American Studies Minor

American studies offers a unique opportunity to explore the culture and society of the United States from a perspective that is inherently interdisciplinary. A minor in American studies provides a structured program to encourage students to cross traditional academic boundaries and to integrate the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

The minor in American studies is an effective program complement for those majoring in the related fields of art, music, dance and theatre; communication, English, and foreign languages; history, geography, and political science; philosophy; sociology, and criminal justice; as well as interdisciplinary majors in women's studies, African American and African studies, and international studies. The minor is also effective for international students, who may wish either to better understand American culture or to acquire an expertise useful in their home countries.

All students minoring in American studies must take AMST 300, cross-listed as ENGL 396 Topics in English and HIST 396 Topics in History (Topics: The American Dream), and 12 credit hours of designated courses divided into two fields (the arts and the humanities, and the social sciences), for a total of 15 hours. Please note that some courses listed below require prerequisites. Students may not use more than one course from the minor to satisfy program requirements in another major or minor.

Requirements

Designated course listings for the minor in American studies are as follows:

AMST 300 Perspectives in American Studies 3
Select at least one course in the arts or the humanities from the following: 

- ARTH 322 American Art and Architecture, 1600 to the Present 3
- ENGL 340 American Drama
- ENGL 342 Southern Literature
- ENGL 345 American Literature to 1860
- ENGL 346 American Literature Since 1860
- ENGL 447 The American Novel to 1920
- ENGL 448 The American Novel 1920 to Present
- ENGL 460 History of Jazz
- ENGL 465W African American Literature
- ENGL 466W Asian American Literature

Select at least one course in the social sciences from the following: *

- COMM 340 Media and Popular Culture
- COMM 473 Television and Society
- COMM 479W American Film History
- GEOG 350 Geography of the United States and Canada
- HIST 345 Native American History
- HIST 346 Colonial and Revolutionary America
- HIST 348 The Early American Republic, 1787-1850
- HIST 351 The Civil War and Reconstruction
- HIST 353 Robber Barons, Reformers, and Radicals: The US Gilded Age and Progressive Era
- HIST 355 The United States, 1945-1991
- HIST 357 The United States in the 1960s
- HIST 361 African-American History to 1865
- HIST 362 African-American History Since 1865
- HIST 363 Women in U.S. History
- POLS 312 American Political Thought
- POLS 407 American Presidency
- POLS 408 American Constitutional Law: Individual Rights

* No more than two from any single department.

The director of American studies can approve other courses not listed above to fulfill the minor, including 400-level topics courses, provided they substantively address some aspect of the creation or perpetuation of an American identity.

For completion of a minor, a student must have a minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in all courses specified as a requirement for the minor exclusive of lower-level courses and prerequisite courses and complete a minimum of six hours in upper-level courses in the minor requirement through courses offered by Old Dominion University.

For further information, contact the director of the American studies minor program, Dr. Drew Lopenzina (alopenzi@odu.edu)