The 5-Year BA/MA Program in American Studies

Program Director: Professor Scott Gac

5-Year Program Undergraduate Requirements in American Studies or History

The American Studies undergraduate major in the 5-year program requires 12 courses as follows:

Core Courses

- One of the following: AMST 203, Conflicts and Cultures in American Society, or AMST 210, Doing Culture. This requirement is ordinarily fulfilled in the sophomore year.

- AMST 301. Junior Seminar: American Texts. The Writing Intensive Part II requirement is fulfilled by this course.

- The senior exercise: two senior seminars in American studies taken at the 800 level (these two courses count towards graduate study).

Interdisciplinary Courses

- Four additional courses in American studies. To ensure adequate breadth and depth, students must take at least four courses at or above the 300 level (including those in the concentration), from at least three different departments or programs. The required junior and senior seminars do not count toward this requirement.

Thematic Courses

- A student-designed thematic concentration of four courses, at least two of which must be at or above the 300 level. This concentration, designed by the student in consultation with his or her adviser, must be defined and titled by the end of the fall of the junior year. Up to one internship may count toward the concentration (as a 200-level course) if it is directed by a member of the American Studies Department faculty. Examples of possible concentrations include race, gender, ethnicity, class, popular culture, protest movements, or law and society. The first semester (research semester) of the 3-credit graduate thesis counts toward this requirement.

Honors—To receive honors in American Studies a student must earn a GPA of at least 3.5 in courses counted toward the major and an A- on a senior project.

The History undergraduate major in the 5-year program requires 12 courses as follows:

Distribution Courses
Students must complete five distribution courses at any level (100, 200, or 300) in order to acquire thematic, geographical, and chronological breadth in the discipline. Each requirement must be fulfilled with a distinct course:

- One course in European history
- One course in U.S. history
- One course covering a time period before 1700
- Two courses in areas other than Europe and the U.S.

**Common Courses**

These courses constitute the common experience of all history majors. They develop methodological sophistication and research skills.

- **HIST 299: Historiography**: This course introduces students to debate among historians and historical methods. It is expected that students will complete this course in the spring semester of their sophomore year.

- **HIST 300: History Workshop**: This course guides students in writing a major research paper using primary sources. It is expected that students will complete this course by the end of their junior year. History Workshop fulfills the Writing Intensive Part II requirement.

**300-level seminars**

Students are required to take a minimum of four 300-level seminars, *two of which can be satisfied by 800-level graduate courses in American Studies*.

**Elective**

*Students may apply one credit (the research component) of their 3-credit graduate thesis to fulfill the History Department elective*

**5-Year Program Graduate Requirements for the MA in American Studies**

The graduate curricular for students in the 5-year program proceeds along one of three MA tracks:

**American Culture Studies** – 10 credits:

- AMST 802, Primary Research Methods (1 credit, offered in the spring)
- One elective course emphasizing historical approaches (1 credit)
- One elective course emphasizing literary or cultural approaches (1 credit)
• One elective course emphasizing art, architecture, or museum studies (1 credit)
• Three elective courses for AMST credit (3 credits)
• *A three-credit thesis, which includes one semester of research.*

**Museums and Communities** – 10 credits, as follows:

• AMST 802, Primary Research Methods (1 credit, offered in the spring)
• AMST 825, Museums, Visual Culture & Critical Theory (1 credit)
• AMST 835, Museum Exhibition (1 credit, offered in the fall)
• One elective course emphasizing historical approaches (1 credit)
• One elective course emphasizing literary or cultural approaches (1 credit)
• One elective course (1 credit)
• AMST 894, Museums and Communities Internship (1 credit)
• *A three-credit thesis, which includes one semester of research.*

**New England and the Nation: Historical Perspectives** – 10 credits, as follows:

• AMST 802, Primary Research Methods (1 credit, offered in the spring), OR
• AMST 803, Historiography and Historical Research (1 credit, offered in the spring)
• Four elective courses emphasizing historical approaches (4 credits)
• One elective course emphasizing literary or cultural approaches (1 credit)
• *A three-credit thesis, which includes one semester of research.*