American Studies
INTERDISCIPLINARY

Faculty
Melissa Dabakis
Codirector, Associate Professor of Art History
John M. Elliott
Professor of Political Science
Kirk Emmert
Professor of Political Science
Judith C. Fagan
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
Lewis Hyde
Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing
David H. Lynn
Associate Professor of English
Kim A. McMullen
Associate Professor of English
William R. Melick
Associate Professor of Economics
Peter Rutkoff
Director, Professor of American Studies
Howard L. Sacks
Professor of Sociology
William B. Scott
Professor of History
Ric S. Sheffield
Associate Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies
Judy R. Smith
Professor of English
Gregory P. Spaid
Professor of Studio Art; Associate Provost

American studies provides a framework for the exploration of the people, places, society, and culture of the United States, accomplishing this in part by appropriating ideas and methodologies from one field and applying them to another, and by transcending established boundaries among disciplines to create a new structure that combines traditional values and new visions.

The program consists of three components: a one-semester introductory course, AMST 108 (1/2 unit); three semester courses in curricular options (1 1/2 units); and a one-semester senior seminar, AMST 381 (1/2 unit). This yields a total of 2 1/2 units of coursework. Students may choose among four pathways that will fulfill the curricular options requirement: arts and literature; ethnicity; history and society; and politics and economics. To obtain a listing of specific courses that fall under these four categories, students should consult the director of the American Studies Concentration. Courses required for a student’s major cannot count toward completion of the American studies course requirements. Coursework undertaken for American studies must be over and above work required by the major department.

Students who are considering the concentration should consult with Melissa Dabakis, codirector of American studies, before enrolling in classes.

Note: the ◆ symbol designates a course particularly appropriate for first-year students or upperclass students new to the curriculum of the American Studies Concentration.

Year Course
North by South: The Great African-American Migration, 1900-1960
AMST 381-382 (1 unit)
Rutkoff, Scott

North by South will examine the diverse urban African-American culture that emerged in the twentieth century in the wake of the Great Migration of African-Americans from the rural South to cities, first in the South and then in the North and West. The seminar will be organized around two one-week, on-site workshops. The 2001-02 seminar will visit the South Carolina Low Country during the last week of winter break and Birmingham, Alabama, the second week of spring break. In preparation for the on-site workshops, the seminar will meet as a regularly scheduled colloquium at Kenyon to read and discuss scholarship of the Great Migration. Students will look at art and artists, listen to and analyze music, read the work of writers and intellectuals, and examine the black communities in Charleston and Birmingham. Each year’s seminar will create a collaborative public presentation of its work and discoveries. Prerequisites: permission of instructor. Enrollment limited. This course is cross-listed in the history department as HIST 402-403. (Fulfills history major advanced seminar requirement.)

Second-Semester Course
Introduction to American Studies
◆ AMST 108 (1/2 unit)
Dabakis, Rutkoff

This course, focusing on American culture between 1936 and 1945, will explore artifacts such as a W.P.A. documentary, Richard Wright’s Native Son, Japanese-American internment, and “Rosie the Riveter.” Guest lectures and presentations will complement the course, and students will be asked to engage actively in its
development. No prerequisites. Enrollment limited.

Additional courses available another year include the following:

AMST 109 American Art and Culture
AMST 382 Baseball and American Culture