

POLITICS, INSTITUTIONS AND VALUES CONCENTRATION, AMERICAN STUDIES (BA)

Students in the Politics, Institutions, and Values concentration examine the structural and cultural processes that shape the distribution of power and resources, and supply the cultural meanings for U.S. society. Courses in this concentration explore a variety of American institutions and social processes, among them the political system, the economy, the educational system, the health care arena, the justice system and numerous other cultural and social spheres. Students will study the dynamic relations among these realms in courses ranging from traditional disciplines, like Political Science and Sociology, to those within interdisciplinary programs such as Women's and Gender Studies and, of course, American Studies.

This concentration particularly encourages students to choose courses that emphasize an historical perspective in order to better understand the interplay of individuals, social groups and subcultures as they shape and are shaped by various institutions over time. A historical perspective also allows for comparisons among traditional, modern and contemporary methodologies for conceptualizing American society. Ultimately, students in the Politics, Institutions and Values concentration should develop the critical skills with which to analyze the complexity of the conflicts among these institutions and processes and their diverse participants, among ruling elites, their members and outsiders, and between the official discourses and the complex real outcomes.

Concentration Courses

Please note that the below list of possible courses is not exhaustive and that many courses listed under "TOPICS" headings may also count toward American Studies. Students may take an unlimited number of TOPICS courses, as long as the topic of each course is different.

Students must choose five courses from the following; however, exceptions may be granted by the Director of the American Studies Program. No more than three courses may be from any one department (AMS notwithstanding); at least three courses should be at the 300-level.

American Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
AMS 150	PERSPECTIVES ON AMERICAN IDENTITIES	
AMS 220	AMERICAN BUDDHISMS: RACE AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY	
AMS 240	CHICAGO HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, AND CULTURES	
AMS 275	HISTORY OF SEX IN AMERICA 1: COLONIAL TO LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY	
AMS 276	HISTORY OF SEX IN AMERICA 2: LATE VICTORIANS TO THE PRESENT	
AMS 277	LGBTQ+ HISTORY IN THE UNITED STATES, WORLD WAR II TO THE PRESENT	
AMS 280	POLITICS AND HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR	
AMS 294	TOPICS IN AMERICAN POLITICS, INSTITUTIONS, AND VALUES	

AMS 380	TELEVISION AND AMERICAN IDENTITY
AMS 387	ADVANCED TOPICS IN GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES IN THE U.S./ AMERICAS
AMS 394	ADVANCED TOPICS IN AMERICAN POLITICS, INSTITUTIONS, AND VALUES

African & Black Diaspora Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
ABD 218	AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICS	
ABD 260	DIMENSIONS OF BLACK FAMILY LIFE	
ABD 305	PAN-AFRICANISM	
ABD 336	AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT	
ABD 351	RECONSTRUCTION AND THE RISE OF JIM CROW	
ABD 365	VOTING, REPRESENTATION, AND THE LAW	
ABD 369	TOPICS IN PUBLIC LAW	

Asian American Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
AAS 200	ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY	

Community Service Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
CSS 310	RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRISON	
CSS 312	LAW AND POLITICS: PRISON POLICIES AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	
CSS 320	COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS	
CSS 350	CRITICAL ISSUES IN PUBLIC EDUCATION: THE CHICAGO CONTEXT	

Economics

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
ECO 310	URBAN ECONOMICS	
ECO 313	MARKET STRUCTURE AND REGULATION OF BUSINESS	
ECO 317	AMERICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY	
ECO 318	LABOR ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION	
ECO 319	ECONOMICS AND GENDER	
ECO 335	SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES FOR ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT	

Geography

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
GEO 103	URBANIZATION	
GEO 201	GEOPOLITICS	
GEO 205	RACE, JUSTICE, AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT	
GEO 210	INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION	

GEO 330	SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSPORTATION
GEO 269	CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ECOLOGY
GEO 231	HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF CHICAGO
GEO 333	URBAN PLANNING

History of Art and Architecture

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
HAA 291	MUSEUM AND NON-PROFIT ARTS MANAGEMENT	

History

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
HST 240	HISTORY OF CHICAGO	
HST 243	HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE U.S.	
HST 254	AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY	
HST 269	MUSEUMS, MATERIAL CULTURE AND MEMORY: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HISTORY	
HST 270	U.S. HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE	
HST 278	HISTORY OF AMERICAN RELIGION	
HST 279	WESTWARD EXPANSION IN U.S.	
HST 283	ASIAN-AMERICAN IMMIGRATION AND HISTORY, 1840-1965	
HST 284	HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES	
HST 288	WOMEN IN UNITED STATES HISTORY	
HST 301	U.S. LABOR HISTORY	
HST 302	MAPS IN HISTORY AND CULTURE	
HST 310	INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS	
HST 312	LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES	
HST 313	THE OLD SOUTH	
HST 354	U.S. WOMEN'S HISTORY	
HST 370	AMERICAN COLONIAL HISTORY	
HST 371	THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION	
HST 382	CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM EXPERIENCE	

International Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
INT 150	GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL JUSTICE	4
INT 200	INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ECONOMY	4
INT 201	NATION STATES, NATIONALISM, EMPIRE	4
INT 206	IDENTITIES AND BOUNDARIES	4
INT 302	CRITICAL SOCIAL THEORY	4
INT 308	NATURE, SOCIETY AND POWER	4
INT 316	THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE OF OIL	4
INT 317	READING MARX'S CAPITAL	4

LGBTQ Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
LGQ 319	QUEER PIONEERS: CULTURE, GENDER, AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM	
LGQ 332	LGBTQ POLITICS	
LGQ 338	SEXUAL JUSTICE: LESBIANS, GAYS AND THE LAW	

Latin American & Latino Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
LST 113	LATINO RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES	
LST 202	CONSTRUCTING LATINO COMMUNITIES	
LST 305	LATINO COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT	
LST 306	LATINO COMMUNITIES IN CHICAGO	
LST 321	GLOBALIZATION IN THE AMERICAS	
LST 348	INDIGENOUS POLITICAL STRUGGLES	

Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
PAX 102	CHICAGO AND STRATEGIC NONVIOLENCE	
PAX 200	COMMUNITIES WORKING FOR SUSTAINABLE JUSTICE AND PEACE: SERVICE IN CHICAGO AND THE U.S.	
PAX 212	SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CHANGE	

Public Policy Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
PPS 201	PUBLIC POLICY AND URBAN ISSUES	
PPS 205	PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS	
PPS 208	INTRODUCTION TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS	
PPS 231	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	
PPS 250	ISSUES IN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
PPS 251	URBAN POVERTY	
PPS 255	CITIES, GLOBALIZATION AND PUBLIC POLICY	
PPS 300	APPLIED URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS	
PPS 301	PUBLIC POLICY AND POLITICS	
PPS 332	NATIONAL PARKS POLICY AND GOVERNANCE	
PPS 333	GREEN CITIES	

Political Science

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
PSC 120	THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM	
PSC 216	AMERICAN POLITICAL CULTURE	

PSC 217	WOMEN AND POLITICS
PSC 218	AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLITICS
PSC 219	TOPICS IN POLITICAL CULTURE ¹
PSC 220	THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
PSC 221	CONGRESS AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
PSC 223	URBAN POLITICS
PSC 225	STATE POLITICS
PSC 242	AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY
PSC 260	LAW AND THE POLITICAL SYSTEM
PSC 261	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS
PSC 262	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: RIGHTS OF DEFENDANTS
PSC 263	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAWS
PSC 321	MASS MEDIA AND AMERICAN POLITICS
PSC 322	URBAN POLICYMAKING
PSC 323	CHICAGO GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
PSC 324	INEQUALITY IN AMERICAN SOCIETY
PSC 327	PUBLIC OPINION
PSC 328	ADVANCED TOPICS IN AMERICAN POLITICS
PSC 330	AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
PSC 339	ADVANCED TOPICS IN POLITICAL THOUGHT ¹
PSC 362	THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
PSC 363	WOMEN AND THE LAW

¹ Depends on topic.

Sociology

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
SOC 200	SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE	
SOC 214	POLICING THE MARGINS	
SOC 221	INTRODUCTION TO THE U.S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM	
SOC 231	RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE CITY	
SOC 248	RESISTING WHITE SUPREMACY	
SOC 310	CRIMINALIZATION, PUNISHMENT, & RESISTANCE	
SOC 305	POWER, DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL	
SOC 306	SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILIES	
SOC 313	SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION	
SOC 315	LAW, POWER AND RESISTANCE	
SOC 316	STREET GANGS	
SOC 317	GENDER, CRIME AND JUSTICE	
SOC 321	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS	
SOC 340	SOCIAL INEQUALITY	
SOC 344	POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY	

SOC 347	CLASS, POWER AND DECISION MAKING IN THE CITY
SOC 351	HEALTH DISPARITIES

Women’s & Gender Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
WGS 100	WOMEN'S LIVES:RACE/CLASS/GENDER	
WGS 212	GROWING UP FEMALE IN THE U.S.	
WGS 215	GENDER AND EDUCATION	
WGS 250	INTERSECTIONAL & TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST FORMATIONS	
WGS 275	BLACK FEMINIST THEORIES IN A U.S. CONTEXT	
WGS 303	GENDER, VIOLENCE AND RESISTANCE	
WGS 306	GENDER AND FAMILIES	
WGS 326	WOMEN AND LAW	
WGS 388	QUEER THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION	

Portfolio Requirement

Throughout the concentration courses, students are required to maintain a “portfolio” which combines reflections on the courses with collections of course materials (syllabi, completed written course work, collections of visuals, e.g., photo essays – whatever is appropriate to the six courses chosen for the concentration). The reflections on each course and then on the concentration overall should include responses to questions such as “What were the course’s most valuable lessons in research, analysis, writing and communication? How did this course, taken together with the other courses you have chosen for your concentration, influence/develop your understanding of the area of American culture on which you are focusing?” Students turn in their portfolio on the concentration, along with a proposal for the senior seminar project, in the first weeks of the senior seminar. Specific directions for the portfolio can be obtained from your American Studies advisor, from the American Studies Program office, or from the American Studies Program Director.

Open Electives

Open elective credit also is required to meet the minimum graduation requirement of 192 hours.