

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
2018-2019 ACADEMIC CATALOG

American Studies

Professor: Boyer Lewis (Director)

The concentration in American studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of American culture. The concentration provides an excellent background for a wide variety of pursuits. Students will take six courses focusing on American institutions in fine arts, history, literature, political science, psychology, sociology, and religion. The concentration also offers a focus on Native American and African American Studies.

Requirements for the Concentration in American Studies

Number of Units

Six units are required.

Required Courses

One American History course: AMST/HIST 110 or 111

One American Literature course: AMST/ENGL 269, 270, 275, or 276

Core Courses

Four additional courses from at least two of the following different categories:

History

AMST/HIST 110 History of the US I

AMST/HIST 111 History of the US II

HIST 200 Colonial America

HIST 203 Revolutionary America

HIST 206 Culture and Society in Victorian America

HIST 209 Post World War II America

HIST 211 Native American History

HIST 212 American Environmental History

HIST 213 The Slave South

HIST 214 African American History: Slavery and Resistance

HIST 215 Civil War to Civil Rights

HIST 217 History of Leisure and Recreation in America

HIST 218 The American Jewish Experience

HIST 220 American Women's History to 1870

HIST 221 American Women's History since 1870

HIST 223 American Diplomacy since 1898

Literature and Fine Arts

AMST/ENGL 269 New World Narratives: American Literature 1500-1790

AMST/ENGL 270 Reform and Renaissance: U.S. Literature 1790-1865

AMST/ENGL 275 American Realisms: United States Literature 1865-1914

AMST/ENGL 276 Modernism and Postmodernism: United States Literature 1914-Present

ARTX 224 20th-Century Art

ENGL 220 African-American Literature

ENGL 222 American Indian Literatures

ENGL 230 Studies in U.S. Ethnic Literature

ENGL 260 Studies in Film (depending on topic)

ENGL 310 Constructing Blackness

ENGL 323 Chicana/o Literature

ENGL 435 Advanced Literary Studies

ENGL/SEMN 495 Building the Archive: Baldwin & His Legacy
MUSC 140 American Music
MUSC 165 Jazz: A Creative and Cultural Exploration
MUSC 205 Music and Identity
THEA 155 Introduction to African American Theater

Politics

POLS 105 Introduction to U.S. Politics: Theory and Practice
POLS 220 Voting, Campaigns, and Elections
POLS 225 Constitutional Law
POLS 229 Race, Law, and U.S. Politics
POLS 230 Congress and the Presidency
POLS 263 American Political Theory
POLS 285 United States Foreign Policy
POLS 315 Public Opinion: Race, Class, and Gender
POLS 380 Drugs, Democracy, and Human Rights

Society

ANSO 103 Introduction to Society and Culture
ANSO 120 The Family
ANSO 205 Urban Sociology
ANSO 215 Crime and Society
ANSO 230 Sociology of Religion
ANSO 236 Race and Racism
ANSO 255 The Media and Popular Culture
ANSO 322 Prisoners and Detainees
PSYC 230 Psychology of Prejudice
RELG 218 American Jewish Experience
RELG 120 Religion in the Early U.S.
RELG 121 Religion in the Modern U.S.
RELG 220 Catholicism in the Americas
RELG 221 Black Religious Experience in the Americas

Students interested in Native American Studies should take: ENGL 222, HIST 211, and RELG 120. Students interested in African American Studies should take: ANSO 236, ENGL 220 and 310, HIST 213 and 215, POLS 229, RELG 221, and THEA 155, among other offerings.

Other courses may be accepted at the discretion of the director. Concentrators should consult with the Director of American Studies as early as possible to develop their program. Concentrators are encouraged to take as many courses as possible.

Senior Individualized Project (SIP)

The SIP in American Studies is encouraged but not required. Any faculty member regularly teaching in the American Studies program may direct a SIP in American Studies. Concentrators should consult with the Director of American Studies.

American Studies courses

AMST/HIST 110 History of the United States I

America from contact times to 1865, with emphasis on economic, social, intellectual, and political developments.

AMST/HIST 111 History of the United States II

America from 1865 to the present, with emphasis on economic, social, intellectual, and political developments.

AMST/ENGL 269 New World Narratives: American Literature 1500-1790

A study of the divergent and complementary tales emerging from those settled in or settling "America." Texts include American Indian and European creation myths, exploration narratives, Puritan poetry, captivity narratives, and late 18th-century fiction and non-fiction.

Prerequisite: A Reading the World course or instructor permission

AMST/ENGL 270 Reform and Renaissance: U.S. Literature 1790-1865

A study of literature emerging during a period of significant social upheavals; the continuing shift from a colonial to an

"American" identity, the unsettling of indigenous populations, the movement of European populations westward, and the Slavery and Woman questions. Through an exploration of diverse texts, students will examine a literature shaped by an impulse to transform or reform pre-existing perspectives and genres.

Prerequisite: A Reading the Worlds course or instructor permission

AMST/ENGL 275 American Realisms: U.S. Literature 1865-1914

This course examines a variety of approaches to knowing a literary period. We will explore theoretical, socio-historical, formal, and thematic paradigms that can organize our understanding of the wide variety of written and cinematic texts produced in the period between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of World War I. Through a study of the frequently conflicting stories about gender, race, sexuality, art, and Americanness that come to voice during this period, students will challenge and complicate their definitions of literary realism.

Prerequisite: A Reading the World course or instructor permission

AMST/ENGL 276 Modernism and Postmodernism: U.S. Literature 1914-Present

A study of the rise of a modern aesthetic in the wake of World War I and the postmodern response in the second half of the 20th century with an eye toward the diversity of voices and formal choices that mark this period.

Prerequisite: A Reading the World course or instructor permission

AMST 593 Senior Individualized Project

Each program or department sets its own requirements for Senior Individualized Projects done in that program, including the range of acceptable projects, the required background of students doing projects, the format of the SIP, and the expected scope and depth of projects. See the Kalamazoo Curriculum -> Curriculum Details and Policies section of the Academic Catalog for more details.

Prerequisite: Permission of department and SIP supervisor required.

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