

SOCIAL AND LITERARY MOVEMENTS CONCENTRATION, AMERICAN STUDIES (BA)

The Social and Literary Movements concentration focuses upon two areas of study: major cultural products by the principal novelists, philosophers, poets, political and religious thinkers, historians, artists, musicians and intellectuals in American history; and major cultural movements which have shaped the world view and attitudes of literate Americans in American history.

In the first area of focus, a heavy emphasis will be given to individual creative work, its form and content, its specific antecedents and influences as well as its later impact, and the cultural and philosophical implications of the document itself. The relationship between each work and larger trends of the period, both cultural and social, will also be explored.

In the second field of study, the focus will be upon broader cultural movements which are diffused through the larger literate society, which include major cultural documents as well as popular expressions of these ideas, beliefs and attitudes. Thus, the focus here is on the cultural reception and diffusion of ideas, the relation between innovative movements and mainstream belief systems and attitudes, and the nature and direction of cultural exchange.

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 250	IN THEIR OWN VOICES: AMERICAN AUTOBIOGRAPHY	
AMS 261	AMERICAN ETHNICITIES 1800-1945	
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 290	AMERICAN VOICES: TO 1860	
AMS 291	AMERICAN VOICES: FROM 1860 ONWARD	
AMS 298	TOPICS IN AMERICAN SOCIAL AND LITERARY MOVEMENTS	

AMS 387 ADVANCED TOPICS IN GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES IN THE U.S./ AMERICAS

AMS 388 ADVANCED TOPICS IN AMERICAN SOCIAL AND LITERARY MOVEMENTS

AMS 395 ADVANCED TOPICS IN AMERICAN STUDIES

Asian American Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
AAS 203	ASIAN AMERICAN ARTS AND CULTURE	

African & Black Diaspora Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
ABD 220	BLACKS AND LOVE	
ABD 233	SURVEY OF AFRICAN DIASPORIC INTELLECTUAL THOUGHT	
ABD 234	BLACK AESTHETIC THOUGHT	
ABD 235	HARLEM RENAISSANCE AND NEGRITUDE	
ABD 241	RELIGIOUS DIMENSIONS OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA	
ABD 245	RACE AND ETHNICITY IN LITERARY STUDIES	
ABD 249	JAZZ AND THE DIASPORIC IMAGINATION	
ABD 260	DIMENSIONS OF BLACK FAMILY LIFE	
ABD 275	BLACK FEMINIST THEORIES IN A U.S. CONTEXT	
ABD 351	RECONSTRUCTION AND THE RISE OF JIM CROW	
ABD 365	VOTING, REPRESENTATION, AND THE LAW	
ABD 372	AFRICAN AMERICAN DRAMA AND POETRY	

Economics

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
ECO 340	DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT	

English

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
ENG 265	THE AMERICAN NOVEL	
ENG 271	AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE	
ENG 272	LITERATURE AND IDENTITY	
ENG 276	LATINX LITERATURE	
ENG 285	LGBTQ LITERATURE	
ENG 345	TOPICS IN 19TH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE	
ENG 351	POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE	
ENG 360	AMERICAN LITERATURE TO 1830	
ENG 361	19TH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE	
ENG 362	AMERICAN LITERATURE FROM 1865 TO 1920	
ENG 363	AMERICAN LITERATURE AFTER 1900	

ENG 364	TOPICS IN GENRE STUDIES
ENG 365	TOPICS IN 20TH-CENTURY FICTION
ENG 367	TOPICS IN AMERICAN STUDIES
ENG 369	TOPICS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE
ENG 371	TOPICS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE
ENG 373	MULTIETHNIC LITERATURE OF THE U.S.
ENG 374	NATIVE LITERATURE
ENG 375	STUDIES IN SHORT FICTION ¹
ENG 383	WOMEN AND LITERATURE ¹
ENG 384	TOPICS IN LATINX LITERATURE
ENG 385	TOPICS IN LGBTQ LITERATURE
ENG 465	STUDIES IN THE MODERN AMERICAN NOVEL ¹

¹ Depends on topic.

History

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
HST 243	HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE U.S.	
HST 246	AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1800	
HST 247	AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY, 1800-1900	
HST 248	AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY, 1900 TO PRESENT	
HST 254	AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY	
HST 270	U.S. HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE	
HST 278	HISTORY OF AMERICAN RELIGION	
HST 279	WESTWARD EXPANSION IN U.S.	
HST 301	U.S. LABOR HISTORY	
HST 313	THE OLD SOUTH	
HST 319	IMMIGRANT AMERICA	
HST 346	AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY	
HST 354	U.S. WOMEN'S HISTORY	
HST 370	AMERICAN COLONIAL HISTORY	
HST 372	ANTEBELLUM AMERICA	
HST 373	THE CIVIL WAR ERA	
HST 374	EMERGENCE OF MODERN AMERICA, 1877-1914	
HST 375	THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE NEW DEAL ERA	
HST 376	THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1940	
HST 379	RECONSTRUCTION AND THE RISE OF JIM CROW	
HST 383	BORDERLANDS AND FRONTIERS IN AMERICA	
HST 394	AFRICAN-AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY	

Latin American & Latino Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
LST 202	CONSTRUCTING LATINO COMMUNITIES	
LST 113	LATINO RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES	
LST 307	GROWING UP LATINO/LATINA IN THE U.S.	
LST 300	SPECIAL TOPICS IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES	
LST 303	THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER. PEOPLE, RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE, TECHNOLOGY	
LST 309	SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT AND LATINO FAMILIES	
LST 310	SPECIAL TOPICS: LATINOS IN THE U.S.	
LST 330	LATINOS IN EDUCATION	

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.	

Philosophy

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
PHL 232	WHAT IS FREEDOM?	
PHL 376	AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY	

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 336	AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT	
PSC 367	IMMIGRATION LAW	

Religion

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
REL 115	THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE	
REL 161	NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIONS	
REL 218	BLACK INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS	
REL 219	SLAVERY, RACE AND RELIGION	
REL 224	RELIGION AND POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES	

Women's & Gender Studies

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
WGS 212	GROWING UP FEMALE IN THE U.S.	
WGS 303	GENDER, VIOLENCE AND RESISTANCE	
WGS 305	MOTHERING, WORK, AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE	
WGS 306	GENDER AND FAMILIES	
WGS 314	ANTIRACIST FEMINISMS	
WGS 320	TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE: THEORY AND PRACTICE	
WGS 355	WOMEN AND ART	
WGS 364	POLITICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY	
WGS 378	UTOPIAN AND DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE AND FILM: GENDER, RACE AND BEYOND	

Portfolio Requirement

Students are encouraged to maintain an active record of documents from their concentration courses, including syllabi, completed written course work, collections of visuals, e.g., photo essays – whatever is appropriate to the six courses chosen for the concentration. Students will use these documents to aid them in writing reflective essays during the initial weeks of their senior seminar. These essays might ask you to consider “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?” These essays, along with representative assignments, will form the student’s American Studies “portfolio.” 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, AMS 301. 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.