

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

in

AMERICAN STUDIES

at

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



2016 American Studies Graduates

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ABOUT AMERICAN STUDIES

American Studies is the interdisciplinary study of American culture; it uses a variety of sources and methods to understand the diverse cultures of the United States and the nation's place in the world in the past and present.

American Studies is *interdisciplinary*, which means it uses a variety of sources (such as music, literature, archives, photographs, film, or oral histories), and also a wide range of methods for interpreting those sources derived from across the humanities and social sciences.

American Studies is *global* and *diverse*, which means it is not confined to what Americans do in the United States, nor does it focus on a single culture. Instead, it is deeply engaged with how many American cultures, politics, economies, and individuals cross boundaries and are shaped by interaction.

American Studies is *practical*, which means the everyday is taken as seriously as the esoteric, and the lessons learned in the classroom are applied to work in communities and public institutions.

RECENT COURSES

ASTD 2300 [Americans Abroad](#)

ASTD 2400 [History and Fiction](#)
Recent topics include the Harlem Renaissance and American women novelists.

ASTD 3000 [American Decades](#)
Recent topics include Cold War culture, 1947-1963; the 1960s; the decade of crisis, the 1890s; and 9/11 and after.

ASTD 3020 [American Mosaic: Literature and Diversity](#)

ASTD 3200 [The Urban Crisis](#)

ASTD 3500 [Religion and American Culture](#)

ASTD 3900 [Mixed-Race America](#)

ASTD 4000 [Introduction to Museum Studies](#)

Many American Studies courses fulfill requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences core.

THE MAJOR

30 credits, including:

ASTD 1000 [Investigating America](#) (3 credits)

ASTD 4190 [Internship](#) (3 credits)
(or approved 3-credit service-learning course)

ASTD 4960 [Senior Capstone](#) (3 credits)

The remaining 21 credits are selected from American Studies courses. With the approval of a student's American Studies mentor, up to 9 of these can be taken in related fields.

THE MINOR

18 credits, including:

ASTD 1000 [Investigating America](#) (3 credits)

The remaining 15 credits are selected from American Studies courses. With the approval of a student's American Studies mentor, up to 6 of these can be taken in related fields.

ACCELERATED BA/MA (ABM)

In the first semester of their junior year, American Studies majors may apply to the 5-year ABM program.

By double-counting 2 courses (6 credits) for each degree and taking one summer course in American Studies or a related field, students may earn a MA degree in addition to their BA with as little as one additional year of study.

ABM applicants may be eligible for a Lubin Graduate Assistantship, which provides financial support through stipends and tuition waivers.

Our students have found their American Studies degrees complement second majors in fields like English, Communication, Political Science, Art History, Economics, Sociology, International Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, History, Philosophy, Urban Affairs, and Spanish.

WHAT WE OFFER

Our accessible, energetic faculty members are committed to innovative and meaningful undergraduate teaching and mentoring. American Studies is a true intellectual community, where faculty members are invested in student success both within the classroom and beyond it.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Many members of our faculty have received awards for their teaching, including the Mandeville Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Humanities and the Brennan Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching awarded by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Our undergraduate students have won grants for independent research and presented their work at conferences.

MENTORSHIP

Our responsibility to and care for our students goes beyond the classroom. Regular mentorship events include the series "How Did You Get Your Awesome Job?"—where American Studies majors and minors travel to museums, cultural institutions, community organizations, and elsewhere in order to learn more about the career opportunities available to American Studies students.

INTERNSHIPS

American Studies students have interned at the Saint Louis Museum of Art, the Saint Louis Zoo, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Missouri History Museum, the Missouri Historical Society Research Center, the Circuit Court Records Project, the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, the International Institute, the Contemporary Art Museum, the City Museum, and other sites.

AMERICAN STUDIES CAREERS

Our graduates work in education, nonprofit organizations, political organizing, preservation, law, museums, and other cultural institutions.

AMERICAN STUDIES PROVIDES
THE SKILLS EMPLOYERS SEEK IN
RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES

A 2013 study conducted on behalf of the American Association of Colleges and Universities determined that when hiring recent college graduates, employers—more than a major—seek skills that lead to innovation, such as critical thinking, complex problem-solving, clear communication, the ability to work in diverse groups, and the ability both to acquire and apply knowledge to real-world situations.¹

FACULTY PROFILES

Heidi Ardizzone, Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Michigan hardizzo@slu.edu

Race and ethnicity, African American history and culture, social movements, and gender history.

Benjamin Looker, Associate Professor
Ph.D., Yale University blooker@slu.edu

Urban studies, jazz and other American musics, 20th-century U.S. history.

Emily Lutenski, Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of Michigan elutensk@slu.edu

American ethnic literatures and cultures, gender studies, modernism, and place.

Matthew Mancini, Professor
Ph.D., Emory University mancini@slu.edu

American intellectual history, American Studies methods, the American South.

Katherine Moran, Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University morankd@slu.edu

Late 19th- and early 20th-century American history and religion, transnationalism.

ALUMNI PROFILES



Charles Bowles (BA, 2014) works for Credit Abuse Resistance Education, a nonprofit in Washington, DC that educates high school and college students in financial literacy: "**My American Studies degree has directly impacted my work because I am able to draw upon a variety of sources when I develop my education materials for the CARE program. [It] also gives me a way to challenge the taboo we have around money in this country.**"

Olivia White (BA, 2014) is pursuing a M.A. in Historic Preservation Planning at Cornell University, and plans to work for a nonprofit preservation organization: "**My first exposure to historic preservation came through my SLU coursework in American Studies. [...] I was exposed to how preservation could make a positive impact in cities. American Studies taught me to think critically about issues facing cities and has inspired me to fight for solutions that prioritize social justice.**"

Hannah Koesterer (BA, 2010) attended Northwestern University School of Law, and is now an associate attorney at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP in Chicago, focusing on financial services litigation: "**My American Studies classes helped me hone my critical thinking, analytical, and writing skills, which I draw upon every day as a lawyer. [...] My time in the American Studies Department made me a better student and taught me the importance of engaging deeply with my community. I will be forever grateful to have found a home there.**"

Greg Stock (BA, 2008) works for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco organizing interdisciplinary and community arts programs: "**The American Studies Department supported my study abroad during my senior year, [which] has informed every choice I have made since [...]. It pushed me academically, emotionally, and spiritually [...]. Coupled with my classes and professor support, my American Studies undergraduate degree has been applicable to every work setting and environment I have faced.**"

¹ Hart Research Associates, "It Takes More than a Major: Employer Priorities for College Learning and Student Success," in *Liberal Education* 99, no. 2 (2013): 22-29.