American studies is the interdisciplinary study of American culture(s). Students study U.S. cultures and their interactions and explore the major issues and problems of American society by examining the arts, history, politics, and literature of the diverse peoples of the United States.

Preparatory Coursework
Students take two of the following background courses: AmSt 1001, 1002, 3111, or 3113.

Degree Requirements
To complete the B.A. degree, students must complete at least 120 credits. To major in American studies, a minimum of 39 of these credits must include courses in American studies, literature, history, and an additional area of American society plus one course in world cultures.

Required Courses
AmSt 3299—Junior Proseminar
AmSt 3301-3302—Senior Proseminar

Electives
These courses are chosen by the student in consultation with the undergraduate adviser. Many courses in a variety of departments are possible, but the student is expected to choose courses forming a coherent course of study, including one course at the 3xxx level or above that focuses on a non-U.S. culture or society.

Final Project
All seniors must complete a thesis written in conjunction with the senior proseminar (AmSt 3301-3302). Some internships may be used to satisfy major requirements.

Minor Requirements
Students take at least 15 credits of American studies courses. All courses must be at the 3xxx level or above, with a grade of C- or better.

What can I do with a major in American studies?

Skills
American studies majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:

- Knowledge of American culture and history and how it impacts current society
- Verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to formulate clear and persuasive messages
- Listening, clarifying, questioning & responding skills
- Ability to work well with diverse groups

Employment
Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Media—journalistic writing, editing, public relations, management
- Nonprofit—social service, fundraising, programming, management
  - Education—teaching, research, admissions, advising, student affairs
- Government—law, public administrator, historian,
Today’s workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The Career & Community Learning Center provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, the CLA Link website, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

How do I declare an American studies major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.

2. When you decide upon an American studies major, meet with the appropriate person from the department to complete a Major Program form.

3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.

4. If you decide to change your major, contact your student community to learn more about your new major’s declaration process.

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program Form with your major adviser
- filed a copy with the major department
- filed a copy with your CLA student community
- be sure to keep a copy for yourself

For more information

About the American studies major:
Undergraduate Advising Office
104 Scott Hall
(612) 624-4190
http://cla.umn.edu/american
amstdy@tc.umn.edu

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:
CLA Society & Culture Student Community
122 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-2549
http://www.class.umn.edu/sandc/
sac@class.cla.umn.edu

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:
Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:
Students interested in graduating with honors should contact:
CLA Honors Division
115 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-5522
www.cla.umn.edu/honors/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu