

Department of American Studies

The Bachelor of Arts in American Studies is designed to meet the needs of students, including non-traditional majors and lifelong learners, who want to pursue a flexible, multi-disciplinary curriculum in American Studies. Students explore the experience and values of the people of the United States as embodied in their history, literature, art, politics and other forms of cultural expression. All students are required to choose one of three program focus areas: American Arts, American History or American Literature.



American Studies students explore the following subjects: history, art, politics, philosophy, law, global issues, cultural expressions, architecture, diversity, foreign language, social issues, public policy, religion and environmental studies.

THE PROGRAM

- Immerses students in comparative perspectives of the American experience
- Engages students in the diversity of American life
- Prepares students to help solve, with historical awareness, the pressing problems that face our nation and society
- Gives students flexibility to gain knowledge from a variety of perspectives

KEY STUDENT OUTCOMES

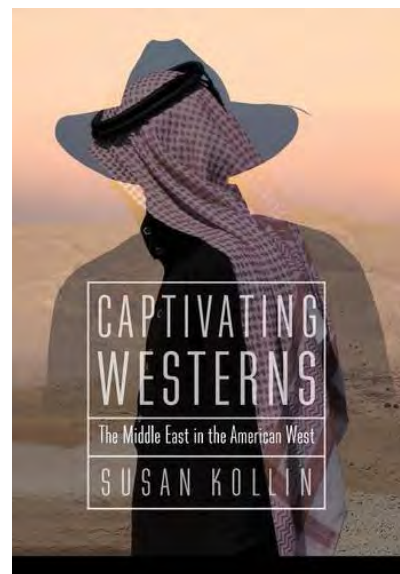
- Critical and analytical thinking
- Analytical writing
- Knowledge about and understanding of cultural diversity, globalization and visual cultures
- Problem analysis through an integrated approach
- Responsible citizenship
- Research opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students

STUDENTS WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN AMERICAN STUDIES

- Students who wish to focus their studies on the complex and diverse cultures of the United States from a variety of perspectives
- Students who believe their interests and imagination cannot be contained in a single discipline
- International students wishing to better understand American culture



English professor Susan Kollin teaches in the American Studies program.



Captivating Westerns: The Middle East in the American West, by English Professor Susan Kollin.



Focus Areas within Major

- American Arts
- American History
- American Literature

What can I do with a degree in American Studies?

- Advertising Specialist
- Anthropologist
- Archivist
- Art Dealer
- Archaeologist
- Artist
- Attorney
- Business Manager
- Communications Specialist
- Community Action Specialist
- Community Relations Director
- Congressional Aide
- Consumer Advocate
- Cultural Affairs Officer
- Customer Relations Representative
- Diplomat
- Economic Development Analyst
- Editor
- FBI/CIA Agent
- Foreign Service Officer
- Government Agency Administrator
- Historian
- Historic Preservation Specialist
- Historic Site Administrator
- Human Resources Specialist
- International Banker
- International Relations Specialist
- International Trade Specialist
- Journalist
- Lawyer/Legal Assistant
- Legislator
- Lobbyist
- Market Research Specialist
- Museum Curator
- Nonprofit Administrator
- Political Scientist
- Politician
- Professor/Educator
- Public Administrator
- Public Policy Specialist
- Public Relations Specialist
- Publications Specialist
- Teacher/Professor
- Television Producer
- Urban Planner
- Writer/Author

A degree in American Studies also prepares students for graduate work in a variety of disciplines.

FOCUS AREAS WITHIN THE MAJOR

American Arts

Students explore the creative role of music, film and popular culture in shaping American values, tastes and behavior. They are invited to examine the ways in which the visual arts have shaped, and are a product of, the social, economic and political developments that have defined the American experience.

American History

Students acquire a broad understanding of the interplay of culture, society and political change in America's past, present and future. This focus area also explores how present-day problems are contingent on past actions and belief systems.

American Literature

Students will read poetry and prose, fictional and dramatic works of representative American writers. They will acquire an understanding of critical approaches to the study of literature, and of the relationship between culture and literary studies.



La Rana. Courtesy, Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, Wyoming, USA; 1.69.464

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete a minimum of 45 credits in the program. Up to 12 credits required in a minor or in a second degree program may be applied.

Foundation Courses

All students, regardless of program focus area, must complete the following courses: AMST 101D, Introduction to American

Studies; AMST 201IH, American Identity, American Dreams; LIT 214D, Regional Literature; NASX 105D, Introduction to Native American Studies or AMST 202RA, The Arts in America; and PSCI 210IS, Introduction to American Government.

Foreign Language Requirement and Study Abroad

Students are required to take the first two courses in a foreign language (6 credits) or to demonstrate equivalent competency. Students are also encouraged (although not required) to spend at least one semester abroad at a Center for American Studies.

Capstone Experience

All students in the major take a common 4-credit capstone course in their final year. Students work together in small groups to design solutions to contemporary issues in American society, resulting in a scholarly product, typically a paper or presentation.

For additional information, contact:

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