American Studies is an inter- and multi-disciplinary field that asks the question: “What does it mean to be an American?” To answer that question, students examine the values, patterns, and institutions that inform American culture and experience. American Studies brings together courses from throughout DePaul’s curriculum under a well-defined, yet flexible, structure to examine the complexities of the American world. The Program integrates the study of American art, culture, economics, geography, history, literature, music, philosophy, politics, religion, and society.

Because American Studies emphasizes reading, writing, research, discussion, and critical thinking, it is an excellent major or double major for students continuing to graduate or professional schools or seeking careers throughout the private and public sectors. Graduates have gone on to work in community development, computer science, education, human and social services, international development, law, libraries, politics, and public service.

FACULTY

Carol Klimick Cyganowski, Ph.D.,
Program Director
Associate Professor (English)
University of Chicago

James E. Block, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor (Political Science)
University of Chicago

John D. Burton, Ph.D.,
Lecturer (American Studies)
College of William and Mary

Ellen Eslinger, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor (History)
University of Chicago

Alesia Garcia, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor (English)
University of Arizona

Hugh J. Ingrasci, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor (English)
University of Michigan

Michael Kackman, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor (Communication)
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Kimberly R. Moffitt, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor (Communication)
Howard University

Laura J. Owen, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor (Economics)
Yale University

Mark Pohlad, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor (Art and Art History)
University of Delaware

Darby Li Po Price, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor (American Studies)
University of California, Berkeley

Lucy Rinehart, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor (English)
Columbia University

Eric Murphy Selinger, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor (English)
University of California, Los Angeles

Margaret M. Storey, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor (History)
Emory University

BACHELOR OF ARTS

LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

In addition to the 32 quarter hours required in the liberal studies core, all students are required to complete 52 quarter hours distributed through six learning domains as part of their Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies. The number and distribution of courses in each of the areas are as follows:

Core: 32 quarter hours required.

First Year Program: (20 quarter hours required) Discover Chicago or Explore Chicago, Focal Point Seminar, Quantitative Reasoning, and Composition and Rhetoric I and II.

Sophomore Seminar: (4 quarter hours required) Sophomore Seminar on Multiculturalism in the United States.
Junior Year Experiential Learning: (4 quarter hours required) If your junior year experiential learning requirement also fulfills a major field requirement, you may substitute a liberal studies domain elective (from outside your major field area) or the third course in the modern language option for this requirement.

Senior Capstone: (4 quarter hours required) American Studies requires that all students majoring in American Studies complete the senior capstone in American Studies. If you are double majoring and/or in the Honors program you must also follow the capstone guidelines for that area.

Arts and Literature: 12 quarter hours required. At most 2 courses from the same department or program, one of which must be ENG 120.

Philosophical Inquiry: 8 quarter hours required.

Religious Dimensions: 8 quarter hours required, 4 quarter hours in patterns and problems, and 4 quarter hours in traditions in context.

Scientific Inquiry: 12 quarter hours required; 4 quarter hours with a lab component, 4 quarter hours with a quantitative component, and 4 quarter hours scientific inquiry elective. At most 2 courses from the same department or program.

Self, Society and the Modern World: 8 quarter hours required. At most 2 courses from the same department or program.

Understanding the Past: 4 quarter hours required. Course must be from an area outside of the United States.

Although study in American Studies contributes to a student’s liberal education, courses offered by the department of American Studies are not applied towards liberal studies requirements for the American Studies major. Exceptions to this rule are the junior experiential learning and the senior capstone requirements. Double majors may also be able to count some courses in the second major toward liberal studies requirements. It is especially important for students who are double majoring to meet with an advisor regularly to determine the best application of courses for liberal studies requirements.

Students who take a sequence of three language courses beyond the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences modern language requirement can reduce their Liberal Studies requirements by two domain electives.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

FOUNDATION REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites: At least one course in U.S. History (from the HST 280/281/282 sequence) is prerequisite to the core courses in the American Studies Program. Submission of AP U.S. History credit or SAT II U.S. History scores of 650 or higher will satisfy this requirement. In some cases, students will be allowed to enroll in U.S. History and AMS 201 concurrently. Students are encouraged to take more than one course in U.S. History and to take U.S. History in the fall quarter as soon as they determine on an American Studies major.

Core Courses: AMS 201 and 202 are the pair of required, linked courses at the foundation of the program and should be completed in the sophomore or junior year, ideally in sequence in the same academic year. In addition, all majors are required to take either AMS 300, Domestic Studies (travel/study courses), or AMS 392, Internship, for a minimum of 4 quarter hours credit.

CONCENTRATIONS

Students choose from among the following six concentrations: Cultural History and Literature; Nature, Environment and Culture; Politics, Institutions and Values; Popular Culture; Race and Ethnicity; and Work, Technology, Society. Students are required to take six courses within the concentration. Throughout the concentration courses, students are required to maintain a “portfolio” which combines reflections on the courses with collections of course
materials (syllabi, completed written course work, collections of visuals, e.g., photo essays—
whatever is appropriate to the six courses chosen for the concentration). The reflections on
each course and then on the concentration overall should include responses to questions such as
“What were the course’s most valuable lessons in research, analysis, writing and commu-
nication? How did this course, taken together with the other courses you have chosen for
your concentration, influence/develop your understanding of the area of American culture on
which you are focusing?” Students turn in their portfolio on the concentration, along with a
proposal for the senior seminar project, the quarter before enrolling in the senior seminar.
Specific directions for the portfolio can be obtained from your American Studies advisor,
from the American Studies Program office, or from the American Studies Program Director.

ELECTIVES AND DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS
In consultation with an advisor, students will select
three
additional courses from outside of
the concentration. For the concentration and the electives, courses must be distributed among
at least three departments.

SENIOR SEMINAR
During the senior year, students should take 301 Senior Seminar. The quarter before
enrolling in the senior seminar, majors must submit their portfolio with collected course mate-
rials and reflections on the concentration courses and a proposal for a senior seminar pro-
ject. Each major will be assigned to an American Studies Program Committee faculty member
who will be responsible for reviewing the portfolio.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
MINOR
For the American Studies minor, students must complete the two course core (AMS 201 &
202), plus four US topic courses (American Studies electives) which must include one US His-
tory course and may include AMS 300 (Domestic Studies), AMS 301 (Senior Seminar), and/or
AMS 392 (Internship). The US History course should be taken before enrolling in AMS 201. The
American Studies minor is an especially viable option when combined with a major in the
humanities, social sciences, fine arts, natural sciences, business, or secondary education.

DOUBLE MAJOR
For the American Studies double major, students complete the major requirements. Dou-
ble majors may often “double count” some American Studies electives. Double majors with
English, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology are the most common; the Ameri-
can Studies double major is valuable experience and excellent preparation for graduate or
professional school or for immediate employment.

INTERNSHIPS
Internships (for variable credit) in local agencies will be available for interested students. Such
agencies might include the Newberry Library, the Chicago Historical Society, the NAACP, art gal-
leries, museums, civic organizations, government agencies, archives, ethnic and religious orga-
nizations, law firms and corporate employers as well as internships at DePaul.

COURSES
Unless otherwise noted, all courses carry 4 quarter hours credit.

150 Perspectives on America. This course explores a variety of perspectives on what it
means to be an American in the modern world, looking through polarities such as:
urban and suburban life, localism and globalism, high culture and mass
culture, corporate society and populism. Considerations of various media such
as television, movies, and newspapers, as well as study of artifacts.

201 American Experience I (to 1860). The first of two paired courses that form the American Studies Program core. The course combines "how you do American Studies" with clusters of readings and projects centered on the era. Courses use multiple methodologies, primary sources, a range of texts, material and visual culture to look at competing themes and diverse voices that form the American experience. Prerequisite: at least one U.S. History course from the HST 280/281/282 sequence or AP US History credit or SAT II US History scores (submitted to DePaul) of 650 or higher. Students are encouraged to take as much of the HST 280/281/282 sequence as possible before enrolling in AMS 201; all US HST courses count toward the courses required for the major or minor in American Studies.

202 American Experience II (from 1860). The second of two paired courses that form the American Studies Program core. Continues goals and approaches of AMS 201, for the era following 1860. AMS 201 & 202 are taught by pairs of faculty from the American Studies Program Committee. The courses should be taken in sequence in the same academic year, if at all possible. Prerequisite: at least one U.S. History course from the HST 280/281/282 sequence or AP US History credit or SAT II US History scores (submitted to DePaul) of 650 or higher. Students are encouraged to take as much of the HST 280/281/282 sequence as possible before enrolling in AMS 201; all US HST courses count toward the courses required for the major or minor in American Studies.

250 In Their Own Voices: American Autobiography. This course presents a range of American autobiographies, from different places and from times ranging from Colonial to modern. The selected authors represent varying backgrounds and races.

260 Three Cultures of Early America. This course will focus on the origins of American identity through the voices of three early American peoples: Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans. We will examine these peoples not as isolated groups, but will focus on how their interaction formed and shaped early American society.

270 Gay and Lesbian America from the Forties to the Nineties. This course offers a multicultural account of the social, political, and artistic transformation of the gay and lesbian community from World War II to the nineties.

290 American Voices I (to 1860). Part one of a two course sequence, this course provides an integrated, multidisciplinary view of American culture and ideas, addressing the questions: "What is America? What does it mean to be an American?" The courses are focused on primary sources, mostly first person narratives and fiction, developing methods for analyzing and interpreting these sources. Students write a series of papers on the narratives; students taking the two course sequence substitute a research paper for some of the narratives papers in the second course, American Voices II.

291 American Voices II (from 1860). Part two of a two course sequence, this course continues the approach and method of American Voices I.
300 **Domestic Studies.** Travel/study courses to various regions of the U.S., combining pre- and post-trip classroom sessions with 7-14 day excursions. Travel portion includes hands on and/or behind the scenes experiences and consideration of how Americans use and understand their national history.

301 **Senior Seminar.** The Senior Seminar is an integrative, course conducted primarily as a colloquium. Emphasis will be placed on discussion and independent research and writing. **Prerequisites:** 201, 202, and 300 or 392.

360 **American Film.** Analyses cultural and cinematic histories and film as a social practice circulating cultural values as well as critiquing ideologies. Students will gain understanding of major critical and theoretical approaches and engage in research, critical thinking, and writing on topic areas. Variable specific topics. **Prerequisite:** Communication 206

389 **Sports in America: A Philosophical Perspective.** Applies the tools of philosophical analysis in describing key concepts involved in the activity of sports, relating these to understanding the place of sports in the American way of life, and considering how participation in sports involves all aspects of the human condition. (Philosophical Inquiry Domain)

390 **American Spirit.** Philosophical perspectives. Focus changes annually.

392 **Internship.** Majors and minors only. Variable credit.

394 **American Studies Series.** These courses are comprised of a series of similar events on a specific topic, e.g., a film series. Class participants attend and participate in discussions, keep a journal, do related readings, and write a summary or reflective paper on the series. Variable credit.

395 **Topics in American Studies.**

396 **American Studies Colloquium.** These courses are conferences or series on selected topics. Class participants attend and participate in events, keep a reflective journal connecting the events, do related readings, and a reflective summary on the colloquium as a whole. Variable credit.

399 **Independent Study.** Majors only. Variable credit.