



Southern Methodist University
MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES
Curricular Field Concentrations

American Studies

Curriculum Description

The major dimensions of American culture are explored through American Studies. The goal is for students to develop a critical, balanced, and integrated view of American life and society, and in the process to answer the question posed by Hector St. John de Crevecoeur in the eighteenth century, "What, then, is the American, this new man?"

Courses from departments at SMU other than Liberal Studies may be selected with the permission of both departments on a space-available basis (maximum of 6 credit hours). Non-GLS courses must be "in the spirit" of the Liberal Studies Degree Program with the approval of the Program Director and Department Chair. Independent Study courses may also be designed with designated faculty members (maximum of 6 credit hours) to supplement MLS course offerings, with the approval of the Program Director and Department Chair. The American Studies concentration will appear on the final transcript of record.

Students may participate in appropriate study abroad experiences, such as those offered in France and Italy and other sites through the Master of Liberal Studies program. A study tour may count toward the concentration electives.

Format

Students who select the American Studies concentration must complete the following:

- 36 credit hours (required for the overall MLS degree)
- The 3 credit hour introductory required course: The Human Experience
- 3 credit hour designated writing intensive course (not part of the concentration)
- 6 elective courses related to the designated concentration (determined by the student and faculty member)
- 6 plus credit hour thesis or 3 credit hour capstone project



COURSES, American Studies

BHSC 6314 Native American Heritage of North America
BHSC 6363 The Immigrant Experience
BHSC 6398 The Child in Contemporary Society
FNAR 6201/6101/Art and Architecture in Hispanic New Mexico
FNAR 6302 Black Aesthetic in the Visual Arts
FNAR 6313 Contemporary Art
FNAR 6318 Women in American Theatre: Actresses, Playwrights, and Directors
FNAR 6321 Great Books of Art History
FNAR 6322 Modern Movements in European and American Painting
HUMN 6204/6104/Sacred Places and Spiritual Practices
HUMN 6205/6105/Women and the Southwest
HUMN 6310 "Tell About the South": Voices in Faulkner's Novels
HUMN 6318 Americans in Paris: The Lives and Literature of the "Lost" Generation
HUMN 6320 Jewish American Literature
HUMN 6322 Making Sense of the American Spiritual Landscape
HUMN 6330 Wit and Humor in African American Literature
HUMN 6350 The Art of African American Storytelling
HUMN 6351 Interpretation and Performance of African-American Poetry
HUMN 6352 Interpretation of Folklore in African American Fiction
HUMN 6354 Remembering the Sixties: Culture and Change
HUMN 6373 American Regional Literature
HUMN 6375 History of the Freedom of Expression
HUMN 6378 Literature of the Great Plains
HUMN 6380 The News Media in Contemporary Society
HUMN 6385 American Society Through Film: The Twentieth Century
HUMN 6397 Troubled Youth: Educating the Young in America
HUMN 7302 Transnational Literary Traditions
HUMN 7304 Middle Eastern American Literature
HUMN 7333 Reading Plato in Gatsby
HUMN 7335 The Myths of Our Time: Introduction to Media Literacy
HUMN 7350 Special Topics: American Activism 1960-1980
SCCL 7205/7105/Flowering Plants of the Southern Rockies
SCCL 7206/7106/Biotic Communities & Environments of the Southwest
SOSC 6305 The History of Time
SOSC 6307 History of Consumer Culture in the United States
SOSC 6309 The Struggle for Human Rights: America's Dilemma
SOSC 6311 Seminar in Dallas History
SOSC 6313 Native Americans and the Young American Republic
SOSC 6314 Living Through the American Revolution
SOSC 6316 Farms, Plantations, and Towns: Diversity in the "New World"
SOSC 6323 History of Schools and Education in American Society
SOSC 6327 American Citizenship
SOSC 6329 The American Presidency
SOSC 6330 Politics and Film
SOSC 6331 Presidential Elections and American Politics
SOSC 6332 Ideas Shaping the American Character I: 1607 to 1876
SOSC 6333 Ideas Shaping the American Character II: 1877 to the Present
SOSC 6342 America's Defining Moment: The American Civil War and Reconstruction
SOSC 6343 America: Conflicting Values in a Capitalist Democracy
SOSC 6344 Contemporary Economic Issues I
SOSC 6345 Contemporary Economic Issues II
SOSC 6347 Placers, Placitas, and Pachyderms
SOSC 6348 The Changing Landscape of Political Thought
SOSC 6350 First Person American Lives
SOSC 6353 Women in U.S. History
SOSC 6355 America Enraged: From Integration to Watergate
SOSC 6356 Civil Rights: The Unfinished Revolution
SOSC 6367 Comparative Revolutions: A Historical Perspective
SOSC 7308 The Great Encounter: How Indians and Europeans Met
SOSC 7322 Women and the American Experience, Part 1 (1607-1900)
SOSC 7323 Women and American Experience, Part II