American Studies
Bachelor of Arts

INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

American Studies is an interdisciplinary major that provides undergraduates the opportunity to study American history, identity, culture, politics, media, and the built environment. The major offers intensive, individualized faculty advising and mentorship to help students tap into the enormous and varied resources of Berkeley to tackle the question of what is “American” about America. Our courses integrate subjects, methods, and materials from across campus, including the humanities, the social sciences, and the professional schools.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Take a student-run DeCal course like AMERSTD 98: Deconstructing America: Mythology and Hidden History.
• Explore America in the world through study abroad.
• Attend a California American Studies Association event.
• Apply for a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship to support your senior thesis.
• Challenge yourself with an American Studies honors seminar and experience individual research mentorship.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

American Studies majors develop individual concentrations that focus on specific issues relating to U.S. culture, politics, economy, environment, and media. Students are able to draw on a broad spectrum of fields of knowledge, including law, business, ecology, geography, political economy, public policy, architecture, performance, and ethnic, gender, and urban studies. Designed around the axes of “time,” “place,” and material culture, we teach students how to ask and answer scholarly questions and how to design and execute a capstone senior thesis project.

I loved having the flexibility of being able to take some of the best classes from some of the best professors and being able to apply a breadth of knowledge from different disciplines.

– Catherine Ladd, Class of 2018

CONNECTION WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley's annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit as.ugis.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING

Students can contact the major advisor to schedule an appointment or ask questions at amerstd@berkeley.edu.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.
# Design Your Journey

### FIRST YEAR
- Meet with faculty, major, and college advisor to discuss academic plans.
- Review the American Studies website and student handbook, and research possible concentrations.
- Enroll in AMERSTD 10 & other lower division prerequisites now or before your third year.
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar.
- Take a student-run DeCal course such as AMERSTD 48: Deconstructing America: Mythology and Hidden History.
- Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.
- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.

### SECOND YEAR
- Review your degree progress/journeys with a faculty advisor and plan your concentration.
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major (required when you complete 60 units).
- Consider enrolling in a "Time" or "Place" course.
- Complete any prerequisites for your concentration courses.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar: Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SURF-SMART.
- Attend the annual American Studies fall conference.
- Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
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- Learn about graduate and professional school.
- Think about doing an Internship and attending an Internship Fair.

### THIRD YEAR
- Focus on upper division requirements in your concentration.
- Review your degree progress with your faculty, major, and college advisors.
- Complete your senior thesis.
- Connect with other students and alumni in the American Studies Alumni group on LinkedIn.
- Welcome new students to UC Berkeley as a Golden Bear Orientation Leader.
- Participate in Cal Day at the American Studies table.
- Find research and funding opportunities in the OIRS database.
- Consider applying to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
- Talk to your professors about which of your research papers to submit for the Library Prize.
- Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.
- Study and intern in Washington D.C. with UCDC or Cal in the Capital.
- Consider a Berkeley Global Internship in the United States or abroad.

### FOURTH YEAR
- Review your degree progress with your faculty, major, and college advisors.
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate and complete any remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
- Complete your senior thesis.
- Join a professional association such as the American Studies Association or the California American Studies Association.
- Connect with alumni groups and build your network as you prepare to graduate.
- Participate in Cal Day at the American Studies table.
- Teach your own DeCal course.
- Submit your work to the Berkeley Undergraduate Journal and get it published.
- Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship or gap year after graduation.
- Complete your senior thesis.
- Complete your degree check.
- Meet with college advisors.
- Review your degree progress with your faculty, major, and college advisors.
- Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors.
- Attend career and graduate school fairs.
- Ask for recommendation letters and take any exams required for graduate school.

### WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

- Jobs and Employers
  - Analyst, Bank of America
  - Asst. Editor, Skybridge College Consulting
  - Assoc. Professor, UW-Madison Behavior Therapist, Juvenile
  - Chief Resident in Emergency Medicine, New York-Presbyterian Hospital
  - Corporate Account Executive, GitHub
  - Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State
  - Founder, OIM Records
  - Graphic Designer, AQuIS
  - Health Educator, Public Health Institute
  - Housing Specialist, City of Vallejo
  - Project Manager, Orton Development
  - Real Estate Associate, CBRE
  - Program Director, KALW
  - Real Estate Associate, CBRE
  - Scholarship Coord., Heart of Los Angeles
  - Senior Financial Consultant, Charles Schwab
  - Solutions Engineer, Mapbox
  - Technical Writer, Cognizant
  - Transportation Planner, City of Oakland

- Graduate Programs
  - American Studies, PhD
  - History, Master’s
  - Journalism, Master’s
  - Law, JD
  - Physical Therapy, DPT
  - Public Health, Master’s

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