MEMORANDUM

TO:     James F. Harris  
        Dean, College of Arts & Humanities  

FROM:  Phyllis Peres  
        Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs  

SUBJECT: Proposal to modify the B.A. in American Studies (PCC log no. 05082)  

Your proposal to modify the curriculum of the B.A. in American Studies has been approved. A copy of the approved proposal is enclosed.  

The changes are effective Fall 2007. The College should ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.  

CWR/  

Enclosure  

cc: Richard Ellis, Chair, Senate PCC Committee  
Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid  
Mary Giles, University Senate  
Barbara Hope, Data Administration  
Kathy McAdams, Undergraduate Studies  
Anne Turkos, Archives  
Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar  
Elizabeth Loizeaux, College of Arts & Humanities  
Jo Paoletti, Department of American Studies
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

DIRECTIONS:
- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED__

PCC LOG NO. 05082

COLLEGE/SCHOOL ARHU

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM AMST, BA

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD____ DELETE____ CHANGE_X

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

- Requiring that six credits of the CORE requirements be selected from a department-approved list of Americanist courses.
- Providing a new, majors-only course at the 300-level which will introduce American Studies history, theories and methods.
- Reducing the number of focus areas from two to one, while increasing the number of upper-level credits taken in the focus area.
- Permitting university-approved minors to be used as a focus area

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

The proposed revised American Studies major preserves the flexibility and interdisciplinary of the present major while increasing coherence within the major and providing a more focused foundation in American culture and society. The revised major retains the core elements of our undergraduate program: exposure to the methods of critical analysis currently practiced in American Studies, concentration in a companion discipline or field, and opportunities to integrate knowledge and skills at the advanced level, through research, internships and creative projects. The revised major is also designed to incorporate campus-wide innovations in undergraduate education, such as four-year graduation plans, Degree Navigator, and approved minors. Finally, the revised major is designed to meet the needs of the many students who declare a major in American Studies late in their sophomore year or who choose American Studies as a second major. No new resources will be required to implement these new requirements.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROVAL SIGNATURES</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Department Committee Chair</td>
<td>4/11/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Department Chair</td>
<td>4/11/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. College/School PCC Chair</td>
<td>4/26/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Dean</td>
<td>5/3/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Chair, Senate PCC</td>
<td>3/13/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Chair of Senate</td>
<td>3/30/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Vice President for Academic Affairs &amp; Provost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VPAAP 8-05
INTRODUCTION

The proposed revised American Studies major preserves the flexibility and interdisciplinary character of the present major while increasing coherence within the major and providing a more consistent foundation in the study of American culture and society. The revised major retains the core elements of our undergraduate program: exposure to the methods of critical analysis currently practiced in American Studies, concentration in a companion discipline or field, and opportunities to integrate knowledge and skills at the advanced level, through research, internships and creative projects. The revised major is also designed to be compatible with campus-wide innovations in undergraduate education, such as four-year graduation plans, the use of Degree Navigator, and the introduction of approved minors. Finally, the revised major is designed to meet the needs of the nearly three-quarters of our students who declare a major in American Studies late in their sophomore year and often must limit the number of lower level credits taken. The changes in the revised program include:

- Requiring that six credits be selected from a department-approved list of lower-level Americanist courses outside American Studies.
- Providing a new, majors-only course at the 300-level which will introduce American Studies history, theories and methods (AMST 340).
- Reducing the number of focus areas from two to one, while increasing the number of upper-level credits taken in the focus area.
- Permitting university-approved minors to be used as a focus area

In the revised major, exposure to the methods of critical analysis practiced in American Studies, will take place primarily in AMST 201 (Introduction to American Studies), the new history, theories and methods course (AMST 340, in appendix F) and our capstone course, AMST 450 (Seminar in American Studies) which must be taken in that order. (VPAC approval to change the prerequisites for AMST 340 and 450 is forthcoming.) The new course, AMST 340, is limited to AMST majors, and is designed to build on AMST 201 and prepare students to conduct the research projects required for their capstone experience, either AMST 450 or AMST 388 (Honors Thesis). The revised major will strengthen the outside concentration by requiring more upper-level credits and permitting the use of university-approved minors. More specific course requirements for the focus area or minor will enable students to take better advantage of Degree Navigator to help them track their own progress.
OUTLINE OF REVISED MAJOR

The American Studies major has been designed by the American Studies Department faculty with the following purposes in mind:

I. Credit Hours

The revised American Studies major requires a minimum of 42 credits, including 24 in American Studies, 6 credits of lower level Americanist courses taken outside the department, and 12-24 credits in a focus area or minor taken outside the American Studies department. At least 27 of the credits for the major must be in 300- or 400-level courses, with at least twelve of these credits at the 400-level. A grade of C (2.0) or better is required in each of the courses making up the major (including those taken outside the department, such as the Americanists courses and those taken for the minor or focus area).

Students may combine AMST 386 (Experiential Learning) and 398 credits (Independent Study) up to a total of twelve credits towards their 120 needed for graduation, but under no circumstances may they apply more than three credits of these courses to the major in American Studies. Students in the departmental honors program may apply 6 credits of AMST 388 (Honors Thesis) toward the major.

II. Required History, Theories and Methods Course

AMST 340, Introduction to History, Theories and Methods in American Studies (3 credits), is a required gateway course for all American Studies majors. Students will take AMST 340 after completing AMST 201 and at least one semester before they take AMST 450 or AMST 388.

III. Course Requirements

Students must take five courses (15 credits) in Group I courses (Foundation Requirements), five courses (15 credits) in Group II courses (Advanced Requirements), and a minimum of four courses (12 credits) in Group III (Focus Area Requirements) courses. The American Studies major requirements in Group I (Foundation) assure that students acquire a basic knowledge of American culture and society, a general understanding of American Studies as an interdisciplinary field and familiarity with the history and current practice of American Studies research. The Group II (Advanced) requirements offer the students the opportunity to integrate knowledge and skills acquired through Group I courses and to apply them at an advanced level, culminating with a capstone experience. Requirements in Group III (Focus Area) enable students to connect their American Studies coursework with a related discipline or field outside the department.
III.A Group I (Foundation) Requirements (15 credits)

Course requirements in this area are intended to provide a foundation in American Studies and the study of American culture and society in other disciplines. Courses taken for CORE may be double-counted towards the major.

AMST 201 Introduction to American Studies (3 credits)
AMST 203, 204, 205, 207, 212 or 260 (any one course, 3 credits)
Americanist courses outside the AMST department (any two lower-level courses, 6 credits, selected from an approved list (see Appendix A)
AMST 340 Introduction to History, Theories and Methods in American Studies (3 credits)

III.B Group II (Advanced) Requirements (15 credits)

Course requirements in this area are intended to offer students with the opportunity to explore selected topics in American Studies in greater depth and to apply what they have learned in their Group I courses. All of these courses must be at the 300- or 400 level. Group II requirements may be satisfied in one of two ways:

Option A:

- Four 400-level AMST courses, not including AMST 450 (12 credits)
- AMST 450 Seminar in AMST or AMST 388 Honors Thesis (3 credits)

Option B:

- Three 400-level AMST courses not including AMST 450 (9 credits)
- AMST 386 (Internship), 398 (Independent Study) or 388 (Honors Thesis Research) (3 credits)
- AMST 450 Seminar in AMST or AMST 388 Honors Thesis (3 credits)

III.C Group III (Focus Area) Requirements (12-24 credits)

Group III requirements reinforce the essential interdisciplinary nature of our field, offering students a range of options to connect their American Studies coursework with a related discipline or field. All Group III courses must be taken outside the American Studies Department.

Minor or Certificate option (15-24 credits, at least 9 at the 300- or 400-level)

Successful completion (with a grade of C [2.0] of better) of a minor or certificate from an approved list (Appendix B). University-approved minors range from 15 to 24 credits; certificate programs require 21-24 credits. The department or
program administering the minor determines specific requirements and, in some cases, student eligibility.

Focus Area option (12 credits, all at the 300- or 400- level)

Successful completion (C [2.0] or better) of four upper level courses outside the department that enable the student to construct a coherent focus area complementary to American Studies. A focus area may be in a single department or selected from two or more departments (see examples in Appendix C). A list of approved focus areas will be distributed to advisors and students. Students may also propose an individualized focus area, subject to approval in advance by the American Studies undergraduate studies director. Students should not pursue a focus in a department or program that offers a suitable minor or certificate. An American Studies advisor must approve course selection within the focus area in advance, as part of mandatory advising each semester.

IV. Anticipated impact of changes on other departments and programs

IV.A Group I (Foundation) Requirements

The new requirement that 6 credits of Americanist courses be selected from an approved list of humanities and behavioral/social science courses should have little impact on the departments offering those courses. Most of our majors (about 80% of the graduating class of 2005) will meet this standard without having it as a requirement, having taken them as CORE courses while still in Letters and Sciences. The list of acceptable courses is extensive. This will diffuse the impact of the new requirement.

AMST 340 (Introduction to History, Theories and Methods in American Studies) will replace AMST 330, which is currently restricted to AMST majors. No impact is anticipated on students from other departments.

IV. B. Group II (Advanced) Requirements

This change clarifies the applicability of AMST 386 (Internship), 398 (Independent Study) or 388 (Honors Thesis Research) and will have no impact on other departments or programs.
IV.C. Group III (Focus Area) Requirements

American Studies majors are currently pursuing the following focus areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus area</th>
<th>Academic unit(s) affected</th>
<th>Current # students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian-American Studies</td>
<td>AAST</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afro-American Studies</td>
<td>AASP</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American History</td>
<td>HIST</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Literature</td>
<td>ENGL</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>ANTH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art History</td>
<td>ARTH</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural History</td>
<td>ARCH</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Economic History</td>
<td>BMGT, ECON, HIST</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Culture</td>
<td>CMLT, LASC, MUSC, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>EDUC</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic Studies</td>
<td>AASP, AAST, LASC, JWST, SOCY</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government and Politics</td>
<td>GVPT</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>JOUR</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material Culture</td>
<td>ANTH, ARCH, ARTH, HIST, THET</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media Studies</td>
<td>CMLT, ENGL, JOUR, COMM</td>
<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personality and Culture</td>
<td>FMST, EDHD, PSYC</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>PHIL</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popular Culture</td>
<td>CMLT, ENGL, MUET, MUSC, KNES</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>SOCY</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Studies</td>
<td>WMST</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Enrollment in current AMST focus areas

Under current requirements each student selects two areas from this list, or develops a thematic, interdisciplinary focus. Under the new requirements, American Studies majors select a single supporting area, either a University-approved minor or certificate or a focus area of 15 credits. The focus area may be taken in a single department or unit not offering a minor or certificate. Alternatively, a student may select a thematic, interdisciplinary focus area that draws from two or more units.

Impact of single-unit option (minor, certificate or focus)

The primary impact of these new requirements will be on units listed as approved minors, certificate programs and single-department focus areas, and will depend on their current involvement level.

- Units already serving large numbers of American Studies majors under the existing requirement will probably not experience an increase in demand due to
this change. Some may experience a decrease, since we are increasing the number of options.

- **Units not represented on the current list of focus areas under the old requirements** will experience an increase in demand. We expect that this increase in demand will be modest and diffuse, since we are offering so many options to a relatively small number of majors. These units are listed in the Table 2 below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geography minor</td>
<td>minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Studies minor</td>
<td>minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin American Studies certificate</td>
<td>certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBT Studies certificate</td>
<td>certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics minor</td>
<td>minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Studies minor</td>
<td>minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish minor (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Proposed new single-unit focus areas

All of these units have been contacted and approve being listed. (See Appendix D)

**Impact of multiple-unit focus option**

Most of our majors select focus areas that draw from two or more departments, and we expect that the existing interdisciplinary or thematic focus areas will continue to be popular with our students. In addition to those listed in Table 1, we wish to add a focus area in Social Justice, drawing on GVPT, CCJS, SOCY and FMST. This will interest our students currently desiring a focus area in Criminal Justice, without putting undue demands on that department. (This option has been approved by the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, see Appendix D).

**Impact of future changes**

We anticipate the need to revise our list of approved minors, certificates and focus areas periodically, due to program availability and student interests. Before any new option is added, we will acquire approval from the affected units.
Appendix A.

Approved Americanist courses for American Studies majors.

Students must select 2 courses (6 Credits) from this list. This list is subject to change: a current list will be posted on the American Studies website and available in the American Studies Main Office. Courses not on this list must be approved by the Undergraduate Director.

AASP 100 Introduction to African American Studies
AASP 101 Public Policy and the Black Community
AASP 202 Black Cultures in the United States
AASP 298L Introduction to African-American Literature (also as ENGL 234)
AAST 200 Introduction to Asian American Studies (also as AMST298C)
AAST 201 Asian American History
AAST 222 Immigration and Ethnicity in the United States (also as HIST222)
AAST298L Introduction to Asian American Literature
AMST 205 Material Aspects of American Life
AMST 207 Contemporary American Cultures
AMST 260 American Culture in the Information Age
AMST 298C Introduction to Asian American Studies
ANTH 260 Introduction to Socio-cultural Anthropology and Linguistics
ANTH 262 Culture and Environment
AREC 240 Introduction to Economics and the Environment
ARTH 201 Art of the Western World
ARTH 250 Art and Archaeology of Ancient America
CCJS 100 Introduction to Criminal Justice
CMLT 214 Film, Form and Culture
CMLT 235 Introduction to Literatures of the African Diaspora (also as ENGL 235)
CMLT 277 Literatures of the Americas
CMLT 280 Film Art in a Global Society
ECON 200 Principles of Micro-Economics (or 4 or 5 AP Microeconomics or Macroeconomics)
ECON 201 Principles of Macro-Economics (or 4 or 5 AP Microeconomics or Macroeconomics)
ENGL 221 American Literature: Beginning to 1865
ENGL 222 American Literature: 1865 to the Present
ENGL 235 Introduction to Literatures of the African Diaspora (Also as CMLT235)
ENGL 245 Film and the Narrative Tradition
ENGL 260 Introduction to Folklore
ENGL 278S The American Short Story in its World Context (also as ENGL 263)
GEOG 100 Introduction to Geography
GVPT 100 Principles of Government and Politics
GVPT 170 American Government (or 3,4 or 5 AP US Government)
HIST 106 American Jewish Experience (Also as JWST 141)
HIST 156 History of the United Stated to 1865 (or 4,5 on AP History)
HIST 157 History of the United States since 1865 (or 4,5 on AP History)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 210</td>
<td>Women in America to 1880 (Also as WMST210)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 211</td>
<td>Women in America since 1880 (Also as WMST 211)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 213</td>
<td>History of Sexuality in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 250</td>
<td>Latin-American History I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 251</td>
<td>Latin-American History II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 255</td>
<td>Introduction to African American History 1865-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 266</td>
<td>The United States and World Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 275</td>
<td>Law and Constitutionalism in American History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 150</td>
<td>Introduction to Mass Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 240</td>
<td>Advertising in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNES 287</td>
<td>Sport and American Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNES 293</td>
<td>History of Sport in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBT 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUET 200</td>
<td>World Popular Music’s and Identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 205</td>
<td>History of Rock Music, 1950-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT 228A</td>
<td>Latin American Literature and Society: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Issues of the Amazon Ecosystem (Also as SPAN228A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 105</td>
<td>Introduction to Contemporary Social Problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 222</td>
<td>Cultural Difference in Contemporary Latin American Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN 224</td>
<td>Violence and Resistance in the Americas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THET 240</td>
<td>African Americans in Film and Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THET 290</td>
<td>American Theatre 1750-1890</td>
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<td>THET 291</td>
<td>American Theatre 1890-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST210</td>
<td>Women in American to 1880 (also as HIST210)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST211</td>
<td>Women in American Since 1880 (also as HIST211)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST250</td>
<td>Introduction to Women’s Studies: Women, Art, and Culture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B

Approved minors and certificates that can be used to fulfill the Group III (Focus Area) requirements. This list will be updated as the university approves additional programs and units agree to have their program listed as an option for American Studies majors.

Afro-American Studies
Art History
Asian-American Studies
Black Women's Studies*
Geographic Information Science*
Jewish Studies*
Latin American Studies*
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies*
Philosophy*
Linguistics*
Religious Studies*
Spanish Language, Business, and Cultures*
Spanish Language and Cultures*
Women’s Studies

*new listing
Appendix C

Focus areas that may be used to fulfill the Group III (Focus Area) requirements. A current list will be provided to advisors and students every semester. The American Studies undergraduate studies director must approve focus areas not on the list. Advisors must approve course selection to fulfill focus areas.

Focus areas from a single department or unit:

American History (History)
American Literature (English)
American Rhetorical Discourse (Communications)
Anthropology
Architectural History
Education
Government and Politics
Journalism
Psychology
Sociology

Focus areas drawing from two or more departments or program.

Visual and Material Culture (may include ARTH, ARTT, ANTH, ARCH, HIST, THET)
Media Studies (may include CMLT, COMM, ENGL, JOUR)
Popular Culture (may include CMLT, ENGL, KNES, MUET, MUSC)
Ethnic Studies (may include AASP, AAST, JWST, LASC, SOCY)
Comparative Cultures (may include CMLT, LASC, MUSC, School of Languages)
Personality and Culture (may include ANTH, EDHD, PSYC)
Business and Economic History (may include BMGT, ECON, HIST)
Social Justice (may include CCJS, GVPT, FMST, SOCY, AASP)*

*new option
Appendix D

letters from units affected by the change in focus area requirement
## Appendix E
Comparison of Current and Proposed Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Requirement</th>
<th>Proposed Requirement</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 201 Introduction to American Studies</td>
<td>No change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3-6 hours from among the following lower-division courses: | 3 hours selected from all 200-level AMST courses | • Accommodates future changes in 200-level offerings  
• Makes it easier for Degree Navigator to identify acceptable AMST courses  
• Partially compensates for the new requirement for 6 credits of non-AMST Americanist coursework  
• Partially compensates for the increase in the number of upper-level courses required for the major |
| • AMST 203 Popular Culture in America  
• AMST 204 Film and American Culture Studies  
• AMST 205 Material Aspects of American Life  
• AMST 207 Contemporary American Cultures  
• AMST 211 Technology and American Culture  
• AMST 212 Diversity in American Culture | | |
| No specific Americanist courses required outside the department | 6 credits selected from a list of at least 40 lower-level Americanist courses outside AMST (see list) | • Ensures that students have foundational knowledge in literature, history, arts or social sciences relating to American culture and society  
• Helps students explore possible focus areas |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Change to elective service course for majors</th>
<th>Prerequisite improves continuity within the program, ensures students have a context for discussions of American Studies as a field</th>
<th>Course content needed to prepare students for research demands in AMST 450 Seminar in American Studies and AMST 388 Honors Thesis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 330 Critics of American Culture</td>
<td>AMST 340: Introduction to History, Theories and Methods in AMST (majors only; AMST 201 and one other AMST course a prerequisite)</td>
<td>• Increase upper-level credits required for the major, as is appropriate for a major most often declared in the 4th semester</td>
<td>• Incorporates experiential, independent learning and undergraduate research as an important option to the classroom, and one which we encourage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No history/theory/method course</td>
<td>Either:</td>
<td>• Four 400-level AMST courses, not including AMST 450 (12 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Three 400-level AMST courses not including AMST 450 (9 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• AMST 386 (Experiential Learning), 398 (Independent Studies) or 388 (Honors Thesis) (3 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-9 hours from among the following upper-division courses:</td>
<td>AMST 450 Seminar in American Studies (prerequisite: AMST 340)</td>
<td>Prerequisite will ensure that majors are prepared for the research component of AMST 450.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• AMST 418 Cultural Themes in America</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Encourage American Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit hours each (half at the upper level), selected from an approved list</td>
<td>selected from an approved list</td>
<td>majors to complete minors or certificates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or Focus Area (12 credits, all upper level) selected from an approved list</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Requires students electing Focus Area option to do more advanced work than the current requirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students may NOT select a focus area in a unit which offers an approved minor or certificate</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Helps manage pressure on units offering minors by requiring students to go through their admissions and advising process, rather than just sign up for courses.</td>
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Appendix F
Syllabus for AMST 340 (Approved by VPAC, Spring 2006)
Course Description:

This course introduces students to systematic interdisciplinary research in American Studies. We begin by considering what doing research involves and its multiple goals and forms among American Studies scholars. Given that much humanities research often begins in the library, we then begin what will be a semester-long process of discovering the riches of libraries and other information repositories. During the next two weeks, students explore some of the visible research foci that American Studies scholars have addressed, as well as some of the critical theoretical perspectives and research questions and directions currently engaging scholars. One of the goals of these weeks is to help students begin to locate themselves in wider and, occasionally, long-running research traditions within American Studies. Importantly, too, our discussions both of where American Studies has been, in terms of research, and contemporary literature will expose students to some of the possibilities for their individual research topics and questions. Finally, before tackling a full, original project proposal, we focus on major types of sources and the methods scholars use for analyzing them. All of these experiences should help to prepare students to craft a proposal for an original piece of research, which might underlay a senior thesis project.

Required Texts:


Articles identified on outline

Content Outline:

*Week 1 – Introduction to the Process of Interdisciplinary Research In American Studies*

*Week 2 – Using the Library*
  Read:
Weeks 3-4 – History of American Studies
Read:
Bruce Kuklick, "Myth and Symbol in American Studies" (1972), in Maddox, ed.
George Lipsitz, American Studies in a Moment of Danger, parts I & III

Weeks 5-6 — Sampling Contemporary Research Questions, Theories, & Framings
Read:
George Lipsitz, American Studies in a Moment of Danger, part II
Robin D. G. Kelley, "'We Are Not What We Seem': Rethinking Black Working-Class Opposition in the Jim Crow South," Journal of American History 80 (June 1993):75-112.
Kevin J. Mumford, "Homosex Changes: Race, Cultural Geography and the Emergence of the Gay" (1996), in Maddox, ed.


Dana Cuff, "The Figure of the Neighbor: Los Angeles Past and Future," *American Quarterly* 56 (September, 2004):559-82.


*Week 7 -- Asking Questions & Framing Research*

Read:

Introductory chapters of theses and dissertations present in American Studies conference room (at least three per student, based on interests).

*Week 8 – Student library research*

*Weeks 9-11 -- Original Sources and Analytic Methods*

W-9 -- Textual & archival research

Read:


W-10 -- Material & visual culture

Read:


W-11 -- Ethnography, autobiography, interviews, focus groups
Read:


*Week 12 – Student Research*

*Weeks 13-15 – Presentations & discussion of research prospectuses*

**Course Requirements:**

1. Class participation reflecting your critical reading, questioning, and thought about the readings (20% of final grade).

2. Short papers (40% of final grade):
   
   A. Your definition of American Studies as an interdisciplinary field (1-2 pages, 5%; due beginning of 2nd week)
   
   B. Description of research topic, with initial annotated bibliography of significant research on and/or related to the topic (15%; due beginning of 7th week).
   
   C. Discussion of a significant question, or line of questions, and its framing in American Studies (3-5 pages, 10%; due beginning of 9th week)
   
   D. Discussion of evaluating and analyzing a type of source (3-5 pages, 10%; due beginning of 12th week)

3. Research project prospectus (c. 15 pages [not including bibliography], 40% of final grade; due end of course). For this paper you will need to consult a style manual.
University Policies:

Religious observance: The University's policy for "Assignments and Attendance on Dates of Religious Observance" ensures that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs. Students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed because of individual participation in religious observances. Students have the responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance. Notice should be provided as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the schedule adjustment period. For more information: http://www.faculty.umd.edu/teach/religious.html

Accommodating individuals who have disabilities: The University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities that have been documented by Disability Support Services (0126 Shoemaker Hall, 314-7682). A disability should be verified and discussed with Disability Support Services before the student contacts the professor. If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for this class, please contact me no later than the end of the schedule adjustment period. For more information: http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/

Sexual harassment: The University is committed to maintaining an academic work environment free of sexual harassment for all faculty, staff and students. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated at the University, and people who engage in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action. If you have questions about sexual harassment or the University policy and procedures, call the Office of Judicial Programs (2118 Mitchell Building, 314-8204). To read the entire Policy see "Appendix B: Campus Policy and Procedures on Sexual Harassment" in the Undergraduate Catalogue. For more information: http://www.president.umd.edu/legal/policies/sh.html and http://www.ohrp.umd.edu/compliance/shpp/shppresources.html

Academic Integrity: Each student is expected to abide by the University's rules governing academic dishonesty. I shall refer all incidents of suspected academic dishonesty -- including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism -- to the Honor Council for investigation. The Code of Academic Integrity is printed in the Undergraduate Catalog (hard copy and online at http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html).