional Interpretation, ½ pre-1900, SS
- GOV 202 American Constitutional Law: The Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment, SS
- GOV 204 Urban Politics, SS
- GOV 205 Colloquium: Law, Family and State, SS
- GOV 206 The American Presidency, SS
- GOV 207 Politics of Public Policy, SS
- GOV 208 Elections in the Political Order, SS
- GOV 209 Colloquium: Congress and the Legislative Process, SS
- GOV 210 Public Opinion and Mass Media in the United States, SS
- GOV 214 Colloquium: Free Speech in America, SS
- GOV 215 Colloquium: The Clinton Years, SS
- GOV 216 Minority Politics, SS
- GOV 237 Colloquium: Politics and the U.S./Mexico Border, SS
- GOV 264 American Political Thought, SS
- GOV 265 Reacting to the Past: America's Founding, the Constitutional Convention of 1787, SS
- GOV 269 Politics of Gender and Sexuality, SS

- GOV 304 Seminar in American Government
Topic: *Communism and Anti-Communism in America*, SS
Topic: *Pathologies of Power*, SS
- GOV 305 Seminar in American Government.
Topic: *Topics in the Black Experience: Black Politics, Ethnicity and Identity*, SS
- GOV 306 Seminar in American Government
Topic: *Politics and the Environment*, SS
- GOV 307 Seminar in American Government
Topic: *Latinos and Politics in the U.S.*, SS
- GOV 312 Seminar in American Government
Topic: *Political Behavior in the United States*, SS
- GOV 362 Seminar in Political Theory
Topic: *Revolution to Consolidation*, SS
- GOV 367 Seminar in Political Theory
Topic: *Lesbian and Gay Politics*, SS
- GOV 411 Washington Seminar in American Government, SS
(Washington, DC)
- GOV 412 Semester-in-Washington Research Project, SS
(Washington, DC)
- GOV 413 Washington Seminar: The Art and Craft of Political Science Research, SS

HISTORY

- HIS 265 Race, Gender and United States Citizenship, 1789-1861, pre-1900, SS
- HST 266 The Age of the American Civil War, pre-1900, SS
- HST 267 The United States Since 1898, SS
- HST 270 Aspects of American History
Topic: *The Black Atlantic*, SS
- HST 278 Women in the United States, 1865- Present, pre-1900, SS
- HST 280 Inquiries into United States History
Topic: Globalization, Immigration and the Transnational Imaginary,

- HST 370 The Age of the American Revolution, pre-1900, SS
- HST 371 Problems in 19th-Century United States History
 Topic: *African-American Women in Slavery and Freedom*, pre-1900, SS
- HST 372 Problems in American History
 Topic: *Consumer Culture in the United States, 1880-1980, SS*
- HST 383 Research in United States Women's History: The Sophia Smith Collection,
 pre-1900, SS
- HST 390 Teaching History, SS

JEWISH STUDIES

- JUD 260 Yiddish Literature and Culture, H

LANDSCAPE STUDIES

- LSS 100 Issues in Landscape Studies
- LSS 105 Introduction to Landscape Studies
- LSS 256 Studio: From Urban Wildlands to National Parks: Our Place in the Built Environment, H

LATIN AMERICAN and LATINO/A STUDIES

Courses in this program are good ways to meet the “explicit comparison” requirement.

MUSIC

- MUS 100 Colloquia, H
 (Will count when course focuses on U.S. material)
- MUS 105 Roll Over Beethoven: A History of Rock, H
- MUS 106 American Sounds, H
- MUS 205 Topics in Popular Music
 Topic: *Improvising History-The Development of Jazz, H*

PHILOSOPHY

- PHI 221 Ethics and Society, H
- PHI 230 American Philosophy
Topic: *Pragmatism and Neo-Pragmatism*, H
- PHI 241 Business Ethics: Moral Issues in the Boardroom and the Classroom, H
- PHI 304 Colloquium in Applied Ethics
Topic: *Sustainability*, H

PRESIDENTIAL SEMINARS

- PRS 301 Translating New Worlds, H
- PRS 305 Cultural Literacy, H
- PRS 307 Asian Americans and the Law, SS

PSYCHOLOGY

- PSY 225 Health Psychology, SS
- PSY 233 Child Development, SS
- PSY 241 Psychology of Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood, SS
- PSY 243 Adult Development, SS
- PSY 246 Colloquium: Psychology of Asian American Experiences, SS
- PSY 247 Psychology of the Black Experience, SS
- PSY 252 Abnormal Psychology, SS
- PSY 266 Psychology of Women and Gender, SS
- PSY 269 Colloquium: Categorization and Intergroup Behavior, SS
- PSY 270 Social Psychology, SS
- PSY 333 Seminar in Developmental Psychology, SS
Topic: *Identity in Psychology, Fiction and Autobiography*
- PSY 335 Research Seminar in the Study of Youth and Emerging Adults, SS

PSY 342 Seminar: Psychology of Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood among U.S. Hispanics, SS

PSY 370 Seminar in Social Psychology, SS
Topic: *Social Psychology of Leadership.*

PSY 371 Seminar in Personality, SS
Topic: *Well Being*

PSY 374 Psychology of Political Activism, SS

PSY 375 Research Seminar on Political Psychology, SS

PUBLIC POLICY

PPL 220 Public Policy Analysis, SS

PPL 222 Colloquium: U.S. Environmental History and Policy, SS

PPL 250 Race and Public Policy in the United States, SS

PPL 390 Senior Public Policy Workshop, SS

RELIGION

REL 224 Jews and Judaism in the Americas, SS

REL 266 Buddhism in America

SOCIOLOGY

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology, SS
(Will count when course focuses on U.S. material)

SOC 201 Evaluating Information, SS

SOC 202 Quantitative Research Methods, SS

SOC 203 Qualitative Methods, SS

SOC 212 Class and Society, SS

SOC 213 Ethnic Minorities in America, SS

- SOC 214 Sociology of Hispanic Caribbean Communities in the United States, SS
- SOC 216 Social Movements, SS
- SOC 219 Medical Sociology, SS
- SOC 220 The Sociology of Culture, SS
- SOC 226 Sociology of Education, SS
- SOC 229 Sex and Gender in American Society, SS
- SOC 233 Environment and Society, SS
- SOC 250 Theories of Society, SS
- SOC 314 Seminar in Latina/o Identity
Topic: *Latina/o Racial Identities in the United States*
- SOC 316 Special Topics in Collective Action and Social Movements,
Topic: *Workers' Movements*
- SOC 317 Seminar: Inequality in Education, SS
- SOC 323 Seminar: Gender and Social Change, SS
- SOC 332 Seminar in Environmental Sociology

STUDY OF WOMEN AND GENDER

- SWG 150 Introduction to the Study of Women and Gender, H
- SWG 200 Queer Theories, Queer Cultures, H, SS
- SWG 205 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History in the United States, 1945-2003, SS
- SWG 230 Feminisms and the Fate of the Planet, SS
- SWG 260 The Cultural Work of Memoir, H
- SWG 270 Colloquium: Documenting Lesbian Lives
- SWG 300 Special Topics in the Study of Women and Gender
Topic: *Intimate Revolutions: Sexuality and the Family in the Postwar Era*, SS

SWG 312 Queer Resistances: Identities, Communities, and Social Movements, SS

SWG 316 Seminar: Feminist Theories of Cross-Border Organizing, SS

THEATRE

THE 213 American Theatre and Drama, H

THE 215 Minstrel Shows from Daddy Rice to *Big Momma's House*

INTERDEPARTMENTAL / EXTRADPARTMENTAL COURSE OFFERINGS

IDP 208 Women's Medical Issues, SS

FIVE-COLLEGE COURSES

Students are especially alerted to courses in the Five-College Program in Asian/Pacific/American Studies, which are very likely to count toward the AMS major.