American Studies Major

Degree Requirements

Students earning the bachelor of arts (BA) degree with a major in American studies must complete all University, college and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits to total a minimum of 120 applicable semester hours.

Admission into the Major

Students are expected to formally declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students can declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grade Point Average (GPA) section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Major Courses

The major in American studies requires the successful completion of the following 30 semester hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMS 150</td>
<td>Introduction to American Studies: Arts and Values (Fall Only)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 151</td>
<td>Intro American Studies: Globalization, Nationalism, and Regionalism (Spring Only)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 203</td>
<td>Introduction to Southern Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 204</td>
<td>Introduction to Western American Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMS 205</td>
<td>Dirty Jobs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 231</td>
<td>Contemporary America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 491 or</td>
<td>American Period Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 492</td>
<td>American Topic Seminar</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AMS electives 400 level</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS elective 300 or 400 level</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS electives any level</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Offered fall semester only
**Offered spring semester only.
***Other than AMS 400 Internship, AMS 403 Honors Research - Ams or AMS 405 Directed Study.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be earned on this campus.

Ancillary Courses

Grades in ancillary courses are not computed into the major GPA. The major in American studies requires the successful completion of the following courses outside the major:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HY 103 or</td>
<td>History of American Civilization to 1865</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HY 107</td>
<td>Honors American Civilization to 1865</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HY 104 or</td>
<td>America Civilization Since 1865</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HY 108</td>
<td>Honors American Civilization Since 1865</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN 209 or</td>
<td>American Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Minor

This major requires the completion of a minor.

Additional Major Requirements

Students are expected to formally declare a minor no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students can declare a minor by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the minor is required. Please see the Grade Point Average (GPA) section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Minor Courses

The minor in American studies requires the successful completion of the following 21 semester hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS 231</td>
<td>Contemporary America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS elective 400 level</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS elective 300 or 400 level</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMS electives any level</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Other than AMS 400 Internship.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 6 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the minor must be earned on this campus.

Ancillary Courses

Grades in ancillary courses are not computed into the minor GPA. This minor requires the successful completion of the following courses outside the minor:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>HY 107</td>
<td>Honors American Civilization Since 1865</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HY 108</td>
<td>Honors American Civilization Since 1865</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The University of Alabama
American Literature EN elective chosen from one of the following: 3
EN 209 American Literature
EN 210 American Literature II
EN 219 Honors American Literature
EN 220 Honors American Literature II
Total Hours 6

Additional Minor Requirements

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, college, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, college and University requirements.

Prerequisites

Unless otherwise stated, the prerequisite for 300-level AMS courses is six hours in American studies or permission of the instructor, and the prerequisite for 400-level AMS courses is nine hours in American studies or permission of the instructor.

Faculty

Chair
Adrian, Lynne
Associate Professor
Megraw, Richard B.
Melton, Jeffrey
Morgan, Stacy
Tang, Edward
Assistant Professor
Hubbs, Jolene
Innis-Jimenez, Michael
Spears, Ellen
Weisbard, Eric
Instructor
Fagen, Larry

Courses

AMS 100. Special Topics. 1 sem. hr.
Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduate students offered by American studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants. Some examples include the following five-week, one-hour courses: African-American Star Athletes, Superbowl Ads, Stand Up Comedy, Disney’s America, and Why Eat Local?.

AMS 101. Special Topics. 1 sem. hr.
Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS 102. Special Topics. 1 sem. hr.
Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS 103. Special Topics. 1 sem. hr.
Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS 104. Special Topics. 1 sem. hr.
Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS 105. Special Topics. 1 sem. hr.
Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS 106. Special Topics. 1 sem. hr.
Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduates offered by American Studies faculty members or supervised teaching assistants.

AMS 150. Introduction to American Studies: Arts and Values. 3 sem. hrs.
Exploration of the relation between the arts?popular, folk, and elite?and American culture in four selected periods: Victorian America, the ?20s and ?30s, World War II and the Postwar Era, and the ?60s. Class presentations and discussions revolve around novels, movies, art, music, artifacts, and readings about the periods. This course is team taught by all the members of the American studies faculty. Offered fall semester.

AMS 151. Intro American Studies: Globalization, Nationalism, and Regionalism. 3 sem. hrs.
A broad survey of American culture formed by global, national, and regional influences. The first section, “World,” looks at the United States as a product and shaper of international movements, ideas, and cultures from 1500 to the present. The second section, “Nation,” examines the creation of a distinctly American identity between 1790 and 1890 that ultimately incorporated and reflected global issues. The third section, “Regions,” focuses on the South and other regions as contributors to and consequences of national and global interactions. Team taught by the entire AMS faculty, lectures will include topics on film, music, literature, art, sports, and other cultural artifacts. Offered spring semester.

AMS 200. Special Topics Amer Stud. 3 sem. hrs.
Selected American topics for lower-division undergraduate students offered by AMS faculty members or Americanists from related departments. Recent examples include The Asian-American Experience, The American Road, The Sporting Life, Baseball Since 1945, and Twilight Zone Culture. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours.

AMS 201. Intro African Amer Study. 3 sem. hrs.
This course provides a basic outline of the diversity and complexity of the African American experience in the United States. It surveys the early academic and social concern of Black Studies advocates; the changes in the field’s objectives that arise from its connections to contemporary social movements for Black Power, women’s liberation, and multiculturalism; and its major theoretical and critical debates.

AMS 203. Introduction to Southern Studies. 3 sem. hrs.
This discussion-based course introduces students to major texts and interdisciplinary methodologies in the field of Southern Studies. Traversing epochs from before the Civil War until after the Civil Rights Movement, we will scrutinize the interplay between course material (autobiographies, fictional texts, historical accounts, and films) and major political, cultural, and social forces influencing the region and the nation.

AMS 204. Introduction to Western American Studies. 3 sem. hrs.
A lecture/discussion course utilizing a biographical approach to the salient themes, issues, and episodes of the American West. Some of these lives are real, some of them imagined, and others are a little of each. All of them, however, reveal much about both region and nation and how each has changed over time.

AMS 205. Dirty Jobs. 3 sem. hrs.
This course explores jobs that get you “dirty.” Work is one of the aspects that most shapes individual lives, and many lines of work are viewed as dangerous, dirty, or somehow unsavory by American society. This course uses films, TV shows, written narratives, and music to explore different types of “dirty” work in the United States.

This class will offer an introduction to popular music that young Americans used, for two generations, to root their aesthetics, center their values, and test their ethical allegiances. Students will look at enduring and innovative music, but also trained to understand the contexts that have shaped how that music was both produced and consumed. In popular music, the line between artist and audience is inevitably blurry. Few forms of culture have been so fundamental in shaping what scholars call “affective alliances”—the way, when rhythms fill our bodies and voices fill our heads, we find others who share those passions, and the way they guide how we speak, dress, act cool, and just generally move through the world.

AMS 222. Modern Gay America. 3 sem. hrs.
This course will focus on the emergence of the GLBT community in 20th century American Culture. We will look at the many ways GLBT identity developed in the 20th century by exploring the intersections of science, religion, popular culture, politics, and urbanization on GLBT people. Because the experience of GLBT individuals is so varied, we will use a variety of media to create patterns and connections within this diverse community.

AMS 231. Contemporary America. 3 sem. hrs.
This course has two principal objectives. Students will analyze the changing nature of American cultural values for the period dating from the early 1970s to the present. By placing materials drawn from literature, film, the visual arts, music, and popular culture within broader social and historical contexts, students will examine key developments in the everyday life patterns and cultural expressions of Americans in contexts that range from the local to the international. In addition, the course will familiarize students with a sampling of the interdisciplinary methodologies applicable to work in the field of American studies (e.g., analysis of images and primary documents, oral history, and ethnography). Offered fall semester.
AMS 251. American Folklore. 3 sem. hrs.
Survey and analysis of such genres of American vernacular expression as legends, ghost tales, humor, music, and sermons as they express and shape particular regional and/or ethnic American identities. Course materials include ethnographic writing, sound recordings, film, and folklore scholarship. Attention also given to the competing and sometimes contradictory definitions of "folk" culture from the 19th century to the present.

AMS 300. Special Topics. 3 sem. hrs.
Selected American topics for advanced undergraduate students, offered by American Studies faculty members or Americanists from related departments. Recent examples include American Hobb Subculture, World War II and Modern Memory, Women's Liberation Movement, Justice and Civil Society, Southern Sexual Cultures, and Cultures of American Slavery. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 302. 3 sem. hrs.
A survey of mainstream Christian expressions of black spirituality as well as other forms of sacred collective consciousness. Study of local churches and theology is encouraged.

AMS 303. Education Of Southern Blacks. 3 sem. hrs.
A study of the "miseducation" of Africans in America. The course explores education for blacks from West Africa at the middle of the second millennium and early American society to the emergence of the separate school system of the 19th and 20th centuries.

AMS 310. The Latino/Latina Experience. 3 sem. hrs.
This course focuses on the history of people of Latin American descent (Latinas/ os) living in the United States. Although we will examine communities comprised of people of Central and South American descent, the focus of this course will be on the four largest Latino/Latina groups: those of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban and Dominican descent. Students will become familiar with issues that have affected different Latina/os populations in the United States: migration patterns, cultural interaction, community and cultural formation; and racial formations. We will also examine relations among Latina/os and European immigrants, and consider the affects of US intervention and imperialism in Latin America on US Latino communities. Lectures, readings, and films will explore connections between the past and the present and provide students a forum to express their own viewpoints on the legacy of this history.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 315. United States Labor Since 1865. 3 sem. hrs.
Examines the history of workers - men and women, paid and unpaid, of different racial and ethnic groups, in different regions of the United States - from 1865 to the present.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 316. Labor on Film. 3 sem. hrs.
This course examines the ability of film to successfully portray the history of labor in the US and how present events and attitudes shape portrayals of past events.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 318. Amusement and Tourism in America. 3 sem. hrs.
The course explores various forms of leisure culture that emerged in the 19th century and exploded in popularity throughout the 20th century. The course examines leisure culture as a vibrant component of American social, economic, and aesthetic history. Using travel narratives and fictional works, along with historical critiques, art, and other popular culture documents, the course explores Americans as they tour the nation, take vacations, and seek amusement. The course provides a framework for understanding the centrality of leisure as it has influenced how Americans see themselves and their national character.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 320. American Popular Humor. 3 sem. hrs.
This course explores major writers, performers, works, and themes of American humor that have achieved enduring popularity among mass audiences. It examines the social and historical contexts that reverberate in humor produced in the United States and focuses on three persistently popular mediums: prose and performance; film; and the television situation comedy.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 321. African American Folk Art. 3 sem. hrs.
An examination of the objects created by African Americans variously classified as "folk," "self-taught," and "outsider" artists. Course material will address the African origins and American transformations of traditional arts and crafts (architecture, pottery, iron work, and quilting) as well as the work of selected 20th-century artists in such media as painting, sculpture, and assemblage. Key concerns will include not only analysis and cultural/historical contextualization of these artists and their works but also political and theoretical debates with respect to issues of collection, modes of exhibiting, and use of the above-listed classifications.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

This course examines the often contentious and always passionate American relationship with "nature," an idea as much as a physical reality. The history of the United States has always had at its center a conflict between its political and social aspirations, on the one hand, and its passionate devotion to and celebration of the natural landscape, on the other. The resulting tension provides a wealth of subjects worthy of critical analysis. Students will consider the varying ways that nature has been imagined over a wide range of time periods and through the lenses of various forms of creative expression—prose, poetry, art, music, and design, etc.—as well as cultural practices, from camping out to making dinner. The course explores how "nature" has influenced American culture at large, its history and mainstream values. Students will encounter a wide range of intellectual and emotional interactions with the natural world and be asked to consider, in addition, their own relationship to it.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 325. America West And 19th Century. 3 sem. hrs.
Few things remained so central to the 19th American century experience as the West, a region to be explored, inhabited, and incorporated into an expanding urban-industrial society. From Lewis and Clark to Buffalo Bill, this lecture/discussion course examines the relationship between America and the West as it developed throughout the 19th century.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 326. The Modern West. 3 sem. hrs.
This lecture/discussion course examines the growth of the American West during the 20th century as both the embodiment of modernity and, as mythic imagination, an escape from the very modernity it represents.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 327. The American Western. 3 sem. hrs.
Since its creation toward the close of the 19th century, the western has been the most popular genre in American film history. No popular genre has generated anything like the kind of sustained attention, enthusiasm, interest, passion, anger, or debate as the American western. Which is the focus of the course: a chronological treatment of the on-going relationship between the western film and the meaning of modern America.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 335. American Pop Music. 3 sem. hrs.
Recent scholarship has shifted popular music history from folk roots and rock rebellion to pop: commercial, accomodating, but no less fascinating amalgamations. This class will range from blackface mistrelsy in the 1800s to American Idol today, defining mainstreams rather than undergrounds. Pop music performed capitalism, but it also performed democracy. Sorting out which process will be the task.
Prerequisite(s): Six Semester Hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences or Instructor's Permission.

AMS 340. Women in the South. 3 sem. hrs.
What insights into American experience are afforded by reading nineteenth- and twentieth-century texts in which Southern women engage questions of gender, class, race, labor, and region? This class will explore fictional and nonfictional prose by and about Southern women in order to examine how historical, cultural, and sociopolitical factors have shaped the lives and writings of women in the South. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.
Prerequisite(s): Six Semester Hours of Humanities and/or Social Science courses or Instructor’s Permission.
AMS 341. African American Art. 3 sem. hrs.
An examination of the work of formally trained 20th century African American painters, sculptors, and photographers in relation to broader currents in the social and cultural history of the United States. Examines ways in which African American art has alternately reflected, shaped, and challenged such important historical events and currents as Harlem Renaissance, the Great Depression, the Cold War, the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, the Women’s Movement, and contemporary identity politics. Also evaluates the contributions of selected artists in relation to such key art movements as Modernism, Social Realism, and Postmodernism.
Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 351. American Music Theatre History. 3 sem. hrs.
This course provides you with a review of the historical genres, circumstances and catalogue of material that developed the American musical theatre from its minstreel beginnings to the multi-million dollar spectacles of today. Prerequisite(s): Six Semester Hours of Humanities and/or Social Science Courses or Instructor’s Permission.

AMS 365. The Beatles Era. 3 sem. hrs.
Interdisciplinary investigation of American culture from the Kennedy assassination in 1963 to the Kent State University massacre in 1970 using the popular cultural explosion of the Beatles as a prism that informs the whole. Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 367. The American Game. 3 sem. hrs.
Lecture topics, readings, and classroom discussions will pursue major connections between baseball and American society from 1880 to the present: (1) the modernization of America and the rise of an urban, industrial, baseball and race; and (3) postwar America and baseball. Prerequisite(s): Six hours of Humanities and/or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 400. Internship. 1-3 sem. hr.
An internship opportunity that combines independent study and practical fieldwork experience focusing on a particular problem or topic related to American culture and experience. Examples are internships in archival fieldwork, material culture fieldwork, museum management, and sound recordings. Credits earned in this course are applicable to the major and minor in American studies but are not counted in 400-level requirement. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours.

AMS 401. Black Intellectual Thought. 3 sem. hrs.
An upper level seminar designed to provide students with an in-depth study of major intellectual debates and movements that have shaped the politics, history and identities of the people of African descent in the United States and the African diaspora. The course will combine methodologies and concepts from multiple disciplines including history, political theory, literature, women’s studies, sociology, psychology and philosophy.

AMS 402. Special Topics. 3 sem. hrs.
Selected African American topics for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours.

AMS 403. Honors Research - Ams. 3 sem. hrs.
Internship opportunity that combines guided and independent study with on- or off-campus research experience involving a particular methodological approach to American culture and experience. Examples are social science methods, oral history, original manuscript research, and technology.

AMS 405. Directed Study. 1-3 sem. hr.
May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours.

AMS 406. Directed Study. 1-3 sem. hr.
Independent study in American Studies.

AMS 407. Landscapes of the South. 3 sem. hrs.
A study of environmental and cultural landscapes of the American South, as altered and used by successive waves of native peoples, explorers, immigrants, laborers, industrialists, and urban builders, addressing historical and contemporary environmental challenges. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

AMS 412. On The Road. 3 sem. hrs.
This course seeks to introduce the breadth and power of the travel culture that defines “America” and examines enduring features when writers take to the open road in America. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.
Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 415. Service Learning. 3 sem. hrs.
Course examines immigrant journey and life in American South to gain an understanding of historical and contemporary issues through research and service. Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

Popular conceptions of nature hold extraordinary power in shaping our responses and policies toward both the geophysical world and built environments. This interdisciplinary course examines key concepts and controversies in American thought about nature since before colonization. Using accounts from various regions, the course explores evolving conceptions of nature and justice, competing claims about race and class, and changing institutional responses and remedies to environmental degradation in the context of global change. The course is highly interactive, inviting critical thinking about the human place in the physical world. We read and discuss ecological views as presented in colonial writings, slave narratives, Transcendentalist thought, Gilded Age preservationist and conservationist debates, and the work of Progressive Era occupational health specialists and ecologists. We give specific attention to twentieth century social movements for environmental public health, examining contemporary approaches, including eco-feminism, environmental justice, and sustainability. We identify different disciplinary approaches, among them environmental history, ecological anthropology, sociology, and geography, and explore conceptual links between disciplines. A brief introduction to research methods, utilizing qualitative techniques, case studies, and specialized data sources, will be included. Journal articles, law review essays, regulatory documents, court decisions, and films supplement classic texts as we examine race, ethnicity, gender, poverty, and other factors shaping environmental health.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

AMS 420. Mark Twain’s America: America’s Mark Twain. 3 sem. hrs.
This course begins with the premise that Mark Twain is alive and well. The course will balance consideration of the life, work, and times of America’s most celebrated author as well as his impact on popular culture to this day—from film adaptations of his work, to pop-culture references, to the traditions of American humor, to tourists abroad, etc. Students will examine Mark Twain as the “Lincoln of Our Literature” and as an American icon. The course will require careful consideration of the life and work of Samuel Clemens, the man who would later become Mark Twain, the most famous American of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. We will read and discuss several of his works in context with his times, and we will explore how his legacy affects our own. Why was he so popular, and why does he remain so popular? Students will encounter a wide range of intellectual and emotional interactions with American culture through the mind of Mark Twain, and, likewise, filter much of American popular culture through the lens of the world he created and reported to the world in his literary output. Students will consider, in addition, their own relationship to Mark Twain’s America.
Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 421. Writer & Artist in America. 3 sem. hrs.
An examination of the changing social and cultural background of American writers and artists during the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics will include the definition of the developing role of the artist in American culture, and assessment of the American and European influences on artists, and an appraisal of the influence of artists on American culture. Painting, literature, music, photography, and architecture are among the arts dealt with.
Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 422. Popular Culture in America. 3 sem. hrs.
A selective survey and analysis of 20th century U.S. popular culture-- particularly, comic books, fan culture, television, music, advertising, and sports. Examines ways in which popular culture has reflected and shaped aspects of American society such as gender ideologies, economics, race, class, and regional identity.
Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 423. The Roots of American Music. 3 sem. hrs.
This class surveys American music from ragtime, blues, and hillbilly to Broadway, Hollywood musicals, and swing jazz. Our focus will be on commercial mainstream and democratic audiences -- how selling sound led to different identities being expressed through taste and style. Race, gender, class, sexuality, age, technology, and the music business will all factor as we move from blackface minstrelsy in the 1800s to World War II. We will listen closely to several songs each week, connecting music to larger themes through primary and secondary sources, regular writing, and in-class discussion.
Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 429. America between the Wars. 3 sem. hrs.
Explores first two decades of America’s “Modern Times” (1919-1941) when Americans redefined themselves and their society embracing and debating (sometimes hotly) old beliefs, new conceptions, and the implications of a machine-driven, modern-mass society. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.
Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.
AMS 430. Special Topics. 3 sem. hrs.
Selected American topics for advanced undergraduate majors in American studies, offered by American Studies faculty members or Americanists from related departments. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours.
Prerequisite(s): Nine Semester Hours of humanities or social science courses or Instructor’s Permission.

This interdisciplinary social science course provides an introduction to the cultural and physical ecology of cities, focusing primarily on urbanization in the United States from the late 19th century to the present. Course readings include classical scholars in urbanism and urban design. Contemporary urban environmental histories explore population shifts and land use along the urban gradient from the suburbs to urban centers, with attention to water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure, pollution, and urban sprawl. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

AMS 445. The “Good War”. 3 sem. hrs.
Examination of selected topics from the American experience during the Second World War. Topics include the Homefront, the Holocaust, race relations, the emergence of American air power, and the impact of the war on American memory and postwar American society. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.
Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 446. Gender and Environment. 3 sem. hrs.
This course examines histories of concepts of nature and gender, philosophies of eco-feminism, and accounts of gender-based efforts for environmental reform. Texts include histories of environmental concepts and reform campaigns, broadly conceived, including slave narratives, accounts of experiences in the women’s club movement, the conservation movement, and Progressive Era occupational and public health reform, along with more well-known twentieth century nature writers, contemporary scholars, and activists. Particular attention is paid to women whose identities are defined in part by their status as immigrants, women of color, or in other marginalized categories. Case studies explore global environmental reform as well as U.S. experiences. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

AMS 460. Race & Ethnicity in US Labor. 3 sem. hrs.
This course is designed to familiarize students with the important topics, themes, and methodologies in the study of race and ethnicity in U.S. labor. Throughout the semester, the class will examine the lives of working women and men and their roles in the social, political, and economic development of the United States. The class will analyze the role of gender, race, and ethnicity at home and in the workplace and examine how scholars have studied the people, events and institutions in this field. Prerequisite(s): Nine Semester Hours of American Studies Courses or Instructor’s Permission.

An examination of American literature and culture from before the Civil War until after the Civil Rights Movement. Representations of American experience in essays, novels, poems, short stories, social reformist tracts, and the visual arts will be studied in the context of social and political debates over slavery, national identity, women’s roles, immigration and assimilation, social mores, consumer culture, and race relations. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.
Prerequisite(s): 9 SH Humanities/ and or Social Sciences courses or permission of instructor.

AMS 476. Constructing the American Rev.. 3 sem. hrs.
From the Declaration of Independence to the Civil War, Americans have continually tried to provide narrative shape and cultural significance to their national origins. Through the analysis of primary and secondary sources (political tracts, art works, histories, biographies, fiction, and other artifacts), this course will explore the relationship between the eighteenth-century revolutionaries’ and their nineteenth-century heirs’ cultural construction of the Revolution. Simply put, this course is about how people in the past have thought about their own past. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.
Prerequisite(s): Nine Semester Hours of American Studies Courses or Instructor’s Permission.

AMS 480. Democracy in America. 3 sem. hrs.
Throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, Americans prided themselves on their democratic politics, industrial progress, science and technology, religious faiths, capitalist tendencies, and control over nature. No other person captured the essence of American society and manners more than the French aristocrat, Alex de Tocqueville, who traveled to the United States in the 1830s and published his famous work, Democracy in America. Using Tocqueville’s observations as well as fiction, autobiography, painting, politics, and more, this course explores how ordinary Americans presented themselves as a democratic people from 1800 to 1865.
Prerequisite(s): Nine Semester Hours of American Studies Courses or Instructor’s Permission.

AMS 491. American Period Seminar. 3 sem. hrs.
In-depth study of a particular period or era in American historical experience. Recent examples include the Ragtime Era, the Jazz Age, the Great Depression, the Season of 1954-55, the ‘60s, Contemporary America, the Romantic Revolutionaries (1905-14), the Postwar Era, American Avant Garde, the South and ‘30s Expression, the Civil Rights Movement, the American ‘20s, the ‘50s, America between the Wars, the Colonial Period, the Aspirin Age, Postmodern America, Contemporary America, and Writing West.
Prerequisite(s): Nine Semester Hours of American Studies Courses or Instructor’s Permission.

AMS 492. American Topic Seminar. 3 sem. hrs.
Study of special topics within the American cultural experience. Recent examples include American Thought, Sports in American Life, American Perspectives on the Environment, the Civil Rights Movement, the Picture Press, Music and Ethnicity, the Politics of Culture, Regionalism, Homelessness in America, American Autobiography, American Monuments, Southern Popular Culture, Politics and Culture, Historical Memory, America by Design, Women in America, Race in America, 19th-Century Popular Culture, and Disasters in America
Prerequisite(s): Nine Semester Hours of American Studies Courses or Instructor’s Permission.