INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

American Studies is an interdisciplinary major that provides undergraduates the opportunity to study American history, identity, culture, politics, 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 areas of concentration 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, racial, 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

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## FIRST YEAR

**Explore your major**
- 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 10a & other lower division prerequisites now or before your third year.

**Connect and build community**
- 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.
- Participate in Cal Day at the American Studies table.

**Discover your passions**
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course, or Discovery Course.
- Take a student-run DeCal course such as AMERSTD 98: Deconstructing America Mythology and Hidden History.
- Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair.

**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 the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.

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## SECOND YEAR

**Explore your degree progress/courses with a faculty advisor and plan your area of 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 area courses.

**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**
- Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS 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.

**Engage locally and globally**
- Contribute to a community organization with an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Get involved with a service-learning program like Alternative Breaks or BUILD.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SURF-SMART.

**Reflect and plan your future**
- Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
- Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship.
- Learn about graduate and professional school options.
- Think about doing an Internship and attend an Internship Fair.

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## THIRD YEAR

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

**Connect and build community**
- 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.

**Discover your passions**
- 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.

**Engage locally and globally**
- Update your resume and LinkedIn profile.
- 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.

**Reflect and plan your future**
- Check out profiles of American Studies graduates for post-graduate inspiration.
- Utilize job search tools from the Career Center.
- Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.
- Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.

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## FOURTH YEAR

**Design your journey**
- 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.

**Connect and build community**
- 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.

**Discover your passions**
- 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.

**Engage locally and globally**
- Hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program.
- Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps or U.S. Department of State.

**Reflect and plan your future**
- Review your degree progress with your college advisor, concentration area.
- Focus on your academic plans.
- Discuss academic plans with faculty, major, and college advisor.
- Complete any prerequisites for your area courses.

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## WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

**Jobs and Employers**
- Analyst, Bank of America
- Assoc. Professor, UW-Madison
- Chief Resident in Emergency Medicine, New York-Presbyterian Hospital
- Graphic Designer, AQUIS
- Health Educator, Public Health Institute
- Housing Specialist, City of Vallejo
- Real Estate Analyst, Century 21
- Family Builders by Adoption
- Reporter, KALW
- Sales Development, TripActions
- Scholarship Coordinator, 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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*Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.*