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
**AMERICAN STUDIES**
Bachelor of Arts

**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.
- Reflect your passions and build globally and locally.

**SECOND YEAR**
- Review your degree progress/courses 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.

**THIRD YEAR**
- Focus on upper division requirements in your concentration.
- Review your degree progress with your faculty, major, and college advisors.
- Browse American Studies graduate profiles for thesis abstracts.

**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.

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?**

**Jobs and Employers**
- Analyst, Bank of America
- Asst. Editor, Skybridge College Consulting
- Assoc. Professor, UWM-Madison Behavior Therapist
- Jvve Chief Resident in Emergency Medicine, New York-Presbyterian Hospital

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

**Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates**

**BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY**
- Meet with a Career Educator to discuss your career options and goals.
- Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter internship.
- Learn about graduate and professional school.
- Think about doing an Internship and attending an Internship Fair.

**Explore your major**
- Get 1:1 mentoring with Berkeley Connect from graduate students in fields like History or English.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Enroll in UGIS 98: College Success in L&S.

**Connect and build community**
- Join a student organization like Multicultural Community Center or UC Berkeley Public Service Center.
- Meet faculty and students at the American Studies Spring Conference.
- Participate in Cal Day at the American Studies table.

**Discover your passions**
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar. Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty in their research through URAP.
- Attend the annual American Studies spring colloquium.

**Engage locally and globally**
- 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.

**Reflect and plan your future**
- Visit Career Counseling Library.
- Develop a plan for getting career ready.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
- Check out career resources for interests within American Studies related to social impact, international relations, and communications.

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